

# BIG CAT CHRONICLES



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

## Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder/President

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The staff and interns at TCWR were deeply saddened by the situation and circumstances leading to the tragedy that occurred in Zanesville, OH. TCWR offered our helping hands but unfortunately there wasn't much we could do. May the animals that were lost rest in peace.

Scott and I had the opportunity to attend the 2011 Bear Care Conference in Banff, Canada. This was an exciting conference with over 200 bear care specialists from all over the world. We learned a lot, and the connections we made with all these experts will help to ensure that we are providing the animals we rescue the best care possible.

2011 has been one of the craziest years I can remember. So many fantastic things happened this year. I have gotten so many unique suggestions from a variety of people to help the refuge. Most of them are great ideas, but being able to implement those great ideas takes a lot of time, focus, and funding. Keep your ideas, and solutions to make them happen, coming. With your help anything is possible.

Rumors have been circulating about USDA, APHIS Division changing height requirements for containing large carnivores. TCWR is doing its best to make sure that any future habitats are built to proper specifications. 12' tall with a 4' jump guard seems to be the magic number to satisfy the new law; or maybe 16 feet straight up. We will keep you posted.

Volunteers are always needed. I would like to congratulate Ivy Cooper, TCWR's newest Volunteer Coordinator. Ivy graduated with her Biology degree from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, in May of 2006. Ivy interned at the refuge August 2006 – August 2007. She has been a valued staff member ever since. Emily McCormack replaced Hilda P. Jackson (my Mom) as Curator after Hilda's death, and Laurie Vanderwal was promoted to Assistant Curator. Ivy seemed the perfect candidate to take Emily's place as Volunteer Coordinator. I would also like to recognize Amanda Smith, Treasurer/Lodging Manager. For two years while Hilda was ill, Amanda learned from Hilda and made it possible for Hilda to pass that job to her with confidence that it would be done correctly. As much as I miss my mom, all these changes are exciting! I am honored that these dedicated staff members

care so much about the animals that they eagerly and voluntarily fill these management positions when we need them most.

My father Donald Ray Jackson needs your prayers. He needs a heart valve replacement to live. Don is one of the original founding members of TCWR. Just as the animals grow old and pass on, it is natural for all of us to do the same. Please continue to help where you can. Both Hilda and Don dedicated their lives to help the animals at TCWR, and we need your support to continue their legacy.

Until Next Time,



**Titan**  
Featured Cat  
See page 3.

**Renew Your  
Adoption or  
Sponsorship Today**



Purchase your 2012 Calendar  
online now  
[www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)



Watch over 150 videos at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/TurpentineCreek>



*Volunteer Coordinator  
Ivy Cooper. Your  
group can make a dif-  
ference, see page 6.*



*Founding Member  
Don Jackson*

# Celebrate TCWR's 20th birthday!

## Join our 20-day party

April 13-May 2, 2012

Plans are underway for the BIGGEST birthday celebration in Turpentine Creek's history as the Refuge celebrates 20 years of rescuing tigers, lions, cougars, bears and other animals. Our mission is to ensure that future generations learn the importance of conservation and preservation by experiencing our "wildlife family" at the Refuge.

We encourage you to bring your family, friends, neighbors, club members, school classes, and anyone else who may love animals to visit the Refuge. We are planning special events for people in the surrounding area and beyond--visitors, donors, interns, board members, and volunteers. Watch for upcoming events listed in your local paper, on our blog, in this newsletter, and on the radio and TV.

Our goal during this celebration is to raise money for as many habitats as we can in honor of our 20 years of rescues. You can help kick-off the plans to meet this goal by participating in the "Power of 20" initiative. Here is how it works:

- Everyone reading this article donates \$20.00 to the Refuge
- Find out if your company has a "matching contributions" policy for non-profit organizations to maximize your donation
- Ask 20 friends to send \$20.00 each. Then ask them to recruit 20 friends to send \$20.00 each, etc.
- Talk to your schools about a campaign to have students bring in 20 pennies, 20 nickels, or 20 dimes each for TCWR
- Volunteer 20 friends to help us build a habitat as we do all the work on each one
- Donate in honor of a friend or family member turning 20 (or 40, 60, 80 or any age!)

Remember--your direct support of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge provides quality care for all of our rescued animals. Please send your tax-deductible contributions by May 2 to:

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge  
Attention: The Power of 20  
239 Turpentine Creek Lane  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Thank you for your contribution and ongoing support. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Pat Quinn at 1-479-253-5958 or by email: [tigers@turpentinecreek.org](mailto:tigers@turpentinecreek.org).

We look forward to this exciting time of celebration, giving, enjoying the animals, and meeting up with old friends. Please put the dates of April 13 through May 2 on your calendar and PLAN TO ATTEND!

## Walk For The Tigers

Meet Ken Dickman (Pictured on the right) of Amboy, Indiana. He recently completed his second annual "Walk for the Tigers." Ken and his wife, Sharon, are supporters of the Refuge. They were also on the committee for a benefit that raised money for TCWR in Wabash, Indiana. Ken walks daily and decided to turn his exercise routine into a moneymaker for TCWR. He is a member of Circus City Sam's camping club and asked the members to support his walk. He walked 25 miles asking the campers to sponsor so much per mile. This year another club member, Allen Crist (Pictured on the left), who sponsors one of our animals along with his wife, Carolyn, walked with Ken. They raised \$530.00 which they presented to the Refuge on a visit to volunteer for the Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular.

Ken suggests that anyone can help raise money for the Refuge by getting friends and family to support a walk. Be creative and think about a way that you can help support the cats.





# Letter From The Curator

By: Emily McCormack/Curator

It's that time of year again, and the resumes for internships are flying in. We offer both a spring and fall intern program each year to recent college graduates with an animal-related discipline. The deadlines are focused around the month before graduation. So far, I have received around 100 applications. We are very fortunate to have so many qualified people apply to our program.

It is a long process reviewing cover letters and resumes. Due to the competitiveness of our internships, I have to be extremely meticulous. In the next few days, I will be choosing the lucky 25-30 applicants qualified for a phone interview. The interviews will take a week to complete. Each interview runs about 40-50 minutes; so, I set one up each hour of my workday. After the interviews are complete, it's time to make my final decision.

The decision is not an easy process. During the first part of the interview, we discuss the applicant's goals for the future, their studies, previous work experience, work ethic, etc. Then, I have to try to get to know them and their personality. It takes a special person to work at the refuge. We need compassionate people who are hard-working, but can also live in a similar situation to a reality show. At the end of the process, 12 individuals will be hired from all over the world. On day one, they meet each other and immediately start sharing the same house and working together every day. This can be challenging.

When I reach the end of the process, a new family of twelve has been formed. They don't know each other yet, but by the end of the internship they will have made some extremely meaningful relationships. I keep in touch with hundreds of previous interns, and they still all tell me how this internship was the best time in their life. Not only do these interns receive six months experience with exotic cats and bears but they also receive the experience of a lifetime.

## Featured Cat - Titan the Siberian Tiger

Titan, who was born 4/22/01, was among the 21 Big Cats that Turpentine Creek rescued from Safari Park in October, 2002, when the breeding facility went out of business. Titan and the others from the Quitman facility found themselves homeless when four female lions got loose and roamed the neighbors yards. Unfortunately, the four female lions were executed by local sheriff deputies causing Titan and the other animals to need a new home. The condition of the facility was very poor and most of the animals needed veterinarian care immediately. This rescue is one of the largest that TCWR has been involved in; the retrieval of cats spanned a three-month period. Titan was accompanied by JJ and Reese along with seven other cats from the Quitman facility: a tiger, TJ, and five lions, Lucci, Wyoming, Clancy, CJ, and Cessna.



*Staff members and interns make life long relationships during their time spent at the refuge. Thanks to Emily, TCWR's internship program is the best in the country. Facilities around the world recognize the "Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge" stamp on resumes and move those applicants to the top of the pile. Over 300 interns have made their way through our program and entered the animal related workforce as TCWR ambassadors. Pictured above are Jess Sims and Rachele Peterson.*





# Habitat Building Resumes!

Jarrett Sweeley/Staff Biologist

Imagine it's a cool early spring morning, the sun is shining, there is a fresh dew on the grass, and there is a tiger enjoying the freedom of his habitat for the first time. Soon this will be a reality thanks to some new donors who are funding a brand new habitat. With the recent completion of our new perimeter fence, and the funds now available we are able to start building! This habitat will be located across the tour road from Raja and Shir Khan's habitat. As of now, the plan is to place Ziggy, Tigger G, and Brody into the new habitat.

The staff and interns have been very busy getting the site ready for building. First we had to clear the build site. Once the brush and some of the trees were cleared we were able to line out the habitat. Since this is a completely new habitat we must build a perimeter fence around the habitat as we go. The way we are doing this is to drive the perimeter fence pipe first, and then build the habitat from the inside. So far we already have one wall of the perimeter driven. Once all of the pipe is in the ground, that's when the hard work will begin. All of the wire must be put up, welded, and the pipes will all need to be painted. Even though there is a lot of work to be done, it will be time to release the cats into their new enclosure before we know it. On your next visit make sure to go on one of our guided tours and see our progress yourself.



**If you build it, they can run!**



## Volunteer Spotlight - Roger Esparza

Stephen Vargas/Staff Biologist

Over the years Turpentine Creek volunteers have come from far and wide with many different trades and skills to offer. Many of them help with cleaning, some help with construction and welding, and others help with food prep and lawncare. Without our volunteers we would not be able to grow as fast as we hoped.

In this newsletter we would like to acknowledge Roger Esparza from Lebanon, Missouri. Roger, a retired Army Ranger, first came to the refuge in June, 2011, as a co-leader of his daughter's Girl Scout troop. The troop worked all weekend on rebuilding the perimeter while he was falling in love with the refuge. He was deeply moved by all the animals and the staff and interns who strive everyday for these animals.

After his initial visit, Roger started volunteering at the refuge every other weekend and helped us finish the perimeter fence. After the perimeter fence, he helped rebuild some of our oldest habitats at the refuge and the people rail around our hoofstock animals. Our next project is building new habitats and Roger is very excited to help. After a long day of work, Roger has a great sense of accomplishment as his work benefits the lives of the animals that call Turpentine Creek home. That is why he keeps coming back.

Thanks, Roger, for all your help.



# Letter to Santa from Karma the Liger

Ghost written by Staff Biologist Kellyn Kearney



Dear Santa,

My name is Karma. I'm a liger who lives at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge with my big brother, Brady. Not to say that he's older than me; we're actually both 2 and a half years old. But Brady is HUGE! We're talking like -takes up the entire den when we try and nap in there- huge! I love him to pieces, though, since he's my best buddy in the entire world.

Anyhow, Santa, what I'd really like more than anything in the world is a habitat for my brother and me. I know it's a lot to ask, being about \$22,000.00 but maybe you could find someone or a few people to help make our dreams come true. In my spare time when I'm not messing with my brother or playing with my toys, I imagine running through a green field with a couple of trees that I can dig my claws

into, rolling around in the grass, chewing on some branches, chasing my Boomer Balls and my brother around for hours on soft ground in a big open space. Maybe a bench will be in there that we can climb on and take a mid-afternoon nap in the warm sun, snuggling together as happy as can be. That would be the life. Oh, how I pray to get a habitat some day soon! Please, Santa, please help us to find some way to get a habitat!

Also, if it is not too much to ask, I would pretty please like to be sponsored. Brady got sponsored already for this past year. I'm very happy for him and love his sponsors for helping him since he is my bro but, really Santa, I'm so much cuter than him, why can't I be sponsored too? So if you could find some generous people who would like to help me out for the 2012 year, I would be ever so grateful, Santa. I know a sponsorship is expensive, being \$2,500.00 and all, but it helps me and my caretakers out so much. Plus, I'd like some new people friends to call my family! You can even let them know that if they come visit me, I'll try very hard to be on my best behavior and not spray them although I can't offer any guarantees (it will be hard not to mark them as my own since I'd love them so much!) Even if you can't get me a sponsorship, Santa, I wouldn't mind some more adopters. It's only \$150.00 to adopt me and help with my care in that way.

Brady and I could always use some fun new toys like the ones on Boomerball.com since we destroy ours so fast. They have these huge ones on the website; I think they're called Planet Balls, THEY ARE AWESOME! The heavy duty one would be best so that it would last longer. But these balls are our perfect size since we're already so big. We would chase, bite, and claw at that toy all day long. Please try and get us one, Santa; I love my toys so much and I promise I'll try and take good care of it, at least for a little while. I'd also take any other toys you'd like to get me, Santa, cause like I said, I LOVE my toys!

All my friends at Turpentine Creek could also use new toys, adopters, sponsors, and habitats so please, please don't forget them either Santa!!! They're all good animals with big hearts that just need a little help from their people friends this holiday season!

Thanks so much for listening.  
I promise to be asleep Christmas night,  
Enjoy the milk and raw chicken I left for you.  
It's much much better than cookies. Yuck!

Love Karma

Communication is extremely important. The radios we need cost \$375/ea. Please call Lance at BEARCOM to purchase a radio for one of our staff members.  
800-527-1670 x 77128

## Help Us Grow!

Rewritten by: Emily McCormack and Ivy Cooper

The Turpentine Creek Version of:

Let It Snow

Help Us Grow!

Oh the weather outside is frightful,  
But the cats are so delightful.  
And if you've got change to spare,  
Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow!

We have no intention of stopping,  
Until all the cats are romping.  
The cats love to play in the snow,  
Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow!

When they finally get to go,  
How they love to play in the grass!  
But if you'll only come to see the show,  
Its a memory that surely will last.

The need is never ending,  
Remember us when Christmas spending.  
Please donate to help us build... so  
Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow! Help Us Grow!



Photo of Brady, Karma's Brother: "Yea, as you read in the story I'm much bigger than my sister. I need more space".

# Change a life, Volunteer

Ivy Cooper/Staff Biologist

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge relies heavily on our volunteer program. This summer we had an outpouring of help with our new perimeter fence; the new fence was such a huge, but very important, undertaking. We had several groups help us hang the wire, a volunteer welder, and many other people help us spray-paint the fence. It is a privilege to work with our volunteers; they come to the refuge and want to do whatever they can to help. They never know what we have in store for them; we may be building a new enclosure or maintaining one of the 30 existing habitats. No matter what the project is, our volunteers are up to the challenge. Being one of the staff members, I have had the opportunity to work with many of the volunteers that have donated their time to the animals. It is very interesting to learn each one of their stories and reasons for wanting to help the animals and our facility. I was recently given the opportunity to be Volunteer Coordinator of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to work with our dedicated volunteers. I came to TCWR in August, 2006, as an intern and fell in love with the animals and the mission of the refuge. I was hired full-time, and now I have the privilege to work for the animals that find sanctuary here and make a difference in their lives each and every day. Aside from daily care of the animals, building habitats is one of the most important and rewarding projects that happens at the refuge. The natural habitats provide physical, as well as physiological enrichment for the animals. For our animals, it may be their first time experiencing grass under their feet or trees to scratch and it is an amazing and unforgettable sight. We are breaking ground on our newest habitat enclosure and we will need lots of help completing this project. If you would like to change a cat's life by volunteering, please email me: [ivy@turpentinecreek.org](mailto:ivy@turpentinecreek.org).



## Purchase Your 2012 Calendars Today

Proceeds from yearly calendar sales help fund habitat building, increase the quality of life for our cats, and give them the “sanctuary” they so deserve. When making your 2012 calendar purchase please keep all your friends in mind, they would love a big cat calendar too. “Help us, help them.” The order form is on the back page of this newsletter or you can purchase them online by going to [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org).



**Africa In The Ozarks! Reserve Your Room Today. [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)**

TCWR has eight lodging choices, each very different and all close to the animals. To enhance our reservation services we have made it possible to book your room online at your convenience. You may, however, pick up the phone and call our main number (479-253-5841). Weekends are still in high demand so book your room early. Through the years we have listened to our supporters express their desire to stay on the Refuge property and submerge their minds in the serenity the animals drive into the soul. Sitting on the porch or lying in bed with a window cracked you can hear the lions caroling all night. As guests exit they are quick to mention how life-changing and unforgettable their experience was. Spend the night with us on your next visit. Quality of life is defined by our experiences. Staying on the property with the animals is an experience your family will cherish always.

Email: [tigers@turpentinecreek.org](mailto:tigers@turpentinecreek.org)

Phone: 479-253-5841

[www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org) page 6.



# Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today

## Adoption Program

<b>Small Animal or Bird</b>	<b>\$100/yr.</b>
<b>Small Cat or Monkey</b>	<b>\$100/yr.</b>
<b>Cougar or Leopard</b>	<b>\$125/yr.</b>
<b>Lion, Tiger, Bear,</b>	<b>\$150/yr.</b>

We are coordinating 20 people or families to jointly sponsor each animal. This program is fun for the family and comes with a free Family Membership! You can visit as often as you wish for an entire year. You also receive a certificate with a photo of your adopted animal.

## Sponsor Program

<b>Small Animal or Bird</b>	<b>\$700/yr. or \$60/mo.</b>
<b>Small Cat or Monkey</b>	<b>\$1,000/yr. or \$85/mo.</b>
<b>Cougar or Leopard</b>	<b>\$2,200/yr. or \$190/mo.</b>
<b>Lion, Tiger, Bear</b>	<b>\$2,500/yr. or \$210/mo.</b>



## Tax Time Coming Soon - Please use this opportunity to donate to the Refuge

Tax time; don't forget to donate all you can to help Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. while receiving maximum deduction for your financial planning. There is so much that we need to do to continue to grow. The refuge is doing everything we can to rescue and care for all of the animals that, without the refuge, would be destroyed. If you have ever stared into the eyes of these magnificent Big Cats, bears, and other animals then you know that TCWR's mission is imperative. These beautiful creatures deserve to live their lives with dignity. TCWR has 459 acres of land to develop and the next step is a big one. Your company might even have a matching donation program you could take advantage of to make the most of your contribution dollars. Every dollar makes a difference so please use this opportunity to do what you can. We need you! Thanks.

## Projected Habitat Material Breakdown

2" Pipe	5,000 ft @ \$1.20/ft
Welded Wire	560 ft @ \$5.00/ft
Cement	14 yd @ \$86.00/yd
Gas	250 ga @ \$3.75/ga
Misc. Welding Supplies	\$800
Spray Paint	1000 cans @ \$1.39/ea
Dens	Two @ \$650/ea
Utility Infrastructure	\$3,500
Animal Caretaker Access Road	\$2,000
Labor	A Lot!
Volunteers	Free
Cats Freedom	Priceless

After the habitat is built we need to build the perimeter fence. \$5,000

None of the cost estimates include labor, which is not cheap. Please bring your group to volunteer. Your labor will bring freedom to the cats. Please, donate to the habitat fund today!

## Please Donate These Items...

- 1. Prayers**
- 2. Donations**
- 3. Cleaning Supplies**
  - Trash Bags
  - Household Cleaners
  - Paper Towels
  - Toilet Paper
  - Latex Gloves
- 4. Tools**
  - Hose Clamps
  - Welding Leads/Cables
  - Kline Wire Pliers
  - Welding Rods (6011-1/8")
  - Concrete Forms
  - Common Hand Tools
- 5. Caging Materials**
  - Stainless Steel Water bowls
  - Black and Gray Spray Paint
  - Lumber - New or Used
  - Rebar 3/4 - 1"
  - Pipe and Welded Wire
- 6. Office Supplies**
  - Laminating Sheets (3-5mil)
  - Tape - Regular and Packing
  - Epson Glossy Paper
  - Slat Wall for Giftshop
- 7. Landscaping Items**
  - Top Soil
  - Mowers - Gas Powered
  - Stihl Weed Eaters
  - Solar Panels
  - Grass Seed - Ken. Blue
  - Tick Killer - Seven Dust
- 8. Equipment**
  - Butchering knives with sharpeners.
  - 540 or 750 cfm air compressor
  - Chain Hoist - 3 ton +
- 9. Vet Care Items**
  - Panacur Dewormer
  - Large Load Washer/Dryer
- 10. Animal Enrichment Items**
  - 3" Sch 40 PVC Pipe w/Caps
  - One Foot or Longer
  - Scents and Spices
  - Climbing Grade Carabiners
  - 1" Hemp Rope
  - Cedar or Pine Shavings
  - Burlap Sacks - Any Size
- 11. Volunteers**

**Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge**  
**239 Turpentine Creek Lane**  
**Eureka Springs, AR. 72632**

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit No. 20  
 Eureka Springs, AR



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Titan and all the animals at Turpentine Creek. See page 3 for Titan's story.*

Or Current Resident

**ORDER FORM 12/2011**

It is through your direct support that Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is able to provide quality care for all the animals. Your contribution for the Family Adoptions, Sponsorships, Natural Habitats, and Unrestricted Donations are all Tax Deductible under IRS Code #509(a)(2) as described in Section #501(c)(3) of the IRS Regulations. Our tax number is 71-0721742. Mailing address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR. 72632. 479-253-5841 www.turpentinecreek.org.

**Personal Information**

Name	
Address	
Email	

**Method Of Payment**

Credit Card #	_____
Exp. Date	_____
3 digit security code	_____
Personal Check	Check # _____
	DL# _____

Qty.	Donations And Purchases	\$Amount
	Unrestricted Donations To Help The Cats	
	2012 Calendars \$10.00 plus (\$5 S&H per order)	
	Memberships: Family \$80/Single \$50 Visit the refuge as often as you like for one yearly fee.	
	Animal Adoptions: Small Mammal/Bird \$100 yr. Small Cat/Monkey \$100 yr. Cougar/Leopard \$125 yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$150/yr.	
	Animal Sponsor: Small Mammal/Bird \$700/yr. Small Cat/ Monkey \$1000/yr. Cougar/Leopard \$2,200/yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$2,500/yr.	
	Sponsor An Entire Habitat: \$22,000/ea.	
	Habitat Fund (any amount)	
	<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$</b>