



CAT CHRONICLES

April., 2005

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

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

239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

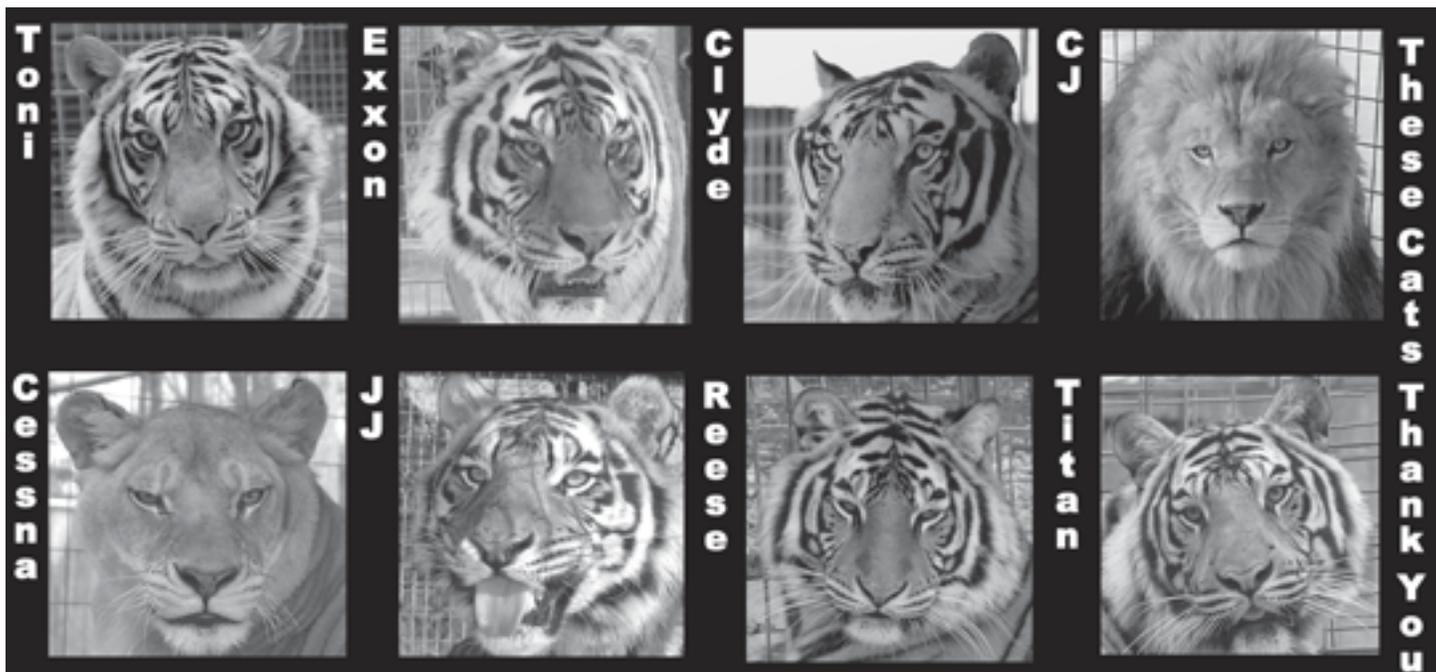
Email: tigers@turpentinecreek.org

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Phone: 479-253-5841 Fax: 479-253-5059

"Help Us, Help Them!"

CELEBRATE SPRING



Habitat Construction

*By Emily McCormack/Staff Zoologist and
Volunteer Coordinator*

Spring Break will bring freedom for eight more animals at the refuge. The First United Methodist Church Youth group, of Rogers, AR, has once again dedicated their spring break to Turpentine Creek, and almost doubled in size. Joining them this year will be a group from the University of Colorado and a few students from the University of Arkansas. Our habitat construction crew will consist of about 50 volunteers. Last year the youth group completed a habitat for four of our lions (Esmerelda, Sampson, Boss, & Kat). This year they want to build two natural enclosures.

Along with donating their physical labor, the youth group raised money to buy 1000 feet of pipe needed to start on these habitats. They also raised money for

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Letter From The President

By Tanya Smith/Founder

Time is going so quickly. There always seems to be so much to do. TCWR was founded in May of 1992. We have grown into a huge melting pot of animals and people. Currently we are caring for over 100 Big Cats. I am amazed that we continue to receive calls on so many animals that are in need of a home. One of my fears has always been that there would be so many Big Cats that need homes that it would be similar to the overpopulation of dogs and cats in the U.S. When we received calls on animals I would always say, "well what is one more"? I would make sure that WE made the rescue. Now I realize that one more could jeopardize all the beautiful animals that we have already rescued. Have we stopped rescuing; NO! We have done everything in

(continued on page 3)

(habitat construction cont.)

7 yards of concrete, to complete the first lockdown, and received a donation from M&M Ready Mix, of Eureka Springs, for the second lockdown. An anonymous donor purchased another 1700 feet of pipe. West Ark Steel of Lowell, AR gave an extraordinary discount on pipe to any donors of Turpentine Creek. Piles Concrete of Huntsville, AR donated all four septic tanks to provide dens for the cats in the lockdowns. A grant from The Community Care Foundation, Inc. of North West Arkansas was received for \$1,000 to purchase pipe. Thanks to all donors of the habitat fund, we were able to purchase enough wire to complete this mission.

The goal for the refuge in 2005 is to complete Phase I of habitat construction. By doing this, the first loop of enclosures will be finished bringing the guided tour in full circle back to the compound. The habitat loop will then consist of 15 natural enclosures in addition to the 3 natural enclosures surrounding our lodging. The spring break volunteers will be constructing numbers 12 and 13, bringing us half way to this year's goal.

The first enclosure will be housing some of our long time residents, Toni, Exxon, and Clyde. Exxon

was rescued from a breeding facility in Palestine, Texas almost eight years ago. Toni, whom resides with him, was rescued from a vet located in Western Grove, AR. She arrived at the vet's office in a toolbox with two other sick cubs. The vet was told to keep the survivors, if any. Toni was the only survivor and has been at Turpentine Creek for almost 7 years. Sharing the enclosure on alternating days will be Clyde. Clyde was rescued from a breeder in Lexington, OK eleven years ago.

The second enclosure will be housing five cats rescued from Quitman, AR. Cessna, C.J., Reese, J.J. and Titan were a part of the breeding facility, Safari Park. These are 5 of 21 cats Turpentine Creek rescued from the park. There were a total of 56 big cats suffering from starvation and neglect. The remaining 35 animals were placed at a rescue facility in Tennessee. It will be remarkable to see some of these unfortunate animals enjoy a taste of freedom.

A grand opening date for these enclosures has not yet been decided. It is an unbelievable experience to watch these animals walk out into a natural enclosure for the first time. I encourage you to join our email update list. Scott Smith, TCWR's vice-president, sends out an email monthly to everyone on the list.

The emails include pictures and information on what's new at the refuge. To sign up, email Scott at turpentinecreek@aol.com. Scott will email the grand opening dates as soon as we set them.

It takes a lot of people put together as a team to make something like this a success. The staff and interns of Turpentine Creek would like to thank our small team of trained volunteers who come to the refuge, at least once a month, to help with the daily upkeep of the animals. In this group, Terry Elder of Kansas City, Pam Boone of Springfield, and Bob and Colleen Oberhelman of Kansas City, who are taking time off from their regular jobs to also contribute during Spring Break 2005. The spring break week is March 21 - March 25. A very special thank you goes out to youth director, Bill Skaggs and the First United Methodist Church Youth for all that you have done. None of this would have been possible without you.

We look forward to another fun and successful spring break. When the enclosures are finished, the total number of cats in habitats will be 54 of 118. Please help donate to our habitat fund. We will only have two enclosures to left to complete our goal.

Letter From The Curator

By Hilda P. Jackson/Founder

Another winter has come and is almost gone. Spring is upon us again and is very welcome. I cannot believe how fast 2005 came upon us. I always heard that the older you get, the faster time goes by. I never did believe that until the past few years.

We have accomplished a lot this past year and expect to do even more in 2005, with your help. In another part of this letter you will read about the new habitats we opened last year and the ones we are working on at this time. We just got

the pipe donated for 2 more habitats and managed to dig up enough cash to buy some wire.

Every winter things get pretty depressing so I manage to always have a little spell with my heart. My doctors are playing with my medication trying to get it under control. They seem to be doing a good job, because I am feeling much better now and I am gradually getting my strength back. I tell everyone that this is planned every winter so I don't have to get out in the cold. It seems to work every year. I sure miss getting out with the cats but the time will come when I can get back with them. *(continued on page 4)*



We would like to thank Dave Schoonover for arranging the delivery of the welded wire. Dave is a long-time board member and has brought us materials on several occasions. Dave, thanks.

(letter from the president cont.)

our power to make sure that the animals we are getting calls on find a safe home.

As we all know, change is inevitable. I want to alert you that the highway department is putting in a passing lane in front of TCWR. By April, we are going to have to make time to redo our front entrance. If you drive by and our signs are moved or even down for a few days, don't panic. We are still open to the public everyday. Until daylight savings time we are open from 9AM-5PM. After the time changes we will be open from 9AM-7PM. Remember we feed the animals one hour before we close and our last tour of the habitats is two hours before closing. We start the tours daily at 11AM and run tours every hour on the hour. If all goes well we are working to trade some space for the highway dept. construction crew to park their equipment at our entrance and put excess fill dirt on our land in exchange for a paved driveway. This is very important to the Refuge, as you all know if you have made your way up our bumpy front entrance. We also hope that this will encourage more visitors to TCWR. Eureka Springs is an awesome meeting place for car and motorcycle shows, we hope that with the changes it will encourage the participants of these events to spend more time here.

I would like to encourage all of you to be ambassadors for TCWR. Word of mouth is the best way to support our efforts. As the story goes...if one hundred people tell ten people; that is one thousand and so on.

Thanks to everyone that made a contribution to TCWR this year. I was surprised how many people took it upon themselves to have their companies match their contribution, for example Wal-Mart; Murphy Oil, CO.; Hewlett Packard employees and other organizations companies foundation departments match the employees contribution. We have seen this not only from employees' financial contributions but also volunteering their time and the company gives a financial award to our organization. People have been creative in helping and it shows. Some people have made contribution in memory of a friend or love one or to celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. See how you can maximize your contributions. Until next time...



From the left: Danielle, Sara, Amy, Kristen, Tonya, and Jeni.

We Welcome our new interns. They make it all happen.

Danielle Burgard - Northern State University - BS Biology 2004

Sara Hasenstab - Suny ESF - BS Biology 2004

Amy Schacht - Mars Hill College - BS Zoology 2004

Kristen Otten - Truman State University - BS Biology 2004

Tonya Matelski - University of Wisconsin - BS Biology 2003

Jennifer Morrison - Texas A&M University - BS Biology 2004

Exotic Cat Internship

Turpentine Creek is accepting applications for full-time positions at the Refuge.

A degree (BS or BA) in an animal related discipline is preferred, but all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

The internship is for an animal keeper position.

Job Description: duties include cleaning cages, habitats and compound; feeding and medicating animals; assisting with maintenance, upkeep, and habitat construction; participating in occasional public promotions.

Compensation

Weekly cash stipend of \$50 for living expenses, as well as housing on the refuge in a comfortable cottage, which has heat, air conditioning, utilities, full bath, kitchen, satellite TV, access to internet, and a washer and dryer. All management lives on the refuge also.

New positions begin:

August 15, 2005; positions last six months.

Deadline for application:

April 15, 2005

To Apply:

Send your resume and cover letter to: Emily McCormack, 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Email:

Emily@turpentinecreek.org



(letter from the curator cont.)

I sure do miss them. I just hope they miss me just as much.

I now have another friend that can stay in the house with me. She is a beautiful Tea Cup Chihuahua puppy. She was born December 3, 2004 and probably weighs a total of 3/4 of a pound, but she thinks she is a Great Dane. We have a lot of fun together.

I want to sincerely thank all of you that sent in donations since our last newsletter. If we could receive as much in from this newsletter, we would manage to get by until the tourist season starts up. It is awfully hard to wake up every morning knowing we have to have approximately \$1,500.00 to cover the expenses for this day. Each day we do not get this amount of money, we get even farther behind. We then have to make up for the shortfall before we can cover anything else to get even. This is the reason it takes so long in the summer to catch up with the shortfall of the winter. We always hope we can put some back for the next winter. Each winter we make it just a little bit longer before the funds run completely out. Someday, we plan to reach that goal. I have to continue believing we will. Don't forget to include us in your prayers. They really help.

Until next time, I remain your friend,
Hilda P.

2005 Calendars Are Ready to Order

The 2005 calendars are packed with great photos. Each month features a cat that once lived in a small cage and now lives in a huge habitat. The monthly photos show both. You can help get the other cats a habitat by purchasing a 2005 calendar. They make great gifts too.



2005 "The Best Stories Ever Told" CD



This CD is what everyone has been asking for: a collection of photos of each cat at the Refuge along with its incredible story. The CD plays on any computer and is easily navigated by anyone. Considering the labor to produce this collection \$30 is a great bargain! The CD makes for a great gift. Buy one for a loved one or friend.

New For 2005 Season

By Laurie Vanderwal/ Staff
Zoologist

If you haven't made it to the refuge this winter, you will notice a big change this year as you come up the driveway. The gift shop has had its long-anticipated face-lift. It began in August when a fresh group of interns arrived. Aside from training to clean, feed and care for the animals, these 8 graduates spent much of their first two weeks painting the front of our gift shop. It now has a much-needed weather - protective coating and has become much more aesthetically pleasing. In addition to a fresh coat of paint, the mobile home that used to be located beside the gift shop has been relocated and will eventually become staff housing. Where the mobile home was, a brand new metal fence has been erected. The refuge extends a huge thank-you to Jim Britton and

The Metal Supply Factory for donating all of the metal sheets and screws needed for this new fence. With only a few weeks left at the refuge, the same group of dedicated workers finished their internship painting again. They completed the new look of the fence with a couple coats of paint that matched the gift shop. Behind this fence will be our brand new picnic area. To help fund this picnic area we are offering the opportunity to have your name (or the name of a loved one) on one of our picnic tables. For only \$100 you can show your support for the cats and the refuge.

Soon, when you visit the refuge you will be able to relax next to Alex, the cougar and Jade, the liger. Bring a picnic or a snack and you will be able to enjoy your meal while listening to the majestic roars of the lions, the friendly chuffs of the tigers and the sweet meows of the cougars.



Visit with Alex and Jade while relaxing in our new picnic area. Please help by sponsoring a table. See back for details.



Rescued Animals

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

Since the winter months generally don't allow for much habitat construction, cage space limits our ability to rescue cats. However, sometimes we get a call we can't turn down. Just such a call came on January 12th. A man in Harrison, AR, called saying he had his year and a half old female tiger, India, loaded into his pick-up truck. According to him, when India started to become aggressive and unmanageable, he took her out into the Buffalo National Forest and released her. When a hungry 400lb India showed back up on his doorstep four days later, he put her in his truck and called TCWR. The story of India's dangerous 60 mile walk through the National Forest brought lots of press to Turpentine Creek, in the hopes to open the public's eyes to the dangers of exotic pet ownership.



India, a female Bengal tiger, is shown here in the back of a pick-up. It is truly a testament to the stealth of tigers that she made it all the way home without being detected by any humans.

Later on that month on the 28th, we rescued the refuge's first caracal. Four year old Carrie came to us when her 53 year old owner passed away from a heart attack. His young daughter was left to care for the caracal. Carrie was very aggressive with the man's daughter, so she called a local vet clinic to look after Carrie temporarily. At first Carrie refused to



Carrie is adjusting well and her attitude is improving too. At first she was pretty upset in her new home because it is outside. She lived in the house during her childhood.

eat, but with time she became more comfortable with her surroundings.

Both cats are currently in quarantine as they adjust to life at the refuge, but should be on display in a few weeks.



Wildlife Weddings

Your special once-in-a-lifetime moment can be even more memorable when you tie the knot with hundreds of Big Cats as part of your wedding party! Let Darla and the animals of TCWR help make your wedding "Truly" memorable. Darla will coordinate what ever you desire: caterers, florist, and entertainment. It is up to you to choose. Get married on the wild side! Contact Darla at 479-253-3781 or email her at darla@turpentinecreek.org.

Rescued People

By Chris Vlautin/Staff Biologist

Over the years, more than eighty interns have come through our program and made life better for our Cats in many ways. Every now and then, one of those interns becomes one of the luckiest people on the planet; they get to stay here. Last winter, I became one of those lucky few. Like my predecessors, Laurie, Emily and Carrie, I was asked to stay on after my internship and become a permanent addition to the Turpentine Family. Now I never have to do the hardest part of an intern's job here -say good-bye. One can't help but get very attached to this place and especially its animals. There is a magic in going to sleep to the sound of a lion roaring. I have the benefit of having that every night. People ask me why I have stayed, and my answer is simply, "How could I not?"

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area in California, I spent five years earning my degree in Biology from Syracuse University in New York.

Like many of the interns who come through here, I initially intended to use the program as a springboard to a job in the field of zoology. Over the course of the following months, it occurred to me that anywhere I went after Turpentine Creek would be a major step down for me. To us, Turpentine isn't a mean to an end; it is the ends. This is the best place I feel I can make a difference. The Cats we take in are usually sick and starving, in horrible shape because of the ignorance and negligence of other people. Our mission here is take them in, nurse them back to health, and give them a permanent home where they never have to be in danger again.

We are on the front lines of a constant battle to better the lives of exotic felines in this country. For every animal we can take in, we have

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(Rescued People cont. from page 5)

to refuse dozens more. I, like the rest of the Turpentine staff would rather we not have to be here. If there were no Cats in trouble, we would be unnecessary, but that is not the case. There are so many Cats that need homes out there, and we wish we could help them all. I not only get to work for our Cats here at the refuge, but we also can educate so many more about the plight of exotics across the country.

Being a Staff Biologist entails me to be a Jack of all trades. Most days, I'm a builder, a mechanic, a mason, a housekeeper, a tour guide, a vet, a butcher, a gardener and a babysitter for some of the most stubborn and crabby critters around. Six days a week, ten plus hours a day, I get to work alongside some amazingly driven and passionate people who, like me, believe these Cats are worth every ounce of blood, sweat and tears. Arkansas is a lot different from the West Coast, I can tell you. It took a bit to get used to the 105 degree summer mornings, and the ticks especially. But I would not change anything about my life here.

Everyday I wake up and fall asleep to the cats caroling, and that would be reason enough to stay here forever. I have the added bonus of being able to see every one of our remaining fifty Cats not in habitats yet go out for the first time. In the two years I have been here we have opened four large-scale enclosures. This year already we are progressing on two more, and if we can get the support, two more may be open by 2006. Every season we are blessed by more and more wonderful people who through their generosity, make life here possible. I look forward to the day where we need more staff and interns because our 400+ acres are full of habitats. I'm just lucky enough to be here while it happens.

Turpentine Creek has given me more than a job or a line on a resume. They have given me a home.

A Festival For Felines

By Mike Fleming

This year's Chicago Benefit, "A Festival for Felines," is shaping up to be one of the most exciting events we've ever held up here. Besides the live and silent auctions that will include theater packages, vacations, sports tickets and over a hundred other items, we're also featuring a magic show, fortune tellers, raffles, face painting and balloon animals. The hardworking Chicago Committee has really outdone itself! I bet they'll even have me in a dunk tank before it's over.

Admission to the event is only \$10 per person, and all children 10 or under get in free, so please bring your children out to join in on the fun. You are welcome to pay at the door but as attendance is limited, we recommend reservations. For reservation information, please call me at 773-347-1340. \$10 Admission; children 10 and under are free. Hillside Holiday Inn, Hillside, Illinois (Eisenhower Expressway at Manheim Road).

Upcoming Events

Your Opportunity to get involved in your city.

March 22- TCWR exhibit at the Jones Center in Springdale, AR. for their annual spring break event called Family Vacation At The Jones Center. 3-6 PM.

March 26, 27- Annual Kite Festival at TCWR. This is a great time to spend quality time with your family and friends. 10 AM - 4 PM.

April 9- 5th Annual TCWR Wichita Benefit located in nearby Andover, KS. 1:30 - 4 PM.

April 17- TCWR Benefit in Chicago. It will be held at the Hillside Holiday Inn in the outlying town of Hillside, IL. Check our website (www.tigers.tc) for more information and directions. 1-4 PM.

April 23, 24- TCWR exhibit at Talking Rocks Cavern in West Branson, MO. The event is an Earthday Celebration in which TCWR Staff will give live performances. 8 AM - 6 PM.

May 6- Auto club visits the Refuge. The PT Cruisers will hold their annual convention at TCWR.

May 7- TCWR exhibit at the Deeracre Zoo in Hackett, AR. 9 AM - 3 PM.

May 14- TCWR exhibit at the Searcy County Library in Marshall, AR. from 10 AM - 12 PM.

June 10, 11, 12- TCWR exhibit in Lowell, AR. for the annual Mudd Town Days.

June 10, 11, 12- CMA Motorcycle Rally at TCWR. 9 AM - 6 PM.

June 17, 18, 19- TCWR Intertribal Pow Wow. You must attend one of our Pow Wow's. Good Family Fun. 10 AM - Late evening.

July 23, 24- The Friends of TCWR, Kansas City Chapter, will host a Motor Cycle Rally at the Refuge.

**See our Website for more Info.
On These Events.**

Please help these events be successful...Tell a friend!

Refuge Wish List

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Safety Supplies

- Gloves
- Rubber Boots (all Sizes)

4. Cleaning Supplies

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Scrub Brushes
- Rubber Gloves
- Garbage Bags

5. Tools

- Water hoses (3/4 inch)
- Hose Clamps
- Hammers
- Skill Saw
- Pliers
- Welding Rods (6011)
- Pipe Chop Saw
- Trowels (for concrete)
- Hack Saw + Blades
- Concrete Saw

6. Caging Materials

- T-post (5', 6', or 8')
- Steel Pipe (1" to 3")
- Metal Water Bowls
- Chop Saw Blades
- Oxy/Acetylene Regulators
- Black Spray Paint
- Sheet Metal (all sizes)
- Lumber (all kinds and sizes)

7. Office Supplies

- 8.5"x11" Copy Paper
- Stamps
- 3 mil and 5mil Laminators
- Paper cutter

8. Medical Supplies

- Syringes (All Sizes)
- Needles (14 and 16 gauge)
- Gauze (all sizes)
- Surgical Supplies (Clippers)

9. Equipment

- Welders-gas powered
- Road Grader
- Vehicles (used or new, gas efficient)

Sponsor Or Adopt Your Own Big Cat

Sponsorship

Small Animal or Bird--
\$500/yr. or \$50/mo.

Small Cat or Monkey--
\$750/yr. or \$75/mo.

Horse or Llama--
\$1,000/yr. or \$100/mo.

Cougar or Leopard--
\$1,800/yr. or \$180/mo.

Lion, Tiger, or Bear--
\$2,000/yr. or \$200/mo.

Adoptions

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.

Small Animal or Monkey-\$75/yr.

Small Cat--\$75/yr.

Cougar or Leopard--\$90/yr.

Lion, Tiger, or Bear--\$100/yr.

By adopting or sponsoring an animal at TCWR you are making a conscious effort to help further our mission:

To provide lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected "Big Cats" with emphasis on Tigers, Lions, Leopards, and Cougars.

The Call of the Wild B&B

Each room has a queen size bed and a sleeper sofa, along with a private bath, a garden tub, and a separate shower. Rooms are \$100 per night. This includes admission to the Refuge for two people. All facilities have satellite TV and are close to the animals. See our web site: www.tigers.tc. We also have RV sites available.

Treehouse Opens April 1.

TCWR will open the Treehouse for reservations on April 1. This is an awesome place to enjoy a weekend with your family.

It's Safari Time Again

*By Patricia Quinn
Safari Days Coordinator*

With the enormous success of our first Safari Days Art Competition/Auction last October raising over \$6,000 for our beautiful Big Cats (and an additional \$6,000 going to the artists), we are happy to announce that we will be "going on Safari" in September this year.

We are accepting entries of original artwork in any art form or fine craft. The proceeds from the sale this year will be a 50/50 split between the artists and the Big Cats of Turpentine Creek.

Please email pat@turpentinecreek.org or call me at (479) 253-5841 Monday-Thursday for details and/or to enter. I look forward to hearing from you.

