



## 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](mailto:tigers@turpentinecreek.org)

Web site: [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)

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

**"Help Us, Help Them!"**

# The Heat Is On



## Letter From The President

*By Tanya Smith/Founder*

Summer brings so much life to TCWR. The days are long and so is the grass. I would like to thank Hendrix College for buying us a small riding lawn mower. It has really helped to keep things looking good without as much labor. As the Refuge expands, it has a lot more land to care for. Donations like this make a big difference.

It is amazing to take the habitat tour this time of the year. The Big Cats that have gotten the opportunity to enjoy the freedom of the new enclosures have also learned they can hide in the brush. It is wonderful for them but disappointing for some of the visitors. We have been able to put 53 of the Big Cats into the enclo-

tures. They really love it!

Thanks to everyone that bought pools for cats and bears last summer. The pools (cattle troughs) have been a huge help to keep the cats cool in the 90+ degree heat we have been experiencing. We still have some of the tigers without pools, so if you would like to designate a donation of \$200.00, we would be happy to purchase a pool for the tiger of your choice. The lions are not interested in getting into the water. We have installed water misters for some of the animals, which have helped combat the heat.

The calls on animals that need homes have been overwhelming. The changes in the laws across the country

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**Join The Safari  
See Page 2.**

*(Letter From The President Continued)*

are definitely needed. Some require people to get rid of their Big Cats, bears, and wolves. Other states have total bans on Big Cat ownership; some are requiring the owner to buy a permit and be regulated by The Fish and Game Commission, their states wildlife agencies or their local sheriffs department. If the owner cannot comply they have to find the animal a new home. This has been devastating for refuges across the country. We do all we can without jeopardizing our own existence. Arkansas has passed new legislation regulating the ownership of Big Cats and Bears. We were a big part of getting House Bill 2681 passed along with Representative Phil Jackson. It requires anyone privately owning a lion, tiger, or bear (that is not licensed by the USDA/APHIS Division or that is not a sanctuary) to have a permit and register their animals with the State. Recently The Arkansas Fish and Game Commission has come up with their own regulations that encompass more restrictions. We are working closely with them to make sure we stay in compliance.

Our newest project is to get plaques made for all of the animals that are in our care. Since we are a lifetime refuge we are planning to buy plaques that will outlive all of us. We are going to use stainless steel plaques with an engraved picture and story of the rescued animal. This is not a cheap endeavor but should last even after the animal passes and then can become a memorial plaque. If you are interested in purchasing a plaque for your favorite animal you can do that for a \$35.00 donation. See the order form on the last page.

Please take the time to visit TCWR. Not only will you be learning about the animals, you will also be saving the lives of these beautiful creatures. Together we can make a difference.

### **Join The Safari-***Patricia Quinn/coordinator*

Plans are 'roaring' right along for our second annual Safari Days Art Competition/Auction.

With returning artists from last year and several new artists joining in, we will again have a large variety of original art works on display and up for auction during Safari Days 2005.

Our opening event is the official judging of entries on September 3, 2005, here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

All entries will be available for sale to the general public from September 3 – 22, 2005, with any unsold pieces offered at the Artists Gala / Live Auction on September 23, 2005, at the Basin Park Hotel in downtown Eureka Springs.

Plan on joining us for this fun and unique fund-raising event for the beautiful Big Cats of Turpentine Creek. For additional questions, please e-mail [pat@turpentinecreek.org](mailto:pat@turpentinecreek.org) or call me at (479) 253-5841, Monday through Thursday.

We look forward to seeing you!



*These signs will be mounted on the hand rail in front of each cage which will be much easier to read for our guests. The signs will be made of stainless steel and will offer lifelong durability. Please help with this much needed project.*

### **Words From Our Curator**

*By Hilda P. Jackson/Founder*

I woke up this morning and discovered this year is 1/2 over!!!! It always amazes me just how involved we all get with these great cats and how time really flies. We are almost all the way around the first meadow for our habitats and are using approximately 30 acres now for the cats. There is only approximately 429 acres left to finish. After looking at some of the old pictures of when we first moved here back in 1992, I can really see what we have accomplished in the past 13 years. I guess I have always been too busy seeing what needs to be done instead of seeing what we have accomplished. We finally got enough electricity in the front field so we can have events up there to help with the cats even more.

The state is widening Hwy 23 just in front of our place for just 1.2 miles. They are putting a passing lane and cutting out that sharp curve just north of the entrance. I really think this will be an improvement for us once the dust settles.

We had a wonderful Pow Wow again this year. It was held on Father's Day weekend and will continue every year at the same time. It is always a lot of fun. The Indian dancers are just great. Everyone that comes seem to really enjoy it. I know I do.

The income and donations we received from the last newsletter was very small. Of course the newsletter went out right at Income Tax time and I'm sure everyone was trying to pay Uncle Sam. Any donation that is sent to Turpentine Creek can be used as a deduction on your taxes. I'm sure the cats can use these funds to eat and have shelter and use them more wisely than our Congress in Washington does.

We are in the process of enlarging some of the existing cages in the compound to give these cats a little more room until we can build some more habitats. We could all use a little more room to play and have fun. Habitats would be better, but we do what we can afford and sometimes what we can't. It all comes out in the wash in the long run. Our cats all seem to be happy most of the time.

I wish humans were as easy to get along with. I guess I'm prejudiced but a mother always thinks her kids are the brightest and prettiest on the block. I feel the same way about all the animals we have here at Turpentine Creek. Any donation that you can send will be used wisely and will be greatly appreciated by us and our 116 big cats, 5 bears and all the other animals here at the Refuge.

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

## Rescues

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

The opening of two habitats earlier this year has allowed for cage repairs and improvements in the compound. Although the construction of these habitats only lets a certain number of cats experience those areas, it allows for cats in the compound to be moved into bigger and better areas. The last few months have been dedicated to doing just that. But with habitat construction never far from our thoughts, we have already begun introducing cougars for the next cougar enclosure.

Even though Turpentine Creek has not rescued any Big Cats lately, we have helped place more than 10 homeless cats at other facilities.

The Refuge has been able to welcome several other animals into our diverse family. On June 14th, a Scarlet Macaw named Alex arrived from his previous home in Forsyth, Missouri. His former owners had Alex for 10 years, but did not have room for the bird when they moved to a new home. It was clear when he arrived that Alex was not well. He had no feathers on his body because he had plucked them all off. Just his head and wings still bore the colorful feathers the macaws are famous for. There are several reasons why birds pluck their own feathers including loneliness, poor diet, or inability to mate. We are hopeful that with time, attention and proper

diet Alex will begin to grow his feathers back in.

As is typical of the spring season, TCWR welcomed yet another orphaned fawn. In early June a small deer nicknamed "Fonda" arrived at the refuge. A motorist passed Fonda after a car had hit her mother. The confused baby was lying down on the yellow lines of the highway. Since the people had been at the refuge earlier that day, they knew who to call for help. Fonda is a welcomed addition until she can be released back into the wild as a healthy adult deer.



*Fonda will be released when she is one year old. It is nice to follow the lives of the deer we have been able to release. Jane, a former caged resident, occasionally brings her new fawn to see us. The Refuge provides a serene place for all animals; caged or not.*



*Alex is adapting to the Refuge well. With a little love I am sure he will come around. On your next visit take time to say hello.*

## 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:

February 1, 2006; positions last six months.

### Deadline for application:

November 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](mailto:Emily@turpentinecreek.org)



## White Tigers

By Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist

One of the most popular and distinct cats at Turpentine Creek is Kenny. If you have ever been to the refuge I am sure you know Kenny. He is a white tiger with severe facial deformities that have given him a pug nose and crooked teeth. Kenny was rescued in 2000 from a breeder when he was about a year and a half old. His unique face has been on our "I love Kenny" clothing and his face has adorned many magnets, pictures and other items in our gift shop. Why Kenny has this unique look can be understood by studying white tigers and their history.

It is often thought that white tigers are albino. This is false. Albino animals are completely devoid of pigment and the white tigers have dark chocolate stripes, pick noses and blue eyes. Many people also believe that white tigers are Siberian and even call them "snow tigers" or that they are a separate subspecies altogether. Both of these statements are also incorrect. White tigers are simply a color aberration of the Bengal tiger.

The white color is caused by a rare genetic occurrence that leads to a lack in phaeomelanin, the pigment that gives tigers their orange color. To be the normal orange color, tigers possess 2 normal alleles at a specific gene site. A tiger can possess one normal and one rare gene for "whiteness" and still be the normal orange color. The white color only occurs if the tiger has both "whiteness" alleles. This double recessive allele only occurs in about 1 in every 10,000 in a wild population. Because the white color is desirable in captivity, humans increase these odds by breeding together related individuals. Close relatives share more of the same alleles than strangers, thus increasing the chances of producing cubs with both alleles.

How white tigers ended up in captivity clearly displays how heavily inbred these animals are and why deformities like Kenny's and other problems continue to be relatively common today. A single white cub named Mohan was the beginning of all white tigers in captivity. He was captured in central India in 1951 and was brought to the Maharajah's palace and kept as a "pet". He was bred to an orange female and fathered 4 orange cubs. These cubs had a chance of being carriers of the rare "whiteness" allele, so Mohan was mated with one of his daughters. Her cubs were the first white tigers born in captivity. One of these white cubs was named Mohini and in 1960 was sold to the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. Mohini was bred to Samson (her uncle and half-brother) resulting in two cubs, Kesari and her brother. These siblings were loaned to the Cincinnati Zoo where they were bred to each other and produced white cubs. The inbreeding continued when Kesari's son, Bhim, was bred with 2 of his sisters (Kamala and Sumita). Sumita went on to become the matriarch of the famous Cincinnati white tiger line. Because inbreeding increases the chances of producing white cubs breeding siblings to each other and offspring back to parents continues heavily today.

As this inbreeding worsens the number of abortions, stillbirths and unexplained infant mortalities also increases. The cubs that do survive can end up with various problems including crossed eyes, curvature of the spine, twisted necks and other skeletal deformities, shortened tendons of the legs, a higher susceptibility to disease and a shorter lifespan. Kenny's unusual face is very unique, but he is by no means the only example of inbreeding. Turpentine Creek has numerous cats with inbreeding problems; including Kenny's father Conway, who has shortened tendons in his legs, and his brother Willie, who suffers from extremely crossed eyes. The orange cubs suffer from all the same physical conditions and also must often contend with a much worse fate. Some breeders consider the orange cubs to be so worthless that they will kill all non-white cubs in a litter.

It is believed that only approximately 1 in 10 white cubs survive to be normal and healthy. With this relatively poor odds it doesn't seem reasonable to continue breeding, but the white cats are a huge money making machine. It is not unusual for a white tiger to sell for \$10,000 to \$50,000 dollars, making it worthwhile for breeders to continue

## 2006 Calendars Are Ready to Order

The 2006 calendars are packed with great photos. This year's calendar has photos of cats that need a habitat. They currently reside in a cage, waiting for your help. You can help get these cats into a habitat by purchasing a 2006 calendar.

They make great gifts too.



## 2006 "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 a great gift. Buy one for a loved one or friend.

inbreeding heavily in order to cash in on the few normal, seemingly healthy cubs they do produce. Even for zoos, the economic side of white tigers is hard to ignore. The white tigers are popular and generate a lot of revenue through attendance as well as through the sale of these cats to other facilities. The Cincinnati zoo, famous for its white cats, has sold cubs to zoos in Japan, South Africa, Mexico and others. These cats serve no conservation purpose, but instead are bred for economic gain.

Kenny's deformities are an unfortunate example of a huge problem but there is a bright side to his plight. He has become our ambassador for educating the public about the problem of white tigers in captivity. It is easy to tell people that inbreeding leads to horrible physical maladies, but to see it first hand and so evidently, as in Kenny's case is worth a thousand explanations. Every Turpentine Creek visitor who sees Kenny and learns about the history of white tigers will better understand the disastrous outcome of inbreeding these cats.

The information for this article was gathered primarily from "Wild Thoughts from Wild Places" by David Quammen and the web sites "www.lairweb.org.nz" and "www.savethetigerfund.org"

## One Step Closer

By Chris Vlautin/Staff Biologist

Turpentine Creek exists as one of the few governmentally licensed rescue facilities for Big Cats in the US. We take in as many as we possibly can and give them a home for the rest of their lives. But this is an uphill battle because of the sheer number of Big Cats in this country. With so many thousands needing proper care and maintenance, Turpentine Creek and other devoted rescue organizations just cannot keep up with the demand. Because of this, we are also dedicated to educating the public about the plight of Cats in this country.

While not permitted by the federal government to directly lobby lawmakers about our mission, we can encourage as many of our customers to go and discover the laws and regulations concerning Cat ownership in their necks of the woods. Most are shocked when they learn how easy it is for any one of their neighbors irresponsible enough to want one can go and buy a Big Cat. One of the main reasons we have so many disabled and handicapped Cats is because there are so few laws governing their breeding and ownership. This means that most anyone, without any training or know-how or means of supporting themselves can have a Lion in their basement, simply because they think  
*(continued on next page)*



### Father's Day Pow Wow Huge Success!

Father's Day Weekend, June 17 18 and 19, TCWR held their 7th Annual POW WOW. It was held in memory of Terry Adams who passed away earlier this year. Terry was our Master of Ceremonies in past years, which made this year a bittersweet celebration of all he loved and believed in. Certainly, he was with us through it all.

Turpentine Creek Pow Wow again was a success due to the hard work of our staff, interns and volunteers. On a normal day, these people give so much of themselves; still they went into over-drive during the preparations of the Pow Wow. Admirable and humbled thanks to all of you.

Thanks to the Pow Wow Committee. A heart-felt thank-you to Lee Lawhead the Master of Ceremonies, Dude Blalock the Arena Director, Jay Blalock the Head Singer. Butch McIntosh Honoree, Adam Adams Head Man Dancer, Rachel Adams Head Lady Dancer, Shawna Adams who gave her ideas and time to prepare our Pow Wow Book, The Drummers, with their songs and Dancers with their beauty and spirit.

All the hard work preparing for this is compensated a hundredfold when the day is over and one has time to think of the true and pure purpose of a gathering such as Turpentine Creek's 7th Annual Pow Wow.

This year a special gratitude goes to all the Vendor and Food Concessions that in part made this year's Pow Wow a great success.

If the Good Lord is willing, next year will be bigger and better.

they should be able to. Most states have no legislation at all, and scant few others have some sort of registration laws. And this is why Turpentine Creek gets hundreds of calls a year to rescue Cats in need.

By taking a quick look at the Education Station here at the refuge, our customers can see just how big a problem exists in most states. Only 13 states have laws prohibiting the ownership of carnivores by private individuals. Most of the Cats rescued by T.C. have come from right here in Arkansas or the surrounding states. However, this is about to change. Arkansas HB2681 was signed into law this past spring, effectively ending all future Big Cat ownership in our state. Eliminating all Big Cat ownership nationally is one of our dreams, and to have our home state finally impact some change by unanimously approving this bill certainly is great cause for celebration.

Christopher Branam of Fayetteville, AR wrote this bill and State representative Phil Jackson, its sponsor, worked tirelessly to ensure its passage. Chris began drafting this legislation when he was still an intern at Turpentine Creek in the summer of 2003, and has continued to work on this for the last two years. He has followed its journey from inception to passage, and is overjoyed at the outcome.

During the deliberation and discussion of the bill this spring, our own President and Vice President, Tanya and Scott Smith, traveled to Little Rock to meet with the members of the Arkansas Congress to show our support of it. Concerned parties from all over the state were there, all demonstrating how important it was that something needed to be done with Arkansas' Big Cat problems. Tanya and Scott were fortunate enough to be called upon to answer a few questions by curious legislators as well as ask some of their own. We are very proud of them and of everyone here who was associated with the approval of this indispensable piece of legislation. Its passage has been a great leap forward in our fight to eradicate private ownership of large carnivores and to improve the lives of countless Cats in captivity.

## Habitat Success

*By Emily McCormac/Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator*

Spring Break 2005 was simply amazing. The First United Methodist Church Youth was an extraordinary team to unite forces with, once again. We successfully built two new habitat enclosures. Four months of work was completed in four days. Eight cats were moved from the compound and are roaming through these habitats.

On May 15, 2005, the grand opening of both habitats took place. Members of the First United Methodist Church joined the Turpentine Creek staff and interns as we opened the doors for the first time. With little hesitation, Toni and Exxon walked through to their newfound freedom. Shortly after, the doors of the second enclosure were opened for J.J., Reese, and Titan. Each of the cats displayed many natural behaviors as they explored their new homes.

Moving the 5 tigers and 2 lions to the habitats created available space to expand. Currently, we are moving animals around in the compound to give these cats larger enclosures while they anticipate their habitat.

At this time, we are looking for more donors to complete our four-habitat goal of 2005. We presently need habitat supplies to complete this goal. Two Boy Scout troops of Northwest Arkansas have been inspired by the youth group and are planning on working with us this summer. With your help we can change the lives of other TCWR cats.

We would again like to thank the First United Methodist Church Youth of Rogers, AR. We also thank all of the companies in Northwest Arkansas that supported this mission, and to all of Turpentine Creek's past and present donors of our habitat fund.

We, the staff and interns of Turpentine Creek, have dedicated all of our energy into pursuing the dream of expanding and rescuing Big Cats. There is no knowing what we can achieve if our success inspires even more supporters to help with these goals.



It is imperative that TCWR exist beyond our lives. The need for a facility like the Refuge will increase as laws are passed to govern private Big Cat ownership. To insure TCWR's long-term existence, please remember the cats in your Will and Endowments.

## Refuge Wish List

### 1. Prayers

### 2. Donations

### 3. Safety Supplies

- Gloves
- Rubber Boots (all Sizes)

### 4. Cleaning Supplies

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

### 5. Tools

- Water hoses (3/4 inch)
- Hose Clamps
- Hammers
- Skill Saw
- Plyers
- Welding Rods (6011)
- Pipe Chop Saw
- Trowels (for concrete)
- 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 Laminating sheets

### 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)

**Donations of any kind are  
tax deductible**

## 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.

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

Stay in one of our rooms and hear the lions carolling through the night. While in Eureka Springs stay here and your money will benefit the animals. 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](http://www.tigers.tc). We also have RV sites available.



*Loretta lives just outside of the Bed and Breakfast window. Relax in your room while observing one of our beautiful cats.*

## TCWR Treehouse

Imagine sitting on the deck and observing awesome big cats all day and night. The Treehouse offers great views and family fun for \$125/night for two people. \$15 is required for each additional person (max. 4 people). The Treehouse is open until November 1.

**Gift Certificates  
Available**

