

CAT CHRONICLES Nov, 2005



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

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

239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

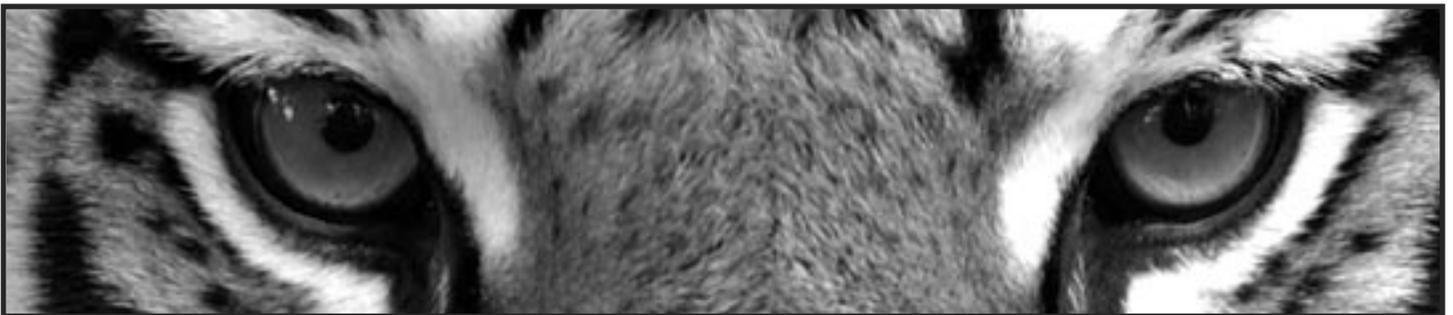
Email: tigers@turpentinecreek.org

Web site: www.turpentinecreek.org

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

"Help Us, Help Them!"

Christmas Shop With Us



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Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

Autumn in the Ozarks is an awesome experience. Everyone is enjoying the cooler weather, which tends to make the animals frisky. The Big Cats and the staff are happy to have some relief from the heat.

Eureka Springs is planning a joyous holiday season; Christmas shopping in our beautifully lighted Victorian styled Village is a great way to spend time with your family. Many spas and trails are open everyday. Beyond Dickens is a must see; The Great Passion Play provides an incredible Christmas experience in November and December.

I encourage each and every one of you to do all you can to come for a visit. TCWR winter hours are 9AM to 5PM and we are feeding the Big Cats at 4PM. Guided habitat tours are every hour on the hour from 11AM to 3 PM. You do not want to miss the habitat tours. If you need assistance we do offer cart tours by request for anyone not able to make the half of a mile hike. The B&B's are a popular place to spend some down time and hear the lions carol all through the night.

The animals are preparing for winter by consuming more food. This always is a sure sign that the coldest days are just around the corner. Winter as an animal caregiver is not always the most fun. Our days are shorter for those outdoors projects. If you have ever been here you know we have plenty of those. The interns and staff get to break ice three times a day from frozen water bowls. Heat is needed for the older animals and with the rising fuel cost it makes our job a challenge. Thank goodness the animals grow beautiful winter coats. It is nice if the cats choose to get along with others, then they have someone to snuggle up in their dens with on those extremely cold nights.

I am so proud that we have so many of the Big Cats in large enclosures. Thanks

(Continued on page 2.)

(Letter From The President Continued)

to everyone that has bought a calendar or donated to the habitat fund. We have almost half of our Big Cats in habitats where they can run and stretch their legs. With your help every animal here will get that opportunity soon.

Thanks to everyone who donated money to purchase water tanks for the cats this summer. It sure made their lives better during the heat.

If you are looking for the purrr-fect gift for any animal lover please consider adopting or sponsoring an animal at TCWR. We will be happy to send out a pictured certificate to whomever you request. This also includes a 2006 family membership so your loved one can come and visit TCWR all year long. We also have other gifts available like beach towels, cups, gift certificates for B&B stays and photo shoots, key chains, t-shirts, etc... read further to learn how you can order today. Also, visit www.cafepress.com/turpentinecreek for photos of our cats on dozens of different items. All proceeds will go to continue our mission. Thanks for your continued support!

Rescues

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

All the hard work in habitat construction and compound improvements has started to pay off. Not only have many of TCWR's long time residents been enjoying expanded areas, but the refuge has also been able to welcome several new additions to the family.

On July 14th, Turpentine Creek welcomed an eleven year old female cougar named Cindy. The cat had lived with a man in Hackett, Arkansas for the better part of her life, until a degenerative disease left him unable to care for Cindy. Once he became bed ridden, Cindy was brought to the refuge where she can be cared for properly.



Cindy is seen here pacing nervously while she is being rescued. Her former cage was ten by ten feet with a dirt floor made out of narrow gauge chain link fencing. She did have a nice large den.

The end of August brought us a female bobcat named Baby. Baby lived in the basement of a North Little Rock home. She was with her owner for nearly nine years until the military sent him to Afganistan. With no one around to care for her, Baby was brought to Turpentine Creek.

Both cats are still adjusting to their new home, but starting to settle in. We invite you to visit the refuge and meet our new family members.



The majority of the cats at TCWR came from private owners who made an attempt at keeping a wild cat as a pet. We do our best to make sure every visitor to the Refuge knows the perils they faced.

Please sponsor one of the plaques. This program will make it much easier for you and other guest to read bout our animal friends. Each plaque is \$35 and will serve as a memorial too.



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.

Amy Schacht

Staff Zoologist

My whole life I have dreamt of working with tigers, which is why I worked diligently for my B.S. in Zoology with a minor in Environmental Studies. After graduating from Mars Hill College in May 2004, I was rewarded for my efforts with an internship at TCWR. This was my chance to make that dream a reality, since the refuge has 65 tigers, plus many more Big Cats and various animals.

As my college roommate and fellow intern, Ashleigh Triebel, and I pulled into the driveway of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge to begin our internship in August 2004, I was overcome with a foreshadowing that I would never be the same after my experience at TCWR. As Emily McCormack showed us around, I quickly became overwhelmed with everything I saw. I was appalled to see how many animals had been mistreated merely for the satisfaction of having a Big Cat as a pet. However, I was encouraged to see how well all the animals were loved and cared for, having plenty of enrichment (logs, plastic balls, bowling balls, barrels, pools, etc), a clean environment, and a healthy diet. The refuge's vision to get all the Cats into a habitat is inspiring and I was grateful to have this opportunity to work toward this goal. The Big Cats took my breath away and I fell in love with them, the people that have dedicated their lives to the Cats, and the beautiful Ozark Mountains. Therefore, I was ecstatic when Emily asked me if I wanted to stay on for a second internship.

During this time, I continued to build my relationships with the Big Cats and the people that work with them and also began new relationships with people in Eureka Springs. Again, I was astounded that Emily would once again ask me to continue working at the refuge, but this time as a permanent staff member. Despite my parents' entreaty to find a job closer to their North Carolina home, I gladly accepted the position and became a Staff Zoologist at TCWR. My parents have since acquiesced to the idea that I will not be coming home to NC and are proud knowing that I am doing something I love since very few people can claim that. I am honored to have become a full-time staff member, working in a breathtaking setting for such a noble cause with selfless and passionate people.



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, 2006; positions last six months.

Deadline for application:

April 15, 2006

To Apply:

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

Emily@turpentinecreek.org



One Step Closer

By Chris Vlautin/Staff Biologist

One of the more common questions asked of us here at TC is one of choosing which Cats go where when the time comes to put Cats out into the habitats. This is not always as easy as just picking a few at random and then moving them out the following day. Many things are taken into account, and this decision does not come easily to us here. In fact, some of us Staff can be downright stubborn when it comes to voting on the Cat each of us wants to have its freedom.

First and foremost, we rely on the amount of time the cats have been waiting in to compound to go out; the longer they've been here, the more precedence is given to their freedom. But there are other factors as well, like space. Since each of our habitats is designed with the specific terrain of the site in mind, we must see which Cats would do better in certain places. Our Lions, for example, have a flatter, open enclosure that is more like the savannahs of Africa.

When we do finally figure out who's going out, we then must get them ready for the big moving day. Often time, we choose a few Cats who may not know each other, but we feel will get along well enough to be neighbors out in their new home. When this happens, we slowly introduce them to each other and carefully monitor their behavior, to make sure everyone is playing nicely.

Because we plan to make one of our upcoming habitats another cougar enclosure, we have begun the initial stages of cougar introductions. We are overjoyed at this proposal, as we would double the amount of cougars out of the compound upon its completion. Until we can get the proper materials to build it, we are using this time to get the cats used to living in a larger group. For those of you who have visited the Refuge, you know that most of our cougars live in the north side of the compound, aptly named "cougar row." We have recently moved six of those inhabitants into a two-cage complex at the end of the row in preparation to eventually put them all out into a new habitat.

Corky, Luna, Ruby and Suli were put into a newly retrofitted tiger cage and were allowed some time to get used to the new arrangements. Once settled, we then opened the doors to the adjacent cage where Jasper and Ariel were living. Over the next few weeks we gradually extended the time allowed for everyone to mingle until they all were comfortable enough to live together permanently. So now we have six cougars in two former tiger cages in preparation for their final destination. The six of them have been getting along very well, but feeding time still gets a bit exciting; which is understandable considering that many hungry cougars are in one place. So make sure you stop by and see these six before they have their next and final moving day.



Suli is shown here resting in her new hollowed out log. While the cougars wait for their new habitat our staff does what they can to put stimulating toys in their cage. As soon as this log was put in the cage Suli wasted no time claiming it as hers.

2006 Calendars Are Ready To Order

The 2006 calendars are packed with great photos. This years 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.

Shop With Us

By Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Biologist

Like many of you, life at the refuge can be hectic. The demands of 116 cats are always high and do not stop regardless of time of year or season. They want to be cleaned, fed and played with regardless of time of year. This makes the days flow together for the staff and interns. It is easy to forget about things like the holiday season, especially Christmas shopping.

Your life, I'm sure, can also be chaotic especially around the holidays, and shopping is often left to the last minute. Turpentine Creek can help by encouraging you to shop early with us. This will not only make your life less stressful, it will also make life for the cats at Turpentine Creek better through your support.

This year we have our 2006 calendars featuring pictures of Turpentine Creek's cats (\$20 plus \$3 shipping) and the "Best Stories Ever Told" CD with pictures and stories of all the cats at the refuge (\$30 plus \$3 shipping).

From last year, we have "I ♥ Kenny" t-shirts and sweatshirts in both adult and children sizes. These were such a big hit last year that we had to have them again this year. T-shirts are \$20 (adults) and \$12 (children) and sweatshirts are \$30 (adults) and \$22 (children). All shirts have an additional \$4.00 added for shipping.

New for this year we have several more items. To compliment the Kenny shirts we now have "I ♥ Turpentine Creek" t-shirts (sorry no sweatshirts). These green/olive-coloured shirts have a picture of Rowdy, the lion and declare affection for the entire refuge. Currently we have them in adult sizes only. This will also be \$20 plus \$4 shipping.

It is never too young to start being a big cat lover and supporting Turpentine Creek. For the smallest family members, we have baby rompers and toddlers t-shirts. They both come in two different styles; blue with a cartoon lion or yellow with a cartoon tiger, both with Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge displayed on the front. The rompers are available in 3 sizes; small (12 month), medium (18 month) and large (24 month) and the tees come in sizes T2, T3 and T4. Both items are \$10 plus \$4 shipping.

For those looking for something a little different we have beautiful, giant beach towels. These towels are 40" X 72" and come in three styles; white tiger, lion or black leopard and are embroidered with the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge name. They can be used as towels of course, but they also make good wall hangings or room dividers. The cost is only \$25 plus \$4 shipping.

Of course, we have many other big cat related items in our gift shop and we are open all year. If you want to choose from a larger selection of items (plush animals, coffee mugs, framed photos, figurines, etc) make a trip to the refuge, say "hi" to all the cats and get some Christmas shopping done. If you can't decide we also offer gift certificates for anything, including admission to the refuge, stays at our overnight lodging, or even for a cash value to spend in our gift shop. These can be ordered by phone, email or picked up in person at the refuge. Remember, the refuge is a non-profit organization so for everything that is purchased, the money goes back to help care for all of our wonderful cats.



"I love Kenny" and "I love Turpentine Creek" Shirts and Sweaters are a great gift to give and help the cats at the same time.

The kids shirts are cute and come many sizes.



These towels are 6 feet tall and have many uses. Order yours today. We have three different towels that make a great set.



New Website Now Online!

Scott Smith photographs our Big Cats and utilizes the photos in many items found in our giftshop, including the calendar and postcards. Now you can purchase his photographs on 75 different gift items through cafepress.com. There are hoodies, t-shirts of all kinds, coffee mugs, and dozens of other items. The funds raised through this site will be used to purchase materials and equipment for building habitats. The cost for materials alone are close to \$7,000 for each habitat. Through this web site we hope to give our animal friends a better place to live. Please help, do your Christmas shopping here.

www.cafepress.com/turpentinecreek

Update on Alex

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist



Alex has been through a lot but our efforts seem to be paying off. Say hello to him on your next visit.

Our last newsletter included our June rescue of a Scarlet Macaw named Alex. You may recall that Alex was brought to us with very few feathers after ten years of him pulling them out. After receiving a new environment and lots of enrichment as directed by our bird experts, Alex continued to pull out his feathers. Tanya enlisted the help of the veterinary staff of the Dickerson Park Zoo. A short drive to Springfield for an afternoon at the doctor and Alex was soon diagnosed with lead poisoning. It is unclear where Alex ingested lead or for how long he has been in this condition. High levels of lead in the blood stream is extremely toxic and could very quickly lead to Alex's death. The poisoning does account for many of Alex's symptoms including the feather plucking. Alex received a round of shots of Calcium EDTA, which will help flush the lead out of his system. Now that Alex is receiving the treatments he needs, he seems to be showing signs of improvement. Although his prognosis is unclear, it appears that Alex is on the road to recovery.

Shop At

[www.cafepress.com/
turpentinecreek](http://www.cafepress.com/turpentinecreek)

Jade Moves To Habitat

By Emily McCormack/Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

Everyone who has been to the refuge knows Jade. He is our very unique liger. A liger is a cross between a male lion and a female tiger. Ligers exist because of human influence. Some ligers are a result of artificial insemination, others through forced breeding. Tigers and lions at one time coexisted in the wild in India, but inhabited different regions. There are no confirmed reports of natural interbreeding.

Jade was rescued from a small zoo in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Previous to the zoo, Jade was a circus performer. When he would no longer perform, the circus retired him to the zoo. Like all lions and tigers, Jade likes to spray. This is a natural behavior to mark territory. The zoo had many complaints from their customers getting sprayed. Therefore, Jade was facing euthanasia. Jade was rescued from the zoo the day before he was going to be euthanized.

Jade used to be the first cat you saw when you walked through our doors. Now he is the first cat you see on the guided habitat tour. He resides in the first habitat, alternating days with Zeke, Sinbad, Rowdy and Cash. His lockdown is in perfect view of our lodging. Jade was one of the most exciting animals to move. He had the biggest grin on his face as he rode in the transfer trailer to his new enclosure. On the day of his release out into the natural habitat, the same smile was there. It brought tears of joy to all of us on staff and the interns.

Tears of sadness have also been shed. On September 8, Jade had his 18th birthday, which is phenomenal for a liger. A few weeks previous to his birthday, Jade was diagnosed with cancer in his connective tissue. Jade had a lump, which looked like a mole, on his shoulder. Our vet came to remove it for a biopsy. The results were cancer (malignant) cells. Jade has another small lump on his face. The lumps are not painful. Jade's prognosis is unknown. We don't know if the cancer will spread to other parts of his body, or if this is even the original site.

For now, Jade loves his new enclosure. If you take our guided habitat tour, you will usually see Jade lying on his back in the grass, sunning his belly. He is in great spirits, and enjoys marking his large habitat territory. We have been blessed with Jade, a unique individual, part of our Turpentine Creek Family.



Jade's first steps on grass. We will miss him in the compound, but we know he is much happier in his new habitat. "Together We Are Making A Difference".

Sponsorships And Adoptions

Sponsorship

- Small Animal or Bird
\$500/yr or \$50/mo
- Small Cat or Monkey
\$750/yr or \$75/mo
- Llama
\$1000/yr or \$100/mo
- Cougar or Leopard
\$1800/yr or \$180/mo
- Lion, Tiger, or Bear
\$2000/yr or \$200/mo

Adoption

- Small Animal or Monkey
\$75/yr
- Small Cat
\$75/yr
- Cougar or Leopard
\$90/yr
- Lion, Tiger, or Bear
\$100/yr

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.

**Gift Certificates
Are Available**

Spend The Night With The Big Cats

Stay in one of our rooms and hear the lions caroling 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 clicker 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.



Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers
2. Donations
3. Safety Supplies
 - Dart Gun
 - First Aid Kits
 - Gloves
 - Rubber Boots (All Sizes)
 - Plastic Spray Bottles
4. Cleaning Supplies
 - Garbage Bags
 - Household Cleaners
 - Paper Towels

- Toilet Paper
 - Scrub Brushes
 - 8.5" X 11" Copy Paper
 - Stamps
 - Laminating Sheets (3 Mil & 5 Mil)
5. Tools
 - Concrete Saw & Trowels
 - Pipe Chop Saw & Blades
 - Pliers
 - Hammers
 - Hose Clamps, Nozzles & Stopcocks
 - Skill Saw & Blades
 - Welding Rods (6011-3/32)
 6. Caging Materials
 - Black Spray Paint
 - Metal Water Bowls
 - New Lumber
 - Oxy/Acetylene Regs.
 - Rebar (3/4 to 1 inch)
 - Metal Roofing
 7. Office Supplies
 8. Medical Supplies
 - 4 & 16 Gauge Needles (Metal Hub)
 9. Equipment
 - Back Hoe
 - Road Grader
 - Chippers (Gas Engine)



Donna lives just outside the window of our rooms. Relax and enjoy her presence along with her friends, Wings and Pebbles. From the Deck you can watch Jade, our liger, living it up in his habitat. Jade shares his habitat with four lions: Zeke, Sinbad, Rowdy, and Cash. Only at TCWR can you experience this awesome view.

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



Jade smiles while taking his first steps into his new habitat.

ORDER FORM

11/05

It is through your direct support that the 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: Turpentine Creek 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR. 72632. 479-253-5841

Name _____ Address _____ _____ Email _____ METHOD OF PAYMENT CREDIT CARD: CC# _____ EXP. DATE _____ PERSONAL CHECK CHECK# _____ DL# _____	_____ Unrestricted donation to help the cats \$ _____ _____ Habitat Fund (to build big enclosures) \$ _____ _____ Calendars # _____ @ \$23.00 (2006) \$ _____ _____ Family Adoptions (_____) \$ _____ Name of animal _____ _____ Sponsorships (_____) \$ _____ Name of animal _____ _____ The Best Stories Ever Told CD \$33.00 \$ _____ _____ Stainless Steel Story Plaques \$35.00 \$ _____ _____ Family Membership \$50.00 \$ _____ _____ Single Membership \$30.00 \$ _____ _____ Gift Shop _____ \$ _____ Total Contributions \$ _____
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