



CAT CHRONICLES

Feb. 2006



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

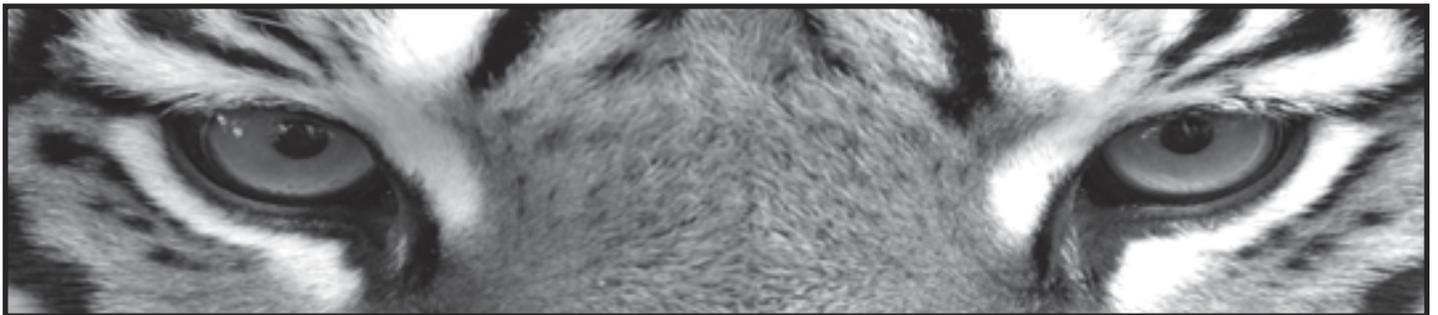
Web site: www.turpentinecreek.org

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

"Help Us, Help Them!"



Winter Is Very Tough At The Refuge, Please Help!



Upcoming Events

Feb. 9- Bobcat Habitat Opening
& COC Business After
Hours Party

Mar. 25- 16th Annual
Eureka Springs
Kite Festival 10-4 PM



Apr. 1- Kansas City Benefit FMI
www.FOTCWR-KC.org

May 5-7- TCWR Arts and Craft
Festival

June 16-18- 8th Annual TCWR
POWPOW

Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

2005 was an unbelievable year for Turpentine Creek and I am extremely optimistic about 2006. So much work was accomplished in the previous year. The refuge has experienced growth. Please come visit whenever you can.

I would like to thank everyone that sponsored a plaque for the animals cages. The response was overwhelming! We now have almost all of the Big Cats signs completed and on the animal's cage. This was a big job for Scott Smith, Jeff Horist, Pat Quinn and I. Thank goodness that project is almost complete. However, we would like to add all the deceased cat's plaques to our memorial wall. If you would like to sponsor a plaque for one of our friends that has passed on, it is only a \$35.00 donation to produce the plaque. You can choose who you wish to recognize. Many people have had plaques made in memory of a loved one.

I am so excited that we now have a new Bobcat Habitat built to allow some of our smaller residents the opportunity to play on the grass. We will continue to build great places for them to climb on and hang out. If you would like to sponsor a bench for the cats to lounge on, check the appropriate box on the order form and send it in along with your \$100.00 donation to TCWR. These benches will be built inside the habitat and will have a plaque showing your support.

By this time next year I hope to see the loop of habitats around the habitat field complete for the Big Cats to enjoy. We only have room for two to three more enclosures and that portion of the development will be complete. Please help where you can!

We do have a large group of volunteers coming to donate their time during Spring Break. We will be busy keeping all of the help busy on different projects. The first project is to build the next habitat. See more in Emily McCormick's

(Continued on page 2.)

Letter From The President

(Continued from page 1)

article. Even though we desperately need a building built as a commissary and food preparation for the Big Cats, we also plan to replace the deck on the "Call of the Wild" Lodging while they are here.

Please say a special prayer that Hilda Jackson (one of TCWR's founders), will start feeling better soon. Hilda Jackson is also my mom and hasn't written an article in the past two newsletters due to heart surgeries and illness. Please keep her and all of us in your prayers and if any of you win the lottery I can't think of a better place to donate some of your winnings. Take care and thanks for all of your continued support.

Until next time...



Hilda P. Jackson (Founding Member of TCWR) shown here playing with one of the cougars. She recently was hospitalized and is now fighting a severe cold.

2006 Staff Photo: Scott, Clif, Hilda, Chris C., Tanya, Emily, Laurie, Amy, Chris V., Phyllis, Pat, Carrie.



Welcome 2006 TCWR Board Of Directors

Tanya Smith, Hilda Jackson, Chip James, Dave Schoonover, Kimber Martinez, John Boren, Bill Baker, Randy Risor.

2005 Fall/2006 Winter Interns

- Jim Harrington** - University of Massachusetts
- BA Biology - May 2005
- Mario Gutierrez** - Shippensburg University
- BS Business Administration - May 2005
- Stephanie Buntain** - Texas A&M University
- BS Biology - August 2005
- Daniel Brubaker** - Eastern Mennonite University
- BS Biology - May 2005
- Lacy Clifford** - Alfred University
- BS Biology - May 2005
- Rose Itzcovitz** - University of Maine
- BS Animal Science - May 2005
- Jessica Khodadad** - Florida Institute of Tech.
- BS Biology - May 2005
- Andrea Byington** - Texas A&M University
- BS Biology - August 2004



Emily McCormack

Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

We have been very fortunate to have so many people supporting the habitat fund. Winter weather has been cooperative, and progress continues with our habitats. Three new habitat enclosures are currently being built for our bobcats. The enclosures are located in the main compound across from Vada, our black leopard. Each habitat is approximately 360 square feet. Four of our five bobcats will be moving to their new exhibits on February 9th at 3:00 PM. Boo Boo and Kizi have both been residents of the refuge since 1998, will be sharing one of the enclosures. Sadie, who was rescued in 2001, and Baby, who was recently rescued in 2005, will be occupying the other two exhibits. The design of the three enclosures was made with temporary adjoining walls in the hopes of introducing the four felines. The three enclosures would then be made into one, measuring approximately 1100 square feet.

Spring break is just around the corner. Turpentine Creek will once again be joining forces with the First United Methodist Church Youth of Rogers, AR. The third week of March the youth will spend volunteering their time constructing yet another habitat. Along with this, they have decided to help with two other projects for the refuge. We will be completely rebuilding the deck outside of our B & B, and completing our memorial site. Texas A&M University is also sending a group of student volunteers the second week of March to help get these enormous projects started. The past two years working together with the youth group have proven to be the most successful progress made in one weeks time. This of course was possible only with the help of our supporters.

This Spring Break's habitat is being jointly sponsored by a local supporter and IBM. Riggan Shilstone donated \$3,500 for a habitat to be built in memory of her mother, Grady Shilstone. Riggan is employed with IBM, who is matching her donation of \$3,500. This money is directly purchasing materials for the construction of the habitat. The cost of materials for each enclosure runs from \$7,000 - \$10,000. We greatly appreciate and honor the donation.

Many materials are still in need for the other two projects. We need donations to purchase these materials. The First United Methodist Church Youth are beginning their fundraising efforts in the next few weeks. We are asking all of our supporters to help in making Spring Break 2006 a successful one. Turpentine Creek appreciates any help you can provide. Your financial help and labor are greatly needed and welcome.



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 reside at the Refuge.

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



Rescues

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist



Shasta looks out the rear window of a mid-sized truck's bed after the long journey from Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The Christmas season came and went relatively quietly at the refuge, but the new year brought one new addition. An eleven year old female cougar named "Shasta" was brought to the refuge from Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Arkansas Fish and Game Commission has followed the example of USDA and started to buckle down on big cat ownership laws in the state of Arkansas. Unable to conform to the stricter laws and expensive permits, Shasta's owner had to find her a new home.

It was clear that Shasta had been well taken care of, because she took no time making herself at home. Her sweet personality has made her a fast favorite and welcomed addition to the TCWR family.

New Website Now Online!

You can purchase TCWR 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. Through this web site we hope to give our animal friends a better place to live. Shop with TCWR.

www.cafepress.com/turpentinecreek



This photo shows Shasta's previous owner saying goodbye to his lifelong friend. As new laws regulating private ownership of exotic cats are passed nationwide, more and more cats will need homes. Turpentine Creek has 450+ acres. At this time only 40 are being utilized for the cats care. With your help TCWR will solve this man made problem.



Shasta is seen here experiencing her first view of another big cat. She is looking at Jade, a 600 lb. liger. Although she seemed nervous there was a certain expression of eagerness in her face. Much like the first time a child gawks at the sight Disney World.

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.

A Cat With Many Names

By Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Biologist

Turpentine Creek currently houses over 100 exotic cats. There are big cats and smaller cats and then there those that are more difficult to put into a category. They have been called mountain lion, panther, puma, and catamount. At Turpentine Creek we refer to the *Felis concolor*, simply as cougar. The cougar is scientifically classified as a “small cat” and is part of the genus *Felis*. The “small cats” are distinguished by the ossified hyoid bone in the throat, which prevents roaring but will allow them to purr. In the “big cats”, the genus *Panthera*, this hyoid “bone” is actually made out of cartilage allowing them to roar, but not purr. This means the cougar is actually more closely related to your house cat (*Felis catus*) than to the larger lions (*Panthera leo*) and tigers (*Panthera tigris*). Even though they are closely related to the domestic cat, the cougar is by no means domesticated or tame.

Cougars may be classified as a “small cat” but they are definitely not small in stature. Their size varies greatly with weights from 70 lbs to over 200 lbs, body length (from the tip of the nose to the tip of tail) from 5 feet to over 9 feet and their shoulder height from 22 – 31 inches. This wide range of sizes is easily seen in the 25 cougars that are currently housed at the refuge. Shasta, the newest member to the Turpentine Creek family is a short, stocky female approximately 5 feet long and about a foot tall, while Corky, an older male is quite tall and slender, close to 7 feet long and almost 30 inches tall. Cougars show a wide range of colors as well as sizes. All adult cougars are a solid hue, but the shades range from red to brown to yellow to gray, some cougars even seem silver. This wide variation in colors is also evident in the cougars at Turpentine Creek. Tasha, for example, is a dark reddish-brown, Nala is a tawny-yellow color, while Shaq is almost gray.

These variations in size and color are generally related to where the cougar (or its ancestors) originated from in the wild. The cougar has the largest range of any wild animal in the Western hemisphere. It extends over 100 degrees of latitude from northern Canada, through the Western United States and into Central and South America. They are able to live in many different habitats including rainforests, mountains, swamps and deserts. This adaptability is beneficial to the cougar’s survival in the wild, but unfortunately it also makes them popular in the exotic pet trade. Because they can survive in almost any habitat and climate, cougars are bred and sold in captivity all over the United States, Canada and South America.

Due to their smaller size they may seem “safer” as pets than the larger lion or tiger, but actually cougars are highly efficient hunters making them extremely dangerous. In the wild, once a prey item is spotted the cougar crouches, stalks in slow motion, and then lunges at it with the power of their massive hindquarters. They are able to jump up to 18 feet straight up and up to 40 feet horizontally. With small prey, such as rodents or birds, the cougar will use a front paw to slap the animal, snapping its spine. With larger prey, as big as moose or elk,

they will either bite the back of the neck severing the spinal cord or asphyxiate the prey with a bite to the front of the neck. Cougars are extremely strong and often drag prey items to a protected place to eat. These kills can be 5 or 6 times the weight of the cougar and are moved up to 1300ft away from the kill site. In captivity, the cougar may see a toy, a family pet or a human as its “prey item” and the hunting technique is the same. Once a cougar’s true strength and jumping abilities are understood, the danger these animals pose is obvious and it is easy to realize they are definitely not “safe” pets.

Turpentine Creek has rescued cougars from a myriad of situations. Luna was confiscated from

a frat house at 2 months of age, Kitty was removed as a pet after she bit the previous owners young son, Suli was rescued after she broke loose from her chain and attacked a neighboring dog. Cougars are dangerous predators and do not make good “pets,” but once introduced into captivity they are not able to survive in the wild. Cougars that have been bred in captivity are imprinted on humans, many have been declawed and they do not have the skills to survive on their own in the wild. They may be killed by other predators or starve because they cannot find enough food by themselves. Because humans are the only source of food these cats have known, they will often seek out populated areas where they can be killed in traffic accidents or shot if they wander too close to humans. Not only is the chance for the cat’s survival low in these circumstances, there is a high risk of injury or death to any livestock, pets or people the cougar may encounter.

The exotic pet trade has left these regal animals stuck between the wild and captive worlds with very few options. Turpentine Creek provides its rescued cougars with the care they need while still respecting the wild nature of these amazing creatures; they are given a safe haven between the two opposing worlds.



Carrie Trudeau

Staff Biologist

Every organization needs to have something that acts as its spokesman. Not necessarily a mascot, but a model that in itself contains all the essence, the meaning, and purpose of that organization; an Icon. For Turpentine Creek, that icon arrived in May of 1996.

For the first four years of its existence, the refuge rescued numerous cats from ignorant exotic pet owners and breeders. Not until the Boone County Rescue had TCWR found a true singular representative of what its mission was. When eleven starving and deprived cats were confiscated from a hillside in northwest Arkansas, the face of Turpentine Creek changed forever. A small, starving, worn out male cougar was found locked in a rusty metal one hundred gallon drum. Like all the cats there, he hadn't been fed or given water in over two weeks. The walls of his already tiny quarters were caked with over a foot of feces.

Although the degrading circumstances he had been sequestered to would have broken down even the most mentally sound human being, in his eyes he held an elegant serenity rarely found in such a powerful killer. His time in the small drum had caused his rear haunches to atrophy, and his face was permanently scarred from the sharp metal. Still he had an intense grace and all who knew him realized he could dis-



patch a killer blow as easily as his killer glare.

The years softened him only slightly, and he maintained his strong and powerful exterior. Even as his age began to take its toll on his body, the cougar whom was by far one of the oldest cats at the refuge still withheld his dignity and pride.

"Spitty Smitty" gave meaning to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. It's the same reason his portrait will never leave a conspicuous spot in my house. He is a constant reminder of the need for change in the business of exotic cat breeding. Something must change to ensure these animals are treated in a fair and humane way.

After a life of 20 years, he finally succumbed to cancer and looming kidney disease in late December. What he taught us about life will never leave any of us. His lesson was to have respect and compassion for all, even for those who do not have the same for us. What a valuable lesson it is.



Habitat construction is labor intensive and financially challenging. TCWR staff, interns, and volunteers see to it the labor is available. With your help, money for materials can be made available too.

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 Phyllis and the animals of TCWR help make your wedding "Truly" memorable. Phyllis will coordinate what ever you desire: caterers, florist, and entertainment. It is up to you to choose. Get married on the wild side! Contact Phyllis at 479-253-3781 or email her at phyllis@turpentinecreek.org.

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

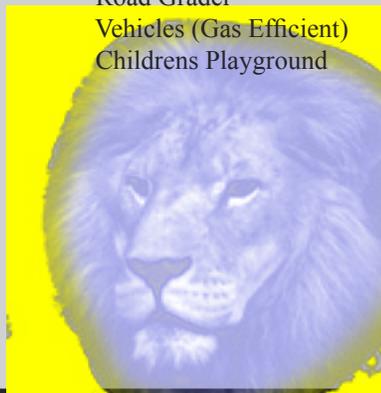
Stay in one of our rooms and hear the lions caroling through the night. While in Eureka Springs stay here and your money will benefit the animals. Each room has a queen size bed and a clicker sofa, along with a private bath, a garden tub, and a separate shower. Rooms are \$100 per night. This includes 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. Landscaping Materials
 - Sod
 - Top Soil
 9. Equipment
 - Back Hoe
 - Road Grader
 - Vehicles (Gas Efficient)
 - Childrens Playground



Pebbles lives just outside the window of our rooms. Relax and enjoy her presence along with her friends, Wings and Donna. 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



Kizi, content in her surroundings, will soon be getting a nice new home in TCWR's new bobcat habitat. Grand Opening is February 9, 2006 @ 3:00 PM

ORDER FORM

02/06

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 www.tigers.tc

Personal Information		<i>QTY.</i>	<i>Donations And Purchases</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
Name _____			Habitat Fund (To Build Big Enclosures)	\$
Address _____			2006 Calendars (\$23.00)	\$
Email _____			Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
Method Of Payment			Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
			"The Best Stories Ever Told" CD (\$33.00)	\$
Credit Card # _____	Exp. Date _____		Memorial Story Plaques For Memorial Wall (\$35.00)	\$
Personal Check	Check # _____		Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	DL# _____		Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
			Bench For Bobcat Habitat (\$100.00) Name On Bench _____	\$
			Total Contributions	\$