Remember The Cats

This Christmas Season

Letter From The President
Tanya Smith/Founder

Jack Frost has come to visit TCWR. It is cold! I always worry about the cats during the winter, especially, the old and arthritic. We put heat in the dens of the critters that are most susceptible to the cold. Sherman, a Siberian tiger, helped to ease my deepest worries when he jumped into a frozen pond years ago. He played and swam for 15 minutes before deciding to get out. Seeing him playing in the icy water helped me to realize that the Big Cats are built different than us. By the look on his face he loved it.

One of the reasons we chose to build TCWR near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, is that the weather is not too cold or too hot for long. The seasons are mild which helps to make our job easier than if we had to sustain long periods of extreme weather. We also realized that NW Arkansas, with all the poultry producers, provided omni food supply for the Big Cats. All in all we feel that the Ozark Mountains is a purrfect place for the animals to call home.

Thanks to everyone that purchased toys for our animal friends. We are so happy that we had 12 Boomer Balls donated through our Toys for the Cats program. Remember that we have over continued on page 2.
Letter From The President
(Continued from page 1)

100 Big Cats and our goal is to get enough toys for everyone. If you would like to buy and donate a ball for your favorite Big Cats, you can go directly to this web site www.Boomerball.com or call David Schultz, Boomer Ball Representative, Phone 1-847-546-6125, Fax 1-847-546-6185 or Email info@boomerball.com. David has agreed to give our supporters that purchase a Boomer Ball a 10% discount. Please remember that the Big Cats need the largest of these toys. You can purchase the smaller balls and toys for the smaller cats like the bobcats, African serval, and caracal.

Bundle up and come for a visit. The refuge is open everyday 9 AM till 5 PM except Christmas day. Let our qualified biologists and zoologists give you a tour of our 19 habitats that now house over 60 of our Big Cats. Tours are offered every hour on the hour from 11 AM till 3 PM. Feel free to stick around and watch the cats eat almost a ton of meat daily at 4 PM.

I am happy to announce that we have started the construction of our next habitat. We hope to have an open date soon. Our plan is to build another cougar enclosure. We have 5 beautiful cougars that get along. We look forward to the day when they can step out onto the grass and stretch their legs for the first time.

Through November and December we are hosting “Bless the Beast and the Children” every Thursday-Sunday at 3:30PM. You can bring your pets and children out to be blessed by our ordained minister Phyllis Jackson. Phyllis has prepared a beautiful setting and some great scriptures to read.

Please continue to come back as often as possible to see all the growth and improvements that we work so hard to make happen. Without your donations, it all would be impossible. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season. I am sincerely grateful for your support. Until next time… Tanya Smith

Rescues
By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

On October 10th, the TCWR rescue trailer took a trip down to Havana, AR on a mission. Two exotic cats were in need of a home, and after some shuffling at the refuge, cages were ready for the new arrivals. A couple had acquired a cougar and a tiger as cubs and had been keeping them as pets. With the new laws restricting exotic cat ownership, Arkansas Game and Fish had put the pressure on them to meet the new standards. When they could not comply, they asked Turpentine Creek to take the cats.

Ben, a male cougar now 14 years old, was housed in a 10 ft by 10 ft chain link cage. The nine year old female tiger named Sassy was in a tunnel-like cage 16 ft long and only 5 ft high.

It has been over a decade since Sassy has left this tubular cage. She is adjusting slowly but will come around pretty soon. She is very intrigued by her new neighbors and loves all the attention. She is in Ringo’s old cage. Vines had grown up around her cage for so long it was almost completely engulfed. Both cages were inside a backyard junkyard not 300 ft from the main intersection of town. The cats had been fed well; however Ben suffered from a serious wrist injury that apparently had not been tended to, and to this day suffers from major arthritis problems.

With an Arkansas Game and Fish officer standing by, the cat transfer went underway. Ben’s owner had a small portable cage and we were able to easily load him into the trailer. Sassy was too big for this cage, however, and because of the position of the cage, the TCWR trailer would not fit through the junkyard to load her safely. The only option was to anesthetize her, which went off without a hitch. With Ben safely in the front and Sassy sleeping soundly in the back, the trailer headed home.

Ben has taken no time fitting in with his friendly, bubbly personality, and has quickly become a staff favorite. Sassy was a bit more upset from her experience, and has had trouble trusting her new caretakers. We are confident that with time she will be a beloved member of the TCWR family. Come on out to the refuge to meet our new arrivals!

While Sassy was knocked out we noticed that all four of her canines were broken off. She didn’t seem to be in pain at the time, but we will have to watch her close. Dental work on the cats is expensive. “Help Us Help Them.” See donation form on last page.
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:

Aug, 15 2007; positions last six months.

Deadline for application:

April 15, 2007

To Apply:

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

Emily McCormack

Staff Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

It’s time to spruce up our existing habitat enclosures. We currently have 19 habitats housing over half of our residents. Most of the enclosures are on a rotation schedule allowing two groups of cats to alternate days. The enclosures range from 10,000 to 40,000 square feet. Throughout the spring and summer, underbrush can get thick. Clearing the underbrush out for the cats is a great way to get your group involved with our facility. Another group project is each habitat is in need of a new paint job. All of our enclosures are welded, and after a while the paint fades and the welds become exposed to the weather. A fresh paint job will prevent the welds from rusting. It would also be helpful for donations of black rustoleum spray paint.

The memorial park is still under construction. Clean up and dirt work needs to be done before the spring. We are going to be building a memorial wall to hang the deceased animals’ plaques on. This is another great group project, including raking, rock removal, and mortaring.

The refuge is a great place for service projects and volunteer opportunities. Every project directing impacts the animals and the facility. To involve your group with our mission, contact me at (479)253-5841 or emily@turpentinecreek.org. Note: We do not have housing to provide. If volunteering multiple days, groups must provide their own accommodations.

To sign up for updated information go to www.turpentinecreek.typepad.com. The blog will keep you informed about your favorite nonprofit organization and provide timely communication with members of our staff. Images, video, and other multimedia presence on the BLOG will immerse you in our mission where ever you are. Check it out and forward it to your friends. Conveniently, there is a pay pal button to donate to, or purchase items from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.
Declawing Outlawed
By Chris Vlautin/Staff Biologist

Last October, the US Department of Agriculture passed a new law banning the declawing of all captive exotic carnivores, except when used for medical reasons. We here at TCWR think this, like all legislation, is a great thing. This, and other recent laws passed by the USDA, bring us one big step closer to having all Big Cats cared for correctly, and by the right people here in the USA. Declawing procedures are quite common in the exotic pet trade, and nearly three-quarters of TCWR’s Cats do not have their front claws.

Most prominent vets and zoologists agree that declawing Big Cats is inhumane. Most declawing techniques involve removing the tips of each of the toes, where the claw is attached. This removal then leaves the middle knuckle to act as the new finger-tip. This abnormal arrangement causes the newly exposed toe to rub up against the pad of the foot in an unnatural way, irritating the animal severely. Even if this does not cause lameness initially, years of walking like this will eventually make the cat walk with pain and difficulty. This is especially true in the bigger exotics, which can reach over 600 lbs. These Cats are forced to shift their weight away from the irritated toes, causing sores, ulcers, and sometimes more debilitating conditions like arthritis and back problems.

Stay in one of our recently renovated 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.

Because of these circumstances, we here at the Refuge have quite a few cats that have difficulty getting around. One of our best examples is Kenny Rogers. Kenny has a severe limp on his right front paw because his toes were partially amputated to remove his claws. This declaw also causes him to have sore pads that will bleed a bit in the wintertime. Kenny is not alone in this though, numerous others like Toni and Kitten and Tigger #3 all have limps due to their previous owners declawing them. These owners usually want to make their very dangerous animal less hazardous to be around, but in fact it may make their pets more aggressive and irritable because of the newly caused pain they may be in. We here at Turpentine know that there is no such thing as a “safe” lion, no matter how sweet they may seem. Our respect and care around them ensures that they, as well as we, live in a comfortable and safe situation.

Slowly but surely, more and more laws are being passed all over the country to make it harder for people to own an exotic cat as a pet. These are little victories for us at TCWR, who see what the real price of the Exotic Pet Trade is to these animals.

The 2007 calendars are packed with great photos. This year’s calendar has photos of cats that have been enjoying the habitats you helped build. You can help other cats into habitats by purchasing a 2007 calendar. They make great gifts too.
Shop Here, Help The Animals  
By Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Biologist

As everyone is aware the holiday season is here. Decorations are beginning to pop up, Christmas carols are being played and children are busy thinking about their Christmas wish lists. Here at the refuge, we can help you find the perfect gift for the animal lover on your list.

The Kenny shirts were a big hit last year. Order yours soon. Currently, we have all sizes and can get them to you in time for the Christmas season.

Available in:
White (item #1)
Red (item #2)

Due to the high demand in previous years, we are again offering “I love Kenny” t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts. We have the t-shirts in two colors; the same gray we have had previous years and a beautiful cardinal red. The sweatshirts also come in grey, but this year we have them in navy blue as well. They are offered in both kids sizes (s, m, l) and adults sizes (s, m, l, xl, xxl). The t-shirts will be $12 (children’s) and $20 (adults) and the sweatshirts will be $22 (children’s) and $30 (adults).

This year we also have our thermal travel mugs. These 16oz mugs are perfect for the coffee lover, busy student or hard-to-buy-for co-worker on your list. They are such a good deal at only $7 you can buy a few as gifts and then get one for yourself too. The mugs are decorated with a beautiful collage of some of the Turpentine Creek residents.

The Cats Need Presents Too

Our last item is something for the kids and the kids at heart. We have 3 gorgeous big cat puzzles. These puzzles are a great way to keep the kids busy when they are home from school or a perfect family activity for everyone to enjoy. Two of these puzzles are 1000 pieces. One is a beautiful big cat collage and the other is a white tiger in a snowy forest of birch trees. This one is a challenge to complete, but the final result is gorgeous and worth it. For the younger kids (and less ambitious adults) we also have a 300 piece puzzle featuring two cute tiger cubs. The larger puzzles are $15 each and the smaller puzzle is only $10. All of the items will have an additional $4 added for shipping.

If you can’t decide among these items, you can also purchase gift certificates for everything at the Refuge (overnight stays, admission, family memberships or general monetary amounts that can be used for gift shop items). For that loved one who has everything, you can purchase an adoption or sponsorship of an animal in their name.

If none of these items are the perfect gift and you want a larger selection to choose from, you can shop in person at our refuge gift shop or our downtown Eureka Springs gift shop. Holiday shopping at the Refuge is a wonderful way to celebrate the giving season; you can find the perfect gift for your loved ones, and know that with every dollar spent is going back to help all of the animals at Turpentine Creek.

Online Wishlist  
The Cats Need Presents Too

We have set up a wish list managed by Sanctuary Supplies.com. Go to www.sanctuarysupplies.com and click on the “wishlist” button at the bottom. Then click on the “turpentine creek” button and choose which enrichment toy you would like to get for the cats at the Refuge. You can also get other items that the staff needs. This site is new and shows promise for the animals. After you make a purchase, Sanctuary Supplies.com simply sends it to the Refuge. Enrichment toys help the animals live a happier life. “Help Us Help Them” by giving the gift of fun. The animals do demonstrate obvious signs of gratitude when given something new to play with.

Letter From The Curator  
By: Hilda P. Jackson/Founder/Treasurer

Tanya reminded me that I had not written an article for the Newsletter since July, 2005. She told me that I needed to write something to let everyone know I am still alive and kicking. Well, here I am. I really had my doubts about being here on several occasions but I am now feeling better. That’s enough about me. Let’s get on with the more important things, primarily the Refuge.

This past summer was very good for the Refuge. Our ability to pay our bills and keep things going was very strong this summer. With your continued support, I feel for the first time in 14 years, these beautiful animals will live a full and happy life.

With your help, we managed to do some very needed repairs and maintenance on the living quarters here at the Refuge, along with much needed repairs and maintenance on the cages and habitats. As we rescue new cats, our need to continue building
Continued from page 5.

habitats is even more important than ever. Our space for new rescues is always critical. We always appreciate your help with either cash or volunteer help. The volunteers and interns are very important for us to be able to continue keeping these great animals clean, fed, and healthy. Some of our cats are getting some age on them and our vet bills are always rising. We are very grateful for the food that Tyson donates along with other meat from people who clean their freezers and donate other meat to us. No matter how small your donation may be, every little bit helps.

Since many states have passed new laws concerning the exotic cats, the need keeps rising for us to rescue more and more. We rescue all we can, but there are a lot more that needs to be done. With your help and prayers, maybe we can save a lot of them.

Let me say that I am glad to be back and look forward to hearing from you. Until next time, I remain your friend,
Hilda P.

**Tent Camp Project**

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge currently has three options for supporters who want to stay the night. They are under high demand and it can be difficult to get reservations on the weekends. Revenues that could be helping the cats is being lost. We need the people to spend the night with us so we can get them more involved in our Mission. The Zulu Tent Camp will provide a full African Safari immersion that can currently only be experienced by traveling to Africa. Each of the five Safari Tents will have a full bath, heating and a/c, and a beautiful deck complete with a million-dollar view of the valley below! Similar to the drawing, each Safari Tent will face a huge deck/fire pit along the forest side, which provides a fantastic set-up for groups of all kinds. We are looking for people to help us develop this income stream for the Refuge. Each Safari Tent will be made of solid wood and cost $10,000 to build. Supporters who chose to sponsor one of the Safari Tents will get to name it and have it for their own one week each year for ten years. For information on sponsoring a Safari Tent, call Scott at 479.253.3318.

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas**

(Turpentine Style)

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

'Twas the night before Christmas at Turpentine Creek
All the cougars were purring, all the big cats asleep.
The stockings were hung by the feed holes with care
In hopes that the wheelbarrows soon would be there.

The tigers were nestled all snug in their dens
While visions of habitats danced in their heads.
The interns in carhartts and warm winter hats
Were just going home after feeding the cats.

When out in the compound arose such a clatter
We sprang out the door to see what was the matter!
Away down the walkway we flew like a flash
Laurie tripped up the stairs and fell with a crash.

Peering across all the new fallen snow
Over one hundred big cats, their eyes all a-glow!
When what to our wondering eyes should appear
But a broken down sleigh, and eight frightened reindeer.

The little old driver gave the sled a quick kick
The tag on his shirt said “Hi, I’m Saint Nick”
When the tails all had lifted and got ready to spray
He jumped back and shouted and called them by name!

“Now Ringo, now TJ, now Buckley and Sammy!
No Kenny! No Willie! No Lana and Tammy!”
His face had been turning a deep shade of red
Til he stepped back and wondered if they all had been fed.

As the roaring and chuffing got louder and louder
The eyes of the reindeer got rounder and rounder.
With the broken down sleigh now dragging behind
The look on his face was one of a kind!

The twinkling of Jaspar’s sharp little tooth
Caused the prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As we drew in our breath and tried not to laugh
We stepped to the side to get out of their path.

As quick as it started, St. Nick was gone
But left all his presents strewn on the lawn.
We looked at each other and started to smile.
It suddenly was Christmas, Turpentine Style!

Max held his pot roast tight in his teeth,
Donna wore her new tire around like a wreath.
Koda was loving his pool full of fish.
Jerry just smiled at his shiny new dish.

Although these are just a few things we need
We know there’s supporters who’ll do a good deed.
The big cats cry out with all of their might
“Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good’Bite!”
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

Gift Certificates Are Available

Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers
2. Donations
3. Safety Supplies
   - First Aid Kits
   - Gloves
   - Rubber Boots (All Sizes)
   - Plastic Spray Bottles
4. Cleaning Supplies
   - Garbage Bags
   - Household Cleaners
   - Paper Towels
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
   - 8.5” X 11” Copy Paper
   - Stamps
   - Laminating Sheets (3 Mil & 5 Mil)
8. Landscaping Materials
   - Sod
   - Top Soil
9. Equipment
   - Road Grader
   - Vehicles (Gas Efficient)
   - Childrens Playground

Sponsorships And Adoptions Make Great Gifts Too

Wildlife Weddings

Your special once-in-a-life-time 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.

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.

Bequest Your Best

It is important to the staff of TCWR that this mission continues to thrive without us, the people. The mission was designed to be long-lived, and continue for future generations. For this to happen we need your help. As you are making preparations for your estate, consider helping the animals at TCWR. What you can’t take with you can help these Big Cats.
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

ORDER FORM 12/06

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Personal Information

Name
Address
Email

Method Of Payment

Credit Card # ____________________________
Exp. Date ____________________________

Personal Check
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