



CAT CHRONICLES

Mar. 2007



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!"

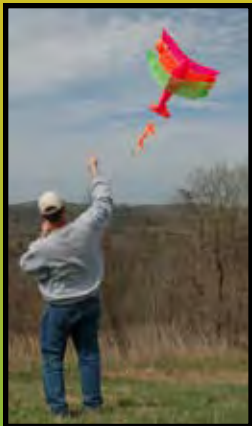
Upcoming Events

Kite Fest Sat. March 24, 2007

Kite Fest is held at TCWR each year on the fourth Saturday in March. This is a family event open to everybody. Bring your kite and fly. This event includes vendors, contest, and fun activities. 10 AM-4 PM.

Spring Arts and Crafts Fair

This event is Friday, May 4 thru Sunday, May 6. 10 AM thru - 6 PM. Join us for a celebration of the arts with vendors and something for everyone. Booth space is available.



2007 TCWR Pow Wow

The Annual Pow Wow is held in June each Father's Day weekend (Fri., Sat., and Sun.). Over 100 dancers and drummers compete for prize money while educating the public about Native American Heritage. Plan to attend this year. www.tigers.tc

Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

Winter has definitely hit Turpentine Creek. We had about 4 inches of fresh snow to greet our newest group of interns. We have nine new faces around the Refuge. They seem to get younger every group. I know I am just getting older. It is so exciting to know that TCWR is responsible for around 200 trained Biologists and Zoologists that have gone through our intern program. I am always amazed to hear where they end up. Many go into the zoo community all over the world, others go back to school for Veterinarian Science, etc. I am attached to each one and enjoy watching them morph into fantastic ambassadors for animal rights and our mission.

I want to commend Emily McCormack for her diligent work making sure that the program continues with the best people the country has to offer. Our staff is amazing and the majority of them started as interns. I would love to be able to hire more of the interns as permanent staff, but our budget just doesn't allow for us to keep more than what we have. I am flattered when these magnificent people do not want to leave. The relationships they build with the animals, each other and the staff is a bond that is hard to break. Thanks to the interns and staff for their continued efforts to make the world a little better for the animals that are entrusted to our care.

We are opening our newest enclosure very soon. We are limited by the weather and the lack of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer we have a lot to do this year. We are working on the Safari Lodge, improving the memorial area and park, clearing out the habitats, painting fences to keep them from rusting, planting gardens and landscaping in the spring plus hosting the many visitors we hope to see. TCWR is like any other business, we have to do all the things that a normal business has to do to operate plus we have to continue to provide quality care for over 100 Big Cats and many other animals.

We could not do any of this without you. You are the one that makes the Refuge thrive. Without your donations none of this would be possible. The winters are always a challenging time for TCWR. Not many visitors. We are not funded by the government, or any other funding sources, just you! When you visit Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and pay your admission, buy a family membership, stay in our Bed and Big Cat lodging, get married, adopt or sponsor an animal, send a contribution, tell a friend to visit or send a donation, you are contributing to the Mission of Turpentine Creek. Thank you for your continued help. Until next time...



Tubby relaxes in the fresh fallen snow. No cares in the world. Little does he know, the winter weather chases the animals supporters away and his security relies on mailed or internet donations. As most of the Refuge's supporters hibernate, the need for donations escalates. Please take this opportunity to make a difference. Donate Today.

The Pursuit of Happiness

By Jasper, the tiger (Translated by Laurie Vanderwal/ Staff Zoologist)



Jasper, one of the first tigers TCWR rescued, lying in his habitat. Jasper has something to say...read and listen to his heart.

Throughout my life, I never believed that true happiness was possible. My earliest memories are of abuse and pain at the hands of humans. I was treated horrifically and learned to hate and distrust all people. I protected myself from any further abuse by scaring and intimidating everyone who came near me. I became so mean that no one wanted me around and I moved several times in my first few years.

I was four years old when I made my final move to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. I did my best to intimidate the refuge workers, but things here were different. My cage was cleaned everyday, I was fed every night and I was given toys to play with and treats of deer meat. No one ever tried to hurt me and the workers just continued to love me and care about me.

Over the next 15 years, I began to calm down, but I am still a tiger and being aggressive is something I cannot change. My days at the refuge were safe and content, but true happiness still eluded me. I started hearing about something called natural habitat areas. They were places with grass to lie on, space to run and areas to hide; it all sounded too good to be true. "Will I ever be able to experience this kind of freedom?"

One day I moved to a new cage; it was surrounded with a wide, open area and I knew my day had come. My first steps into the habitat were amazing. The grass was cool beneath my feet and I felt the freedom of being able to truly run and play; it was incredible. I laid down in the soft grass, rolled on my back and I knew that all my dreams had come true. For the first time in my life, I had finally found true happiness.

Rescues

By Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

The Turpentine Creek family never seems to stop changing and growing. The new year brought us a male African Lion named Brody. He was brought to TCWR by a couple from Bogard, Missouri, who had purchased Brody from an exotic animal auction when he was 11 weeks old. The woman was at the auction to sell her sister's capuchin monkey

when she purchased the small cub on an impulse. This carnivorous African Lion that would grow to nearly 550 lbs was purchased for a mere \$175. Less than a year later the couple realized the error of their decision. At one and a half years old an already 250 lb. Brody arrived at the refuge.

Brody seemed to have been well taken care of and is in fact a little pudgie. Although the previous owners stated that Brody was on a diet of roadkill deer, his first bowel movement proved otherwise. Wrapped around his excrement were two or three plastic wrappers from tubes of ground turkey. Luckily for Brody he was able to pass the dangerous plastic and avoided an intestinal blockage. Brody will remain quarantined for several weeks before he is moved into the compound.



Brody came to the Refuge in great shape. He alarmed his previous owner after jumping on her and knocking her flat on her back. She wasn't hurt but knew from this point forward that Brody was not a pet...he was a wild animal. A high school principle in a nearby town expressed his concern and suggested Brody be taken to TCWR.

Sign Up For The TCWR BLOG

To sign up for the TCWR BLOG go to our website www.turpentinecreek.org and look on the far right for a link that says "Visit our Blog". 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. Please forward it to your friends. There is a pay pal button on the BLOG for donations to the Refuge.

TCWR Intern Program

W.K. Baker/ TCWR Board Member

The morning air is cold and bitter as the striped cat moves out of the shadows. It draws a breath and exhales a fine mist that turns to white as it hits the air. In the distance, fog slowly swirls around the edge of the plateau as the first beams of sunlight strike the tiger's eyes turning them into liquid fire. As the sound of approaching feet and service vehicles pierce the morning quiet the cat perks its ears towards the top of the slope. Slowly a figure moves through the fading fog and growing light towards the watchful cat and calls out its name. With a toss of the head and a quick chuff the tiger rubs the length of its body down the exhibit mesh. Another day has started for both cat and intern.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is shrouded in a mystery and fog all it's own. So many supporters hear about the intern program every semester, yet know so little about it. These remarkable young professionals typically have just finished their college degree work and are seeking the hardest prize of all, practical experience. They go through a rigorous selection and interview process, and once they join the refuge the real work begins in exhibit maintenance, construction, and animal husbandry. This intensive six-month process produces some of the best newcomers to the zoological profession with the most sought after skill set, carnivore experience.

Every year these interns go on to work not only across North America, but internationally as well. When they leave TCWR, they are hired by many of the best zoos in the country that are members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. It is understood that Curators at these institutions are looking for the best talent that can be found. As a Curator myself at a major AZA facility, I can appreciate what these interns offer to our field of work, they are trained, talented, and determined. When you support and donate to TCWR, you're not only insuring the future of our animals, you're also insuring the future of the next generation of zoological professionals and wildlife biologists.

2007 Winter Intern Group



Ashley Shirk – Salisbury University – BS Biology – May 2006
Jayme Haverly – Unity College – BS Wildlife Biology – May 2006
Katie Hunt – Lynchburg College – BS Biomedical Science – May 2006
Kristi Poston – Southern Illinois University – BS Zoology – December 2006
Stacey Smith – Oregon State University – BS Zoology – June 2006
Jessica Sims – Texas A&M University – BS Zoology – December 2005
Ivy Cooper-- Harding University--BS Biology-- May 2006-- Second Internship
Mikaela Veters – Colorado State University – BS Zoology – December 2005
Joseph Elliot – Kent State University – BS Zoology – May 2006
Cori Funderberg– University of Nevada Reno – BS Animal Science – December 2006

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 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

New Staff Member

By Evelyn Brunt/Staff Biologist

When I was younger I dreaded growing up. Growing up meant getting a job, paying bills, and drinking coffee; none of which appealed to me in the least. Quickly I realized that to survive in this world all three of the aforementioned things would need to occur. I enrolled at Ripon College in northern Wisconsin with the intention of becoming a pharmacist. I took all of the classes and studied so hard with the thought of making the big bucks always in the back of my mind. Little did I know that a small opportunity with big potential was awaiting me.

One of my college professors told me about the internship program at Turpentine Creek, and on a whim I decided to apply. Since I graduated in December, I figured that I could put off pharmacy school for 6 months to do something I really wanted to do.

I arrived in late January of 2006 and quickly realized that six months here was

to be the highlight of my adventure so far. Those times are when I have no doubts that this is what I need to be doing. I guess my passion and commitment showed, as I was recently hired on as a full-time staff member. If you can make it to the refuge for one of the habitat openings, you will be able to see why everyone here does what they do. You, too, can see the progress we are making and get a glimpse into the future of this facility.

I guess growing up is not so bad when you do not consider what you do a job. I love going to work every morning and never did I think I would be able to say that. This place not only changes the animals' lives forever, it changes every person that comes through here. Thanks for the support and come visit us soon!



Luna is Evelyn's favorite cat at the refuge. The bonds the people make with the animals is inspiring.

not going to be quite enough for me. When you work so closely with animals, you easily get attached to them. Leaving any single one of them was not on my list of things to do, so I stayed for a second internship. It becomes more and more clear to me everyday why this facility is here. The animals are so happy and we really are making a huge difference in their lives.

Building the cats' natural habitats has

Stay The Night With The Big Cats



Wings and Pebbles are just outside the window of the Green room. Donna also lives in this habitat and the three girls provide endless entertainment for all the guests. We invite you to stay with us and have the "time of your life"

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.

Order Your 2007 Calendar Today!

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.



2007 CD

"The Best Stories Ever Told"

This CD is a photo collection including each cat at the Refuge along with the incredible story of why they needed a home. It has been recently updated to include all the cats currently residing at TCWR. The 2007 CD has all new photos and a much more "user friendly" format. Proceeds from the sale of this CD are applied to the habitat fund.

"Help Us, Help Them"

New Roommates

By Chris Vlautin/Staff Biologist

Much of our time at the Refuge is spent making the lives of our Cats as comfortable as possible. We have various programs and events geared toward keeping them active and stimulated. Things such as new toys and diets help the Cats keep happy and healthy. Of course, the most rewarding bit of enrichment that we can give the animals is the endless enjoyment of a habitat. This is why we do everything we can to get as many of our Fuzzy Friends into the larger natural enclosures as quickly as possible.

Last Spring we rescued a feisty juvenile bobcat named Dillian from Oklahoma. The couple that bought him was told by his breeder that as long as he was not fed raw meat he would not be dangerous. This naturally resulted in a very malnourished and aggressive animal, as he was not getting the proper food needed for his development. After a particularly scary incident involving the couple's 5 year-old, the family realized a bobcat is nothing like a housecat and quickly called the Refuge. Dillian kept his lively disposition all through his quarantine period but began to calm down a bit as he settled into his life in the compound.

As Dillian calmed down we started discussing moving him out to our Bobcat complex which was built last winter. We have had enormous success with it, and had four happy bobcats living there. Baby, a nine-year old bobcat, was one of our newer arrivals and had been living alone since her rescue in fall 2005. Similar in temperament to Dillian, we decided they might make acceptable roommates, once they got to know each other.

Bobcats are tricky to manage sometimes. Not being the

largest predators in their environments, they cannot always rely on strength and power to catch and keep their prey. Almost everywhere bobcats live cougars also live, so bobcats need quite the attitude in order to protect their hard-earned kills from their bigger cousins. We can see this aggressive nature in most all of our smaller cats at the Refuge. Pound-for-pound, the bobcats, serval and caracal are some of the meanest, most aggressive animals we have here. This is pretty ironic, considering the amount of people that think the smaller cats are the "safer" cats to own. It is this individuality in bobcats that we have to monitor when we attempt to see if new roommates will get along.

The first few days of an introduction are the most stressful for both the cats and the staff. The initial introductions last only a few minutes, with all of us armed with "No bottles" and hoses just in case. Every day we extended their "together time" until they were only separated for feeding and nightly lockup. In the following weeks, Baby and Dillian have grown more and more comfortable around each other. In fact, last week we spotted Dillian even grooming his roommate for a spell. However, like all of our paired cats, we still feed them simultaneously on opposite sides of the cage to keep tempers down. We are quite satisfied with how well they are getting along with each other as well as how their neighbor Sadie is putting up with her new neighbor. It is so rewarding to see another addition to our habitat roster and know we have made another life that much better.



When Dillon arrived at the refuge it did not take the staff long to match his personality with Baby. First the two bobcats were placed near one another and after much observation it was very apparent that they were acting compatible. Everybody gathered around and watched while the two bobcats were introduced. Dillion is seen here sitting outside the "smurf hut" while baby gently hisses at him.



Baby the bobcat loves her "smurf hut" and spends much of her day relaxing in the quiet, comfort, and seclusion it provides. At the moment of introduction Baby was a little territorial, but other than vocal warnings towards Dillion she displayed no aggression. After a couple days the two bobcats were seen sharing the confines and comfort of the "smurf hut" during a terribly cold sleet storm. Companionship is very important to captive animals lives.

Online Wish List

Purchase toys and other needful things for your favorite cats.

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 item you would like to get for the cats at the Refuge. You can also get other items 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 better life. "Help Us, Help Them" by giving the gift of fun. Many donors have chosen to get involved with this gifting web site. The animals do demonstrate obvious signs of gratitude when given something new to play with. Keep sending items. Go to www.sanctuarysupplies.com and click away!

Lost Loved One: Lana Wright

D.O.B. 07/23, 1964

D.O.D. 02/20, 2007



Lana sponsored Lana Tiger since her arrival at TCWR.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge founding family and staff are sorry to report through a tragic 4 wheeler accident Lana Nix Wright passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Lana was niece to Hilda Jackson (co-founder TCWR) and always supported the mission of the Refuge. Lana Nix Wright was born July 23, 1964 in Longview, Texas, daughter of the late Truman M. and Lillie Putman Nix. Lillie Nix was Hilda's sister who helped save the Refuge in 1994 by making a donation. Because of the support we have received through Lana's family we have 6 tigers named after them, Lillie, Truman, Lana, Greg, Whitney and Haley. Lana was a long time resident of Weatherford, Texas. Lana was a loving and caring mother as well as being very family oriented. Her cheerful, magnetic personality and talkative nature made her very fun loving and successful in her business. She had a great love for nature and her animals. Lana is survived by her husband, Greg Wright of Weatherford; daughters, Whitney Elyse Wright of Weatherford, and Haley Rae Wright of Weatherford; sister, Amanda Lee Edwards and husband, Herbert of Gatesville; brother, Max Alan Nix and wife, Terri Jean of Gatesville; as well as many family and friends. She will be missed.

Please make memorial donations to TCWR in Lana Nix Wright's name to help the family support the four cats she sponsored.

The Zulu Safari Village



The first of five lodges is nearing completion. We need sponsors for the remaining lodges. Read below for more information.

International Wildlife Artist D. Arthur Wilson along with his wife Artist, Lisa Wilson have broken ground and are about to complete the first of five units for the new Zulu Safari Village at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Long time friends of the refuge, the couple held a very successful 5th Annual Evening of Art and Animals last fall in Hot Springs, where the benefit raised enough money to nearly complete the first cabin, and have committed to furthering their donation by actually designing and building the project for TCWR. The Village and Guest Cabins are patterned after the prestigious Guest Camps where D. Arthur stayed during an extensive visit to South Africa several years ago, and it is their hope that the guests at The Zulu Safari Village will be able to experience the joy and excitement of his stay. No where else can you find the roar of the lions and the magnificent sunsets coupled in such an incredible fashion. When completed the Zulu Safari Village will provide the opportunity for a total African immersion. D. Arthur says, "its and exotic piece of heaven so close that everyone can enjoy!" The Village, Phase I, will include 5 Guest Cabins, an octagonal deck that adjoins the cabins, with a gazebo in the center, complete with a roaring fire pit and hot tub. Each cabin will boast a particular exotic theme and indulgent amenities including original art, a light breakfast, luxurious linens, coffees, teas, refrigerator / microwave, and snugly bath robes just to name a few. When completed, the Zulu Safari Village will be a perfect destination for Wedding Parties, Graduations, Honeymoons, Anniversaries, as well as a delightful escape from the ordinary. Prices will include admission to the Refuge for two. To find out how you can be one of the first guest to stay at the Zulu Safari Village call for reservations 479-253-5841.

We need sponsors for the remaining four cabins. If you would like to learn how you can be part of the magic, contact tanyatcwr@aol.com or call TCWR and ask for Tanya Smith.



Sponsorships And Adoptions Make Great Gifts Too

Wildlife Weddings

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**



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.

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

- Toilet Paper
- Scrub Brushes
- 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
 - Laminating Sheets (3 Mil & 5 Mil)
- 8. Landscaping Materials
 - Sod & Top Soil
 - Weed Eaters
 - Plants and Shrubs
 - Lawn Mowers
- 9. Equipment
 - Road Grader
 - Vehicles (Gas Efficient)



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.

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



Visit the Refuge to see Jasper in his habitat this spring!

ORDER FORM

03/2007

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: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR. 72632. 479-253-5841 www.tigers.tc

Personal Information

Name	
Address	
Email	

Method Of Payment

Credit Card #	
	Exp. Date
Personal Check	Check #
	DL#

<i>QTY.</i>	<i>Donations And Purchases</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
	Unrestricted Donations To Help The Cats	\$
	Habitat Fund (To Build Big Enclosures)	\$
	2007 Calendars (\$20.00) + \$4.00 S&H	\$
	Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	“The Best Stories Ever Told” CD (\$30.00)+\$4.00 S&H	\$
	Memorial Story Plaques For Memorial Wall (\$35.00)	\$
	Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	Zulu Safari Village Cabin (\$15,000)/Unit	\$
	Total Contributions	\$