Letter From The President
Tanya Smith/Founder

Wow! That is how I want to begin this letter. I am blown away by all that is going on in our lives. Turpentine Creek is an amazing place to live and work. 2007 is flying by. There are always so many things to do. I am extremely proud of our efforts to save as many animals as we can. Our board of trustees, staff, family and interns are the most dedicated people I know.

My son Victor got married May 2 and had a beautiful reception on the plateau at the front of the refuge. We opened TCWR when Victor was only 5 years old, in 1992. I congratulate him and his bride, Amanda, on their union. The location is the most beautiful I can imagine for anyone’s wedding or reception.

Our events have been exciting. The annual Kite Festival was a huge success in March. Now the 9th Annual Turpentine Creek Pow Wow is June 5-7. Our Spring Arts and Crafts Fair was not well attended but we hope the vendors and visitors will come out for a strong Fall Crafts Fair October 18-21. Reserve your booth space today. Also, don’t forget Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular, October 27, 7 PM.

Artists D. Arthur and Lisa Wilson, along with their helper, Doyle Seratt, have completed 2 of the 5 units of the Safari Lodging. They are amazing! Everything about these bungalows including the view is awesome. Book your reservations as soon as possible due to the limited amount of space. The units rent for $150.00 per night which will include admission for two to the refuge. Breakfast- muffins, juice, a coffee pot, robes and a small refrigerator will be in each room along with a combination of art from both artists plus pictures of our cats by my husband, Scott. The deck has a center gazebo with a fire pit. You get the feeling that you are staying in Africa with the sounds of the lions caroling through the beautiful Ozark Mountains. We are asking that you reserve the rooms with a two night minimum on weekends. Remember, all of the proceeds of everything we sell or do go to support our mission.

If you live in the Kansas City area come out and participate in our educational tour to the Mid-Continent Libraries June 4-8. Check out our website www.tigers.tc for more information on locations and times of programs.

May 27th was the completion of the loop of natural habitats around the first phase of our development. Next, we plan to extend the compound down into the top field and give all the cats in the main area more leg room. None of this would be possible without your continued contributions. No gift is too small or too large, so please help were you can. Together we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the beings that have no voice except through us. Thank you!
**Rescues**

**Four New Family Members**

*By Laurie Vanderwahl/staff zoologist*

This spring, Turpentine Creek has welcomed four new animals into our extended family. On March 12, 2007, the refuge received a very disturbing phone call. A man called the gift shop and said that if we did not come take his bear, he was going to “tie it to a tree and shoot it.” After talking to the man, we discovered he had Joe, the bear, as a pet in Paragould, AR; due to neighbor complaints and not having the proper permits, the owner was required to find a new home for Joe or the bear was to be destroyed.

The Turpentine Creek staff left for the 5 ½-hour drive to Paragould the next day. On March 14, 2007, the staff arrived at the man’s home to rescue the 3-year-old bear.

Joe was born in Minnesota and then brought to an exotic animal auction in Missouri as a cub and sold to a businessman in Paragould. When the young bear became too much to handle he was given to the man that had contacted us. He told us that he thought it would be “neat to have him” and figured that if Joe got too difficult to handle he would simply “make a rug out of him.”

When the staff arrived at the man’s property, we saw Joe in a cage that was about 12’ by 6’ and about 8’ high. The cage floor was dirt and mud and was not cleaned out regularly. We were told that when it became too filthy, the man just put a new layer of straw on the floor to cover up any waste. Inside the cage, there were several broken and chewed-on five-gallon buckets, which were used as water bowls. Joe had destroyed them, but they were never removed from the cage. Across from Joe’s cage in the man’s yard were the remains of an old doghouse, once the home to a dog that Joe had killed after the two got into a fight.

Joe was fed only a couple gallons of dog food every other day and, in an attempt to make Joe less dangerous, he was de-clawed and never fed raw meat. Despite this, the previous owner told us several stories about Joe getting mad, wanting to fight, and trying to bite people. When Joe would get aggressive they would “whoop him” or “kick him” as a way the “teach him manners.”

Now at the refuge Joe is adjusting very well. He is extremely playful and seems to enjoy all the attention he gets from staff and interns.

Only a few days later on March 18, 2007, two cougars arrived at the refuge in the back of a pick-up truck. Buttons and Little Bud, 6-year old brothers, were brought to Turpentine Creek from Hope, AR. Their owner had received the mother, unaware that she was pregnant at the time. The mother rejected the three cubs, killing one and injuring Buttons tail, requiring it to be amputated. The man then removed Buttons and Little Bud from the mother and hand-raised them.

Due to a property ownership issue, the man was forced to move and needed to find a new home for Buttons and Little Bud. After researching the refuge, the man decided that Turpentine Creek would be a good home for his cats. Buttons and Little Bud were nervous at first, but they are beginning to be more comfortable with their new surroundings.

A third cougar can now also call Turpentine Creek her home. Sheba, a 5-year-old female, arrived at the refuge on April 2, 2007. Like Buttons and Little Bud, Sheba needed a new home because the couple that owned her was moving and wanted Sheba to have the best care possible.

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**Buttons and Little Bud shown in their new, safe home. They seem to be adjusting well and are living in the main compound. We need your help; help us build habitats to free all the cats.**

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**Sheba shown immediately after her arrival. It didn’t take her long to adjust and is now enjoying life the TCWR way-happy! Visit Sheba and all the new cats to meet them in person.**

This couple had rescued Sheba two years previously from the woman’s niece. At that time, Sheba was in terrible condition. She had been harassed and abused, shot at with a pellet gun and was starving to death. The husband said he didn’t really want a cougar as a pet, but he couldn’t leave her to suffer and die at the hands of these people.

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*Continued on top of next page.*
The couple took her to their home in Ash Flat, AR, where they nursed her back to health. When she arrived at Turpentine Creek, she was in excellent condition and seemed very friendly. A week after her arrival, Sheba was taken to St. Francis Veterinary Hospital to be spayed and is doing very well. She loves to play with her toys and has become quite friendly and affectionate with many of the staff and interns.

Joe, Buttons, Little Bud and Sheba are all happy in their new home, but they still need your help. You can adopt or sponsor them, donate a shade cloth or toy through sanctuarysupplies.com, or come out and visit these four new “family members” and the rest of the over 100 big cats currently calling Turpentine Creek their home.

Turpentine Creek - How It Began

In 1978, the Jackson Family acquired their first Lion, Bum, while living in NE Texas. Tanya Jackson Smith, current president of TCWR, was only 10 years old. In 1982 they acquired another lion, named Sheila. Although it wasn’t easy taking care of the two lions in their backyard, the Jackson family was successful. Bum and Sheila were moved from their home in Hope, Arkansas, to Eureka Springs when the Refuge was first started in 1992. They remained at the Refuge for their entire lives. Through Bum and Sheila’s demanding backyard presence, the Jackson’s met many people who either had, or wanted to have, a big cat as a pet living under their care, at their home.

Katherine Gordon Twiss, a breeder and black market dealer, showed up on the Jackson’s doorstep with 38 big cats crammed into two cattle trailers. She was on the run from the law in Texas and desperately needed to find a home for the cats. A friend of the Jackson family lived on a ranch in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and offered temporary refuge for the cats. Later the property was bought for a permanent home. The 38 big cats were moved to the nearly 500 acre ranch near Eureka Springs, which later became what today is Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The labor intensive job of quickly building temporary cages for the 38 big cats was completed. Katherine Twiss proved to be impossible to work with. Consequently, she moved her 70 cats and 30 horses that she had picked up from around the country and brought to the refuge. It soon became evident, by incoming phone calls from all over the country from “big cat pet owners” looking for a home for their cat, that someone needed to start a refuge, or sanctuary. The Jackson family: Don, Hilda, Tanya, and Robert, stepped up to this challenge and did what most would only dream of — sold everything, moved over 300 miles, and humbly went to work for the animals.

Today there are over a dozen reputable sanctuaries for big cats around the country and Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge truly stands out as a frontrunner. The United States has thousands of its residents keeping dangerous big cats in their backyards, basements, garages, and warehouses. People acquire these animals as pets and soon find they have made a grave decision and turn to Turpentine Creek for refuge.
The Walk Of Freedom
Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

As I walk past the Bed & Breakfast, the cool breeze carries the sound of lions caroling in the distance. Cheyenne, the shy coyote, slinks cautiously away from me as I walk down the habitat road. I pass an old tiger named Jaspar, and see him rolling happily in the fresh morning dew. I can’t help but walk a little swifter past the home of six cougars as one of them crouches in wait behind a fallen log. Their habitat is about the length of a football field; plenty of room for a successful hunt were it not for the cattle panel between us. I gaze up at two tigers lounging under a green shade tree, and wonder if their native home of India could possibly be any more perfect for them than this plot of Ozark land. As I come upon a curious tiger standing on a hillside, I can’t help but notice his facial scars. His story plaque indicates that “Tigger #2” was abused for years at a roadside zoo in Kansas. Peering at him through the plush green habitat, I can see he has finally reached true freedom. I pass several tigers who are so relaxed they barely acknowledge my presence until I come to a regal male lion. His nose is turned toward the sun, in a posture suggesting he is keenly aware of his beauty. I was a bit confused when a tiger came out from behind a tree and started nuzzling the male lion. I hadn’t been aware that lions and tigers would get along, until their story plaques indicated they had been living together inside the city limits of Kansas City. Their private owner thought they would be good companions and pets. The former may be true but certainly not the latter. They were confiscated because it is illegal to own animals like that in the city. I couldn’t help but think it was silly to try and do so in the first place, illegal or not. Suddenly I gasp as I look up and see a gorgeous white Bengal tiger, his big blue eyes gazing down at me through the leaves. This truly is a big cat’s paradise. I continue to saunter down the road, slowly realizing the burden this refuge bears. It wasn’t until I read the story of three beautiful tigers lying together that I knew I had to do something to help. These three tigers, Reese, JJ and Titan, were from a Safari Park in Quitman, AR. Their owner had lost his funding, and the animals were being neglected. They were among 56 Big Cats at the facility who were bone thin from starvation. Apparently they were in inadequate caging that was littered with feces and animal carcasses. It was hard to imagine while watching them romp and chase each other through this large area that they had once been cramped, starved, and virtually left to die. As I walked up the steps to the tour gate, I reflected on the 23 natural enclosures I had just seen, and thought about the 70 cats that kept residence there. Just before I entered back into the main compound, I turned around and looked at the beautiful Ozark land that waited for development. I could picture in my mind how it will look with countless more enclosures, and the scores of cats that will find their home at this loving refuge. With that I proceeded to find out what I could do to help this wonderful cause.

Stay The Night With The 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. Call 479-253-5841.
Habitat Milestone Completed

Emily McCormack
Zoologist/Volunteer Coordinator

On May 27, 2007, TCWR reached its first milestone in habitat construction. The habitat opening marked the 23rd exhibit of Phase I with intern alumni, refuge supporters and friends of the refuge invited to commemorate this momentous occasion. The ten year project was completed, allowing 70 animals the freedom they deserve. Each enclosure was designed to provide a variety of our species the room to run and play. With the growing amount of supporters, the construction process has been able to increase. This newest habitat is home to our famous Kenny and Willie. Since their rescue in 2000, Kenny and Willie have been vivid examples of the destructive impact inbreeding can have on the big cats. Because of their popularity, this enclosure was designed for them to be viewed from the compound area as well as on our guided habitat tour.

On April 22, 2007, the previous habitat was opened for four of our resident tigers. Jerry, Roulon, Haley, and Whitney were released into a ½ acre enclosure. The cats explored and played in every inch of their new home. As predicted, Haley our three legged tiger, was the first one out the door. The group of four was part of the Quitman Rescue in 2002. Since the rescue, Whitney had to be separated from the others due to aggression. She is on an alternating day schedule with them.

The goal of our facility to house every animal in a natural environment. We are well over half way there, but there are still animals that need rescuing. The continued support that we have seen in the last ten years proves that our mission will be accomplished together. Thank you to all who have been and continue to support the refuge. Special thanks go out to the First United Methodist Church Youth, of Rogers, AR, who joined us in their fourth year of Spring Break. The youth helped complete the last two enclosures of the loop. Special thanks to The Joseph Pat Joyce Charitable Fund and Summerwinds Resort Services, LLC, whom generously funded one of the habitats.

Why I stayed

By Ivy Cooper/Intern

After my first day as an intern at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, I realized it would be hard to leave, but I told myself that six months was a long time. As the months flew by, I became more and more attached to the animals and my coworkers. I never imagined that I could love a job so much; I get to wake up every day and work with these amazing animals. I was given the opportunity to stay for a second internship and could not turn it down. I have learned so much during this internship, not only about big cats but about myself. One goal of the refuge is to build all of our animals natural habitats. I have been a part of building two habitats which means that six more tigers get to enjoy a new home in a habitat. On April 22, I witnessed the release of Jerry, Haley, and Roulon into a habitat for their first time. As I tearfully took pictures, I realized how privileged I was to have been a part of this experience. A few months of my internship still remain and I can not think of a more rewarding way to spend a year. I consider it an honor to be a part of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.
In this day and age, it seems the easiest and fastest way to communicate is through the internet. Turpentine Creek has hit the virtual highway at top speed. Our cats are everywhere online, making it easier for you to keep up to date on the happenings at the refuge. For weekly updates and informative spots from our staff, our BLOG is easily accessed from our website. (www.tigers.tc) Just click “Our BLOG” from our home page and there you are. Now through youtube.com, you can access all sorts of videos from the refuge. From rescues to habitat openings, to cats doing funny things, TCWR has dozens of videos for you to see. Go to youtube.com and type “turpentine creek” into the search bar.

The net has also made donations faster and easier. You can always do adoptions, sponsorships, and general donations through our website. But if you want to make a specific donation such as Boomer Balls, water dishes, shade screen, etc., you can shop at sanctuary-supplies.com. Just click on “wish lists” at their home page, then click “Turpentine Creek” to view all the items we need. All these pages and links are updated all the time so check them out frequently so you don’t miss anything!

Help The Cats Beat The Heat!

At last! Summer is here and the cats are shedding profusely. We have made great strides in providing misters for the cats to help keep them cool, and will keep on working on this project throughout the summer. We found a product through sanctuary-supplies.com which will also help. Shade screens block up to 70% of the sun and provide UV protection too. Every cage needs this addition. We do need 112, 12x12 foot shade screens to accommodate all the animals. Please go to www.sanctuarysupplies.com and order some today.

Greetings from the Zulu Safari Lodging! After several weeks of intense work and lots of fun, D. Arthur and his wife Lisa and their good friend Doyle Seratt have finished the first two cabins, the 40’ octagonal deck, the quaint gazebo with fire pit and have the third cabin nearly roofed. They had every delightful form of weather to contend with, but not much actually stopped progress! The first cabin, the Kalahari, is officially open for guests, adorned with bamboo, accented with rich jewel toned luxurious bedding, original art by both Lisa and D. Arthur, games, books, African drums, beautiful exotic furnishings and a quaint private deck complete with 4’ African masks standing watch over the seating area. You can almost smell the coffee and hear the African music in the background! The second cabin, Congo, will be available mid-June, with a delightful flair of color from the tropical region of Africa, a playful theme of color, in bright reds, oranges, greens and rattan. This room will include a plush comfortable sofa that is also a “Flip-Flop” bed, to accommodate up to four people as well. D. Arthur’s ingenious addition of a cedar lined shower is an amazing exotic touch, and the view from the private deck looks over the entire Eureka Springs valley, with its own pair of African masks watching over the guests. Also a special treat from the Congo porch; a scene of the tree lined pathway leading directly to the view of the tigers! Connecting the semi-circle of cabins is the unique 40’ deck, with the covered gazebo and beckoning fire pit - a place that hopefully will become the home for “Tiger Tales”, long awaited stories from the staff at TCWR about their experiences from the Wild Side! To learn how YOU can help continue this project, or to come stay at the Safari Camp, contact TCWR at 479-253-5841 to make reservations.
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

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
   Water Pools for Cats
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)

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.

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 #50(c)() 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

**ORDER FORM**

06/2007

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**Personal Information**

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**Method Of Payment**

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