Happy Holidays

Jingle Bells
Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

Jingle bells, Hercules yells,
Geico laid an egg.
Oh, what fun it is to watch
the big cats run and play, Hey!

Jingle bells, bear poop smells,
Watch out for Brody’s spray!
Please don’t let a tiger steal
my water hose today!

Dashing through the field
For the first time in the snow
Kenny runs and plays
He puts on quite a show!

Claws of bobcats cling
causing owners fright
They call and say “come
bring this thing
to Turpentine tonight!” Hey
(repeat chorus)

Winter Hours
9 AM - 5 PM
Daily
Last Habitat
Tour 3 PM
Feeding at 4 PM

Letter From The President
Tanya Smith/Founder

WOW! Great news everyone; TCWR has had Jackie Weaver, William and Nancy Plummer, Lee Rosser, Don and Brenda Hosack come forth and donate enough funds to build 5 new natural habitats. We have started to expand the compound down into the center of our 1st Phase of the existing habitats. This will allow some of our handicapped cats to get on the grass with a gentle slope down the mountain. TCWR plans to have heated areas for the cats to get out of the wind and cold weather. We hope this will help their arthritis and other problems. This plan will also include a couple of bear habitats to relieve the pressure for the animals in the main compound.

Art Whitt and his family are sponsoring the fourth Safari Unit which will be named Okavongo. D. Arthur and Lisa Wilson the artist have started the cabin and it should be ready for visitors by the spring. This unit will be wheelchair friendly to accommodate our handicapped supporters.

We are grateful for all of your help. Everyone is doing a great job and will be blessed for their kindness.

Things around the refuge have been busy with the fall season fading to winter. Imagine with me... Close your eyes and imagine the refuge. Can you see it with a foot of snow, beautiful right? Now imagine it with 6-8 inches of ice, not so much fun! I commend all the staff and interns that have dedicated their lives to care for the animals daily 24/7, rain, snow or sunshine. You all are great.

Winterizing everything can be costly but not winterizing everything costs so much more. Please remember our family of animals, 2 and 4 legged, as the holidays approach.

I always tell our new groups of interns in my welcoming speech that at the refuge you will experience every emotion you can imagine and that it might all be in the same day. That is so true. Everyone knows exactly what I am talking about; working at a refuge of any sort is very rewarding. It can also be an emotional roller coaster. TCWR is a lifetime refuge for abused, abandoned, unwanted, neglected Big Cats and we do everything in our power to make sure the animals can live out the remainder of their lives with dignity.

Until next time,...

Purchase toys and supplies for the animals at:
www.sanctuarysupplies.com/wishlist.asp
Rescues
Carrie Trudeau, Staff Biologist

Turpentine Creek is best known for rescuing big cats like lions and tigers. But these days there are more and more smaller exotic cats that need help as well. Cross breeding small exotic cats with domestic cats has become extremely popular because it allows people to dodge any ownership and breeding laws. (You can read more on cross breeding in Chris Vlautin’s article on Bengal Cats. See page three.) In late August we rescued four cats that were from just a situation. A gentleman from Pleasant Hope, Missouri called the refuge stating he had two servals that he had purchased from an animal auction. Last October, Exotic Animal Paradise in Springfield, Missouri auctioned off hundreds of animals from their safari park, including several species of exotic cats, bears, reptiles, and even baboons and macaques. This gentleman purchased a male and a female African Serval with the intention of cross breeding the two with house cats to produce “Savannah Cats”. Sabena and Lily, went temporarily on display in the compound until a suitable winter area was made for them at Scott and Tanya’s house. All four cats are doing quite well, and have adapted to their new home quickly. On November 3rd, another Bobcat made Turpentine Creek it’s home. Bobby, a ten year old male Bobcat came to us from Joplin, Missouri. Bobby was apparently found in the middle of a dirt road when he was a kitten, and the couple raised him for ten years. Bobby had started to become extremely territorial of the laundry room where Bobby’s bed and food was kept. When he stopped allowing people into the room and eventually bit the woman on the back of the calf, they decided to find Bobby a more suitable home. Bobby is currently in quarantine in our Vet Clinic, and so far is still adjusting to life out of the laundry room. Once his quarantine is over he will be moved out into the compound near some other small cats.

After less than a year without producing a valuable litter of kittens, he decided to be rid of the cats. He hadn’t even given the servals names, and had no idea how old they were. When Tanya agreed to take in the two servals, the man added that he also had two Bengal Cats that he was trying to get rid of. (See their photos on the top of page 3.) Bengal cats are a cross breed between a wild Asian Leopard Cat and a domestic cat. (Refer to Chris’ article to learn more on Bengal Cats. Page three.) When his male Bengal cat escaped and never returned, he had no further use for the two females. Tanya agreed to take all four cats, and Scott and I went to pick them up. The cats were already loaded into pet taxis, so we helped the gentleman take apart their cages and load the panels onto our trailer. When they arrived at the refuge, the two servals were placed in an enclosure near the RV park. The Eureka Springs Corvette Club sponsored the two for the year and held a contest to name the two. After the ballots were counted, the male was named Zora and the female named Corvetta. The female Bengal Cats, Zora and Corvetta’s former cage was away from everything set into the woods. Therefore, their new home is just outside the main compound where they can enjoy seclusion. Visitors to the refuge can see them during the habitat tours. Overnight guest can enjoy them throughout the day. They are living by the memorial area and RV sites.

Corvetta is adjusting to her new home. Her former cage was set up like a rabbit cage and she and Zora had to walk on wire. Somehow, their feet were okay.

Bobby made the 2 hour trip to the refuge very well. He is quite skittish but is slowly adapting to his new home.

Visitors to the refuge can see them during the habitat tours. Overnight guest can enjoy them throughout the day. They are living by the memorial area and RV sites.
Putting The “Wild” Back Into A House Cat

Chris Vlautin, Staff Biologist

Lily and Sabena have taken a while to get used to their new homes, but now are enjoying
endangered. We at TCWR cannot see the point in spending thousands of dollars to buy a pet
sell. Every cat left in the wild has at the very least “protected” status. Some are critically
over $500, one can see how breeders could profit from a new, hip, exotic hybrid cat to
look for new species to engineer. With the price for a fourth generation Bengal selling for
cats in the wild are not much bigger than a Bobcat. This means people will continue to
from the wild. But this is not always the case for other hybrid breeds. Most of the exotic
cats originated from a series of forced matings by a few cat breeders in the
1960’s. The internationally protected Asian Leopard Cat is crossed with a house cat, and after three or four generations of selective breeding, a Bengal Cat is created. A few international cat-breeding associations have recognized Bengal Cats as a discrete breed, and have done so since the early 1980’s. Bengals, named for the Leopard Cat’s scientific name, ideally have the appearance of a wild cat, and the disposition of a domestic. Through years of genetic manipulation through pedigrees, Bengals are becoming numerous enough in the exotic pet trade to start becoming popular.

Much like all controlled breeding programs, there are side effects to Bengal Cat breeding. Cases of birth defects include immunological problems, flat chest syndrome, and shortened lifespan. This does not mean that Lily and Sabena have anything wrong with them; in fact, they are the pictures of health. Most Bengal Cats bred to reputable breeders have healthy cats. There just is a greater chance of birth defects in Bengals than with standard domestics.

An exotic cat is just that - exotic. Unfortunately, most of the time what makes a cat exotic is that fact that it is wild. Even the smallest cats on the planet are still very effective predators. Most breeders and websites will tout how the Bengal is a very terrific pet and is a joy to have around. If one reads the fine print, one can see details of how the Bengal is “not a lap cat” and should not be owned by anyone who cannot devote hours to keeping it entertained. This is due to the fact that in order to have a Bengal look like a wild cat, some of that wild had to be bred into it. House cats have been domesticated for thousands of years, and most hybrids are just three or four generations from the wild. This means that there is still a lot of predator running around your house, attacking the other pets and in a few cases, their owners.

It is true that since Bengal Cats are an established breed, there is seldom any need to start a new family tree. This means there is little need for any Asian Leopard Cats to be taken from the wild. But this is not always the case for other hybrid breeds. Most of the exotic cats in the wild are not much bigger than a Bobcat. This means people will continue to look for new species to engineer. With the price for a fourth generation Bengal selling for over $1500, one can see how breeders could profit from a new, hip, exotic hybrid cat to sell. Every cat left in the wild has at the very least “protected” status. Some are critically endangered. We at TCWR cannot see the point in spending thousands of dollars to buy a pet that is really just an odd-looking version of one you can get for free at the local shelter.

Lily and Sabena have taken a while to get used to their new homes, but now are enjoying the routine just like the rest of our cats. Their natural beauty makes it easy to see why someone would want one. But their tiny size does very little to hide their inherit feistiness, especially at feeding time.
The completion of the habitat loop marked a tremendous milestone at the refuge. Over half of the current population of animals resides in these amazing natural enclosures. In completing this, we were also able to increase the size of the exhibits in the compound. Our goal is to house all of the animals in a natural environment, but also continue the mission to rescue animals. To do this we need to continue raising money for habitat construction. We have been blessed by multiple supporters in the last two months. The habitat dream has become a reality once again. Unexpectedly, four amazing contributions have been made to develop the inner circle of the habitat loop. We intended on building in this area for our special needs cats, due to the flatter ground. Astoundingly, the contributors specified these specific cats.

Jackie Wheeler, our first contributor, donated the money for a habitat to be built in memory of her husband. Heather, female Bengal tiger, was their favorite cat. Jackie also contributed for a bear enclosure. Bill and Nancy Plummer came to visit the refuge in June, and their hearts were touched by Hercules and Sierra. In October, they contributed the money for their habitat enclosures. All three of these tigers are affected by deformities in their posterior end, which hinders their mobility. The field is the perfect location for their new homes.

Lee Rosser’s first visit was also this past summer. During this visit, she donated towards pools for the cats to enjoy in the summer months. Lee recently returned to stay with us and contributed for a big cat habitat. Following her, the Hosack family visited. They also originally visited this past summer. Their mission as a family was to contribute for a bear habitat and added more to help with the cats. Along with the habitat construction, we would like to develop new public viewing shelters throughout the field. We are still looking for donations towards these.

Faster than our expectations, the vision of developing habitats in the field has become a reality. Due to the hearts of these contributors, construction begins. It is our goal to develop these habitats and have them opened for viewing by the Summer of 2008. As a foundation, we can’t thank each of you enough for your continued support. It is people like you who keep us believing in this mission.

Pipe and welded wire make up most of the materials needed to build habitats along with, of course, concrete, blood, sweat, and tears. Shown in the photo above is enough welded wire to build two habitats and in the photo to the left and below is enough steel pipe. Due to world wide demand, especially in China, the price of steel has tripled in the past few years. American steel companies cannot produce enough product to keep prices low. The global economics of the steel industry has drastically raised the cost of habitats for our animals. Sincere thanks to those who have chosen to help with this enormous endeavour. At this time TCWR is utilizing only a small portion of the available land. Together we will build...

2008 TCWR Membership Drive

Turpentine Creek is kicking off its 2008 membership program. Funds raised through the membership program insure TCWR’s mission continues to move forward. This is also one way you can help. If you become a member, you are saying, “I believe in what you are doing, I want you to continue, and I want to be a part of it.” If you are reading this newsletter you have most likely been to the refuge and understand the enormous endeavour ahead. We need you and your help. It doesn’t cost much - only a few cents a day. But it means so much. It means we can continue rescuing deserving animals and providing them with supreme care. That is why we are here. Please, make a conscious decision to help.

Single Membership - $30/yr. (about 8 cents /day)
Family Membership - $50/yr. (about 14 cents/day)

Both single memberships and family memberships cover yearly admission to the refuge as many times as you wish.

Buy A Big Cat A Toy For Christmas
Go to www.sanctuarysupplies.com To Choose A Gift Today!
Meat Days At The Refuge

For many years Tyson and Simmons poultry producers have supplied the majority of our meat. We feed anywhere from 700 lbs. to 800 lbs. of meat a day in the warmer months and can reach upwards of a thousand pounds in the winter. This donation has made it possible for us to concentrate our funds on other very important projects at the refuge. Recently Wal-Mart has also jumped on board. They are supplying us with a much desired variety for our cats. We have now coordinated a weekly pick up of donated meat from Wal-Mart. We travel to thirteen Wal-Mart stores in Northwest Arkansas on Monday and Tuesday mornings each week. We have yellow barrels placed in the meat department and each week we take the full ones and replace them with empty barrels. We call Monday and Tuesday “meat days” at the refuge. When we get back from lunch the meat is waiting on the dock to be sorted. Each barrel is sorted and divided into pork, chicken, beef, and fish. We are able to give cooked proteins to our bears. This process is much like a treasure hunt, who will find the largest brisket or who will find a lobster? Previously our cat’s main diet was chicken but now are being spoiled with briskets and ribs. We have developed a system which takes about two to three hours to sort and then another hour to clean. On days when the weather is bad it is a little more of a challenge; we set up pop-up tents to stand underneath. With the winter months fast approaching we are seeing the need for a new commissary. The commissary is partly underway, the foundation has been laid, but we still need funding for the structure itself, as well as, some of the necessary equipment. As rewarding as this job can be, standing in downpour rain, snow, or subzero temperatures can become quite daunting on the hardworking staff and interns. The value of a structure that may provide shelter and heat is immeasurable. Any help will be greatly appreciated, please contact the refuge or visit our website to find out how you can help.

NOW OPEN! The Zulu Safari Guest Lodge is now taking reservations to complete your adventure at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Overlooking the sprawling Eureka Springs valley, with beautiful sunrises and magnificent sunsets and the caroling of the Big Cats, the first three cabins are ready for occupancy. Each room has an exceptional personality, along with snuggly spa robes, luxurious bedding and linens, coffees and coffee pots, continental breakfast, color TV / DVD player, refrigerators and microwaves and clock radios. Cast iron fire places and air conditioning keeps you comfortable during the changing seasons too. Each room is also furnished with African Drums for those who care to start a drumming! Along with the spacious hot tub, the units share a 40’ Octagonal Deck, complete with a charming covered Gazebo and Fire Pit. Tables and chairs surround the area for comfortable relaxing or light dining. See our web site for instant booking. See ya on the wild side!
In past years you may have had a hard time finding availability in our guest rooms on the dates you desire. To address this problem we have added three more lodges for a total of six choices, each very different and all close to the animals. To enhance our reservation services we have made it possible to book your room online at your convenience. You may, however, still pick up the phone and call our main number (479-253-5841). Weekends are still in high demand so we will add two more Safari Lodges this fall.

Through the years we have listened to our supporters express their desire to stay on the Refuge property and bathe their minds in the serenity the animals drive into the soul. Sitting on the porch or lying in bed with a window cracked you can hear the lions caroling all night. As guest exit they are quick to mention how life-changing and unforgettable their experience was. Spend the night with us on your next visit. Quality of life is defined by our experiences. Staying on the property with the animals is an experience your family will cherish always.

Purchase Your 2008 Calendar. Calendars are only $10 this year because of a sharp decrease in printing cost. So, purchase several this year. This is a great way for you to help us, help the animals. All funds raised through calendar sales go to the habitat fund.

Reserve Your Room Today
www.turpentinecreek.org

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“FILL A STOCKING... SAVE A TIGER”
Laurie Vanderwal, Staff Zoologist

Have you thought about holiday gift giving yet?? Turpentine Creek would like to help make that task a little easier this year. As always the refuge is open all year and everyone is encouraged to visit the cats in the cooler months and do your holiday shopping in our refuge gift shop. If you can’t make it to the refuge but are in Eureka Springs, our downtown gift shop will also be open everyday until Christmas.

For those that are not able to make it to this area, but still want to support the cats there are a few items that we are offering through our website as well as some here in the newsletter.

For the young members of the family we have adorable “Big Cat Keeper Kit” t-shirts which depict everything an aspiring Turpentine Creek intern would need. These shirts are a bright sunshine yellow and run in toddler sizes from 2T, 3T and 4T.

For the older children we are offering an “educational” t-shirt. They are navy blue t-shirts with a Bengal tiger face and a short paragraph about the individuality of a tiger’s stripes. For adults we have brand new, luxurious robes with the Turpentine Creek Logo embroidered on the right chest. These robes may be familiar to anyone who has stayed in our new Safari Lodging. They are placed in the room for use during the stay, but are also available for purchase. The robes are available in white only and are one-size-fits-all.

Lastly, for all ages, we have a wonderful new souvenir product. It is a lovable stuffed cat, but it has on an embroidered Turpentine Creek t-shirt. We have an orange tiger, white tiger, lion, leopard and bobcat. You can choose your favorite species or get one of each to form your own plush big cat family at home.

If you can’t decide on a specific product you can always purchase gift certificates for anything at the refuge (over-night stays, admission, family memberships or general monetary amounts that can be used towards gift shop purchases). Adoption and sponsorships are also very unique gifts for the hard-to-buy for person on your list. For any of these items simply call or email the refuge and let us know what you want. All of these products will have additional shipping costs. To receive delivery by Christmas order by December 10.

Remember, when you purchase gifts from Turpentine Creek you are not only bringing happiness to the person receiving the gift, but also helping to enrich the lives of the animals at the refuge.

1. Toddler “Big Cat Keeper Kit” t-shirt
$10 – Sizes: 2T, 3T, 4T.

2. Childs “Educational” t-shirt –
$12 – Sizes: xs, s, m, l

3. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge Robes
$40 - One size fits all.

4. Plush animals with TCWR t-shirt –
$12 - orange tiger, white tiger, leopard, lion, or bobcat.
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

Gift Certificates Are Available

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.

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
   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
   Plants and Shrubs
   Lawn Mowers
9. Equipment
   10’x20’ Freezer
   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 the staff and animals of TCWR help make your wedding truly memorable. We will coordinate what ever you desire: catering, florist, and entertainment. You choose. Get married on the wild side! Contact Audrey at Carefree Weddings: 479-244-6655 or email her at beeblessed@alltel.net.

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  www.turpentinecreek.org
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

ORDER FORM  12/2007

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Personal Information

Name
Address
Email

Method Of Payment

Credit Card # ____________________________
Exp. Date______________________

Personal Check
Check #______________________
DL#______________________

Total Contributions $