



CAT CHRONICLES

April, 2009

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

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

Letter From The President - Happy New Year!

Tanya Smith/Founder

There are many great things to report so I am going to tell you about a few. New spring hours, doors open at 9am, we stay open later and extend our habitat tours from 11am- 4pm every hour on the hour. 5pm is feeding time for the big cats and the refuge closes at 6pm. Lodging is available .

Many of you are aware that Arkansas was devastated by an ice storm January 27 that put us in emergency mode and a financial crisis. TCWR had no power for 8 days. Imagine caring for 120 Big Cats, 3 bears, a monkey, exotic birds, and all the other two legged and four legged creatures that live at the refuge. It was pretty scary, no electricity and not much water because our main well pump for the refuge burned up. Tree limbs were popping and breaking, ice falling all around us. Three of our staff's houses were damaged by limbs breaking and falling into the homes leaving holes in the roof. We had all the animals locked up into their lockdowns and that was a good thing. The ice was so heavy that the trees went down everywhere in the habitats, across fences, all over cages and across the roads. I am amazed by the dedication of our staff. During the crisis everyone worked together to help each other. Not to mention that we had 9 new interns come when there was no power. The new recruits showed up to a very dark, cold big cat rescue in ARKANSAS. All the cats did well except sadly we had to put Tigger 2 to sleep. He was very old and had been battling cancer for some time. The cold was more than he could handle. The vet clinic was full of animals all shapes and sizes. Of course we didn't even think about opening to the public. It was so slick that it was extremely dangerous. The good news is we learned a lot. We will be better prepared if anything like this happens in the future. The ice storm of 2009 is not one any of us will ever forget and we might be cleaning up after it for the next 10 years. Volunteers are needed! The refuge is accessible to visitors now. When you come you might not even realize how hard we were hit, but look out into the woods and imagine that was everywhere.

BB King and Mack (baby tigers) are feeling much better. They returned to the refuge from K-State after their tests during the ice storm. The brothers had low bone density possibly due to genetics; their bodies were not assimilating the vitamins and nutrients from their food. The boys had to be put on a special diet of Nebraska Feline Diet. This is a really expensive diet. It is different from the food they are used to so it has been a challenge to get them to eat the meat. We love these babies but they have been very time consuming since Tigger G and Ziggy surprised us with their birth on May 31, 2008. Mack is back to his playful self. BB is recovering a little slower. We expect them to have a complete recovery. They enjoy the attention of people coming to visit so come as often as possible. Until next time....

Note These Dates

March 28

Eureka Springs Kite Festival

10am - 4pm. Free event; fun for the whole family. Come, kick off spring with us! This event includes vendors, contest and fun activities.

June 19-21

TCWR Pow Wow
Father's Day Weekend
Grand Entries Fri. 7pm,
Sat. 1pm & 7:30pm &
Sun. 1pm

July 4

Independence Day Extravaganza



**Willie - April
Cat of the Month**

**Purchase toys for the animals at:
www.sanctuarysupplies.com/wishlist.asp**

"Help Us, Help Them"

www.turpentinecreek.org

Recent Rescue

Jessica Sims, Staff Zoologist



The day after Christmas, Zeus, a 13-year old male cougar, was rescued from DeQueen, Arkansas. Zeus' previous owner got the cougar from his aunt who had trouble caring for the cougar and couldn't obtain a permit for the cat. She had to find Zeus a new home. Her nephew took Zeus to another county to get him out of immediate harm. This man had small children at his house so he kept Zeus far out back. He also had trouble getting a permit for Zeus and the authorities wanted the cat gone so the man turned to Turpentine Creek. In November, he called the refuge and asked us to take Zeus. After a trip of about 275 miles to Turpentine Creek, Zeus arrived in good spirits. Zeus enjoys his new life at the refuge and can be heard purring at the staff and interns. The photo on the right shows Zeus bonding with an intern, Ben, soon after his arrival.

You Can't Put a Price On a Chuff

By Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist

The main focus in the news these days is the struggling economy with many people facing job loss, home foreclosure and other difficult financial times. Regardless of what is happening on Wall Street or in Washington the cats at the refuge still want to be cared for everyday. They don't care who is in governmental office or what business is being bailed out; they expect the same level of care regardless of what may be happening anywhere else. That high level of care is something that all of the staff and interns at the refuge are determined to not only sustain but continue to improve as well.

Coming out to the refuge for a visit is an affordable and fun family outing. The admission price is an all day pass and is all-inclusive. For a more elaborate outing, stay overnight at our lodging; the price of the room has no hidden charges and includes admission for your entire stay. Watching a tiger run across his habitat and pounce playfully on his sibling, seeing two cougars groom one another or laughing at a lion chasing his own tail can boost spirits and help in forgetting about economic worries (even if it is only temporarily).

If visiting the refuge is not an option, there are other inexpensive ways to continue to help the animals that can't help themselves. Monetary donations, even the smallest amounts, are always appreciated and many companies offer a matching grant program (ask at your work today). Donating items from our wish list is also an option and all donations are tax-deductible. Volunteering your time is one of the most inexpensive and satisfying ways to help the animals. Spread the word about the refuge, direct people to our website or hand out brochures and newsletters to coworkers, friends and neighbors. Plan a bake sale, car wash or other fundraiser in your own area or contact our volunteer coordinator, Emily, to plan larger projects at the refuge. With so much attention on the financial crisis there is a tendency to put a price tag on everything, but knowing that you have helped better the lives of these animals is a feeling that can't be explained - and a thank you in the form of a tiger chuff, a cougar purr, and a lion roar is simply priceless.



Here is a photo of Bam Bam, a Siberian tiger playing like a cub in the nice, cool weather. Bam Bam lives in one of our habitats and enjoys his spacious playground. He has lived in a habitat most his life and truly is content. All the animals living at the refuge deserve to live like this. Please support our habitat fund by going to www.turpentinecreek.org and clicking on the donations tab at the top.

Sign up to donate on a recurring basis. TCWR needs to secure the refuge's future by building a financial base. Please help by making a commitment to donate \$5, \$10, \$100, or whatever you can each month by going to our blog at www.turpentinecreek.typepad.com or calling 479-253-5841. Thanks.



This intern group has already experienced a lot. They arrived during the worst ice storm ever to hit the North-west Arkansas area. For the first several days we had no electricity or water. They must have been thinking they should leave. They didn't and we are happy to have them. Take time on your next visit to say hello. I am sure they would appreciate your kindness.

Interns – Spring 2009 - (Left to Right)

- Edward James – Bowie State University – BS Biology – May 2008
- Mary Schlieve – Northland College - BS Veterinary Life Science – May 2008
- Nathanael Thompson – University of Tennessee – BS Wildlife Biology – December 2008
- Taylor Howard – Second Internship - Texas Tech University – BS Biology – May 2008
- Kim Breher – Wartburg College – BA Biology – May 2008
- Kimberly Layman – Colorado State University – BS Zoology - May 2008
- Arielle Schepmoes – Second Internship - Colorado State University – BS Zoology – May 2008
- Bethany Smith – Brigham Young University – BS Biology – July 2008
- Thien An Nguyen – Central New Mexico College – AS Biology – December 2008
- Patrick Gjorven – North Dakota State University – BS Zoology - May 2008

Sponsor an Intern

The TCWR intern program has grown and needs to continue to grow so we can educate future zoo leaders, veterinarians, scientists, etc... These dedicated individuals are paid a food stipend of \$50.00 per week. Of course, TCWR pays for their housing expenses. We have dinners together from time to time. When you think about it, that small amount of money doesn't go far but does come out of our general expenses. This is why we have decided to create a Sponsor an Intern program. Intern Sponsorship- \$50 per week or \$2600 per year, each. Sponsor the entire internship program for \$32,000 per year. You will receive a thank you letter and the gratification of knowing that you are making a difference. Yearly sponsors will receive a family membership to TCWR and a recognition sign at the refuge.

Home Away From Home

Steven Vargas/ Staff Biologist



I first arrived at Turpentine Creek in August of 2007 not knowing what to expect from the tiny state of Arkansas. After my first full day of work I thought to myself “are big cats really for me?” Well, it didn't take long for my suspicions to fade away, and after a year and a half I would have it no other way.

During my time here the compound got a complete facelift with the addition of concrete sidewalks and new people rails. Due to new habitats being open we were able to tear down some cages, getting us closer to our goal of giving every animal a habitat. In July, we were able to open four new habitats which allowed me the chance to experience the joy and excitement of giving these big cats and bears a sense of freedom. Now we are currently working on the completion of a new cougar habitat. Many new cats have made Turpentine Creek their new home during my time here. Trust me; there are no words to explain the feeling of giving these cats a second chance, a chance that some would never be given. That is what makes TCWR an extraordinary place. And who can forget about Tiger, B.B. King, Mack, and Spyke. Their play-

ful romping has touched many hearts.

However with every peak there is a valley. Kenny, Sasha, and Joe were all taken from us at a young age, and the ice storm hit us hard. But we were able to pull together like a family and overcome these obstacles that stood in our way for the greater good of these cats. This is what makes Turpentine Creek my home away from home.

All The Right Moves

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

One of the many art forms involved with big cat management is finding individuals from very different backgrounds that will get along either together or next to one another. Having over 100 cats raised in just as many different circumstances, (most of which were undesirable) can make matching personalities challenging. The staff here at TCWR prides itself on taking the time to know each individual animal well, and thus having an extremely successful introduction history. A dominant personality must be placed with a submissive one, and highly sensitive or easily stressed cats must not be placed together. The last thing we want to do is cause the animals stress or place them in danger of each other. All moves and introductions are discussed at length before any cat is placed. This spring has brought about several cat introductions and many with new neighbors. As stated in our last newsletter, Bonita and Sebastian were introduced to our first cougar habitat with Max, Star, Kudy and Raphael. That mix is working great, and all the cats seem to be happy. The five girls in our new cougar habitat are still mixing well; Suli, Ruby, Shasta, Ariel and Luna. Bengal tiger India not only got a spot in a habitat, she also got a handsome new neighbor in Bam Bam. The two have become great friends through the fencing. Kit Kat also moved into a habitat next to Siam, who always seems to be ready to make friends. In addition to these moves in the habitat field, the main compound received a shake up as well. To make room for new arrivals, customer favorites have been shifted all over the place including Brody, Ringo and Detroit. Willy and Ava needed a secluded section of caging in the compound and took over Ringo and Detroit's enclosures. Next time you visit the refuge you may need to ask an intern for a map or to point you to your favorite cat, since many have a new home. As long as we can find good matches in personalities, moving cats to new areas and around new neighbors can be a great enrichment, improving their quality of life.



Turpentine Creek's Safari Lodging

Special Rates For Renting
All Five Lodges

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, all five cabins are ready for occupancy. Each room has an exceptional personality, along with snuggly spa robes, luxurious bedding and linens, coffee and coffee pots, continental breakfast, color TV / DVD player, refrigerators and microwaves and clock radios. For rainy days or after hours, the rooms also have their own collection of favorite games and books. 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! Adults only.

Successful Volunteers

By Emily McCormack/ Staff Zoologist and Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteering at TCWR gives you an opportunity to change the animals, the people that work here, and your own life. If you'd like to support the refuge but can't afford to donate money, you can donate your time instead. There are many forms of volunteering that can help make a difference at the refuge. It doesn't mean you have to be here to help.

Jenna Jannings and Soraya Aydani are both senior Biological Engineering students at the University of Arkansas. They chose Turpentine Creek for their senior design project. This is a perfect example of an alternative form of volunteering. With the commissary floor and building complete, it was perfect timing to do some interior designing.

In September 2007, Walmart began donating meat to our cats. We pick up the meat from twelve locations in NW Arkansas. The meat arrives each week in 42 gallon barrels, which range from 100-400lbs. Each barrel needs to be sorted through and separated into 40lb bins. Hauling this weight and bending over sorting the meat is extremely strenuous for the interns.

Jenna and Soraya decided to design an easier way for the food preparation process. They developed a barrel dumper, sorting table, and carts to haul the bins. Not only did they design the project, they received grants from the college and donations from Tyson in order to implement their assignment. The hydraulic dumper will lift the barrels and dump them onto a sorting table at a proper working height for the interns. The carts hold two bins which can be easily wheeled to our freezer. These designs will make the entire process easier and more time efficient.

The staff and interns would like to thank Jenna and Soraya for their hard work and dedication in developing such a unique volunteer project. We also look forward to the contacts they recruited for the refuge, and working with the U of A again in the near future.

TCWR would also like to take this time to thank all of our 2009 Spring Break volunteers. The University of Iowa's Pay it Forward tour of 43 volunteered on March 15th to clear habitats for the spring. They are traveling across country volunteering for different charities. The First United Methodist Church Youth of Rogers, AR returned for their 6th year to help with the construction of our new cougar habitat. The Heun family from Wisconsin joined the youth group the week of March 23rd for their 4th year of volunteering. We appreciate all of the volunteers' accomplishments. Working together makes a difference.



Turpentine Creek needs your help too. What skills do you possess? How can you help? Email Emily at emily@turpentinecreek.org to get involved. "Help us help them".

Spring Needs

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

Spring is time for new beginnings, and this year at the refuge it's also time to dig out from that damaging ice storm. The ice and high winds have destroyed many of the animals' shade cloths, leaving many cats without protection from the sun and heat. Come May this will be extremely important, and we are in dire need of replacing these before the hot summer air arrives. If you adopt or sponsor an animal, or have one favorite in particular, please donate a shade cloth so we can replace theirs immediately. Also in need of replacing is many of the cats' toys. Wear and tear and powerful jaws pay their toll on even the toughest toys at the refuge. Many cats need replacement boomer balls or spools for their enclosures. Log on to www.turpentinecreek.org and click on the donations page to order either toys or shade cloths for your favorite cat today! (Look at the bottom of the page for Sanctuary Supplies) For those who have a bit more to give, we are also anxious to begin our first leopard enclosure! With the completion of our cougar run we plan to design a beautiful high-rise enclosure for our four leopard residents. (Vada, Santania, Zambo and Spyke) However, our materials have been depleted, and construction can not start without your help! Send a donation of any size to the refuge earmarked for the "Leopard Habitat" so we can start to purchase materials. The cats thank you for your support!



2009 Calendars Are Here. Order Today!



Turpentine Creek sells calendars each year to raise funds for our habitat building program. We used to have to charge \$20 each. Again this year we were able to find a good deal on printing so we are charging only \$10. Last year was a huge success, TCWR sold almost all the calendars! Imagine the advertising they do hanging in prominent places. Together with calendar sales and good folks like you donating money to the habitat fund, we were able to build 4 new habitats in 2008 from donations received in 2007. So far this year (2008) we have had one habitat funded. This is where you come in; the donor who needs a calendar plus a few to give to friends. On the back page there is an order form for both calendars and habitat donations. When ordering you need only figure the S&H once. Please help in these questionable times. All TCWR's animals deserve habitats despite what's going on in the world around them. Please help.



Turpentine Creek Spring Hours
TCWR is open every day from
9am-6pm. Guided habitat tours are
available hourly from 11am-4pm.
Feeding can be observed at 5 pm
daily. Spring is the best time to view
the animals. Cool weather equals fun!

Family Membership \$50
Single Membership \$30

It's that time again. Renew your membership now to maximize your value. Memberships are good from time of purchase through 12/31/2009. Unlimited visits to the refuge for your family will provide you with priceless memories and help the animals too. Simply fill in the form on the last page.

Africa In The Ozarks! Reserve Your Room Today. www.tigers.tc

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 five more lodges for a total of eight 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, pick up the phone and call our main number (479-253-5841). Weekends are still in high demand so book your room early. Through the years we have listened to our supporters express their desire to stay on the Refuge property and submerge 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 guests 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.

"Help Us, Help Them"

www.turpentinecreek.org

page 6.

Sponsor or Adopt an Animal Today

Adoption Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$75/yr.	Small Animal or Bird	\$500/yr. or \$50/mo.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$75/yr.	Small Cat or Monkey	\$750/yr. or \$75/mo.
Cougar or Leopard	\$90/yr.	Donkey	\$1000/yr. or \$100/mo.
Lion, Tiger, Bear, or Donkey	\$100/yr.	Cougar or Leopard	\$1800/yr. or \$180/ mo.
		Lion, Tiger, or Bear	\$2000/yr. or \$200/ mo.

Certificates make great gifts!

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.



Make Plans Today For The 11th Annual TCWR Pow Wow

Father's Day Weekend - June 19 - 21
Gates open Friday 3pm.
Saturday and Sunday gates open at 10am

Weekend Festivities Include:
Inter-Tribal Dance Contest, Singers,
Artist, Crafters, Food, Live Wildlife
Exhibits.



Things My Caregivers Need ...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Prayers | Welding Rods (6011 - 3/32) | Epson Glossy Paper |
| 2. Donations | Concrete Forms | Laptop Computer |
| 3. Cleaning Supplies | 16-20 Ton Jacks | 7. Landscaping Items |
| Trash Bags | Common Hand Tools | Top Soil |
| Household Cleaners | Lowes-Home Depot Gift Cards | Sod |
| Paper Towels | 5. Caging Materials | Mowers - Gas Powered |
| Toilet Paper | Black & Gray Spray Paint | Weed Eaters - Gas Powered |
| Latex Gloves (25 pair/day) | Lumber (All Sizes - New) | Landscape Timbers |
| 4. Tools | Rebar (3/4-1 Inch) | Grass Seed - Kentucky Blue |
| Concrete Trowels | Metal Roofing | 8. Equipment |
| Metal Chop Saw and Blades | Water Pools For Cats | Welder - Gas Powered |
| Pliers | Donations For Pipe and Wire | 4 X 4 Vehicles |
| Hammers | 6. Office Supplies | Road Grader |
| Hose Clamps | Compact Copy Machine | 9. Vet Care Items |
| Hose Nozzles | Laminating Sheets (3&5 Mil) | Donations for Vaccinations |
| Skill Saw and Blades | Packing Tape | Panacur Dewormer |
| | Scotch Tape | |

Bequest Your Best

It is important to the staff of TCWR that our 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



*Meet Zeus, our latest arrival.
 See page 2.*

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM 04/2009

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.turpentinecreek.org.

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)	\$
	Fund Entire Habitat \$20,000	\$
	2009 Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	2009 Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	2009 TCWR "Greatest Stories Ever Told" CD - \$30/ea.	\$
	Enrichment Bench Sponsorship \$300.00	\$
	2009 Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	2009 Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	2009 Calendars (\$10.00) + \$5.00 S&H	\$
	Total Contributions	\$