



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Habitat Releases



Buckley



Sammy



Detroit

Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

Happy Holiday Season to you and yours. 2010 is in sight. I have to take time to reflect on all the great things that have happened in the past 17+ years since the refuge was established. May of 1992 was when we moved onto the property. My family started our move to Eureka Springs earlier in January of that year. My daughter, Miranda, was only 6 months old; this year she will graduate from high school. My son, Victor, was 5 years old, and is now married with a baby of his own.

Man, a lot of things have happened since then. When we first moved to Eureka, we faced much resistance from our community; I think mostly due to the crazy thing we were doing, saving unwanted and abused animals specializing in large carnivores. Why was there a need for this endeavor and why Eureka Springs? Our family vacationed in Eureka for 15 years before making the move. My parents thought Eureka would be the best place for this operation due to the Omni food supply through Tyson, Zero Mountain, and all the other poultry providers in this part of the country. The climate was also considered; it is not too hot or too cold for too long - not that you could tell by today's temps in the 30-40 degree range. Also, if we were going to have to be open to the public to support our mission there were else but the beautiful Ozark Mountains and the tourist Mecca of Eureka Springs?

Today, things have changed. Not only has the refuge become one of the top tourist attractions in the area, it has also become a destination. It is wonderful that now our mission is embraced by our community. I am honored and humbled by being elected the 2010 Chairman for the Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce. Who would have thought that would ever happen? Congratulations to our own Emily McCormack for being nominated as the E.S. Attraction Representative of the year.

This week was filled with excitement when we let three tigers, Buckley Butterfield, Sammy, and Detroit, out into habitats. What a way to start the day. Buckley and Detroit were so happy, and chuffed as they were released and walked onto the grass for the first time. They seemed to be smiling and grateful. Can you imagine getting to stretch out and actually be able to run for the first time ever? Sammy seemed happy to go out, and then he had a different reaction. He displayed his very aggressive personality, hissing and snarling at the onlookers.

Buckley and Sammy are brother Siberian Tigers that came to TCWR on 05/14/96 at

President: continued page 2.

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6 weeks of age. They were part of the tragic Boone County Rescue. That morning TCWR received a call from the Harrison, AR, Sheriff's department asking TCWR to assist them in what ended up being a rescue of ten Big Cats. Seven of the cats had been crammed into different compartments in a 20 foot horse trailer with no food or water, and had been left for weeks. Trish, the boys' mom, managed to keep them alive and healthy at the risk of her own life. When Mama Trish arrived she was extremely thin, hungry and scared. You can learn more about their rescue on our website. Detroit, a Bengal/Siberian mix tiger, was only 5 months old when he arrived from Kansas on 03/31/06. His rescue was the result of the changing laws in Kansas; the wildlife refuge that he was at was going out of business.

We are so proud to be able to provide these animals with this opportunity. It is difficult to decide who gets to be the next to go out into the large enclosures. TCWR staff enjoys hearing people say, "Wow this place has changed from the early years when the habitats were just a dream." I envision the day when we have 5+ acre enclosures with ponds and natural shelters for the animals. It is only through your help that these dreams can become a reality. Thanks for your support of the habitat fund.

In closing, I want to wish each and every one of you taking the time to read this newsletter a very prosperous coming year. Please keep the refuge in your thoughts and prayers. It takes so many things to keep the refuge alive and growing. We can only continue with your help and support. The winters are the toughest of times so please renew your adoptions, sponsorships, memberships, book overnight stays, buy calendars and gift shop items for presents, send donations, and come for a visit. TCWR is open every day from 9AM-5PM except Christmas Day. Remember no donation is too small or too large; they all add up and are tax-deductible in helping us help the cats. God Bless you, until next time....

New Arrivals - Rescues

By: Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist



During the last week of October, Turpentine Creek was contacted by a man from Oklahoma who had 9 tigers and 2 bears in need of homes. He was facing foreclosure and was ordered to be off the property by November 1st; his vehicles had already been repossessed and he had no money left to care for his animals. The tigers were already placed at another sanctuary in Indiana, but the bears still needed a home and they were running out of time.

On November 11th, Scott and I headed south to Ardmore, OK, and arrived at the man's property at around 6pm. We met Bam Bam, a 2-year-old grizzly bear, and Thunder, a

1-year-old black bear. Both seemed healthy



and were full of energy. They were housed inside of a large barn where there were eight 10'x20' identical cages; all were well-constructed and clean. The tigers had already been rescued, so the first 6 cages were empty and were being torn down and removed from the barn. It did feel like we got there to rescue the bears just in time. That evening we determined what we would need to transfer the bears from their cages into our trailer, but decided to wait until daylight to load the animals.

Bright and early the next morning we called the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to acquire our export permit, contacted a local vet to set up an inspection for our Arkansas import requirements, and headed back to pick up the bears. When we arrived, we constructed a transfer chute out of wire, and both Bam Bam and Thunder moved fairly easily. At around 11am, we had finished loading the bears and headed on the road. After a quick stop to pick up the export permit and a visit to the vets (where both bears got a clean bill of health), we were on our way back to the refuge.

Both of the bears will be in quarantine for a couple of weeks, after which they will be introduced into our main compound area. Come visit these new bears or be one of the first supporters to adopt or sponsor Bam Bam or Thunder...or both.

If you would like to know more about our internship program check out our website or email emily@turpentinecreek.org

Suli **Ruby**
Shasta **Nasha**
Ariel **Luna**
Kit Kat **India**
Buckley **Detroit**
Sammy **Sugar**



All the animals listed above have found new freedom in 2009 because you had the heart to give to the habitat fund.

Ursus arctos horribilis and Ursus americanus

Steven Vargas/Staff Biologist

With the recent rescue of Bam Bam and Thunder, a new species of bear has made its home at Turpentine Creek; the ever powerful, mammoth of a bear known as the Grizzly (*Ursus arctos horribilis*). Many people often mistake these enormous creatures with their very common relative the Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), however here are some differences.

Grizzly bears are a species of Brown bear ranging from Alaska south into much of Canada, with populations living in parts of northwestern United States. Reportedly they have been found in Idaho, Montana, Washington, Wyoming, California, and Colorado. They vary in size and weight due to geographic location, but on average they weigh between 300-750lbs, (large males can sometimes weigh over 1000lbs) and stand anywhere between six to eight feet on their hind legs. Black bears on the other hand weigh between 100lbs-700lbs and stand five to seven feet tall. Female Grizzlies are typically 38% smaller than males and in some cases maybe smaller than male black bears.

Black bears are found across most of Canada and in 41 out of the 50 U.S. states. There are many species of Black bears that is dependent on their location. Colors of Black bears vary between light blond to cinnamon, with many of them having a light patch on their chest. Grizzlies, on the other hand, range from blond to red and even grey, but are most commonly dark brown. They have a very distinct shoulder hump not found in Black bears. This hump has the additional large muscles that are necessary to help the forelimbs dig up roots and tubers.

Another distinguished trait of Grizzlies are their long claws. They are promptly visible from a distance and in their tracks as they can grow up to five inches long. The claws on a Black bear are much shorter as they are only around two inches long. These claws allow them to climb trees to escape danger; however, due to the large bulk of a Grizzly they usually stay on the ground.

Bears are omnivores despite being classified as part of the carnivora family. A Grizzly's diet however consist of mainly meat. Moose, bison, caribou, pine nuts, roots, salmon, and even Black bears are on the menu. A Black bears diet on the other hand is exclusively composed of plants with small amounts of meat.

These are only a few distinct differences between these two species of bears. Next time you visit the refuge be sure to ask about Bam Bam and Thunder and see first hand how they are different.

Donations – Thank You!

Emily McCormack/Staff Zoologist

Donations are always welcome for the refuge whether it is monetary, small everyday needs, or larger specialty items.

Bill and Nancy Plummer from Wabash, IN have been supporters of the refuge for a few years. They sponsor Mack, adopt a variety of animals, donated a habitat for Hercules, and are continually spreading the mission of TCWR everywhere they go. Bill is currently a member of TCWR's board of directors. A former colleague of Bill's, Marty Shepard, recently donated a gunite machine to TCWR. Marty, with Indiana Refractories in Fort Wayne, IN, not only donated the machine, but delivered it and gave a demonstration to the staff. The gunite machine will be an asset to future development of enclosures, pools and rock formations for the cats. Everyone at the refuge would like to send a special thank you to Marty for his donation and the time he spent with us.

Another thank you goes out to Tim and MJ Jahrling of Kimberling City, MO. They donated many items such as a 40' extension ladder, a concrete chute, and a welder. More notably, they donated a 1 ton Dodge Ram extended van for use at the refuge. Tim has been gathering items to donate from his former construction business that would be beneficial for the refuge. Donated vehicles are a huge asset for everyday use.

As you know, we are in the progress of building a new habitat to house our four leopards. The amount of money needed

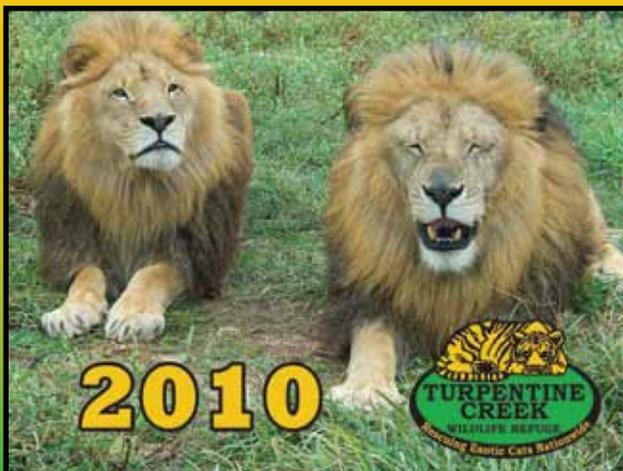


is much higher for this enclosure because of the attached heated building. Leopards need this in the Ozark Mountains, cold temperatures for long periods are common and our leopards are aging. ABC Block, with locations in Little Rock, Harrison, Springdale, Fort Smith, and Russville has donated the block for the building. We also have the mortar, heater, and welded wire (thanks to Nancy Hanneman from Oklahoma) plus most of the structural steel for the roof, so we can continue to make progress. There is much more to be done.

Thank you to all who have been donating to the refuge. Just drop us an email if you think you might have something the cats or the staff could use. We would also like to thank those of you who are part

of our recurring monthly donations. This type of donation is extremely important to the refuge, especially during the winter months. Even a small amount each month adds up. If everyone that receives a newsletter signed up on our website for \$5 a month, we could sustain the refuge costs regardless of the time of year.

To sign up for your recurring monthly donation, go to our website and click on donations at the top of the page (www.turpentinecreek.org/donations.html). Then, click on the recurring donation button. Make sure you click on the bubble to make it a monthly donation. Remember, all donations are tax deductible. Help make a difference in these animals' lives.



2010 TCWR Calendars

On Sale Now!

Order yours by filling out the form on the back or from our web site.



Education Station

By: Jessica Sims, Staff Zoologist

Turpentine Creek is not only a great place to see exotic cats and bears up close, but its also a great place to learn about these amazing animals that find a home here at the refuge. In addition to the information you get on the guided tour and signs throughout the compound, check out the Education Station for even more interesting facts! After entering the Gift Shop and being greeted by one of our interns, visitors are told about what to do in the compound and where and when the guided tour leaves. Visitors are then directed to the doors that lead outside into the refuge. These doors are right by the Adoption/Sponsorship wall and the Education Station so visitors can check out these two features before entering the refuge or when exiting the refuge and before shopping for your souvenirs! When entering the Education Station, test your knowledge about some of our animals! We have twelve shadow boxes that contain a question with the answer and corresponding photo inside each box. On the opposite wall, you can get your hands on and feel Black Bear fur, Lion fur, Cougar fur, Tiger fur, and Tiger whiskers. Also check out the paw prints that we have of a male and female tiger. Ever wonder where tigers, lions, and cougars are actually found in the wild? Take a look at our maps of their native home and in which countries they can be found. Need a vocabulary lesson? Take a look at Turpentine Terminology! We have a variety of words and terms that the staff and interns use here at the refuge which are defined in the Education Station. Now enter the second room of the Education Station and watch the informational video about Turpentine Creek that is always playing. You can see an example of actual signs that may be posted in an area where a cougar is known to live. Next read and learn about the roles of “Mouth & Teeth,” “Eyes & Vision,” “Ears & Hearing,”

and “Nose & Smell” of our cats. In addition, find out how many species we have and how many individuals we have of that species. You can also see which states we get most of our rescues from as well. As some people may know, the ownership of exotic animals is regulated by each individual state. Check out our map of the Exotic Animal Ownership Laws and see which states ban the ownership and possession of exotic animals and which states need stricter laws. But before you leave the Education Station...want to know what the toys look like when the cats are done with them? We have a couple of boomer balls and a barrel that you can see and touch after the cats are done with a well-loved toy! So don't hesitate to ask how your favorite cat can receive a new toy! As always, we can't wait for your next visit to Turpentine Creek and we hope to see you soon!

2009 Brought These Special Animals To The Refuge



Angel



Sugar



Khaki



BamBam



Thunder

5 Reasons to Visit TCWR in the Winter

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

- 1. Lodging Discounts!** We are currently offering a winter deal on all our lodging! Ordinarily \$150 a night, if you stay in any of our lodging throughout the winter months you will received the rate of \$115 a night. This deal applies to Monday through Thursday only. Although you can book your room online, you must call the gift shop to receive the discount. Call and book your winter getaway now! (479) 253-5841
- 2. Tigers Love The Snow!** Although the winter temperatures can make the human species shiver, the tigers actually love it! The winter coats they grow help the tigers adapt to dropping temperatures, and the falling snow brings out their frisky side! They put on quite a show in their habitats; running, sliding, rolling, and chasing snow balls. It is a rare and wonderful sight you couldn't see any where else.
- 3. Christmas In Eureka!** The Christmas season is always magical, but no one does it like Eureka Springs! Downtown is beautifully decorated to put you in the Christmas spirit as you check off your shopping list in the many unique shops. The Parade of Lights is a must see as is the ever inspiring Passion Play. Check out eukasprings.com for the schedule of "going-ons."
- 4. Beat The Crowd In The Off Season!** The off season means fewer crowds and more opportunities for you! Fewer guests means our friendly and knowledgeable staff and interns are more accessible to answer all your questions. Smaller tour groups mean you get a more personal insight from our guides, and possibly even a riding tour!
- 5. Help Support A Great Cause!** Winter is a tough time of year at TCWR, financially as well as functionally. Admission, lodging, and gift shop sales are critical in the winter months to keep daily operations going. Coming out and enjoying yourself at the refuge will do wonders for keeping the animals safe and happy. So, don your parka and winter hat and come enjoy winter at Turpentine Creek!



Special! Reserve you Safari Lodge Today!

Africa In The Ozarks! Reserve Your Room Today. www.turpentinecreek.org

TCWR has eight lodging 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.

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.



Christmas is fast approaching, so Santa's elves here at Turpentine Creek (Scott and I) are working as hard as we can to fill everyone's Christmas list.

If you have a special someone who would like a special item from our On Line Store or our Gift Shop, a yearly Membership, or an adoption of a favorite cat, be sure to let us know.

You may order on line, by sending in the order form on the back of the newsletter, or by calling our main number at (479) 253-5841. To insure Christmas delivery, all orders must be received December 11th.

Happy Holidays! – Pat Quinn, Secretary and Temporary Christmas Elf.

Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Cleaning Supplies

- Trash Bags
- Household Cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Latex Gloves (25 pair/day)

4. Tools

- 8"-10" Bench Vise
- Metal Chop Saw and Blades
- Solvent Tank
- 5Hp/50 Gal. Air Compressor
- Hose Clamps
- Hose Nozzles
- Skill Saw and Blades

- Welding Rods (6011 - 3/32)
- Concrete Forms
- 16-20 Ton Jacks
- Common Hand Tools
- Lowes-Home Depot Gift Cards

5. Caging Materials

- Black & Gray Spray Paint
- Lumber (All Sizes - New)
- Rebar (3/4-1 Inch)
- Donations For Pipe and Wire

6. Office Supplies

- Compact Copy Machine
- Laminating Sheets (3&5 Mil)
- Packing Tape
- Scotch Tape

- Epson Glossy Paper
- Laptop Computer
- Copy Paper

7. Landscaping Items

- Top Soil
- Sod
- Mowers - Gas Powered
- Weed Eaters - Gas Powered
- Landscape Timbers
- Grass Seed - Kentucky Blue

8. Equipment

- Welder - Gas Powered
- 4 X 4 Vehicles
- Road Grader

9. Vet Care Items

- Panacur Dewormer

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.
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 Eureka Springs, AR



Spike is the December. "Cat of the Month"

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM 12/2009

It is through your direct support that 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)	\$
	Leopard Habitat Fund - Goal \$50,000 Still need \$28,000 to complete...please help.	\$
	2010 Family Adoptions (name of animal _____)	\$
	2010 Sponsorships (name of animal _____)	\$
	2010 TCWR "Greatest Stories Ever Told" CD - \$30/ea.	\$
	Six Months Of Podcast Videos \$15.00	\$
	2010 Family Membership (\$50.00)	\$
	2010 Single Membership (\$30.00)	\$
	2010 Calendars (\$10.00) + \$5.00 S&H	\$
	Total Contributions	\$