



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

A USDA Licensed Facility for "The Vanishing Breeds of Big Cats"

239 Turpentine Creek Lane

Eureka Springs, AR 72632

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

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Kite Festival March 27, 10-4



Pow Wow June 18,19,20



Letter From The President

Tanya Smith/Founder

2010 started with a bang with lots of calls for animals needing a safe haven to call home. TCWR is in the middle of a huge rescue from Missouri: seven big cats and a bear. The refuge is working safely and cautiously to bring these animals in during the winter months. NW Arkansas was blessed with a beautiful day on January 20th with 60 degree weather and lots of work that needed to be done after enduring more than 10 days of sub freezing temperatures. The nice day created a window of opportunity to start this rescue. TCWR requires it to be at least 50 degrees before we will tranquilize an animal to move or to perform any operations. Most of the time we do everything in our power to not have to tranquilize the animal at all. In this situation, all of the animals but one will have to take a nap before we can load them for transport. We have to physically pick them up and walk them up a steep embankment to get them out of their current cages into the transport cage. Fun and exciting I can tell you. TCWR welcomes Zeus and Zena, two white tigers, who have joined our family this winter. January temps only allowed us the one day to rescue. After we complete the Missouri rescue we should have around 120 Big Cats, 7 bears and all the other critters that we care for daily. Winters are the most challenging times. The weather and the lack of people who want to come out in the cold to see the cats combined with our high utility bills can make the funding side tough. TCWR needs your donations NOW!

TCWR recently received a call from the Marion County Humane Society in Texas. They have confiscated 10 big cats and a rare assortment of other exotic animals and reptiles. They, too, need a big cat rescue facility to take the animals. Without a huge funding source our hands are tied. All we can do at this time is offer advice. I continue to pray for all the animals' safety and the people who are taking a stand to help these creatures.

I would like to personally welcome the new interns and thank the interns that have just moved on to continue their life journey. You are all special and the work you do to help animals will be rewarded. Keep us informed on where you end up in the future.

TCWR anticipates spring right around the corner. There are lots of exciting things to do in Eureka Springs. For more information of the fun events coming in 2010 check out the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce web site at www.eukaspringschamber.com.

The 20th annual Eureka Springs Kite Festival, sponsored by KaleidoKites, will be held at the refuge Saturday, March 27th, 10 AM- 4 PM. This is a free, fun event for the whole family. Bring a lawn chair and come see unique kites or bring your own and fly with us on the grounds of Turpentine Creek. Concessions, fighter-kites, and make-your-own kite classes will be available.

President: continued page 2.

(President: continued from page 1.)

The TCWR annual POW WOW will be held on June 18-20. Mark your calendars; and vendors reserve your booth space now. Take time to visit the big cats while you are at the refuge. Come for a visit whenever possible. Your admission fees, donations, adoptions, sponsorships, memberships, night's stays in our lodging all goes to help us keep the electric on and the bills paid. Thanks for your support!

Until next time...

Rescues

By: Scott Smith/Vice President



On Dec. 7, 2009, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge received an email from a man representing a facility formally open to the public. The email explained how the facility had to part with seven big cats, a black bear, and a coatimundi to be eligible to reopen to the public by April or sooner. The facility houses thousands of other animals that rely on public admission funds to survive so Turpentine Creek staff members, after much planning, made room for the new arrivals.

On December 12, 2009 Turpentine Creek Staff members went to pick up the first of eight animals; a coatimundi named Flip. Upon arrival Flip was already loaded in a pet carrier and effortlessly carried to the truck. The staff members were then taken to see and photograph all the animals that would soon call Turpentine Creek home. Flip made the journey to the refuge just fine and will spend the winter in the vet clinic where it is warm.

During the winter months at the refuge the weather can vary from nasty to nice within a couple days. In order to move the next two cats, two white tigers named Zeus and Zena, staff members would have to wait for a day that was near 50 degrees because both cats would have to be anesthetized. Access to the white tigers was questionable so the decision to anesthetize both cats and physically carry them to the rescue trailer was determined to be the safest. Turpentine Creek staff members were given a short break in the weather on January 20, 2010, and moved quickly. With over a combined 40 years experience the team was assembled and on their way. Three hours after they arrived on location Zeus and Zena were safely loaded in the rescue trailer. I need to mention that the two full grown tigers had to be carried uphill! They made the trip to the refuge without incidence and are meeting new friends everyday in the main compound. Zeus was neutered to avoid any surprises. As much as I like baby tigers I sure hope he was neutered in time.

Soon after their arrival another snow storm hit the Ozarks and, again, we wait for nice weather. Turpentine Creek staff members are ready to go for the remaining animals. They have a plan that only mother nature is holding up. The next newcomers will be three orange tigers: two females and one male tiger. The black bear, the lion, and a leopard will follow soon.

Turpentine Creek rescues all the animals it can. Inevitably, calls come in at times we do not have room. To continue the mission of the refuge the donation base must mature at the same rate as our growth...or faster. Please help TCWR see its mission to fruition. Donate today.



Interns – Spring 2010

(Left to right - top to bottom.)

Melanie Kuse – Eastern Illinois University – BS Zoology
 Diana Hollingsworth – Southern Illinois University – BS Zoology
 Kelly Tardif – University of New Hampshire – BS Zoology
 Rachele Peterson – University of New England – BS Psychobiology
 Jonathan Murray – SUNY Oswego – BA Zoology
 Kyle Jorgensen – Humboldt State University – BS Zoology
 Izzy Beers – University of California – BS Marine Biology
 Kellyn Kearney – Manhattan College – BS Biology
 -- Third Internship
 Craig Conklin – North Carolina State University – BS Zoology
 Jennifer Eros – Colorado State University – BS Zoology
 Jarrett Sweeley – Coastal Carolina University
 – BS Marine Science/Biology
 -- Third Internship
 Chelsea Davis – University of Ca. Davis – BS Animal Science

More On Kitefest

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

Regular admission prices apply for those wishing to tour the refuge. The annual event is one of the refuge's most attended days of the year. Proceeds help finance the rescue of and sanctuary for the tigers, lions, cougars, leopards and other animals housed at TCWR.

Lucky

We were the lucky ones, we lived out a dream
 We accepted the challenge, and we joined the team

We were the lucky ones, we put in our hearts
 There are missions completed, in which we played our parts

We were the lucky ones, we called this place home
 It's hard to give up, but our time was on loan

Now you are the lucky ones, and we'll step aside
 Bittersweet, we'll watch you with pride

For we were the lucky ones, and all that we've done
 Will always be with us - tears, laughter and fun

You are the lucky ones, who beat out the rest
 So give it your all - you're now one of the best

You are the lucky ones, and the burdens you'll bear
 Really are worth it, for chances so rare

You are the lucky ones, the turn is now yours
 Go make some new memories, and open new doors

Yes, you are the lucky ones, but you'll be doing it too
 You'll give it all up, for somebody new

Then they'll be the lucky ones - get their turn to play
 And you - like we - will walk away

Still, we are the lucky ones - they, you and I
 We lived the dream, and - for a moment - we touched the sky

The poem above was written by Amber Dougherty, a past intern from the spring of 2004. She passionately expresses her thoughts about passing the torch to the new group of interns. Our internship program is the best. Turpentine Creek and the animals benefit greatly from their dedication. See our web site for more information about becoming an intern at the refuge.

Adoption Renewal Time

For those of you who have adopted animals in the past, expect your renewal letter soon. If you would like to renew now, complete the form on the back of this newsletter. Thanks so much for your support. We, and the animals, truly appreciate it.

Recent Habitat Releases

Steven Vargas/Staff Biologist



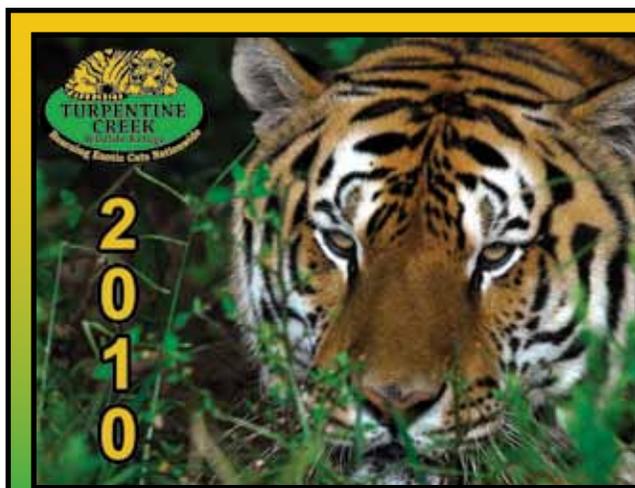
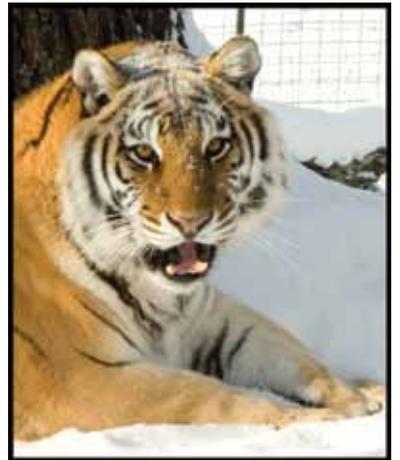
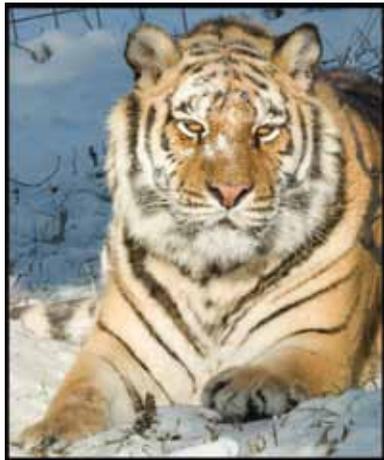
On Monday January 25, 2010, Turpentine Creek had its first two habitat releases of the New Year, and despite the bitter cold conditions staff and interns gather with cameras in hand all hoping to snap that perfect shot. First on the agenda were K.C. and Nala, two cougars that had been part of the TCWR family for years. Both waited eagerly for the door to open, neither of them knowing what to expect from their new environment. Nala was the first one out, she bolted out the door only to plop down twenty yards away and eat the remaining grass that had survived through the winter. K.C. soon followed, gingerly stepping outside with his front paws and quickly returning them back into the lockdown, like testing to see if the water is warm enough before jumping



into the pool. It didn't take him very long, soon he was outside reunited with his companion running and frolicking around the habitat. K.C. was the first to jump on the bench while Nala decided to lie underneath it and eat some more grass. Both spent all day scratching on logs, playing with new toys and rubbing their scent all around the habitat. It was a great start to this frigid morning and there was still more to come, two more cats needed to be released.

Jasmine and Sissy, two tigers who were rescued a few years back, were the next to be released into their large natural habitat. The thrill and excitement still lingering from K.C. and Nala's release, no one knew what to expect. Jasmine was the first one out as the door creaked opened. Up and down, tree to tree she went chuffing with every step of the way. Just as K.C. had done, Sissy stayed back watching her sister from a distance, making sure it was safe before she ventured out. After

a couple of minutes had passed Sissy finally summoned enough courage to step out the door and into the habitat. Excited and not knowing what to do she turned around and ran back into the lockdown. Then, almost like *déjà vu*, she ran back outside this time a little bit further before she decided to head back for the lockdown. This occurred several times until she met with her sister in the habitat and decided to spend the rest of the day outside exploring. As the excitement starts to wear off all four cats are still out there running, playing, and, yes, still eating what is left of the grass as if it was their first day out in their habitat. So on your next visit be sure to take a tour and experience the thrill for yourself.



2010 TCWR Calendars

On Sale Now!

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



Turpentine Creek On The Web

Scott Smith/Vice President

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge does everything in our power to make sure you can find us on the internet. We have a web site at www.turpentinecreek.org that provides you with most of the information you may need on our nonprofit organization. Also on our site are opportunities to donate, reserve lodging, book a photoshoot, and shop from our small online gift shop. Watch for our new site coming soon.

Social web sites are gaining popularity and Turpentine Creek has found these mediums great for getting you up to date information about the “happenings” at the refuge. Each week we do a weekly refuge update complete with video podcast, cat of the week, and an informative segment which changes all the time. You can find access to this information stream on the front page of our web site in the bottom right corner. Just click the words Turpentine Creek Blog, or click on the “sign up for blog” link. We also have myspace, facebook, and twitter accounts in hopes of getting updated material to you, our supporters. For any questions on any of these topics, email info@turpentinecreek.org.

The Turpentine Creek Newsletter (the one you are reading now) is on the internet in full color. To find it go to our web site (www.turpentinecreek.org) and click on the Newsdesk tab followed by the newsletter archive link. All our past newsletters are archived here in pdf format. It is enjoyable to go back and see how far we have come.

All of these are good ways to keep you informed. They are also good ways to get your friends involved too. “Help Us, Help Them”; forward our information to everyone you meet.

A New Species at Turpentine Creek - Coatimundi

Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist

With our recent rescue from Missouri, we have introduced a new species into the Turpentine Creek family. Flip is a 5-year-old female, White-nosed Coatimundi or Coati.

The coatimundi is a member of the raccoon family and is native to South America, Central America and southwestern North America. Because the coatimundi originates in the south, they do not tolerate cold temperatures very well, so until the weather warms up Flip is being kept indoors. They are about the size of a large house cat weighing from 6 – 20lbs (Flip is around 8lbs) and have long, sharp canine teeth and non-retractable claws. They have a long, pointed snout that is pig-like and able to rotate up to 60 degrees in any direction.

Coatimundis enjoy climbing in trees and prefer to sleep in elevated places. They have a long, slender tail that is more than half their total body length and helps them balance during activity in trees. To help Flip feel comfortable, we have provided her with logs and branches and have noticed her favorite sleeping spot is the crook at the top of the log we have set up in her enclosure. Like raccoons, coatimundis are double-jointed and can rotate their ankles greater than 180 degrees allowing them the ability to descend trees headfirst. They are omnivorous and eat insects and small prey such as lizards and rodents as well as fruit and nuts. We provide Flip with meat (usually chicken) as well as produce and treats such as granola or crackers. Flip communicates with us through a series of squeaks and chirps as well as grunts when guarding her food.

Unfortunately, the coatimundis’ cute appearance and gregarious nature makes them appealing to have as a “pet,” but they are still wild animals. They are extremely active, curious, and have great manipulative skills being able to open drawers, cabinets, and often the cages where they may be housed. A juvenile coatimundi may be cute and playful, but an adult can be temperamental, extremely powerful, and a fierce fighter, easily able to inflict harm to humans. The coatimundi is perfectly adapted to their natural environment and that is where they should stay.

TCWR Enrichment Program

Carrie Trudeau/Staff Biologist

It has always been a goal at the refuge to give all the rescued animals here the best quality life possible. This means they need much more than simply food, water and shelter. The staff and interns at the refuge have always provided our animals with different forms of enrichment. Basically enrichment is anything that encourages an animal to exhibit natural behaviors. This can include boomer balls and toys to promote play, treat boxes and structures to stimulate stalking, hunting and killing techniques, or scent enrichment for social behaviors. This summer we will be implementing a new program that will allow the public to get more involved. On Saturdays we will set up tables in the compound with various cardboard and paper mache items that the interns have created earlier in the week. We will also have different materials to decorate and fill these items with. These will range from cedar branches, newspaper, hay, pine shavings, duck feathers, leaves, musk, rosemary, and all spice. For a small donation, a customer can choose an enrichment item to decorate and fill and then choose which cat they would like to receive their item. We will also designate certain tours for groups to watch habitat cats receive more elaborate enrichment items. This enrichment program is not only a great way to get the cats active, but is also a fun way to get customers involved during their visit. Call ahead this summer to get the schedule for keeper talks and enrichment tours.



Fun For The Cats



Each of the five safari lodges has its own private deck with an expansive view. The magic of Eureka Springs is just minutes away.



All the units are uniquely designed to match separate geographical regions of Africa by world renowned artists D. Arthur and Lisa Wilson.

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.

“Help Us, Help Them”

www.turpentinecreek.org

Sponsor or Adopt an Animal Today

Adoption Program

Small Animal or Bird	\$75/yr.
Small Cat or Monkey	\$75/yr.
Cougar or Leopard	\$90/yr.
Lion, Tiger, Bear, or Donkey	\$100/yr.

Certificates make great gifts!

Sponsor Program

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

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. Cleaning Supplies

- Trash Bags
- Household Cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Latex Gloves

4. Tools

- 5hp/50ga Air Compressor
- Hose Clamps
- Hose Nozzles
- Kline Wire Pliers
- Welding Rods (6011-3/32")
- Concrete Forms
- Common Hand Tools
- Lowes Gift Cards

5. Caging Materials

- Black and Gray Spray Paint
- Lumber - New or Used
- Rebar 3/4 - 1"
- Pipe and Welded Wire

6. Office Supplies

- Laminating Sheets (3-5mil)
- Tape - Regular and Packing
- Epson Glossy Paper

Laptop Computer

Copy Paper

7. Landscaping Items

- Top Soil
- Mowers - Gas Powered
- Weed Eaters
- Landscape Timbers
- Grass Seed - Ken. Blue

8. Equipment

- Wood Splitter
- 4x4 Vehicles
- Road Grader

9. Vet Care Items

- Panacur Dewormer
- Large Load Washer/Dryer

10. Animal Enrichment

Items

- 3" Sch 40 PVC Pipe w/Caps
- One Foot or Longer
- Garage Door Springs
- Climbing Grade Carabiners
- 1" Hemp Rope
- Cedar or Pine Shavings
- 10oz. Burlap Sacks
- Used Newspaper

11. Volunteers

Just as with people, our cats grow older and their time under our care is not infinite. Our cats can live anywhere from 10 to 25 years, and often times their start to life was in undesirable conditions. Our mission as a lifetime refuge is to provide our animals with the ability to thrive while they are here. Knowing that an animal has a limited time with us doesn't keep us from showing compassion for them until they are gone. This is why our adoption/sponsorship and enrichment programs are so important, especially for our older cats. Even if you adopt a cat for one year, a year of comfort and fulfillment could make all the difference. Donate to our cats today, and know your support allows all our animals to prosper, young and old alike. Thanks for your support.



Jade, a liger, is shown here in his big grassy habitat. He lived out the remainder of his life in comfort while enjoying all the freedoms that we could possibly give him. Jade lives on in our hearts.

