

BIG CAT CHRONICLES



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

Letter From The President/Co-founder

Tanya Smith/Founder/President

Thank you everyone that has continued to support TCWR for the past 19 + years. Whatever level you have been able to help, donations, volunteering, visiting, staying at the refuge, contributing to one of our events, media, etc., TCWR will celebrate 20 years in May, 2012, as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the care of unwanted, abused and neglected animals specializing in Big Cats. It has been a hard journey. Rewarding in many ways mixed with lots of heartbreak and surprises. There are many wonderful things that I am thankful for, like being able to save so many animals and give them a life of love and respect.

Big News! I am proudly announcing that Emily McCormack has been promoted to Curator of TCWR and Laurie Vanderwal has been promoted to Assistant Curator. Congratulations to these hard working individuals. TCWR is grateful for these women and the dedication they give daily to the mission.

Many great honors have recently been bestowed on TCWR. May 8, Discovery Channel aired a show called Wild Animal Repo that featured a rescue TCWR did in Stephenville, Texas, of two tigers, Shelby and Sasha. June 15 was the 175th anniversary of the statehood of Arkansas and TCWR was voted as one of the top 10 places to visit in Arkansas on www.arkansas.com. Thanks to all who voted for the refuge. KNWA Doing Good Series honored TCWR in June. The July Issue of Maxim magazine listed TCWR's "Wild Side Lodge" as "Seven Odd Places to Take Your Summer Fling" offering on-site lodging for visitors wishing to experience an unusual overnight stay. All are great exposure for our project. Who do you know that may be able to help TCWR spread its mission through media?

Many fundraising/education opportunities continue to happen annually for TCWR. Rockfest in KC went great. Thanks to Johnny Dare, 98.9 The Rock and our KC volunteers for their help. The Mid-Continent Public Library program in the KC area once again went flawlessly. Special thanks to our hosts and volunteers for that event. The Eureka Springs Blues Weekend had great attendance this year. Charles and Lori Ragsdell went above and beyond the call of duty again. TCWR is one of two charities to receive funds through the Blues Weekend and we were presented a check for \$2500. The Opal Cutters for the Winter Welo Opal Cutting Contest did an online auction and presented us with a check for \$1400. Opal cutters participated from all over the world. Our 13th Annual Pow Wow was a great event honoring Hilda P. Jackson, our co-founder, who passed away on February 11, 2011. Then our Independence Day Extravaganza was so much fun. Anyone who has ever put together a fundraiser/event knows that they take a lot of work and coordination. It is these creative fundraisers and outreach programs that help sustain TCWR's mission.

Zoos spend millions of dollars building one habitat for a few animals. TCWR continues to make so much progress with so little resources. TCWR needs those extra large donations to help us truly make a difference. In the past three weeks

cont. on page 2.



Photos of Turpentine Creek president, Tanya Smith, accepting donations from the Opal Auction and the Eureka Springs Blues Weekend. If you are involved in a group and desire to help, contact Tanya at tanya@turpentinecreek.org.



Shasta
July's Cat
of the Month

**Plan Your Fall
Vacation To Eureka
Springs Today**

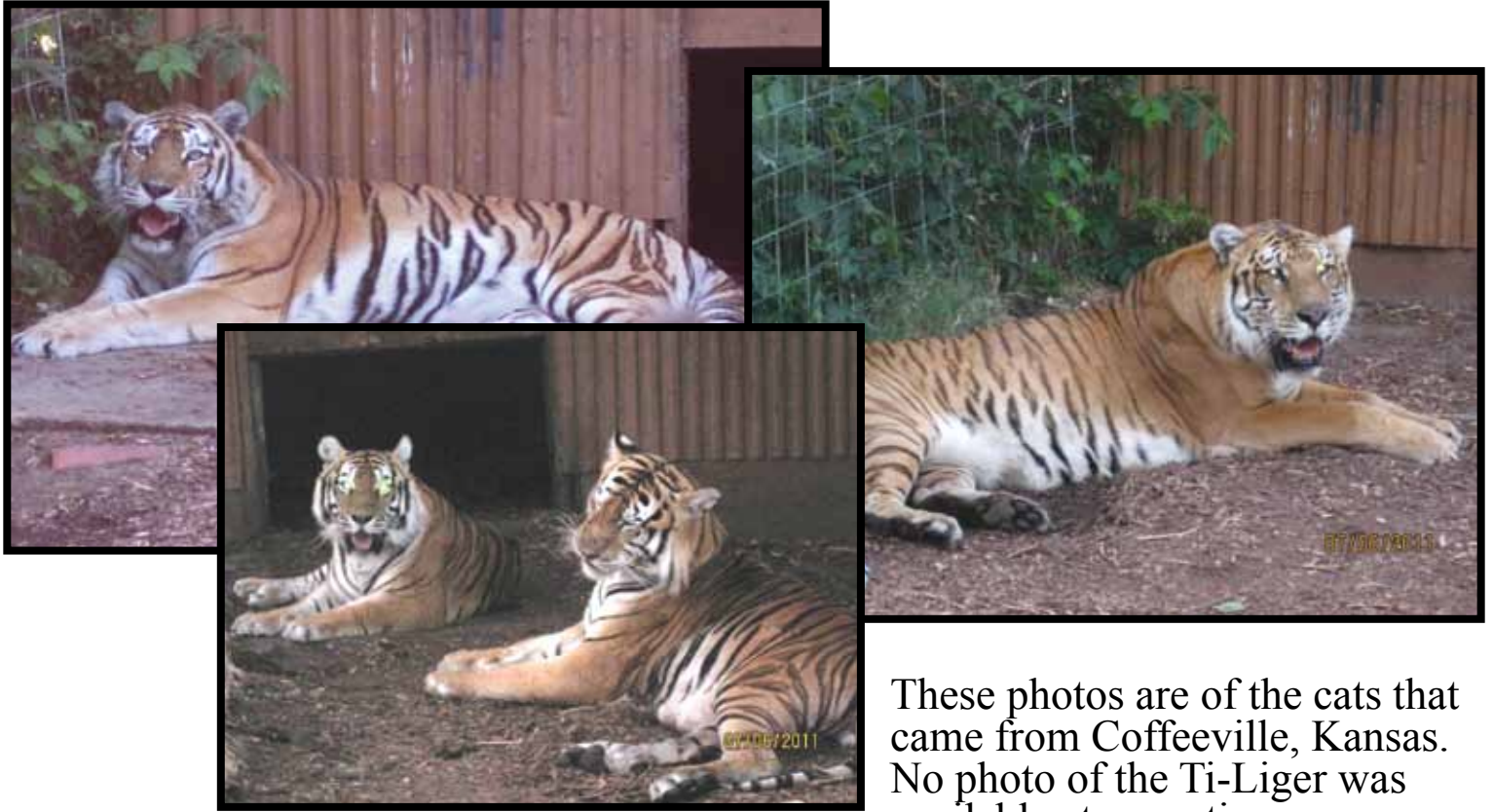
**Mark Your
Calendar**



**October 29th.
Howl-O-Ween
Spooktacular
7-9 PM**

cont. from page 1.

we have received 4 calls on 29 big cats needing a home. I have also received a call on 2 needy black bears and a few other critters. I was telling my dad's doctor about all the rescues that I had calls on and he said, "why?" He did not understand the need for this type of sanctuary and was shocked that we existed. I think that is why the task has been so difficult. The cycle is continuous and the work never ending. We will continue to save the lives of all the big cats, bears and other animals that need a refuge. Help us if you can. Donate today by filling out the form on the back of this newsletter or visiting our web site.



These photos are of the cats that came from Coffeerville, Kansas. No photo of the Ti-Liger was available at press time.

Rescues

By: *Steven Vargas/Staff Biologist*

For years Turpentine Creek has been rescuing abused and abandoned big cats nationwide. It is challenging with the number of exotic cats being kept privately as pets. Most people are not aware of the dangers that come with owning an exotic cat and believe with the right training they will be able to raise an obedient tiger. That is not the case due to their enormous size, strength, and predatory instincts. Many exotic pets come from private breeders, exotic animal auctions, or sometimes even zoos. Not knowing what to expect once these cute and cuddly animals become full grown dangerous predators, most of them face euthanasia. Therefore, the existence of Turpentine Creek is necessary to provide these animals, who had become victims of the exotic pet trade, a second chance at a new beginning.

Turpentine Creek is a USDA licensed facility for large carnivores that primarily focuses on big cats, although we receive numerous calls for a variety of animals from wolves and wolf hybrids, to foxes, birds and the occasional deer. Within the past few weeks there have been several calls for rescues, one of those from a gentleman in Coffeerville, Kansas. He has five big cats that need a new home; four tigers named Tye, Christa, Little Tony, and Crystal; and a Ti-liger named Noah (a Ti-liger is a cross between a male tiger and a female liger). He has been working with exotic cats for 18 years with dreams of starting his own exotic cat refuge. He mentioned that just days before signing his non-profit paperwork a high school student got mauled to death, at a different facility by a 550lb tiger she was posing with for her senior pictures. The offer was pulled off the table and, just as he was beginning to live out his dream, he had to start all over again. However, as time passed the extraordinary cost of food and vet care has taken its toll and he had to give up his dream. After 18 years of working with cats he had to make a call to Turpentine Creek. Although it was a painful call he wanted his cats to go to a good home, and he knew that one day his five cats would get the experience of freedom in a habitat at Turpentine Creek. (By the time you receive this newsletter these five cats will have been relocated to the refuge.)

This is one of the several calls that Turpentine Creek is currently working on at this time. However, there are still many animals out there that need a new home and a chance at a new life. Near San Antonio, Texas, another animal sanctuary had to shut down due to a lack of funding and overpopulation. The sanctuary began the strenuous process of finding new homes for its 297 residents last year and currently has 20 big cats that need a new home. In addition to the refuge in San Antonio, another facility in Texas needs to relocate two of its cougars. A 15 year old black bear near Rogers, Arkansas, desperately needs a new home, while back in Kansas a lion and a tiger need rescuing.

Being a refuge is very demanding and if it weren't for all of your generous donations many of these animals would not have received a second chance. Please continue helping us save as many animals we can. It may be a matter of life and death for a needy animal.

Letter From The Curator

By: Emily McCormack/Curator

I would like to express my gratitude and enthusiasm in being named the new Curator at Turpentine Creek. I came to the refuge in January 1999 after graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Zoology from the State University of New York at Oswego. My goal was always to work with tigers. I was not aware of the problems with the private ownership of Big Cats in the U.S. After completing my internship, I was hired on and helped the refuge in their mission of rescuing these animals and expanding our facility. I cannot tell you all how amazing it is to live your dream every day. I am extremely proud to have this new title, and assist the rest of our staff in making a difference each and every day in these animals' lives. We will continue to grow together as a team and be the animals' voice.

We would like to thank all of our supporters who donated to the perimeter fence fund. We will be completing that project in August. Volunteer groups have lined up in the month of July to assist us with this goal. We would like to thank each of them for their ambition in the hottest months of the year. We have worked with various Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops, Youth Groups from Texas and Arkansas, a Juvenile Treatment Center, and Walmart home office team building volunteers. Thank you to each group for their efforts in accomplishing this project. If your group would like to volunteer for the animals, contact me: emily@turpentinecreek.org.

Many rescue calls have come in. To accommodate some of those animals in need, we have moved a few in our current population. Loretta is enjoying her habitat. Cindy, the cougar, is currently being introduced into one of the cougar habitat enclosures. Rasha and Nia, the newest rescued cougars, have moved to the compound from quarantine, and are adjusting to their new surroundings. There is always something new to see when you visit the refuge.

With the perimeter fence project concluding, we are ready to move forward building some new habitat enclosures. Remember, we have the land to build on and the sites ready; we just need your financial and volunteer support. We want all the animals at Turpentine Creek to enjoy the large natural habitat they deserve. Help us continue our mission. "If you build it, they can run!"

Featured Animal - Bam Bam Grizzly Bear

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. After preparations were made, TCWR staff members headed south to Ardmore, OK, and arrived at the man's property at around 6pm. There were the two bears; 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. Bam Bam lives in the compound and is very active which attracts everyone's attention. Look for him during your next visit.



Turpentine Creek not only relies on your donations but also on your volunteer help. Donations were used to buy the materials to complete the perimeter fence. TCWR staff members, interns, and volunteers will complete the enormous task of building the new perimeter fence by August. Working in the hot summer heat and working on ladders tend to slow down progress. Many hands make light work. Bring your group to the refuge to help us, help the animals.



Enrichment In Reverse

Ivy Cooper/Staff Biologist

Animals play a very important role in our lives even if you don't own one as a pet. For example, dogs are trained in public service from personal service dogs to police trained drug or bomb sniffing dogs. Dogs are also used in hospitals to lift the spirits of patients and help with the healing process. Research has shown that petting an animal can lower blood pressure and help to relieve stress. At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge the animals are very different from domestic dogs and cats, but they can still enrich the lives of the people that take care of them everyday and also people that visit the refuge.

One of the ways of being enriched at the refuge is to volunteer. The Girl Scout troop from Marshfield, Missouri, is a perfect example of that. In an effort to get students of all ages involved with the refuge, they presented a power point presentation at their school. The girls' large vision and passion to help the Big Cats at Turpentine Creek is amazing! There is an anonymous quote that is very fitting, "You can tell the heart of a person by their treatment of animals." At such a young age these Girl Scouts have an awesome sense of community, not just with the people they interact with but also with animals.

During a week of immersion the whole school worked on several projects that were beneficial to the refuge. In art class, second graders made over 200 paper mache balloons for the cats. The rubber balloon is removed and the paper mache can be filled with any number of things that the cats enjoy, from scent enrichment to even a raw meat treat. In computer class, they visited our website and did different assignments related to the website. These are just two examples of many of how the Girl Scout troop helped the cats at the refuge, however they were not done.

In June, the Girl Scout troop volunteered at the refuge. They worked on all sorts of projects from hanging wire for the new perimeter fence, taking down the existing perimeter, and spray painting. On their second day of volunteering the girls prepared enrichment items that their school helped make. The girls all picked animals they wanted to give a paper mache balloon to; Spyke, our young black leopard, was the most dramatic. I placed the balloon filled with different spices on top of the 10-foot high bench in his habitat and then let him into his enclosure. He immediately spotted the new toy, jumped effortlessly up on the bench and destroyed it. I know that all the animals that were given enrichment that day had fun with their paper mache, but I also know that the girl scouts and I really enjoyed watching the animals play with the enrichment items. Activities like that help to strengthen the bond that we all feel with animals.

Even though you can't reach out and touch the Big Cats at Turpentine Creek, you can be touched by their stories and want to do something to help and change their lives. I know that you will enjoy seeing the animals, but I also know that if you let them, they can change your life as well. If you have ever had the privilege of witnessing a habitat release, you know the amazing feeling that you get when that animal experiences grass under their feet for the first time. It truly is undescrivable!! Come to the refuge and experience these amazing animals!



Volunteer Spotlight

Jarrett Sweely/Staff Biologist

Not long after TCWR opened in 1992, Al and Carolyn Foster came to the refuge and immediately fell in love. They had heard about the refuge while on a trip to Branson, MO. Upon arriving at the refuge they were greeted by Don and Hilda Jackson and the animals, and after a tour and some chatting, Don invited them to stay for dinner. The Jacksons hospitality, along with the animals, had made the Fosters long time supporters.

Since that initial visit the Fosters have moved from the Kansas City area to the Shell Knob area, which has allowed them to come and volunteer at the refuge quite regularly. When not volunteering, the Fosters, who have been married for 43 years, spend their days enjoying their retirement. Before they retired Al worked as a technician for the Xerox Corporation and Carolyn was a secretary. They are both avid readers and Carolyn also enjoys painting when she gets a chance.

Al and Carolyn both plan on volunteering for many more years. So on your next visit make sure to stop and say hello to them and, who knows, maybe you'll fall in love with the animals and their hospitality, and become long time supports yourself!

The Foster's challenge you or your family to join in and volunteer for the animals. There are many opportunities which do not require hard, physical labor. The refuge needs help in the concession stand, gardening, interacting with visitors, assisting special needs visitors, knowledgeable website help, and more. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Emily (emily@turpentinecreek.org), to learn more about helping.



Never Too Old To Feel Freedom

Laurie Vanderwal/ Assistant Curator

Loretta is a beautiful white tiger that was used as a breeder for much of her life. We rescued her in 2002 when she was no longer producing viable cubs. For her previous owner, once there were no cubs being produced there was no use for Loretta. She was 12 years old at the time and still had many years ahead of her. She has had a great life at the refuge for almost 10 years, but we wanted to give her more; the chance to experience the freedom of a habitat area.

Loretta is not very trusting and we knew she would be afraid to transfer into a trailer for the move to the habitat area, so we opted to sedate her to make her move less stressful and also allow us to access her health. Dr. Anne Brenneke, from St. Francis Vet Clinic, came out to the refuge to examine her. A complete physical exam and blood work was done and, with the exception of a couple of growths and some arthritis, she appears to be in very good health. While she was still asleep, we moved her to her new lock-down which adjoins the habitat area.

She stayed in the lock-down area for a few weeks adjusting to her new surroundings. She was initially nervous and scared and, as with many big cats, Loretta expressed these feelings through aggression. She eventually began to calm down and on June 25, one day before her 21st birthday, she was released into her natural habitat. Because she was still a little nervous, the release was restricted to only the refuge staff and interns to keep her as stress-free as possible. When the door opened any fear she may have had seemed to evaporate. She stepped out onto the grass eagerly and immediately began investigating. She walked all over her habitat area, periodically stopping to sniff the trees and roll in the grass. Throughout the day, she continued to travel around, relaxing on her bench and posing perfectly on the hill near the bottom of the habitat.

Loretta may be the oldest cat at the refuge, but she is still young at heart and knowing she will live out the last years of her life with the comfort of freedom makes this habitat release extra-special. We want all of our animals, young and old, to experience this type of joy and freedom, but we need your help to keep building. Please donate today.



In the above photo Loretta is shown in her former area. Over the years we have set many big cats "free" into a habitat with your help. Donate to the habitat fund so we can continue changing the lives of these deserving animals.

Enrichment and Loss – Farewell to Vada

Written By: Patricia A. Quinn/Secretary

There is a quiet ebb and flow to life here at TCWR. We speak of enrichment in the way we enrich the animals' lives, but they also enrich ours in many wonderful ways that words cannot describe.

One of the most enriching things we can do for the beautiful cats that call TCWR home is give them the opportunity to experience the freedom of a large, grassy habitat. And we are enriched by the joy they display when they are finally allowed a taste of 'freedom.'

Vada, our long time black leopard resident, was released into a habitat last year. He was 18 years old and had waited a long time to step onto the grass. He loved it. In fact, he gloried in it, not even wanting to lock up each night and come out of the grass.

And we loved the fact that he loved it. We loved watching him roll on the grass, climb onto the various benches and platforms, curl up in the shade, and stretch out in the sun. We loved it when he would grace us with a look in our direction or slowly walk over to tell us hello. WE were enriched by the sight of his happiness.

Vada passed away this month. He spent his last year, month, week, and day in the habitat he loved, his last moments surrounded by the bright green grass of summer and the love of those who cared for him. We will all miss him but we are truly gratified by the knowledge that, thanks to all of our supporters, his last year was a happy and fulfilling one. Rest in peace, dear Vada, the sun will always shine to warm you and the grass will be forever green.



In Memory of our beloved Vada 07/20/1992 - 07/07/2011



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.

Email: tigers@turpentinecreek.org

Phone: 479-253-5841

www.turpentinecreek.org page 6.

Adopt or Sponsor an Animal Today

Adoption Program

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Small Animal or Bird | \$100/yr. |
| Small Cat or Monkey | \$100/yr. |
| Cougar or Leopard | \$125/yr. |
| Lion, Tiger, Bear, | \$150/yr. |

Sponsor Program

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Small Animal or Bird | \$700/yr. or \$60/mo. |
| Small Cat or Monkey | \$1,000/yr. or \$85/mo. |
| Cougar or Leopard | \$2,200/yr. or \$190/mo. |
| Lion, Tiger, or Bear | \$2,500/yr. or \$210/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.



Habitat Building Resumes

Written By: Scott Smith/VP TCWR

Habitat building the past year has been non-existent. We have not been able to build new habitats for the animals because of the urgency and necessity of rebuilding their perimeter fence. This project took longer than we thought and the material cost was inflated! The rising price of steel products and the economic crisis facing most Americans were to blame. To tackle this mountainous project (2/3 mile of 8 feet tall fence) we cut all outside labor expense and have almost completed the fence using entirely staff, intern, and group volunteer labor. We need you, our supporters, to help resume habitat building. The dirt work is completed for the next three habitats and the refuge owns all the equipment needed for the construction. All we need now is your financial support to cover material cost. Choose from the list below to pitch in or fund a whole habitat. We have many big cats who need your help. Donate today.

Projected Habitat Material Breakdown

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2" Pipe | 5,000 ft @ \$1.20/ft |
| Welded Wire | 560 ft @ \$5.00/ft |
| Cement | 14 yd @ \$86.00/yard |
| Gas | 250 ga @ \$3.75/ga |
| Misc. Welding Supplies | \$800 |
| Spray Paint | 1000 cans @ \$1.39/ea |
| Dens | Two @ \$650/ea |
| Utility Infrastructure | \$3,500 |
| Animal Caretaker Access Road | \$2,000 |
| Labor | A Lot! |
| Volunteers | Free |
| Cats Freedom | Priceless |

After the habitat is built we need to build the perimeter fence. \$5,000

None of the cost estimates include labor, which is not cheap. Please bring your group to volunteer. Your labor will bring freedom to the cats. Please, donate to the habitat fund today!

Things My Caregivers Need ...

1. Prayers

2. Donations

3. Cleaning Supplies

Trash Bags
Household Cleaners
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Latex Gloves

4. Tools

Hose Clamps
Hose Nozzles
Kline Wire Pliers
Welding Rods (6011-1/8")
Concrete Forms
Common Hand Tools

5. Caging Materials

Stainless Steel Water bowls
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
Copy Paper

7. Landscaping Items

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

8. Equipment

Wood Splitter
540 or 750 cfm air compressor
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

11. Volunteers

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



Bam Bam Bear is the featured animal for this newsletter. See page three for his story.

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM 07/2011

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 | _____ |
| 3 digit security code | _____ |
| Personal Check | Check # _____ |
| | DL# _____ |

| Qty. | Donations And Purchases | \$Amount |
|------|--|-----------|
| | Unrestricted Donations To Help The Cats | |
| | 2011 Calendars \$5.00 plus (\$5 S&H per order) | |
| | Memberships: Family \$80/Single \$50 Visit the refuge as often as you like for one yearly fee. | |
| | Animal Adoptions: Small Mammal/Bird \$100 yr. Small Cat/Monkey \$100 yr. Cougar/Leopard \$125 yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$150/yr. | |
| | Animal Sponsor: Small Mammal/Bird \$700/yr. Small Cat/ Monkey \$1000/yr. Cougar/Leopard \$2,200/yr. Lion/Tiger/Bear \$2,500/yr. | |
| | Sponsor An Entire Habitat: \$22,000/ea. | |
| | Habitat Fund (any amount) | |
| | Total Contributions | \$ |