

BIG CAT CHRONICLES



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

Letter From The President/Co-founder

Tanya Smith/Founder/President

I am happy to report that we are all OK! Record snow, rain, heat and now Fall. I love Fall in the Ozarks and all of the fun in Eureka Springs! Mother Nature has sure done a number on many of us this year. I remain thankful for the accomplishments of our team; and that word 'team' includes all of you. If you receive this newsletter and are excited to read and learn about the refuge then you are part of our team. By sharing our information with your friends and family, you are helping. When you stay the night, visit the refuge, or donate to our cause, you are helping. We need you to continue. It is no secret how scared the majority of the public is about the economy. In these uncertain times it means even more to us to know we have your support and the animals will not suffer.

Changes are certain and if you have not been to the refuge lately then prepare yourself for an exciting new addition. TCWR now has a trolley that runs on the weekend. TCWR acquired the Eureka Springs Trolley "Lucky #7." We just started implementing it as an option to experience the habitat tour.

I want to welcome Kyle Jorgensen to our staff. Kyle hales from San Francisco and served 3 internships here. Kyle accepted a position as our trolley driver and assistant to Scott with website, blogs, etc. TCWR staff is glad to have his seasoned help.

I am used to waking up to the cats roaring but not to the sound of young people's exciting yells of amazement. Recently we had a group of 50 Cub Scouts camp in our front field. With these campers plus the older scouts that led the group and the chaperones, we had a lot of tents and people for two nights. The scouts arrived after dark to set up camp. I went outside early the next morning to witness the resident deer population curiously visiting the scouts. What a fantastic experience we were able to provide for the scout troops. They volunteered their time and efforts and lots got done. I am sure they built memories they will never forget.

Rescues are on hold for awhile. TCWR is busting at the seams. We are at the point of just having to take care of all the animals we have already rescued. Things change here daily. So hopefully we will be able to open our doors to more animals soon. Rumors of new regulations by A.P.H.I.S (U.S.D.A) had us working to replace old fencing which we rebuilt to the possible new standards. This forethought will keep us open when regulations are passed. Out with the old and in with the new - new habitats are in the near future! One of our goals, as we are able to get the cats into the larger areas, is to tear down some of our oldest cages that are in desperate need of repair. Tiger Row is the next to go. Five new habitats would allow us to tear down those six cages and all the cats on Tiger Row can be rearranged around the facility. With the new habitats, we will also be able to get our two latest rescued tigers out of our quarantine area. So thanks again for all your help. We, and the cats, look forward to your next visit.



Here is a photo of the trolley and its driver, Kyle Jorgensen, from San Francisco, CA. Kyle completed his third internship and wanted to stay at the refuge to offer his former bus driving experience and help with our social media campaigns.

Mark Your Calendar



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

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



**Max
October's Cat
of the Month**



2012 Calendars are Ready to Order

We are taking orders for the 2012 Calendar. This calendar features photos taken of our cats at Turpentine Creek. Most of the photos are of the cats enjoying habitats you, our supporter, helped build. For fourteen years the Turpentine Creek Calendar has been a vehicle for raising money for our habitat fund. During this time the refuge has built 27 habitats, creating superior quality of life for over 90 big cats and bears. The refuge has 459 acres to develop and is utilizing about 80 acres now. The calls for animal rescues continue to come in and the need to continue building habitats is evident. Please help, order a calendar for you, your family, and office. Help us, Help them.

Here are three ways you can order a calendar today...

1. Fill out form on last page of this newsletter.
2. Go to our website and click on the online store tab.
3. Purchase one from our giftshop during your next visit.



Featured Animals

Ivy Cooper/Staff Biologist

Zora and Corvetta were rescued in August of 2007 from a man who purchased them from an exotic pet auction in Springfield, MO, with the intention of breeding "Savannah Cats." "Savannah Cats" are the cross-breed between Servals and domestic cats. After more than a year of unsuccessful attempts at breeding the two cats, he decided to get rid of the cats. The whole year that he owned the two servals he didn't even bother to name them. Zora, the male, was neutered upon arrival and Corvetta, the female, was also examined by our vet; they both were in good condition. After they arrived at the refuge, the Corvette Club of Eureka Springs sponsored them and the club held a raffle for their names. The Eureka Springs Corvette Club has sponsored them ever since they were rescued; we thank the Corvette Club for their continued support of Zora and Corvetta. We recently moved them into our main compound area; both Zora and Corvetta are aloof cats. Even though they don't really enjoy human interaction, they do like to watch the people and other animals around them. They live between a caracal name Carrie and another serval named Bowden. They love to snuggle on their firehose bench and can be seen grooming each other. Upon your next visit to the refuge spend a little time with one of our cute couples.

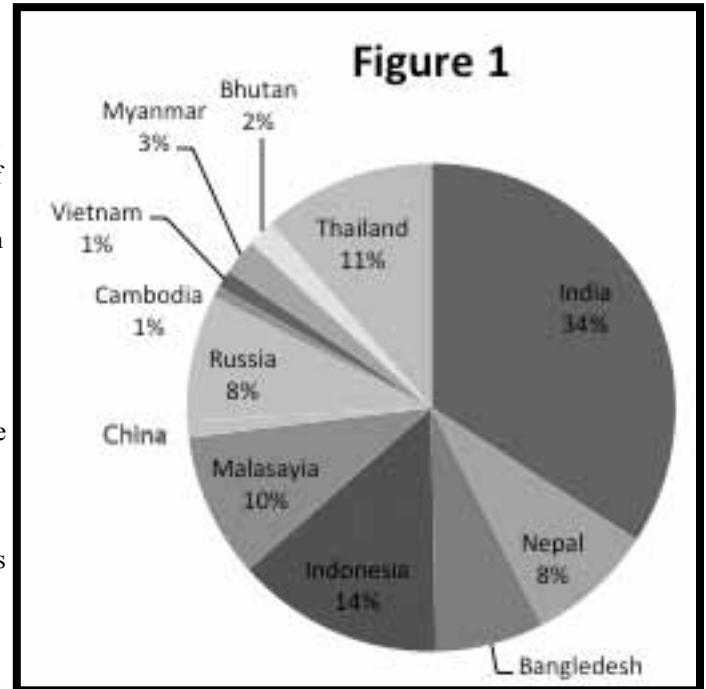


World-Wide Tiger Statistics

Jarrett Sweeley/Staff Biologist

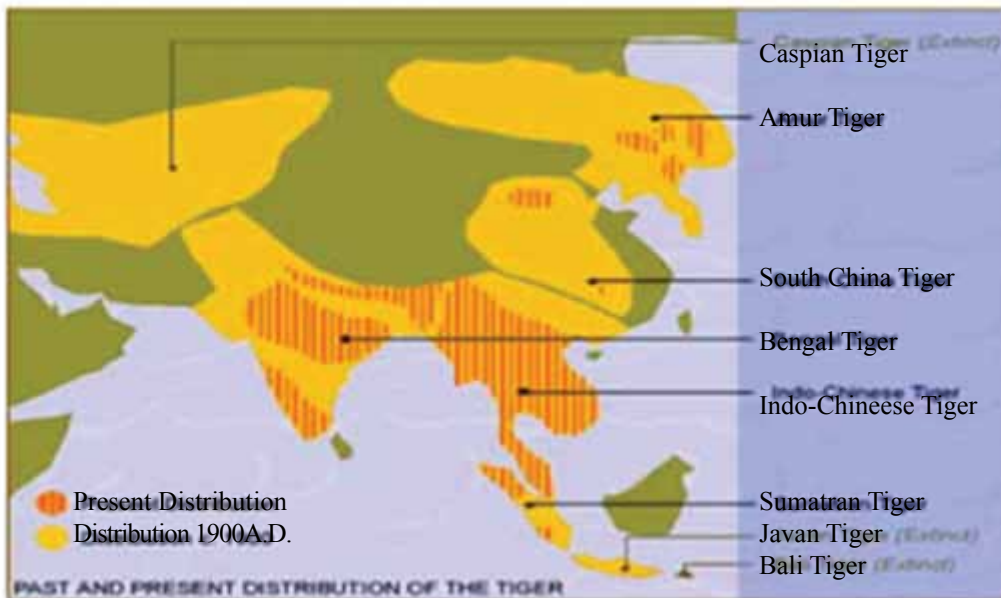
It is estimated that there 5,000-7,500 wild tigers left in the world spread across 13 countries. This estimate includes all six living sub-species which are the Amur (Siberian), Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan, South China, and Sumatran tigers. Figure 1 shows the percentage of the total estimated number of tigers that each country contains. India is thought to contain about half of the world's remaining wild tigers. To put this number into perspective, at the turn of the century there were an estimated 100,000 wild tigers, which included 9 sub-species. Over the past 70 years we have seen the extinction of the Bali, Caspian, and Javan tigers. All of the remaining sub-species of tigers are endangered, with the South China tiger being considered functionally extinct. This means there are no individuals of the sub-species left in the wild. Currently there are 47 known South China tigers left in the world, all of which are located within 18 zoos in China.

Many factors have played a role in the decline of the world's tiger population: three of the main reasons being habitat loss, poaching, and the exotic pet trade. As the human population has increased over the past century, so has its need for natural resources. This has put humans within the tigers' home range in direct competition for the tigers' habitat. Over time this has lead to an estimated 97% decrease of the tigers' range. The amount of habitat left is unable to support large numbers of these animals. Figure 2 shows the natural range of tigers in 1900 as well as present day. Along with habitat loss, the tigers have had the pressure of poaching on them as well. Poaching is unfortunately a very profitable business for some. Tiger parts have been used in traditional Asian medicines for centuries. Though alternative medicines are now available people are still willing to spend big money on the traditional medicines. This high demand, coupled with the lack of proper funding for anti-poaching measures, has lead poaching to be a big cause of the tiger population decline. The exotic pet trade has also harmed the wild population of tigers. In the United States alone there are an estimated 5,000-10,000 tigers in captivity. This number



includes tigers in zoos, refuges, breeding facilities, and private residences. Though international laws have made it improbable to smuggle tigers into the United States, it is still a problem for countries without proper laws and regulations.

Many people think that by privately owning these animals that they are helping in their conservation. They believe that by breeding them in captivity they are securing the species for future generations. However, in reality they are doing no more for the species than anyone else. In order to keep the beautiful animals from becoming functionally extinct at the least, we need to take action immediately. Check out our website and see what you can do to help to make it possible for future generations to see these amazing creatures not just in captivity, but in the wild.



Two Old Gals Moving On UP

Kellyn Kearney/Staff Biologist

August 19th may have been just an ordinary Friday for most of us, but for two long-time residents of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, it was an extraordinary day. Both Cindy and Alex, two of our cougars, were released out into natural habitats and given their freedom. Our habitats are about a quarter to a half acre in size and give our animals large amounts of space and grass to play, roll, and run. The habitats in which they were released are a big difference from their previous enclosures which were located in our compound. Those enclosures are concrete and do not offer the large natural space of the habitats. However, the staff and interns do spend much time enriching the lives of the compound animals but it is true that the habitat areas are much more fulfilling for them. Our goal is to eventually not need our compound anymore and get all of our animals out into habitats. It just takes a lot of time and money to build these large habitats for the animals. This is why at TCWR, we are constantly expanding as we are always in the midst of building more habitats for the animals.

Now in the case of Cindy and Alex, the habitats in which they were released are not new habitats. Cindy was released out into one of our cougar habitats that was built back in 2001. She was introduced one by one to the five other cougars who live out there: Max, Kudy, Star, Bonita, and Sebastian. All introductions went well and now all six live out in the area together. When first let out into the habitat, Cindy trucked it up and down the whole area smelling all the new smells and eating a ton of grass! Cindy originally came from a private owner in Hackett, Arkansas where he raised her in his household for almost 11 years. He contacted us when his health was failing and he could no longer care for her anymore. We received Cindy in 2005 and she has been in our compound up until now.

The habitat Alex was released into is actually one of our leopard habitats which was built just last year. Due to the passing of our beloved Vada, the black leopard, space had opened up. Though originally built for all of our leopards, the habitat itself is also perfect for housing cougars as it plays to their climbing abilities and has the added covering of the roof. Alex was a little apprehensive her first day out into the habitat. Having spent almost 11 years up in the compound, one can't blame her. She first came to us in September of 2000 from Little Rock, Arkansas. She was confiscated during a drug raid. Her previous owner went to jail leaving her abandoned. She came under the responsibility of the Arkansas Fish and Game and it was they who contacted us about her. The reason she spent so much time up in our compound is because she does NOT get along with other cats. Though sweet to people, she's very territorial and could not be introduced out with any other cougars. This is why the leopard habitat was perfect for her. She shares the space with Spyke, our black leopard, but they alternate days going out. Thus, when she is out in the habitat, she is by herself, just the way she likes it!

As mentioned above, it was such an amazing experience to watch these two cougars finally have grass under their feet after so many years. Both are now absolutely loving their space and enjoy every second spent out in their habitats. Please help us get even more of our animals out into these natural enclosures! Any donations towards our habitat fund are greatly appreciated. Make sure you stop by and go on a guided tour of our habitat area. There's so much to learn and see. And while you're there, make sure you say hi to Cindy and Alex!



Alex, above, is seen here stepping on the grass for the first time. This really makes a difference in the animals life and often calms their demeanor. Cindy really did blend well with the other cougars. She is getting along just fine.



Volunteer Spotlight

By Steven Vargas/Staff Biologist

Lileith Achey started volunteering at the refuge back in March of 2004 after first visiting the refuge in the early 90's. Currently she works at Procter and Gamble in Fayetteville, Arkansas and when she is not at the refuge she spends time with friends, family, and her boyfriend Ryan. She also enjoys belly dancing with her troupe called Siren.

In the seven plus years, Lileith has worked with several different animals at the refuge all who have left her with many amazing memories and stories. One of those memories was the birth of BB King and Mack. One day while cleaning she heard high pitched noises coming from one of the dens and she took a look inside and what she saw were two tiger cubs staring back at her.

Currently her favorite cat is Thunder 2. When Thunder first came to the refuge she says that he was the cat that no one wanted to mess with. He was fierce and was not the friendliest cat in the world, but now he is the sweetest cat on Tiger Row always wanting to greet people and not afraid to leave them with a little piece of himself.

Lileith is always willing to lend a helping hand whether its cleaning enclosures or helping with events like the spoketacular, and we are very grateful for all her hard work. If you would like to learn more about volunteering or are interest in setting up a group, please call the our volunteer coordinator, Ivy Cooper, at 479-244-6099.



Letter From The Curator

Emily McCormack/TCWR Curator

Planning for future development is exciting. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is extremely fortunate residing on 459 acres. There are currently hundreds of acres available for habitat expansion, additional lodging sites, and anything else that can be incorporated to provide funding for the animals. Most rescue facilities nationwide are fully developed with no opportunity for expansion. The potential for this sanctuary is phenomenal.

A few weeks ago, we met a couple touring the refuge. Their ideas for expansion were absolutely inspiring. They decided to become supporters and help the refuge reach the next phase of development. We would like to thank our new friends Ryan and Brandi for their habitat donation. We are starting the construction of this new enclosure on the opposite side of the current habitat loop, near the commissary road.

In the past year, we also have been working with a landscape architect student from the University of Arkansas. James Birke chose TCWR for his senior design project. He will have a master plan design of the entire property developed by the middle of December. This will be a model for potential growth opportunities in the future. We would like to thank James for choosing Turpentine Creek and dedicating his time to this project. The master plan will be displayed so visitors can have a better understanding of the layout of the land and future construction. The finished product will be an asset to the refuge and hopefully inspire more supporters to donate towards the mission.

The atmosphere is always changing at the refuge. The temperature has finally lowered after the blazing summer. All the animals are more active. The recent rescues have settled in and established their place in our community. We are starting the next habitat and will choose the lucky new residents in the next few months. Come join us this fall, and see all the progress!



Groups who choose to volunteer make exponential growth possible. When they notify us with their ambitions of volunteering they are directed to our volunteer coordinator, Ivy Cooper. Ivy works with our animal staff and maintenance staff along with the groups leader to find a project that meets every ones expectations and goals. Call Ivy today at 479-244-6099 to make arrangements for your group. The animals need you.



2011 Fall Intern Group

Kara Anderson – West Texas A&M University – BS Wildlife Biology – May 2011
Bethany Baran – Ohio State University – BS Zoology – June 2011
John Chavez – Texas A&M University – Kingsville – BS Wildlife Management – May 2010
Samantha Coccia – SUNY ESF – BS Conservation Biology – May 2011
Adam Dewey – University of Michigan – BA Anthropology – December 2011
Dinesh Erram – Southeast Missouri State University – Masters Natural Science – May 2011
Anna Mantooth – Western Kentucky University – BS Biology – May 2011
Dianne Mohr – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – BS Integrative Biology – May 2011
Jennie Pham – University of California Davis – BS Animal Biology – July 2011
Chelsea Reyes – SUNY ESF – BS Wildlife Science – May 2011

Second Internship

Kathryn Croft – Wake Forest University – BA Biology – May 2010
Melissa Kerzner – North Eastern Illinois University – BS Biology – December 2010



Changes in the Cages

Patricia A. Quinn/Secretary-Board Member

With the new habitat construction planned for the opposite side of our current habitat loop, our staff has also been hard at work updating the cages around the main office here at TCWR. These structures were built a number of years ago and the new upgrades will bring them into more precise compliance with any new codes that are projected to be incurred by USDA.

Also, as you may recall from the last newsletter, Loretta has been moved from her enclosure near the Bengal Suite (Blue Room) to a habitat. We're happy to report that she still loves her new home. Her old enclosure has been taken down and we are also in the process of removing the old enclosure for Zora and Corvetta (picture on page 2), as well.

In addition to removing these two older enclosures, we have upgraded the small habitats behind the main office. Donna, Pebbles, and Wings have a new, stronger, and higher fence as well as a new lockdown and brand new den. These three girls are still within view of the Siberian Suite (Green Room) where visitors can enjoy their antics throughout the day and night. The small habitats for Wally and for Tally-Ho have also been upgraded and these two tigers are enjoying life in their respective new 'condos.'

So, next time you're here, be sure to check out the new digs for these old gals – some changes in the cages that are better for all concerned.



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

Spend the Night...Save a Tiger!

Laurie Vanderwal/Staff Zoologist

The refuge has always tried to be creative with fundraising activities and one popular option to help the animals is to stay in one of our lodging facilities. The refuge offers three options for overnight stays. The 2 bed and big cat suites, the tree house, and the 5 safari lodges.

For a family friendly option, we have the tree house and the Bengal and Siberian suites (formerly the Blue and Green room). The tree house is small and quite rustic; it has two twin mattresses on the floor of the loft and a fold-down futon on the main floor; it offers a kitchenette and privacy as it is set away from the rest of the lodging. This is a great option for kids (5 years and older only) and adults that like to have a little adventure. For kids and adults of all ages that want a little more comfort, the two suites are a perfect choice. The rooms share a front porch, but are more spacious and have a queen size bed and a fold down futon.

The Safari lodges are the adults-only option. The five units are arranged in a circle with a shared central deck (with gazebo and hot tub) and each has a private deck on the back. These units were designed and built by artists/supporters from Hot Springs, AR and are beautifully decorated with some of their original pieces. The Safari Lodges are great for a romantic couple get-away but also make a fantastic option for groups. We have had family reunions, girls' weekends, and wine-club gatherings all take place at the safari lodges. If your group rents all five units, we will offer a 20% discount.

All of the rooms are \$150/night for 2 people and this not only covers the cost of your stay, but also includes admission to the refuge for the day you arrive as well as for the day you check-out. These rentals are an important fundraising activity for the animals and also allow guests an opportunity to experience the cats' behaviors throughout an entire day; from the early afternoon laziness, to the excitement of feeding, the lions caroling through the night, and the activity during cleaning each morning.

The fall is one of the best times to visit the Ozarks; the leaves are changing color and the temperatures are wonderful. If you have visited the refuge before take the opportunity today to stay the night with over 100 big cats. Beat the crowds and stay with us on a weeknight or meet other animal-lovers and try a weekend - the perfect way to relax for you and help save a big cat's life at the same time. Check our website for full room descriptions and availability or call the main number (479-253-5841).

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.



Meat Acquisition - The Predators Have To Eat!

Scott Smith/VP TCWR

Turpentine Creek goes through almost 800 pounds of meat each day and the amount increases as the temperature decreases. Over the past few months meat acquisition has been challenging. During these economic trying times large poultry donators have had to tighten their production and fine tune their logistics. This, of course, is good for them, but not so good for the refuge. To solve this dilemma, the refuge has posted a couple of ads in local papers asking farmers to donate their (safe to feed) down cattle. The response has produced enough meat to fill the gaps in donations from large poultry producers and keep the big cats and bears eating good, nutritious food. That is our goal. To accomplish this goal we are in dire need of a meat grinder (about \$1,000) and another freezer. Kerusso Christian Clothing Company, from Berryville, AR., donated the freezer box and we need one of you, our supporters, to step up and donate the freezer condensor unit (\$4,500). Can you help with one or both of these needs? If so call Scott at 479-253-3318.

Projected Habitat Material Breakdown

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2" Pipe | 5,000 ft @ \$1.20/ft |
| Welded Wire | 560 ft @ \$5.00/ft |
| Cement | 14 yd @ \$86.00/yd |
| 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 ...

- Prayers**
- Donations**
- Cleaning Supplies**
 - Trash Bags
 - Household Cleaners
 - Paper Towels
 - Toilet Paper
 - Latex Gloves
- Tools**
 - Hose Clamps
 - Hose Nozzles
 - Kline Wire Pliers
 - Welding Rods (6011-1/8")
 - Concrete Forms
 - Common Hand Tools
- Caging Materials**
 - Stainless Steel Water bowls
 - Black and Gray Spray Paint
 - Lumber - New or Used
 - Rebar 3/4 - 1"
 - Pipe and Welded Wire
- Office Supplies**
 - Laminating Sheets (3-5mil)
 - Tape - Regular and Packing
 - Epson Glossy Paper
 - Copy Paper
- Landscaping Items**
 - Top Soil
 - Mowers - Gas Powered
 - Stihl Weed Eaters
 - Landscape Timbers
 - Grass Seed - Ken. Blue
 - Tick Killer
- Equipment**
 - Wood Splitter
 - 540 or 750 cfm air compressor
 - Road Grader
- Vet Care Items**
 - Panacur Dewormer
 - Large Load Washer/Dryer
- 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
- 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



Max is an awesome cougar and lives in one of our large habitats. Watch for him during your next visit.

Or Current Resident

ORDER FORM 10/2011

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 | |
| | 2012 Calendars \$10.00 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 | \$ |