Letter from the President

President Tanya Smith

Big plans for the refuge are in our future. Our goal, as most of you know, is to tear down the existing compound and rebuild it into large natural areas for the animals that live near the front entrance. BamBam bear’s new area and the addition of Rescue Ridge has inspired all of us at the refuge to get every rescued animal out of those small concrete cages and onto some grass. Most of our rescues now live in larger areas on our land. There are still a dozen plus animals that do not get to stretch their legs on the grass. This is not the best TCWR can offer these rescued cats for their lifetime homes. We will continue to improve with your help.

TCWR is gearing up for the future. For the past 22 years we have managed to work with the space available in the old barn for our Gift Shop area. As you may know from having visited us in the past, there is a terrible bottleneck situation when you are checking in and buying your favorite items.

Special thanks to Mickey Finfield, a local architect, who donated his time to help us come up with a functional design for a gift shop, new entrance, multi-purpose room, café, and courtyard. We love the design and are working on getting bids to build this new area. TCWR is planning to make the project affordable for sponsors to help in bite size pieces so you can sponsor one or more of the areas and name the area. We will keep you posted as we move forward into the planning stages. Please help where you can. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Featured Animal: Detroit

Sex: Male
Date of Birth: October 4, 2005
Arrival Date: March 31, 2006

On March 23, 2006, TCWR received a plea for help from closed down big cat refuge in Auburn, Kansas. Their county had passed a ban on exotic animals and they were forced to shut down their facility and relocate all of their animals. The allotted time to find homes for the animals was running out and Detroit was at risk of being euthanized.

On March 31, 2006, after having rescued two other tigers that had been temporarily held for Lightning Ranch and Wildlife Preserve at a different location, TCWR personnel returned to the preserve to pick up Detroit.

Detroit is now an adult tiger. He is very active and is frequently seen showing off for our visitors. Ask your tour guide to point him out for you during your next visit. Detroit appreciates your support of our habitat fund.

Please keep giving!
**From Ava to Zeus**

**Rebuilding Habitats Allows More Cats Freedom**

*Staff Zoologist/Gift Shop Manager Laurie Vanderwal*

On Memorial Day Weekend, with excited supporters and guests gathered to watch them step onto the grass for the first time, a restructured habitat area was opened for crowd favorites Ava and Zeus.

We are always striving to give the cats the best care possible, which includes enclosure design and construction. All of our enclosures meet, and often exceed, both the federal and state regulations; but after being given some insight into possible upcoming changes to USDA regulations, we have become proactive and decided to rebuild some of our older, existing enclosures. With a donation from the Tigers in America organization we were able to move immediately from finishing the 20 habitats at Rescue Ridge to re-building a “new” habitat on our “habitat loop.”

Despite having to get re-acquainted to building on the steep hillside, this enclosure was completed relatively quickly due to the fact that the area already has a complete perimeter fence, water system, and access road. This habitat is shared by Zeus, our popular white tiger, and his smaller, feisty neighbor, Ava. Zeus has been at the refuge since 2010. He was rescued, along with 7 other cats and a bear, from a facility in Missouri. The facility was required to relinquish their large carnivores to stay USDA compliant in order to re-open to the public. Ava was rescued in 2001 from an elderly gentleman who was in failing health and being forced to move from his home. Zeus and Ava lived in adjacent enclosures in our self-guided area for several years and they continue to be neighbors, now alternating days in their large habitat area.

We are continuing to renovate and rebuild our older enclosures, so any donations to our habitat fund will allow more of our to cats feel the same freedom that Zeus and Ava now enjoy.

Help us help them today!

tigers@turpentinecreek.org \ 479.253.5841 \ www.turpentinecreek.org

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**Groundbreaking on the New Bobcat Habitat**

*Staff Biologist Katie Anderson*

On Tuesday, April 29th, we started groundbreaking on our new bobcat habitat. Following completion of this new enclosure, Tiger, a five year old male, and Lil’ Miss Priss, a two year old female, will be moving out of their small compound enclosures into a new larger, grassy area. This new enclosure will feature two separate lockdowns and habitats, so each cat will have their own area to call home. Similar to our other bobcat enclosures, there will be plenty of benches, high walkways, and hollow logs to encourage climbing and allow for plenty of spaces to rest and hide if they choose.

This habitat was kindly sponsored by Dave and Sharon Holladay, residents of Northwest Arkansas. They will also be providing all the toys, shelters, and benches for the two cats to have a comfortable home. They have been long time supporters of the refuge and had wanted to see Tiger in the grass for two years. They kindly agreed for a larger enclosure to be built so we can move Lil’ Miss Priss as well and hopefully introduce the two cats in the future. Stay tuned for updates on their habitat opening and make sure you come out and see them in their new areas!

We still have fourteen animals living on the compound that need grassy enclosures as well. Help us; help them by sponsoring an enclosure or donating to the habitat fund today!
Thank you! Thank you! We are all so proud to have completed Rescue Ridge. Animals were saved and new homes were built for each of them to live out the rest of their lives in comfort and safety. We owe this all to you, our supporters. Rescue Ridge was a huge undertaking. The first phase took 128 days to rescue 28 cats safely, and the second phase was the expansion habitats taking just under a year to complete.

On April 2nd, we opened the 20th and final habitat at the "Ridge." There were many cheers and tears as we celebrated this monumental accomplishment with a champagne toast, and opened Grummet's door. She took steps out on to the soft green grass, laid down and rolled around on her back. She is an aggressive tiger and not likely to show any vulnerability; but that evening as she began to roam her new habitat, she seemed to show a sense of comfort. She journeyed around the perimeter proudly as if to thank each of us. It’s moments like this that grab your heart and feelings of fulfillment become overwhelming.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has become sanctuary to so many animals in the past 22 years. It was always a dream to build a quiet “safe haven” for those animals that need time to adjust to their new surroundings. Rescue Ridge turned that dream into a reality! The Ridge will remain closed to the general public and will help animals for years to come.

As a new addition for education and fundraising, we are offering “Coffee with the Curator.” On the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, a private behind the scenes tour will be available. There is room for 5 people at $150 per person. Beginning at 9am, we will have coffee and muffins in our meeting room at the TCWR office. A brief presentation will be given about the facility and the increasing need for sanctuaries. Afterwards, guests will enjoy a ride on the tour cart seeing the inner workings of TCWR. During the ride, we will see the commissary, Rescue Ridge, and places for future development for the animals. This is the only chance to see the Ridge. Only 5 people per tour. Sign up today and see everything it takes to build a sanctuary!
As of 2014 TCWR celebrates 22 years in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Every year we have continued to grow as we rescue, and care for, so many animals that would have suffered without our team and our mission. At this time, TCWR cares for 115 Big Cats, 6 black bear and 1 grizzly bear. Fifty-four of our rescued big cats are on a geriatric pain management plan.

Thanks to Dr. Ron Eby and his team that help the tigers, other big cats, and bears at the refuge. His St. Francis Veterinarian Clinic in Green Forest, AR, has wonderful doctors. TCWR is blessed to have them as part of our team. The trip to take a tiger, big cat, or bear to the vet in Green Forest is no easy task. If the animal is sick, we might have to tranquillize it, load it into a trailer, and secure the trailer for travel. When travelling with these large animals, 2 to 3 of our best-qualified team members drive the animal approximately 30 miles to the vet on curvy roads.

Upon arrival, our staff then waits for the vet to get to us for the process of evaluating, taking x-rays, performing surgery, post-surgery recovery; or whatever is happening on this trip to the vet, then drive back to the refuge. Sedation is administered only when necessary but you can see the challenges. At this time we are seeing our vets at least twice a week. The vets do come to the refuge anytime we cannot bring an animal into the Green Forest clinic. But to do so, we have to bring the animals there. The facility is great but not really equipped with these large carnivores in mind. There is no easy way to get a big cat or bear to the x-ray or surgery table. On many occasions, their bodies hang off the tables due to their size. And, of course, whichever animal goes into the clinic has to come back out; again not an easy task.

But ... Great News. Thanks to some friends and supporters, TCWR is gearing up for a campaign to fund and build a veterinarian clinic onsite. We had an initial donation of $5,000 to start this project. An anonymous donor created a $25,000 match challenge to help with the funding. You can make your donation go twice as far with this opportunity. In addition, Terry and Janine McGuire, Architects are donating their time to design a building that will accommodate our large animals.

We are so excited to be moving forward on this project. The spot for construction has been selected near Rescue Ridge. Any $5000+ donation will be forever memorialized; and we are planning on offer naming rights per room or for the entire facility. We hope to have a vet clinic on site by the end of the year that will be sufficient for many years to come. All this depends on you. Please let me know how you can help. If you have access to materials, labor, equipment, things that we need to build and supply a veterinarian clinic please let me know. We do have commitments for help from a plumbing and a construction company. Any/all donations are greatly appreciated by all of us who work so closely with our beautiful animals.

Thanks so much for your help.

As the new Chairman of the Board of Turpentine Creek, I'd like to introduce myself to those of you I haven't had the chance to meet. My name is Charles Ragsdell. My wife Lori and I have been supporters of TCWR since 1998. We have helped with everything from fundraisers in Kansas City to working on herb gardens at the refuge, as well as donating when we can. We moved to Eureka Springs in 2007, in a large part to be nearer to the refuge. We live in one of the costliest Victorian homes in town. The Rosalie. I also serve as Chairman of the Eureka Springs City Advertising and Promotion Commission, helping promote and advertise our town to the world.

I'd also like to thank our supporters and volunteers, many of whom work year-round to provide the funds, materials and labor needed to pull off miracle after miracle, saving hundreds of magnificent animals from a horrible fate. We have done so much over the years, it would be nice to be able to sit back and say "Job well done" and call it a day... But instead, I need to challenge them to once again step up to the plate and help us "Crash the Compound" so we can build the new education center and entrance pavilion that you will read about elsewhere in this issue. It is an important step in insuring our refuge can continue to serve the animals we protect by allowing us to increase our group attendance, expand our gift shop and hold more events, all of which are major sources of income for the refuge. Please share our plan with your friends and ask them to make a contribution, large or small. Every dollar helps!

Finally, I'd like to thank all the staff and interns at Turpentine Creek for all the hard work they do day after day to make sure our animal family receives the best possible care. They are true heroes in every sense of the word! It is my honor to work with you in giving lifetime refuge to so many magnificent animals.

Thanks once again for your support!

Charles C. Ragsdell, II
Chairman, Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.
On June 1st, 1998, Patricia Quinn joined the Turpentine Creek family. Now, 16 years later, to the day, she is officially retiring.

Pat has always been captivated by ‘big cats.’ After discovering that TCWR was looking for a secretary, Pat gave her two-week notice at her corporate job and made the move from Detroit, Michigan, to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Her many years of secretarial expertise, along with her love for animals, quickly made Pat an integral part of our team.

We are all so blessed to have Pat in both our personal and professional lives. She is passionate and sassy, and truly an inspiration to us all. Please join us in congratulating Pat on her retirement. While she will be greatly missed, we know she won’t be gone long. Pat hopes to visit the refuge once a week to visit all of her favorite animals (and people).

In her retirement Pat looks forward to spending time with friends and family (both near and far), becoming involved again in some of the activities that Eureka Springs has to offer, taking care of her flower gardens, walking her two dogs, Anubis and Spencer, cuddling with her house cat, Buster, reading, writing, and relaxing and enjoying the view from her large back deck.

Pat has created many close bonds with our guests and supporters over the years. She wants everyone to know that she will still be available to them through her e-mail, pat@turpentinecreek.org

As we say goodbye to Pat, we welcome a new member to our team.

Come stay overnight at the refuge and meet our new Lodging Coordinator, Lori Hartle. In this newly created position, Lori is responsible for taking reservations, checking in guests, and the general management of our Bed & Big Cats Suites, Safari Lodges, Tree House, and RV spots.

As the daughter of a retired General, Lori was an Army brat who moved around often when she was younger. She recently moved to Eureka Springs from Austin, Texas, along with her husband, Bill. A proud mother and grandmother, Lori is expecting her second grandchild in July.

We are thrilled to welcome Lori as a new member of our team! Improvements to our lodging are already taking place and Lori, along with her sweet southern drawl, is so welcoming to all of our guests. Spending the night at the refuge has never been such a great experience. Come and stay soon, meet Lori, and experience “Africa in the Ozarks” by hearing our big cats ROAR throughout the night!

Lori Hartle

The Zulu Safari Guest Lodge is now taking reservations to complete your adventure at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Overlooking the sprawling Eureka Springs valley, with beautiful sunrises and magnificent sunsets and the caroling of the Big Cats, the Safari Guest Lodge is ready for your romantic evening. Each room has an exceptional personality, along with snuggly spa robes, luxurious bedding and linens, coffees and coffee pots, continental breakfast, color TV / DVD player, refrigerators and microwaves and clock radios. Cast iron fire places and air conditioning keep you comfortable during the changing seasons. There is a spacious hot tub, the units share a 40’ Octagonal Deck, complete with a charming covered Gazebo and Fire Pit. Tables and chairs surround the area for comfortable relaxing. Join us for the “Call of the Wild”.

Lori Hartle

Patricia Quinn

Welcoming New Staff Members

John Chavez

John is from Austin, TX, and he graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Range and Wildlife with an emphasis on wildlife and minor in Field Biology. John first started as an intern back in August 2011, and once that internship ended, he decided to move back home to Texas. While John was away, he realized that he wanted to come back and work with all the cats again. In August 2012, John returned for his second internship and remained here for a total of four internships. In February 2014, John was asked to stay on as a full time Staff Biologist here at Turpentine Creek.

John makes a great addition to our team; he is also now in charge of our Commissary and handles all the new meat shipments that come in for the cats. A few of John’s favorite cats here are BooBoo, Sheba, and Karma. John is also a big fan of Rambo.

Katie Anderson

Katie has moved all over the country as a daughter of an Air Force officer. Katie graduated with a Biology degree from Georgia Tech.

Katie first started here as an intern in February 2012, and it was soon after that, that she decided this was the place that she wanted to call home. After her first internship here at Turpentine Creek, Katie also completed three more internships with the hopes of someday becoming a Staff Biologist here. After completing 4 consecutive internships, Katie was hired on as a full time Staff Biologist in February 2014.

Katie has fit in well with our team and has always had a special love for working with tigers. A few of her favorite cats here are Crystal, Ty, and Crysta. Katie also enjoys running and has completed many 5K’s, half marathons, and a few marathons.

Katie Anderson

Lori Hartle

John Chavez

Patricia Quinn

Lori Hartle

Katie Anderson

Lori Hartle

Patricia Quinn

Lori Hartle

Katie Anderson

John Chavez

Katie Anderson

Lori Hartle

Patricia Quinn
Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail to:

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge • 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Thank You!

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

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Please write your brick text on back of this form, noting maximum characters and lines in selection above.

Animal Adoption: $100/yr
- Small Mammal/Bird
- Small Cat/Monkey
- Cougar/Leopard
- Lion/Tiger/Bear

Animal Sponsor: $700/yr
- Small Mammal/Bird
- Small Cat/Monkey
- Cougar/Leopard
- Lion/Tiger/Bear

Total Contribution: $_________

Your Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

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City/State/Zip: _________________________________________

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: ________________________________________

Exp. Date: __/__/__ CVC Code: __________

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: ____________________________

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: www.turpentinecreek.org