



BIG CAT CHRONICLES

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

FEATURED CAT!
Zeus
See Back Cover



Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular
Oct. 27, 7 pm - 10pm



Letter From The President

September, 2012

by TCWR Founder/President Tanya Smith

September marks the change of season from summer to fall, school starting, football season, cooler temps, and the leaves are changing colors. Fall is one of my favorite times of the year; especially after enduring the past 6-8 weeks of extreme heat with 100+ degree temps and no rain. The staff and the 2012 summer interns need to be commended for making sure the animals had plenty of fresh cool water, food, and clean cages daily.

The bad news is that as our animal population gets older and our vet care gets more expensive. Our Big Cats have grown very old due to optimum care. I was shocked when I looked at their birthdates to realize that 51 of our Big Cats were born in the 1990's. None of these animals would be alive in the wild at this age. We all know as we age more things go wrong as far as our health. This is also true with the animals. When I think about the age of some of our cats and other animals, I am amazed. Loretta is a 22-year-old white tiger. Crystal tiger is not far behind at 20, Exxon and Siam tigers are 19, Truman, Raja, Shir-Khan tigers, and Bonita, Cindy, Suli cougars are 18, CoCo bear is 26. These are just some of our oldest residents. This is one of the many reasons that we need an up to date veterinary clinic and recovery area. Giving quality care to this many Big Cats, bears and other animals requires specialized facilities. Please help where you can as we begin to look at updating our facility.

Lots of things happen at the refuge. Things happen daily that most people would never think about in taking care of over 100 Big Cats and other animals. Most recently, TCWR had to build a structure around our 20,000-gallon water tank to keep the algae from building up. We also had to replace the water lines around the main compound area. With this improvement we should have better water pressure, and hopefully our electric bill will be reduced with the leaks fixed. These expenses were not budgeted so any help you can give is appreciated. Election years prove to be hard on us as a nonprofit with people tightening up on donations or supporting their politicians. Please remember that we are relying on your donations to help us provide the care the animals deserve. Every donation helps.

TCWR is gearing up for habitat construction for Bam Bam our Grizzly Bear. Fundraising continues for this project. We are excited to get started and can't wait to set a date and invite you all out to watch Bam Bam in his new enclosure. Keep watching our blogs and podcasts, and if you are not already seeing our information on Facebook then please 'friend' Turpentine Creek and share our information with your friends and family. We just hit over 10,000 friends on our fan page. We need your help to get more friends/supporters. There is so much work to be done and we can't do it without your help. Thanks!

Farwell To Lucky
See page 5



2 New Arrivals!
See page 4



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youtube.com/TurpentineCreek

Share Our Newsletter With Your Friends and Family

Letter From the Curator

by TCWR Curator Emily McCormack

The growth so far this year has been tremendous. We have opened many new doors to habitat freedom and, since February, eleven animals have experienced their first steps on grass. The compound has completely changed, with the destruction of the back side enclosures on Tiger Row. The cleared area is where yet another habitat will be designed for another furry friend.

Bam Bam, the grizzly bear's personality has changed significantly since his arrival. He went from being petrified of any sound, to being the biggest "showoff" in our compound. Bam Bam loves to draw attention to himself by playing in his pool, running around the enclosure, and most of all, splashing water on the guests as they gaze

amused by his character. Bam Bam's habitat will be built including a pool, benches to play on, and a glass section to bring him even closer interaction with the public. We are ready to start constructing his enclosure in the cleared space of the compound so he can continue showcasing his now infamous personality.

It is time to say goodbye to the Spring 2012 intern group. The group of 12 has been a wonderful addition to our staff for the past 7 months. They all contributed to constructing the 3 new habitats granting the animals the freedom they deserve. While they helped the refuge expand, we watched each of them grow as individuals. They should be proud of themselves and as a

team for their accomplishments. We are proud to have them as part of the intern alumni.

We would like to welcome our new group, Fall 2012 interns. They will have a lot to learn in the coming months. Our first accomplishment as a team will be to provide Bam Bam with his freedom. But, we need help from our supporters too. We have currently raised almost \$35,000 towards his habitat. The enclosure will cost approximately \$80,000. Though this seems like a difficult feat, we have some of the greatest supporters in the world. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We look forward to your contributions coming in and accomplishing another mission together!



Congratulations to our Curator!!

We are pleased to announce that our Curator, Emily McCormack, has been invited to be a guest speaker at the upcoming 2012 National American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) Conference, which will be held at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, New York, from September 23 – 27, 2012.

Those who meet her quickly become aware of Emily's passion and dedication to the animals here at Turpentine Creek. Having come to TCWR as an intern in 1999, she was quickly asked to remain as a full time staff member. She assumed the responsibilities of Intern Recruiter/Supervisor in 2002 and, in addition to retaining that position, she was named our official Curator in 2011.

We are proud of Emily's accomplishments here at TCWR and are very excited that she will be taking her knowledge and expertise with her to a broader environment when she is in New York. On September 26, 2012, as one of the speakers at the AAZK Conference, she will be speaking about the exotic animal pet industry and of the mission of Turpentine Creek. Congratulations, Emily, we are extremely proud of you!

Volunteer Spotlight - Mel Jensen

by Staff Biologist Jarrett Sweeley



Mel is a retired journeyman plumber from Berryville, Arkansas. Originally from Wisconsin, Mel moved to Arkansas after retiring to enjoy the milder weather. While working as a plumber he picked up many other construction-based skills which he applies when volunteering.

Mel first learned of TCWR from a kiosk while visiting downtown Eureka Springs. Soon after learning about us he met our president, Tanya Smith, at a yard sale where she encouraged him to visit the refuge and check out our volunteer opportunities. He has been donating his time and skills for almost a year now, and plans on continuing to help us grow. When asked what made him decide to help out, he told us that he feels blessed to have a vast knowledge of construction and that he should put this knowledge to use in helping others. He also mentioned that he enjoys seeing the animals every time he comes out and getting to see more of the behind-the-scenes action.

Turpentine Creek needs your help. If you have the time to volunteer and the desire to share your vast knowledge, join Mel. Contact Ivy Cooper, TCWR Volunteer Coordinator: ivy@turpentinecreek.org.

Harem Habitat For Zeus Cougar

by Staff Biologist Mary Schileve

TCWR celebrated 4th of July by releasing Zeus, a 16 year old male cougar, to one of our cougar habitats which already houses three female cougars named Star, Bonita and Cindy. Zeus arrived at TCWR in December of 2008 from a private owner who lived in Arkansas and could no longer care for him. Prior to being out in the habitat, Zeus was living in one of our enclosures in the compound surrounded by other cougars. A week or two before we released Zeus, we safely loaded him into a pet taxi and moved him down to the habitat to let him adjust to the new surroundings and neighbors. When we opened the habitat door, Zeus was a bit hesitant to walk out in the grass but once he got some encouragement from the interns and staff he was more than happy to explore. Once Zeus felt comfortable in the habitat and got used to the female cougars, our next step was to introduce Star, Bonita and Cindy with Zeus into the habitat so that all four cougars could live in the grass together. With some of our smaller cats we are able to introduce them even though they were not rescued together (we usually do not introduce tigers or lions with other cats as they are too territorial). We first introduced Star to Zeus. At first they ignored each other but once Zeus got enough courage to come over to greet Star, they exchanged some hissing and growling. They then laid down in the grass underneath the benches. Next we let Bonita come out to greet Zeus in the habitat and they also ignored each other for the most part. Later on in the afternoon, all three cougars were napping in the grass underneath the benches together. Our next plan is to then introduce Cindy back into the group so that all four cougars will be out in the grass together. Once all four of them are out in the habitat, we are planning on moving Angel, a 15 year old female cougar, out to the habitat to eventually be introduced in with Zeus, Star, Bonita and Cindy. So on your next visit to TCWR, make sure you go on one of our guided habitat tours to see Zeus and the girls napping in the grass.



2012 Fall/Winter Intern Group



From the left...

1. Mike Redig – Luther College – BS Biology – May 2012
2. Sureni Beckford – The College of Wooster – BA Biochemistry/Molecular Biology – May 2012
3. Katie Widrick – SUNY Oswego – BS Zoology – May 2012
4. Jaimie Howard – Abilene Christian University – BS Animal Science – May 2012
5. John Chavez – Texas A&M University – BS Wildlife Management – May 2010 - 2nd Internship
6. Alexa Godfrey – University of Oregon – BS General Studies/Biology – June 2011
7. Brianna Ogás – Union College – BS Biology – June 2012
8. Bonnie Glover – University of Massachusetts – BS Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation – May 2010
9. Kaitlin Anderson – Georgia Institute of Technology – BS Biology – May 2011 - 2nd Internship
10. Kelly Farrell – George Mason University – BS Biology – May 2012
11. Jessica Rebman – North Carolina State University – BS Zoology – May 2011 - 2nd Internship
12. Rebecca Mitchell – University of Maryland – BS Animal Science & Ecology/Evolution – May 2012
13. Sarah LaVallee – University of Tennessee – BS Ecology/Evolutionary Biology – May 2012

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's intern program was born out of a strong desire to empower capable, educated college graduates to care for our growing family of big cats and bears. Empowerment through education is our goal for each and every person who completes our internship program.

The program was started in 1998 by Mike Fleming, a graduate of DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Mike was given the job of recruiting two people to start the internship program and before long the number grew to six. In 2002 Emily McCormack took over the program. Today we utilize the talents of 13 interns that live, work, play, and sleep on site to supply our animals with a level of care that no facility can match. TCWR's reputation around the zoo community for producing quality zoo keepers is pinnacle. Thanks to all the TCWR alumni interns - you have made a difference!

Two New Animals Find A Home At TCWR

by Staff Biologist Kellyn Kearney

One of the main tasks of TCWR is rescuing new animals that are in need of a good home. This past month, TCWR had two new rescues; a female black bear named Betsy and a female bobcat kitten named Little Miss Priss.

Betsy's previous owner was from Omaha, AR. An older gentleman received her when she was 8-months-old and cared for her for sixteen years until he passed away. When the bear was left with his daughter, she decided it was best to give her to TCWR. It was on Tuesday, July 3rd, that she drove out here with Betsy in a trailer and we took her in. Though nervous at first, Betsy is adjusting well and seems healthy. For the time being, she is in our quarantine enclosure to keep her less stressed about the overall change.

Little Miss Priss was rescued from Stradford, AR, on Sunday, July 7th. Our staff drove out to pick up the little two-month-old bobcat. Her previous owners managed a tobacco shop and had received the bobcat kitten from a customer. The customer apparently had four kittens that he had found in the woods and was giving them away. The owner of the shop thought that he could raise the bobcat to be a pet like a domestic house cat. However, he and his family found out fast this was a bad idea. They had no time to socialize the kitten as they were constantly managing their store so the bobcat was extremely aggressive and frightened. The wife was scared of her and the man, in his attempts to socialize her, realized he was majorly stressing her out. The man recognized she was not safe to be around his wife and kids. So after only having the bobcat for a week and a half, they called up TCWR and asked us to take her. She is still as feisty as ever, but she's growing bigger every day and is slowly coming out of her shell. She spent time in quarantine but is now on display in our compound area.



As a side note, this is why it is important for people to understand wild animals belong in the wild. If you find baby animals out in the woods, leave them! Their mother is most likely out hunting/foraging for food to feed her young and/or ran off because she heard the presence of people and did not want to attract them to her babies.

As always, we'd like to give Betsy and Lil Miss Priss the most fulfilling life that we can. We thank everyone for their support in helping us to do this and hope that you all will continue to support us in the future as we continue to rescue animals desperately in need of a good home.

Big Cat Dentists Visit TCWR

by TCWR Curator Emily McCormack

The Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation (PEIVDF) was founded in 2005 as a private charitable foundation. Dr. Peter Emily, DDS, Hon AVDC AVD, donated the initial funds to form the foundation to continue his life's work promoting the oral and dental health of domestic and captive animals. PEIVDF's mission is to provide life improving advanced veterinary dental care and treatment to exotic animals in facilities and sanctuaries around the world. Through these missions, they not only help improve the animals' lives, but also provide educational hands-on learning opportunities.

PEIVDF began conducting Missions in October 2008, and have treated over 100 animals at multiple sanctuaries. Fortunately for TCWR residents, their next mission is our refuge. On August 25th and 26th, PEIVDF will be treating up to eight of our residents. In the past, some of their patients' entire demeanor has changed due to relief of dental pain. We look forward to working with PEIVDF and will update you in the next issue with our stories of success!



Farewell Lucky

by Staff Biologist Ivy Cooper

"Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by."

Author Unknown

This is an excerpt from the poem "The Rainbow Bridge." In August of 2012, Lucky crossed Rainbow Bridge. For all that knew Lucky, the part of the poem that speaks of animals being restored to health and vigor is especially touching. Lucky overcame a great deal of health issues over the years, but always found a way to trust her human care givers at Turpentine Creek. We will always remember Lucky as the strong lioness who loved her habitat and cherished every minute of freedom. She will be greatly missed, and she will live forever in our hearts!

Honoring Lucky 12/13/2000 - 8/6/2012



TCWR Needs Your Help - donate online monthly to the meat fund.

by TCWR VP Scott Smith

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge needs your continued support and help with our current meat situation. In the March 2012 newsletter the need for meat was outlined in great detail, and many TCWR supporters responded to the need and sent in donations or went to our website and donated through paypal.

At the time this newsletter was being assembled we have enough meat for 8 weeks. To supplement a one month meat supply, the cost is \$6,000. Assuming we continue to get meat trickling in from local poultry producers and local farmer's cattle, our current figures are pretty accurate. Can you help with this dire need? Although it would be great if we can find enough people to sponsor one month at a time (\$6,000), we realize most people cannot afford to send \$6,000. Please send what you can.



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!

Leave Them Be...

by TCWR VP Scott Smith

During the hottest part of the Midwest Heat Wave of 2012 a resident of Carroll County, Arkansas, called to ask if we could house a coyote. The heat wave had driven the coyotes out of hiding, forcing them to wander around in broad daylight in search of water. Just west of the refuge about 10 miles is a goat farm. The owner had so many coyotes around his goat farm he started shooting them. He shot a mother with four kits before he knew she had babies. Three of the four babies ran off and one lay limp on the ground. The farmer quickly covered it with a bucket and later transferred it to a small trap/cage. The farmer did not know what to feed it so he gave it milk which resulted in diarrhea. At this point he switched to canned dog food and started looking for someone to house the little kit. He called TCWR president, Tanya Smith, who expressed a desire to do whatever she could to find the little guy a home. Tanya made arrangements and the farmer transported the fragile baby to the refuge. This is not the first animal indigenous to Arkansas to find its way to the refuge and, like always, TCWR staff quickly made arrangements to move the coyote to a wildlife rehabilitation facility who reintroduces these little guys back to the "wild." The baby coyote (kit) now has a renewed chance at true freedom.



Why Did You Decide To Stay For A Second Internship?



Katie Anderson

"I decided that 6 months was not long enough and am excited to learn more and make a difference in these cats' lives."



John Chavez

"It's worth the sacrifices to help the animals and I wanted to do more to help."



Jessica Rebman

"I wanted to extend my experience and strengthen my relationships with the animals and the people I have come to know."

Africa In The Ozarks! Reserve Your Room Online Now.



Adopt Or Sponsor A Big Cat Today!

Turpentine Creek houses over 100 big cats. Caring for these animals requires a lot of financial resources. Turpentine Creek started its animal adoption and animal sponsor programs in 1995 to make sure our animals have continuous funds for their care.

Through the animal adoption and sponsor programs Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hopes to raise all the funds needed to provide a rich life for each and every animal. If we can have each animal fully adopted or sponsored, the refuge would be free to continue to save the lives of others.

By choosing to sponsor one of our animals you choose to donate the estimated cost associated with providing all its needs. Animal sponsorships vary from \$700/yr. to \$2,500/yr. based on animal type.

Turpentine Creek staff realize many people cannot afford to fully sponsor an animal at the refuge. To make sure we accommodate each supporter and help the animals as well, we started the adoption program. This program coordinates supporters and their families to jointly sponsor an animal. The adoption program provides a vehicle that can make the animals' care self-sustaining, thus reserving refuge resources for building habitats and for providing enrichment for all the animals in our care.

These programs are fun for the family and come 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. If you choose to sponsor an animal, you receive an 8x10 photo, a sponsorship certificate, and, upon request and with a reservation, private tours for you and your guests!



Athena

Even a face like this deserves a good life.
Adopt or sponsor an animal today!

cut line

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Urgent Needs: Meat Fund Donation \$ _____
 Habitat Fund Donation \$ _____

Membership: Single Membership \$50
 Family Membership \$80

Special Giftshop Item: 20th Anniversary T-Shirt (size___) \$20+\$5 S&H
 Black White

Animal Adoption: 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.

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name _____ Total \$ _____

Yes! I will help!

September 2012

Name _____
 Address _____

 City/State/Zip _____

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships- See Website

Credit Card # _____
 Exp. Date _____
 CVC Code _____

Mail To: Turpentine Creek
 239 Turpentine Creek Ln.
 Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

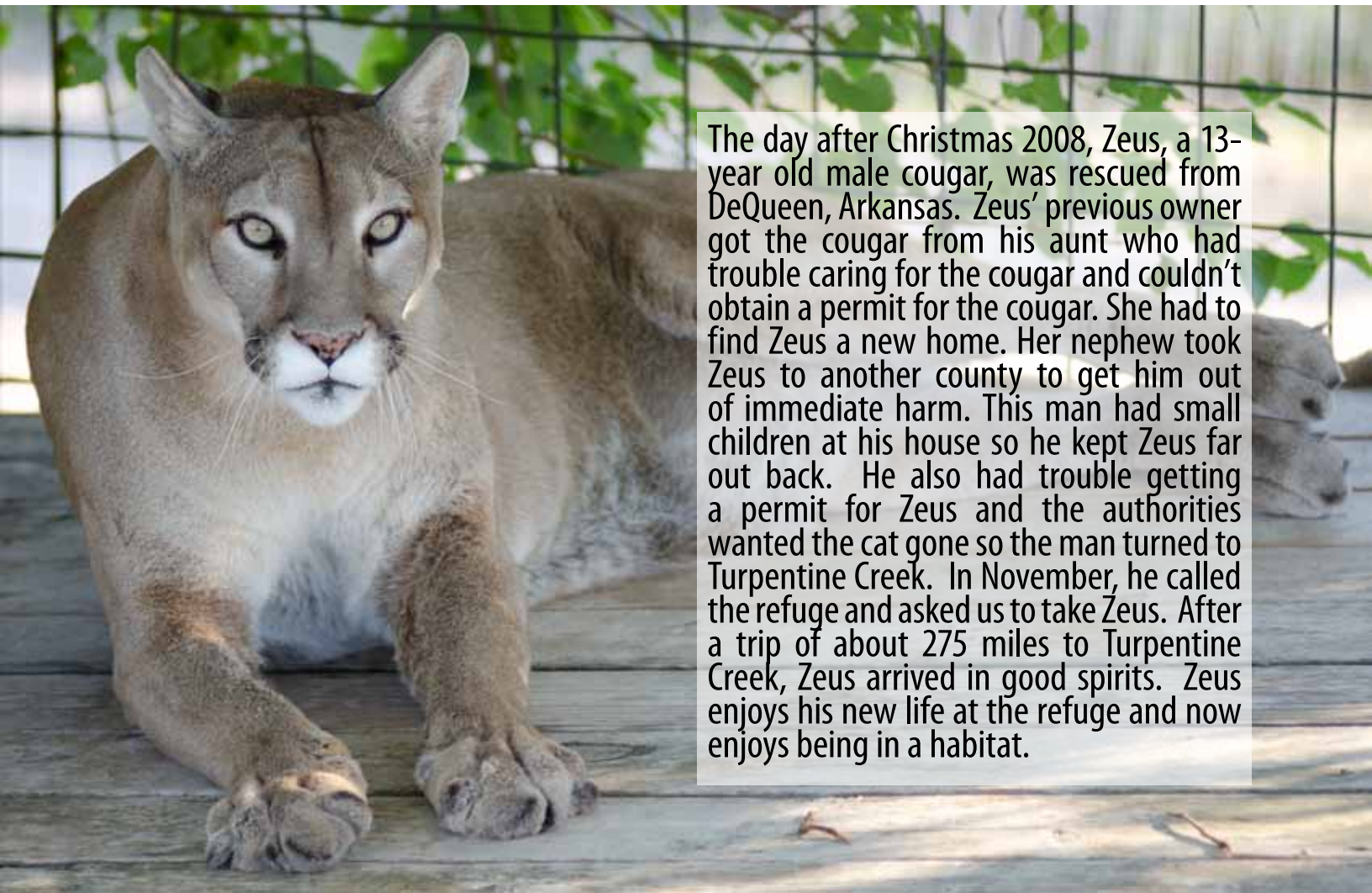
The Animals Can Count On Me!

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



Spyke wants all of you to know that he loves his habitat and is so happy to see other animals get one too. Thank you.



The day after Christmas 2008, Zeus, a 13-year old male cougar, was rescued from DeQueen, Arkansas. Zeus' previous owner got the cougar from his aunt who had trouble caring for the cougar and couldn't obtain a permit for the cougar. She had to find Zeus a new home. Her nephew took Zeus to another county to get him out of immediate harm. This man had small children at his house so he kept Zeus far out back. He also had trouble getting a permit for Zeus and the authorities wanted the cat gone so the man turned to Turpentine Creek. In November, he called the refuge and asked us to take Zeus. After a trip of about 275 miles to Turpentine Creek, Zeus arrived in good spirits. Zeus enjoys his new life at the refuge and now enjoys being in a habitat.