Thanks to our supporters, all the cougars now live in a habitat!
read more on page 10

New member added to the family, Pickles.
See page 15

tigers@turpentinecreek.org  |||  479.253.5841  |||  www.turpentinecreek.org
youtube.com/TurpentineCreek  |||  Find us on Facebook!
"We have to continually evolve and change" are words I am constantly telling my team at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. While our mission hasn't changed, the way we work to provide for the precious animals in our care is always in flux.

I am proud to report that because of you, our Turpentine Creek Animal Hospital building is funded. This hospital is an important step in the handling of the large carnivores and omnivores who call TCWR home. The luxury of keeping the animals on site to take x-rays, perform surgeries, and provide the best care available are factors that will ensure our stability long into the future. Thanks to Terry and Janeen McGuire for the donation of the architectural and engineering plans. Travis Hollaway has been chosen as the contractor. By 2016 our Veterinarian Hospital will be a reality.

Now it is time to fund the equipment. Our team was frugal as always to get the best prices for the equipment needed. We have applied for a grant to help, but we do not know if it will be funded, so it is up to us to make sure that after the building is complete we can add the necessary equipment, which will cost $151,787.85.

This includes a special table to put the animal on and be able to roll them wherever we need within the building. This is a huge back saver on all of us! Plus a portable x-ray machine, scale, all the sterilizing equipment, oxygen delivery system, etc., which should provide us with a hospital we can not only teach out of but also take care of the big cats and bear onsite.

TCWR has also just completed a new freezer paid for through your general fund donations. The freezer should hold 100,000 pounds of meat; a three-month's supply for the cats. Thank you: it is through our general fund donations that our board of directors can funnel resources to needed projects. It was nice to be able to supply this asset to the foundation through the kindness of our supporter's donations.

As I am watching the conversion of the older cages and the areas in the main compound being torn down, I find myself mixed with emotions. I am so glad that these areas are being replaced. I remember the days not so long ago when my mom was in charge of keeping the animals clean and fed; my young son and daughter spending their days hanging with their granny while she worked with little help; my older brothers going after the meat needed to care for the rescues; I myself helping any way I could to get the word out about our mission; and my father scraping together whatever materials he could salvage to save an animal.

With deep regret I hate to report that my brother Clif, Clifford Ray Jackson passed away May 21, 2015 at 8:47AM. Clif was 53 years old and died of cancer. You might remember Clif around the refuge, extremely tall blond hair and blue eyes, most of the time cracking some silly joke. Donations can be made to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in his honor. Please specify when you make your contribution.

RIP to my mom, dad and brothers. They are all missed.

We have come a long way since those days. I would like to ask if you have considered adding TCWR to your long range plans for bequest or in your will or trust? The truth is the refuge will be needed long after we are all gone, so thanks for the consideration. All donations are tax deductible. Feel free to contact me tanya@turpentinecreek.org if I can help facilitate your decision.

I am blessed that TCWR has recruited a fantastic, hard working team of individuals who give of themselves daily so our rescues live a better life. I am eternally grateful for each of you who do what you can to make a difference. THANK YOU ALL! Until next time...

Founding Member, Tanya Smith and her brother, Clif Jackson.

Lucci is one of 21 Big Cats that TCWR rescued from Safari Park in 2002 when the breeding facility went out of business. Lucci is somewhat smaller in stature than other lions, and we believe his bowed legs and pigeon-toes are a result of inbreeding. We have also found that Lucci is partially blind. Despite his physical problems, he has lived a quality life at the Refuge since his arrival.

Lucci relies on his brother, Wyoming, to help him with his disabilities. When they were released into a habitat Wyoming had to “see” for Lucci until he could make it around his new home safely.

Species: African lion (Panthera leo)
Sex: Male
Born: October 21, 2000
Arrived at TCWR: October 21, 2002
Annual Membership Picnic, Blues Festival, Father’s Day Weekend

If you’ve been considering a membership at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, this is the time to do it!

Turpentine Creek will hold its Annual Membership Picnic on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 21. This day-long event will feature live music on the big stage, a wrap up to the week-long Eureka Springs Blues Festival, which runs from Saturday, June 13 through the 21st, with live blues at various locales all over town.

“We’re very excited to have a chance to give back to the people who support us all year round with their memberships to Turpentine Creek,” said TCWR President Tanya Smith. “And the fact it falls on not only Father’s Day but during the Blues picnic makes it all that much more special.”

Acts appearing at Turpentine Creek the day of the event will include:

- The Brick Fields Gospel Brunch
- Lucious Spiller
- The Noah Wotherspoon Band
- and an All-Star Jam

Food vendors will be on site with plenty to eat. Beer will also be available. No coolers please!

In addition to great food and great music, the picnic will include a giant inflatable bouncy house for the kids.

Admission to the event is free for members and $5 for non-members. Members also have access to the refuge during the event. Normal admission rates apply to non-members.

For more information on this event, call Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge at (479) 253-5841. For details on the Blues Festival, go to www.eurekaspringsblues.com.

To get your membership to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, go to turpentinecreek.org.

Do You Garden? Can You Help?

Do you have a green thumb? Do you like to play in the dirt and watch things grow? The Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge Garden Club spent its first Saturday doing just that on April 18.

“Hilda Jackson, who helped start Turpentine Creek and ran it for many years, was an avid gardener, so after she passed away we decided to make an enrichment garden here by her home,” says Volunteer Coordinator Ivy Cooper. “We’ve planted aromatics, calming herbs like mint, lavender, thyme, sage, hyssop. Catnip of course. Things the animals enjoy.”

Ivy says an enthusiastic group of volunteers showed up, including one named Donna Foster, who not only volunteered her time but also purchased all the herbs they planted. “She was great,” Ivy says.

“I went online and looked at how other facilities like ours handle volunteerism,” Ivy says. “So many times people genuinely want to volunteer, but they really don’t know which way to go with it. Having a garden club is a specific way that people can relate to, if they love gardening, and so they can help us and our cats through doing something they enjoy anyway.”

In addition to the enrichment garden, Turpentine Creek has a memorial garden, a garden up front by the entrance, and a new one over by Bam Bam’s habitat, Ivy says, as well as a couple of lily beds.

Ivy says ideally she’d hope for 8 or 10 volunteers who would be willing to come out a couple hours every week or two and tidy up and maintain the beds. “It’s just so nice to be out there digging in the dirt,” she says. “And we can always use the help.”

For information on participating in the TCWR Garden Club, please contact ivy@turpentinecreek.org.
Turpentine Creek strongly supports the Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act (S. 1381/H.R. 1998). This law would mean that captive big cats – tigers, lions, cougars, and other species – do not threaten public safety, diminish global conservation efforts, or end up living in deplorable conditions.

Sharing the animals’ rescue stories and advocating change in the law is a staple of TCWR’s mission. Some of the situations we have observed through our rescue efforts have been literally appalling. I recently travelled to the El Paso Zoo, where I was invited to give a pair of presentations educating their zoo staff about the issues of private ownership of exotics in the U.S. I talked about the need for sanctuaries and showed photos and videos of some of the worst rescue cases.

The zoo currently employs 5 previous Turpentine Creek interns and 1 of our previous staff, who continue their support by being ambassadors for the refuge. Due to this, many of the zoo employees were aware of TCWR. The presentations were very well received. Several people approached me emotionally after visually seeing the miserable circumstances we’ve saved cats from.

It was quite surreal seeing former employees as I walked through the different areas of the zoo. I was extremely proud of their success, and I enjoyed learning new techniques and training that I hope to apply at the refuge in the near future. I was honored to be a part of their world and share a piece of mine.

We all need to work together educating and promoting the TCWR mission. The only way the problem of private ownership of exotic big cats and bears is going to change is with our voice. Please be the voice for Turpentine Creek. Telling our rescue stories to 20 people you know can make a difference. Sharing promotes caring! Be their voice!

Turpentine Creek feeds nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each day. We have a rowdy bunch of animals who are incredibly demanding and will not put up with an empty food dish.

Thankfully, a good portion of the meat fed to the animals is donated to the refuge. Some animals need a very special diet and require we purchase a commercial felid product through a Colorado company. The shortfall of donated meat along with the meat we purchase to fill the gaps is costly. Please help us feed the big cats and bears by donating to our meat fund at turpentinecreek.org. Make sure to select “monthly” during the donation process on our website.

Thank You!

TCWR staff and interns diligently process and store all incoming meat. This pallet weighs about 2,000 pounds: a mere two day supply for the big cats and bears in our care.

Do you love to online shop and want to help big cats at the same time? Have you always wanted to donate to a good cause, but don’t want to change out of your pajamas? Turpentine Creek has the answer! We have created an Amazon wish list with many great items that we need to keep the refuge running smoothly. Pick a few (or a lot) of items you would like to donate and they will be shipped directly to the Animals. Enter Turpentine Creek in the ‘find someone’s wish list’ box and have fun shopping!
The Fourth Annual Arkansas 500 was a great time and a success as well. Dual sport riding is a growing activity in the beautiful Ozarks. Riders came from 16 states this year to participate in the country’s premier Dual Sport event, which benefits Turpentine Creek.

Scott Smith, Vice President of TCWR, is an avid dual sport rider. “I have a way of using my hobbies to drive fundraisers for the cats,” said Scott. “We had the time of our lives covering 580 miles of dirt roads over a three day period. The event implants our Mission in the minds of people who may have never heard of the Refuge otherwise.”

On March 21, Turpentine Creek Staff Biologist Katie Anderson participated in the 2015 Eureka Springs Victorian Classic 10K race. In a tiger suit.

“I enjoy competitive running very much,” Katie says. “I run all the time. And I am happy to do what I can to contribute to Turpentine Creek and the work we do here. I want to raise money so we can build habitats for all of our animals and they can experience the thrill of running as well!”

Katie came in 2nd in the 25 to 29 age group at 56:25 and raised $940 for the refuge.

On arrival we received menus and aprons and sat down in front of a blank canvas. Before the food or wine arrived we were already following step-by-step instructions to sketch out our tiger faces. Then it was time to paint! Our instructors guided us in our work and gave out many compliments and helpful tips. The personalities of the artists really shone through onto the canvases.

We plan on continuing our partnership with Brushes and Wine, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page for upcoming events.

Your Event

What do YOU do for fun that can be a fundraiser for the animals?

tigers@turpentinecreek.org /// 479.253.5841 /// www.turpentinecreek.org
Since the refuge started, the goal has always been to have large natural habitats for all of our animals. In 1998, the first large habitat area was built. With lots of hard work and the generous support of our donors we now have over 90% of our cats in these amazing areas; and most of the original, smaller enclosures have been eliminated to create room to build more habitats in their place.

The most recent recipients of habitat areas are Sheba, Rasha, and Nia. With their relocation, it is an amazing accomplishment to be able to proudly proclaim that ALL of our cougars now get to experience grass under their feet and space to roam and play.

With your continued support we can reach the ultimate goal of providing 100% of our animals with the freedom of natural habitat areas.

Please donate today!

Last July we did the big habitat release of Tiger and Little Miss Priss, two bobcats that used to live in our Compound area. In order to move them, we sedated both bobcats and completed a full physical; we then neutered Tiger since we wanted to do an introduction with him and Lil’ Miss. We will neuter the males when they live with a female since we are a rescue facility and do not do any breeding.

The two habitats were designed with a wall shared between the two since we hoped to introduce Tiger and Lil’ Miss. In captivity, it’s nice to pair some cats with others so they can have that natural companionship that some crave and would have in the wild. It’s also beneficial to provide them with a friend that they can play with and keep each other warm during our cooler months.

After the two bobcats had had time to adjust to each other through the fencing, we felt comfortable enough to let them share their space. We opened the transfer door between the two habitats and left them alone so they could discover the open door on their own. Once everyone left for the day, Lil’ Miss went to explore Tiger’s side and smell all of his scents. Tiger was a little more hesitant to come down at first, but then had no problem exploring the side belonging to Lil’ Miss.

After a half hour, Lil’ Miss made the first interaction and it was ‘love’ at first romp. They ran around wrestling in the habitats, jumping all over the place, and have now begun taking their daily naps together in one of their huts. The next time you come out to visit Turpentine Creek, make sure you stop by to see Tiger and Lil’ Miss in their habitat along the Habitat Tunnel to catch them snuggling together on one of their platforms.
Social Media Helps TCWR Reach More People than We Ever Thought Possible

We knew the power of social media, but we didn’t know just how far our reach could extend. On April 24th we posted a photo of Kenny. That photo reached nearly 1 million people on Facebook.

The goal was simple – raise the remaining money we needed to build our veterinary hospital. We wanted to get the best ‘post reach’ we could so that when we reached out to our supporters for that remaining money, it reached the most people possible.

Through social media we are typically able to reach around 40,000 to 50,000 people a day. Our post reach that day spiked to around 600,000.

Social media has proven to be a great conduit for TCWR staff to connect with supporters. Please share all our posts with your friends... it will make a difference.

Who are our Facebook followers?

- 77% are women
- 54% are between the ages of 25-54 years old
- Nearly 10% of our Facebook followers live in other countries including Canada, India, Brazil, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Sweden, Malaysia, Morocco, and Costa Rica.
- Over 1000 of our followers list languages other than English as their main language including Spanish, French, and Portuguese.
- Within the United States the majority of our followers live in Arkansas and Missouri.

Visitors to the refuge now average around 40,000 people per year; on Facebook we are able to reach more people than that in one day. Currently the refuge’s Facebook page has about 55,000 ‘Likes,’ and our new Instagram account has around 450 ‘Followers.’ These numbers increase every day. This is an incredibly powerful tool for us to gain new supporters and to help educate the public.

If you haven’t already, make sure to ‘Like’ and ‘Follow’ us on Facebook and Instagram. Once you do, be sure to like, comment, and most importantly SHARE our posts as much as possible. By doing so you are helping to spread awareness of the refuge to others and helping us help the animals that call Turpentine Creek home.

Together we will make a difference.

Vaccinations, just like your house cat, are part of big cat management.

When’s the last time you gave a tiger a shot? For Emily McCormack and other staff and interns at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, the answer was just last week.

“All the animals here receive inoculations once a year and rabies shots every three years,” says McCormack, who is curator at TCWR. “They are subject to the same diseases any cat might be. The medication we use, Fel-o-Vax, covers everything, though.”

Vaccinating the animals is not the most fun task in the world. “You have to use a pole syringe to inject them,” McCormack says. “You have to sneak up on them. It’s probably like a bee sting would be to us, but some of them get very indignant.”

Beyond simple vaccinations, the exotic population of TCWR receive continual medical attention from the staff and a local veterinarian.

“The goal is to keep them healthy and comfortable, which is part of giving them a home here,” says McCormack. “We do everything we can.”

“The inoculations alone are $10 per cat,” McCormack says. “And the other medications vary widely in price for over 100 exotic big cats and animals. It isn’t cheap to pay their vet bill.”

To donate toward medical expenses of our big cats, you can adopt or sponsor a cat today here:

http://turpentinecreek.org/adoptions-a-sponsorships
Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has not only a new trolley for its trolley tours, but a new driver to drive it!

Jim Ball has joined the TCWR staff as part-time trolley driver. Ball previously worked for 14 years for Eureka Springs Transit as vehicle maintenance manager and head mechanic, as well as driver.

“My father and grandfather were born in Eureka Springs, and my great-grandfather came here as a small boy right after the Civil War,” Ball says.

Ball served in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief, then worked as a tanker and in recon.

“It’s funny,” Ball said. “I was the one who originally went down to Little Rock to pick this trolley up when it was brand new, and now here I am driving it again.”

“We’re always looking for ways to improve the refuge, and adding a second trolley, with air conditioning, allows us to serve the public better, and that in turn helps the cats,” says TCWR Vice-President Scott Smith.

Turpentine Creek offers both walking and riding guided tours starting each day at 10 a.m. each day.

Tigers do not make good pets. They are too big to handle and typically end up being abused one way or another by their owners.

One form of abuse many do not stop to consider, says Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge Curator Emily McCormack, is malnutrition.

“A case in point is Sierra,” she said. “We rescued her from Grapevine, Tex., in 1998. She’s 19, which is pretty old for a tiger. She had been raised on a diet of dog food, which has absolutely no nutritional value for a tiger. As a result, she has several health issues. She is our smallest tiger. Because her pelvic area never developed correctly, she cannot digest anything but boneless meat, which we then have to supplement with calcium and other vitamins to compensate.”

Last year, Sierra underwent surgery to relieve an intestinal blockage. “Basically she was constipated,” McCormack said. “For one thing, it was shedding season, and tigers shed a lot of hair. Just like a housecat, they get hairballs, and Sierra was unable to process and eliminate it. Her life was in danger, so we operated, despite her age.” She recovered.

Two weeks ago, Sierra underwent a second surgery. Same problem as the first time.

“We tried everything else we could first,” McCormack says. “Have you ever given a tiger an enema? Anyway, that didn’t work, but the surgery went well.”

Sierra, however, declined to test the equipment for the next two weeks, though the blockage was gone. As a last resort, and following a final (and successful) tiger enema, McCormack came up with a solution. “We decided to shave her,” she said. “No fur, no hairballs. So I got out the shears, and Sierra was not amused. From now on, she will have a date with the barber every May.”

For those wishing to see Sierra’s new ‘do, come on out to Turpentine Creek, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., 7 days a week!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has just welcomed the newest member of its big cat family, only this one is medium sized:

Pickles, an African Serval.

Pickles has come to us from Prairie Grove. Sadly, Pickles’ owner passed away suddenly only a few weeks ago, and his wife, moving into a new place, needed to find Pickles a new home as well.

“He got Pickles from a breeder in Florida in 2008,” she explained. “He was in the automotive business, and someone brought a baby bobcat to work, and so he decided to get one too. But something a little more exotic. So he got Pickles.”

Pickles is very affectionate, the former owner’s wife says. “With my husband he was very loving and playful. With me, he’s a little bit bratty.”

She says that oddly enough, her husband had always said that anything ever happened to him, he would want Pickles to go to Turpentine Creek. “It’s just sad it had to work out that way.”

Like all new arrivals here, Pickles will go into quarantine for a little while, and then be introduced into his new habitat area, where he can be visited anytime.
Spent time with Lucci and Wyoming during your next stay in our Bengal or Siberian Suite

Lucci is our featured animal! see page 3

Yes! I will help!
Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

2015 Calendars: $5 each X _____ calendars + $5 S/H = $_________

Donations: $25 ☐ $35 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $ ___________

Membership: ☐ Single Annual Pass $50
☐ Family Annual Pass $90

URGENT NEEDS:
☐ Habitat Fund Donation $_________
☐ Veterinary Hospital Fund $_________

VETERINARY HOSPITAL BUILDING & EQUIPMENT

Thanks to our supporters we have been able to completely fund the on site hospital building. Now we need to fund the hospital equipment. Our team worked hard to get the best deals, up to date equipment will cost $153,000. Please continue to support the Veterinary Hospital Fund.

Adoptions and Sponsorships

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 $1,000/yr
☐ Cougar/Leopard $2,200/yr
☐ Lion/Tiger/Bear $2,500/yr

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: ________________________________

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

Thank You!

Total Contribution: $_________

Your Name: ________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: ____________________________
Exp. Date: __/__/____ CVC Code: __________