



Spring 2016

# BIG CAT CHRONICLES

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



*Brady*

*Liger (Panthera leo x Panthera tigris)*

*Sex: Male*

*DOB: March 31, 2009*

*Arrival Date: October 16, 2010*

tigers@turpentinecreek.org ||| 479.253.5841 ||| www.turpentinecreek.org  
youtube.com/TurpentineCreek ||| Find us on Facebook!

# Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is continuously evolving and improving operations. I'm excited to share some updates with you that will have a positive impact on your visitor experience during your next visit.

Our team regularly learns about and implements new ways of providing responsible, enriching care to our animals. One positive change I'd like to share is that our Animal Care Staff recently implemented a behavioral management program in which they use positive reinforcement through operant conditioning techniques to perform simple healthcare procedures and daily checkups on participating animals.

While you're at the Refuge you may see Animal Care Staff using a whistle or 'clicker' to motivate an animal to demonstrate certain tasks. These tasks are health related and, upon completing the training process, will make it safer for our team to perform many essential health related procedures. Training an animal is more enriching and less stressful than sedation, and current participants in the program love the individual attention from their trainers. So, when you see one of our team members training, please feel free to ask questions and learn more about the process.

Did you know we offer trolley tours – for an additional \$5 fee – every hour on the hour to those who prefer a *relaxing ride versus a scenic walk*. The fee simply covers trolley operating costs, however we will continue to provide complimentary service for those in which mobility is a legitimate concern. Additional conveniences such as resting benches are being added for you. We intend to place a number of benches throughout the property for those who wish to sit and watch their favorite animal(s). If you'd like to support this effort, donate the cost for a bench. (\$750 - long lasting quality bench)

I'm also excited to share the progress we've made regarding our veterinary hospital. We have raised \$384,106 towards our ultimate goal of \$457,534. Although we are still \$73,428 from being able to furnish the hospital with the necessary resources to care for our animals, with your help we know we can reach that goal. Beyond being a place to care for our exotics, the hospital will become a unique educational tool. Once complete, we will have the ability to share information with the world through video conferencing. Veterinary students, interns and others in related fields will have the opportunity to view sterile environment surgeries via viewing windows outside the operating area. These are a couple ways the veterinary hospital will help strengthen our education initiatives, and position TCWR for tremendous opportunities in the future.

Because of your support, our team and our commitment to education, we are becoming one of the most well respected Big Cat sanctuaries in the U.S., and we could not improve and grow without your generous donations. So we are forever thankful for the opportunity that you give us to do the work we do. We can't wait for you to experience these improvements during your next visit to the Refuge. Until next time.....



**The Vet Hospital will be finished soon, but will not be fully equipped until we complete the fundraising. We still need \$73,428 to purchase all of the equipment needed to care for our big cats and bears onsite. Can you give to the future of big cats and bears everywhere? See the enclosed envelope.**

# Turpentine Creek to the Rescue - Bobby the Bobcat

In mid-October 2011, Zanesville, Ohio was thrust into the global spotlight after lifelong exotic animal collector and distraught owner of Muskingum County Animal Farm, Terry Thompson, slashed fences and sprung cage doors, allowing his menagerie of carnivores loose. As news broke, many questioned why and how, in this land of laws, a single citizen could legally accumulate such a horde – fifty six – of some of the most dangerous exotic animals known to man. The event became known as the Zanesville Massacre. Had the appropriate laws been in place fourteen years earlier, Thompson would have never been able to legally buy Simba, the lion cub that fueled his interest in holding so many animals captive.

The only yellow brick road for the innocent lions, tigers and bears whose lives were – for public safety reasons – taken that day, is that soon after the incident the state of Ohio scrutinized its animal ownership laws and, within a year, passed the Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Act, effectively banning private owners from acquiring, breeding and selling many exotic species. The state also built a facility to temporarily house dangerous animals that were being relinquished from private owners because of the new law. This facility is where we first met Bobby.

A few days before January 25 – after lengthy correspondence and pounds of permits and paperwork – we were approved to travel the (roundtrip) one thousand five hundred mile; twenty-four hour; twelve RedBull; four state journey to rescue one life, Bobby the bobcat.

Bobby, a 17 year old, presumably blind bobcat, was relinquished to the State of Ohio when his previous owner decided it best not to subject Bobby to the stressors of relocating to a different city. According to the facility, Bobby arrived in their care in relatively good health and stature. Although we know little of Bobby's past, we were told that he was housed outside, in a 10 foot by 10-foot enclosure, and had possibly been introduced to another bobcat at some point.

Regardless of not knowing much about him, the rescue was smooth and without incident, and Bobby has quickly become a beloved member of the TCWR family. He has taken residence as neighbor to Bowden, our African serval, and you can view either of them as you stroll down our Habitat Tunnel. From close observation, it's evident that Bobby is positively intrigued by the foreign sounds of lions caroling and the many unfamiliar scents wafting in the air. And, although he has sight issues, he is a lovely lynx rufus and seems to be adapting to his new surroundings quickly. Bowden is also very interested in his bobbed-tail neighbor and we anticipate the two becoming friends.

Although Bobby is fortunate to have found a compassionate, enriching, forever home at TCWR, he, like every wild animal, does not belong in captivity. But until federal laws are passed to ban the ownership of dangerous and exotic animals, there is great potential for another Zanesville incident in which many more innocent animals could lose their lives because of human inanity.

We encourage you to visit Bobby at the Refuge to learn more about the harmful nature of the exotic pet trade and how you can help put an end to the ruthless practice of owning, breeding and selling exotic animals. And if you'd like to champion our mission, please consider spreading awareness, and donating to support future rescues and the daily needs of our animal residents.



**In the wake of the Zanesville Massacre, Bobby, a 17-year-old bobcat, finds refuge at Turpentine Creek. As new dangerous animal laws are passed across the nation, animals will be put in undesirable situations. We are here for them. Donate today.**

# Featured Animal: Magic

Species: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Sex: Female

Born: March 17, 2004

Arrived at TCWR: March 17, 2010



**Magic came to the Refuge from a shut down facility in West Branson, MO. The facility had repetitive safety issues resulting in permanent injuries to a facility employee. The facility's mis-managed dangerous animals had to be relocated. Without your support the Refuge would not have been able to help. Thanks!**

On Dec 7, 2009 Turpentine Creek received an email from a man representing a facility formally open to the public. The email explained how the facility was being forced to depart with 7 big cats, a black bear, and a coatimundi.

At the time, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge had the available space, so the decision to save these animal's lives was easy to make. In order to move Magic to the Refuge, we had to wait for a day that was near 50 degrees because she would have to be anesthetized. Access to Magic was not good so the decision to anesthetize her and physically carry her to the rescue trailer was determined to be the safest for all involved.

Three hours after they arrived on location, Magic was safely loaded in the rescue trailer along with Harley the bear and Tsavo the lion. The facility was in West Branson, MO so the drive to the Refuge was short.

# Cats at the Castle

At Castle Rogue's Manor

Beaver, Arkansas

April 23, 2016



We are excited to announce that our Fifth Annual Cats at the Castle is fast approaching. We hope that you can join us for another fun filled evening at the picturesque Castle Rogue's Manor for our annual fundraiser to benefit the animals at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Tickets for this event will be on sale "live" on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Please visit our website, [TurpentineCreek.org](http://TurpentineCreek.org) to purchase your tickets online and for further information regarding menu items.

## Patron Party - 5:30 P.M.

\$175.00 per person.

VIP Reception held in the Carriage House on the Castle grounds. Only thirty (30) tickets available. Includes hot hors d'oeuvres, champagne, wine and beer, guided tours of the magnificent Castle Rogue, entrance to the Main Event, and all amenities.

## Main Event - 7:00 P.M.

\$110.00 per person.

Open to all; includes full bar, open seating indoors and outdoors; food stations with a wide variety of tasty treats; Silent and Live Auctions; and music by Brick Fields.

For more information regarding this event, please email Virginia Rankin at: [Virginwater29@gmail.com](mailto:Virginwater29@gmail.com)

For information regarding auction items, please email Pat Quinn at: [Pat@turpentinecreek.org](mailto:Pat@turpentinecreek.org)

We look forward to seeing you in April!

# The Story of Bum

by Don Jackson (edited)

When I first saw Bum in February 1978, he was only eight months old. He was chained to a sweetgum tree in a subdivision that my wife, Hilda, and I were building in Hughes Springs, Texas. From that moment, I knew he would become a part of our family; and he did. In his prime, the African male lion grew to weigh almost 900 pounds and from that morning – until his death 18 years later – Bum was a bona fide member of the Jackson family...and my best friend.

On that day in February, as I turned off of Highway 11 into Springfield Heights, I saw our veterinarian, Dr. Gary Brackeen and a local car dealer, Donnie Wilson, standing under a large sweetgum tree looking at an animal that seemed to be chained to it.

“Hey Donnie!” I said, greeting him from the cab of my pickup. “What in the world are you and Gary doing with a lion cub?” (Now, you have to understand that in 1978, Hughes Springs, at its bulging best, had a population smaller than the year. And it wasn't every day you found an African lion cub under a sweetgum tree.)

Donnie answered, “Well, I sold this car on payments to a fellow that owns a motel up in Little Rock, Arkansas, and he wasn't paying me.”

“So what's all this got to do with an African lion cub?” I asked, getting out of my truck and walking over to where Donnie and the doc were watching the cub.

“Well, I'll tell you what it has to do with him if you'll just give me a minute,” Donnie swanked, sauntering over to the cat to show me that he had everything under control. Though he anxiously squatted to take hold of the chain as if he wasn't quite sure if things really were under control. I turned to acknowledge our vet, “Hello Gary.”

Turning back, I inquired to Donnie, “Has he got a name?”

“How would I know,” Wilson balked, rhetorically posing a question to my question, “I went to Little Rock to get my money or my car back, and the bum didn't even own the motel!” Feeling more comfortable that the little fellow wasn't going to attack me, Donnie stood up from the chained cub and continued, “I just call him ‘Bum’ since I took him from a bum that wouldn't pay me.”

“That sounds fair to me,” I quipped. (So now the cub had a name; Bum.)

“You sure are quiet Gary,” I said, as the good doctor slowly repositioned a wad of W.E. Garretts Sweet snuff into his cheek. Scuffing his feet in the sandy soil much like a kid caught short for words, he finally offered, “I don't know just what to say.” The vet was young, and his apprehensive shuffling and hesitation to speak only made him seem younger than his 30 years. “Wilson here said he found this little guy tied to a concrete parking block at this motel up in Little Rock. The real motel owner told Donnie that the man he was looking for had just gone off and left the little fellow...”

Donnie interrupted, “I just loaded him up and come on back with him. I got in late last night and chained him to this tree until morning. I didn't think he would eat these damned gum tree balls!”

(For those that may not know what we're talking about, sweetgum trees have a round seed pod – about the size of a golf ball – with spines like a blowfish. The pods are as bitter as gal, and when dry, as prickly as a porcupine! No cat is going to eat one of them and surely no lion would. Lions are carnivores that demand fresh meat at every meal; these guys won't even eat meat that has started to taint. In fact, lions really don't like it when meat dehydrates in the sun. How do I know these things and the local vet doesn't? Perhaps that is another chapter or maybe even another book all together. Let's just say that I know.)



**The Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge founding family first rescued Bum in 1978. Through this effort their eyes and hearts were opened to the understanding of the need for a lifetime home for unwanted big cats and bears.**

“What do you mean he ate some of the gum tree balls,” I knowledgeably inquired, “what makes you two think that Bum ate gum tree balls?”

Donnie innocently explained, “When I come out to check on him this morning, he was all hunkered up trying to poop and nothing would come out.” He motioned towards Dr. Brackeen and then shared, “I called Gary and he said that, if the cat was constipated, the best thing for him was castor oil. And for how big Bum is – I told him the cub weighed about 80 lb. – that I should give him an adult human dose.”

The vet interjected, “Wilson called me this morning and told me that Bum still had not had a bowel movement since he picked him up in Little Rock. I told him to hit the cub with another dose and that I would stop by on the way to the clinic. We now think that he is plugged up from eating these gum balls.” For emphasis, the good doctor handed me a particularly prickly pod he had foraged from the ground.

“That's all we can figure out,” Donnie said bewildered, “he hasn't pooped since I got him.”

I sat down on the ground by Bum and pulled him over in my lap. They had given him so much oil that it was just passing through. “What have you been feeding him Donnie?” I asked, stroking Bum as exhaustion made him content with my actions.

“I been feeding him real good,” Donnie said proudly. “Hamburger meat – a pound a day – and I'm getting the extra lean kind too,” he proclaimed.

“Is that all?” I probed.

“No, I been keeping dry dog food out too.” He pointed to a pan with dog food. It was by the sweetgum tree and I hadn't noticed it before. “He hardly touches it though,” Donnie passively mentioned, “so he must be full on the hamburger.”

Dr. Brackeen followed up, “We are going to take him over to the clinic and I'll do surgery to remove his blockage.” He then trailed off, “Damn cats will swallow anything.”

“Actually that's not true,” I pointed out. “When I was in high school a classmate of mine, Bob O'Shell, had an African lion for a pet. Bob and I worked as volunteer keepers at the Marsalis Park Zoo in Dallas. In fact, we worked with Big Cats and part of my duties was feeding. Back then we actually butchered their food at the zoo.” I went on. “I don't mean to be a smart aleck, but one thing I can tell you is that this cub didn't eat sweetgum balls. Lions are fresh meat eaters – maybe a little grass when they are sick – but they won't even eat meat that has started to spoil, and they really don't even like it if it has started to dehydrate.”

“Well what do you think is wrong with him?” Donnie queried.

“From what you have told me,” I deduced, “I just think you haven't been giving the poor little fellow enough to make a turd. A cub this size needs at least 10% of his body weight per day in fresh meat, and then he needs to be on a good vitamin and mineral program. You can't get by just guessing about his diet or trying to open a few cans of cat food.”

I was on my soap box by this point. “If you and Gary will let me, I'll take him home with me for a couple of days and I think I can get him back on his feet.”



Relieved, Dr. Brackeen said, “If you have time to fool with him it sounds like a plan to me. This is my busy season what with the cold and all. I've got a week's worth of farm calls and all of them need to be done yesterday. I, for one, would welcome your help.”

Donnie looked at me, “I'll pay for whatever you need. You'll give him back when he is well, won't you?”

“Sure I will,” I said.

Six weeks later, when Bum was healthy and playing like a 100 lb. house cat, Donnie decided that the cub was too big to live with him. The town also had ordinances against keeping dangerous animals within city limits. It was for the better too, because Hilda and my daughter, Tanya, had already fallen hopelessly in love with this furry little four-legged guy, and we weren't about to give him back. So, I ended up trading five old motorcycles and a motorcycle trailer for the little urchin.

And that is how we got our first lion, Bum.

# Introducing Your Mascot

**TC**  
(Titus Creek)



Hi, my name is Titus Creek, but I prefer to be called T.C. I'm the new Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge mascot and recently joined the family in January. My role is to help spread awareness, and educate the public about our mission of protecting neglected and abused victims of the exotic pet trade.

All of my animal friends at the Refuge are great and the human keepers are cool too...even though they look a little funny without fur! The food here is really good - my favorite is chicken thighs - but I also really love bloodcicles. They make great treats! I'm never bored at the Refuge either. Between working as the mascot, and the great enrichment the keepers and interns make for me and my friends, I know I'm really going to love being part of the family!

I've already planned a lot of projects that will help us continue our mission, and I'm really excited about taking over our Twitter feed! I'll be sure to update you on all the positive things we're doing at the Refuge as well as in the surrounding communities. I've also been working with members of our staff to come up with fun, educational offerings that we'll make available on our website. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag, though, so just keep an eye on social media for regular updates!

One ongoing project I can talk about is my portrait series. Each month I pose for a new portrait and put the image on limited edition, T.C.-shirts that you can purchase through our online store. You can collect them all throughout the year and each purchase will help support my animal friends at the Refuge. It's really fun posing for the pictures and the shirts are selling fast. So go to our online store to get yours today!

I know this is just the beginning of my amazing adventure at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and I'm happy to be a part of this wonderful family. Thank you again for supporting my furry friends, and I'm excited to share all of the great things that will be happening in the future! T.C. ya later!



We welcome TC to our family. Each month he will pose for a limited edition design just for you. Go to our new online store at [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org) to wear your support today. All proceeds go to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Check our store often for TC to show up on all kinds of merchandise.

## Your Access to TCWR Gear

Last year we began a complete rebuild of our website; a process that is still ongoing. But, in January we re-opened a new and improved online store. You can now purchase a variety of TCWR items online including apparel, bags, calendars, electronic cases, glassware, and more! And we are continually adding new items, as well as exclusive offerings that are only available for a short amount of time. Shopping online is secure, fast and easy, and the items can be shipped directly to your front door!

The proceeds from online sales help support the Refuge and the animals in our care. So, please visit our website - [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org) - to see what items are currently available and bookmark our store page so you can stay up-to-date on the products available in the future.

## Membership Call Out

TCWR annual memberships have many benefits such as yearly, unlimited entry into the Refuge for you and your immediate family, early notification of Refuge happenings, access to special member-only events and more.

Membership fees are due once per year, and may be more affordable for you and/or your family in the long run. In fact, an adult who visits the Refuge three times in one year would benefit more from purchasing an individual membership. And families that visit the Refuge twice in one year would benefit more from a family membership.

Annual family memberships are \$90 and include you, your significant other, and your children under the age of 18. Individual memberships are only \$50. So, contact us today to become a card-carrying member of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and help us continue to give the animals a forever home.

# Please Welcome Your Spring 2016 Interns!



## Back Row

<b>Amy Row-Williams</b> Columbia College BA Biology December 2015	<b>Jacqueline Kimmel</b> Ursinus College BS Biology & Art May 2013	<b>Meghan Lahm</b> Southern Connecticut State U. BS Biology May 2014	<b>Shelby Handley</b> Mississippi State U. MS Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture December 2014	<b>Isaac Kuhn</b> U. of Northern Iowa BA Biology May 2015	<b>Nikki Adams</b> Miami University BA Zoology May 2015	<b>Jessica Arnold</b> U. of Pittsburgh BS Biology December 2015	<b>Jennifer Aguilar</b> Humboldt State U. BS Zoology May 2015
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## Front Row

<b>Susannah Manning-Osborn</b> Elon University BA Psychology May 2013	<b>Carly Hepburn</b> Bridgewater State U. BS Biology December 2015	<b>Lanie Dishong</b> U. of California, Davis BS Biology June 2013	<b>Kelly Hurlbut</b> Lees McRae College BS Wildlife Biology December 2014	<b>Anna Stumpf</b> Oklahoma State U. BS Zoology December 2015	<b>Siria Cruz</b> U. of Texas at El Paso BS Biology December 2014	<b>Allison O'Donnell</b> Purdue University BS Animal Science December 2015	<b>Alyssa Henke</b> U. of Wisconsin Parkside BS Biology & Psychology December 2015
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Absent from photo:  
**Nicole Barney**  
Sacred Heart U.  
BS Biology  
May 2015

The Turpentine Creek internship program runs on a biannual cycle. In the spring and fall, new interns come to Turpentine Creek to learn and gain experience working with the dangerous exotic animals under our care.

Since the internship program began, over 400 post-graduates have successfully completed an internship at the refuge. Our internship program is training and influencing a generation of animal caretakers in the United States. We teach them not only how to take care of exotic animals, but also how to do it safely.

Turpentine Creek interns do not just learn about the animals here, they learn about themselves, and create lasting bonds with the staff and fellow interns. They become friends, family even. Six-months might seem like a very long time, but it is here and gone in the blink of an eye. Every six-months we must say goodbye to good friends and welcome new friends. They depart, ready for their dream career.

# Carrying On

Being a supporter and member of the TCWR family is a life changing experience. Together, we've rescued hundreds of exotics from unspeakable cruelty, and we've helped them to trust again. We've nurtured many back to health and watched as our efforts brought life and hope back into their eyes. And we've encouraged their transition from being a neglected and abused victim of the exotic pet trade, to being a strong and beautiful part of our family. But, as it is with all living things, time is short. And to watch a loved one grow old is the burden we must always be willing to bear.

During this time of transition – between an old year's past and a new year's future – we reflect as family on the many joys we've been able to share, as well as the unfortunate sorrows we've had to overcome. We dedicate nearly every waking moment of our lives to these animals, and we do so wholeheartedly, fully aware that they may not be with us as long as we'd like. Nonetheless, they become our children during our time together. And our connection is, in many ways, similar to the bond shared between a loving parent and an innocent child. We dedicate ourselves to being keepers, and throughout every joy and sorrow we must readily accept that responsibility.

As family we offer a forever home, and by virtue of compassionate care, our animals commonly enjoy a longer life than they would in the wild. Because of this, we've recently experienced a heavier burden of loss. And as family we must accept the idea that many will pass on to experience ultimate freedom. It is a bittersweet sentiment and we are dually charged with cherishing our memories from the past while drying our eyes for the future.

We will continue providing for those we keep. We will continue feeding and watering; cleaning and enriching; caring and loving. And we will continue rescuing, eagerly awaiting the newest member of our family and the newest soul to seek refuge in our hearts. We know that our loved ones will never be forgotten. Because they will be forever celebrated in every breath our animals take and in every heart of those willing to help us, help them.



**Sierra**

Sierra was rescued from a basement in Dallas, TX. She transitioned smoothly to life at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, to life in a huge habitat, and now life with ultimate freedom. Thanks for helping us help Sierra live a full, happy life.

# Donor Spotlight: Life after Life - Helping the Animals Forever

Brenna Davis and her husband, Jim, moved to Springfield, MO over a decade ago. And after settling into their new home, it didn't take long for Brenna to convince Jim to take a day trip to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Their hearts became full the moment they arrived on the Refuge and from that day forward they made it a point to do all they could to help support our mission and the animals in our care.

"It seemed like every time we came, another one of the tigers would grab our heart. Our first one was Sierra, she was such a little sweetheart. It is just a fantastic thing that Turpentine Creek can give these animals the life that they have," Jim recalled.

The couple's day trip to TCWR so many years ago became more significant to them than many of us even realized. Because shortly before moving to Springfield, Brenna was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Although the diagnosis was a heart wrenching one, Brenna never lost vigor towards her dreams and passions. In fact, after a visit to the hospital last October, Brenna and Jim found themselves on the Refuge once again, enjoying the company of the cats they loved so much.

"She was released from the hospital around 11:00 in the morning and she was having a pretty good day that day. She had family coming in from Minnesota, but we decided they could wait, and we came right here from the hospital," Jim shared with a somber smile.

Shortly before that October 30 hospital visit, Brenna decided to designate our organization as a beneficiary on one of her insurance policies. Even in her weakened state, she was making sure she did all she could to support our mission and the animals in our care. Unfortunately, Brenna and Jim's visit to the Refuge on that cold, colorful Friday in October proved to be the last time they would share a day together with the animals they loved. After fourteen years fighting the disease, Brenna passed away from ovarian cancer that December.

Jim and Brenna approached TCWR with a request to plant a bio urn on the property in October. A bio urn contains a loved one's ashes, a biodegradable pot, and a tree seed. When Brenna's bio urn is planted on her birthday in April, a tree will grow. And in a way she will once again be with the animals she loved.

Jim came to us in January with a donation from the life insurance and the request. It was the first time he had been to the Refuge without Brenna. Despite the tears and heartache he felt, Jim still smiled and lightheartedly reminisced about visits to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. "It is an experience that everybody should have. I'm not sure how somebody could come here and see what you guys are doing and not have their heart touched by that. It would be hard for somebody to come here and walk away and not feel an urge to donate, to help keep this going," he said before spending a good portion of his day greeting each and every one of his and Brenna's favorite animals.

We'd like to thank Jim for sharing his and Brenna's story with everyone and for caring enough about our mission to support our cause. We also want to thank all of our generous supporters and their families who have donated, visited and/or shared our mission with friends and family. We are humbled and grateful for your love and generosity.

As you structure and prepare your own legacy, please consider doing what you can to support our mission. Because, although we are temporary fixtures in this world, the animals are forever in our hearts. And with your help and forethought, we can continue to save lives well into the future.



After falling in love with the animals at the refuge, Brenna and Jim Davis wanted to help. Brenna decided to designate our organization as a beneficiary on one of her insurance policies. Sadly, Brenna passed away after a battle with cancer. Her legacy to the animals is a testament to the giving nature of the animals friends.

# Letter from the Curator

Curator Emily McCormack

In January, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted a Behavioral Management and Operant Conditioning Workshop in which seven professionals from five different zoos shared their unique knowledge and expertise with TCWR Animal Care Staff. During the weekend training event, we discussed and conducted multiple, species-specific, operant conditioning techniques in an effort to ultimately develop an internal behavioral management program.

Being involved in this workshop undoubtedly strengthened each participant's network within the industry. And as we move forward in our respective efforts, each organization has the opportunity to benefit from every participant's skillset and consultation.

The animals' reaction to the training process was astonishing. Some of the cats became instant additions to the program due to their responses from a distance. The process is proving to have a positive affect on our animal residents and we hope to introduce many more to the program in the near future. Training with most of the participating animals can currently be seen every day after 3:30pm, and we encourage visitors and supporters to experience this highly educational opportunity.

I feel that the workshop was an important step towards likeminded partnerships with well-respected programs and other reputable sanctuaries. And I'd like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all participants and their involvement, and for each zoo's cooperative efforts and dedication to continued education.

Because of the collaborative leadership from each zoo and each participant's direction, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can continue to offer a unique experience to our supporters, while providing a safer and more enriched life for our animal ambassadors. This initial workshop serves as the foundation for future opportunities to strengthen our compassionate care for the animals and educational initiatives.

Thank you again to the participants involved, as well as to those who made this workshop possible.



Mary (TCWR Staff member) and Melanie Kuse (Trainer at Hogle Zoo) are training Wanoka, one of our resident bobcats.



Training the animals for medical and check-up procedures will help us, help them.



Kate Barszczowski  
ME Hampton



Carrie Trudeau  
Griselda Martinez



Melanie Kuse



Sara Worthley



Jay Pratte

# Vacation on the Wild-side

Take a moment to go outside. What do you hear? What do you see? Answers may vary depending on what part of the country you live in. Very few though, if any, will be able to answer, "Lions caroling and Tigers prowling." But you can hear and see both by staying overnight at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. We offer a variety of accommodations - a number of RV/tent spots, family friendly suites, a house in the trees, and adult-only lodges - to help create memories that will last a lifetime.

For adventurous RVers and budget conscious nature lovers, consider camping under the stars in one of our RV/tent spots. Being so close to some of our majestic animals is sure to be an experience you'll love sharing with your friends!

Book a night in our Siberian suite to enjoy window views of Donna and Pebbles, two of our most beloved tigers. Or stay in our Bengal suite for an entertaining porch-front view of Flip, our curious coatimundi, and Lucci and Wyoming, an uncommon, albeit lovable pair of African lions.

For a uniquely fun experience, stay in our treehouse loft. You'll love watching and listening to Thor, one of our most vocal African lions, as he serenades you with coffee carols in the morning and lion lullabies at night.

Or, for a more romantic rendezvous, reserve a weekend in one of our Zulu Safari Lodges. These adult-only accommodations are thoughtfully nestled in a more private area of the Refuge overlooking the Ozark Mountains. Here you can appreciate thematic safari rooms, relax in an outdoor hot tub, or spend a peaceful evening by the fire while listening to the hypnotic songs of our exotic carnivores.

We know you'll have an amazing time at the Refuge, and you'll feel good knowing that every dollar you spend helps us care for our animal population. So come stay with us to step out of everyday life and experience something unforgettable!



# Your Opportunities for 2016

**Carnivore Caravan Tour** - \$100 Per Person Limit 5 - You and up to 4 friends can go on a personal tour of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge! Get a behind the scenes tour at Turpentine Creek while being escorted by one of our Senior Animal Care Staff members. See all the animals in their habitats, see where we prep all the animals' food, get a close-up view of our vet hospital, and take a tour of Rescue Ridge - an area usually restricted to visitors! Learn more about all the animals that live at Turpentine Creek and what we do. This personally guided tour will give you a truly unique perspective on the lives of the animals who reside at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.

**Coffee With The Curator** - \$150 Per Person Limit 5 - The opportunity of a lifetime for you and up to 4 friends! Sit down with our animal Curator or Assistant Curator for coffee, muffins, and to talk about the history of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Take a behind the scenes tour to see the animals in their spacious habitats, see the animals at Rescue Ridge - an area usually restricted to visitors -, and see what it takes to care for our animals on a day to day basis. This personally guided tour will last approximately one hour and give you a truly unique perspective of the refuge, the animals who reside here, and the caretakers.

**Fine Feline Photo Tour** - \$300 Per Person Limit 2 - Love photography? Love big cats and bears? We want to invite serious photographers to take a walk on the wild side and capture our big cats and bear on camera. The only way to keep a big cat forever is through the lens of your camera and we are offering you the opportunity to take a guided photo tour around our big cats and bears. For two hours you will be escorted around the refuge to capture photos of our beautiful animals. FOR SERIOUS PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY MUST BE 18+ YEARS OR OLDER.

Visit our website today to book your special tour! Tours are only available on select Saturday's and Sundays. Limited spots available for each tour, book now to reserve your spot before they fill up!



## We have enhanced our Enrichment program!

The new program is set up on a 5-day rotation, which allows us to make sure all of our animals are getting enrichment and no one is forgotten. This allows us to better track and control what type of enrichment is given to each animal. It also gives us the opportunity to give additional enrichment, on top of the normal daily enrichment, for animals' birthdays or holidays to make it a bit more fun for everyone! The animals love it!



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



Magic is our featured animal!  
 see page 4

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!

# Yes! I will help!

## Enclosed is my Tax Deductible Contribution of:

- 2016 Calendars:** \$10 each X \_\_\_ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Donations:**  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Membership:**  Single Annual Pass \$50  
 Family Annual Pass \$90
- Cats at the Castle**  Patron Party \$175 X \_\_\_ tickets  
**Tickets:**  Main Event \$110 X \_\_\_ tickets

### URGENT NEEDS:

- Habitat Fund Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Veterinary Hospital Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 6' Bench for People (\$750) \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Enrichment Bench (\$1000) \$\_\_\_\_\_

### 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](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)

**Total Contribution: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.*

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_