Help us, help them!

Ringo is our featured tiger. Read his story on page 14.

Using genetics to put an end to the trafficking of exotic animal parts. See page 6.

Rocklyn

Species: Tiger
Sex: Female
Born: June 10, 2016
Arrived at TCWR: Sept. 30, 2016
A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith, President & Co-Founder

Winter has arrived at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge! And cooler weather brings great change. With winter hours now 9 am to 5 pm, you can catch the walking tour from 10 am to 3 pm. We have also closed our Tree House, Glamping Tents, and RV sites for the winter, but no worries; we will still have our Safari Lodges and Suites available for an exciting winter vacation. So, come with your hot chocolate and experience the call of the wild from the comfort of a warm and cozy room!

While the cats will be much more fun to watch from your suite and on the guided tour this winter, the bears will be slightly less so. Unlike their wild counterparts, captive bears, do not go into full hibernation, as they are fed throughout the winter. However, they do become lethargic. Because of this, their meat and produce consumption will lessen.

With the bears reducing calories, the carnivores, like typical cats, are doing the exact opposite! In order to stay warm, big cats need to eat twice as much and will eat up to 15 pounds of raw meat a day. Therefore, donations of food, like those coming from Tyson Foods, Inc. help greatly.

Despite being capable of holding 100,000 pounds of meat on site, TCWR still needs to rent freezer space to hold the abundance of meat from Tyson, Inc. This additional freezer space can cost well over $2,700.00 a month, not including the cost of vitamins and the food required for specialized diets, like that of Peyton, Blackfire, and Rocklyn who are fed the Nebraska Diet for their Metabolic Bone Disease. By becoming a Sustainer of Wildlife through monthly donations, you can help further support these efforts.

Humans also experience a bit of a diet change in winter - a diet change is known as the festive-food-coma of the holiday season! For this great time of cheer, consider giving a gift that makes an impact on creatures both great and small. With an abundance of TCWR gift certificates, adoption opportunities, new membership packages, and exciting lodging choices - your purchases go into the care of the animals at the Refuge, ensuring that their holidays are extra-special too. But remember - order early!

Another great way to give is by donating to one of our projects this winter. This holiday season the Refuge will continue to work tirelessly to fund and build the new bear habitats. We have raised $99,000.00 of our $150,000.00 goal - which means we are getting closer every day! Every donation of $5,000.00 or more will receive name recognition. Do consider giving our bears the best holiday season ever, by donating to their new home in honor of someone you love. Another project to consider supporting is our new Visitor Education Center. As we prepare for the Spring capital campaign kick-off, we will be reaching out to all of our donors to help start us off on the right foot, with partnering naming rights for the building going to donations of a certain size.

Being an educational paradise for all who wish to learn about the care of endangered species, the perils of the Exotic Pet Trade, the sciences, and onwards - I continue to be excited about our plans, goals, and dreams to continue the Refuge as long as it is a necessity. Without TCWR, the animals we rescue would have few people to turn to for help. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you a safe and happy holiday season on behalf of all of us at the Refuge.

Until next time …

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Tigers frolicking through the snow, lions barreling through piles of leaves, bears snuggling with pine trees, and leopards playing soccer with pumpkins. Enrichment at Turpentine Creek changes with the seasons. Fall and winter are perfect times to visit Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Our animals love the cooler weather and enjoy the changing enrichment schedule.

Just like humans, the changing seasons mean different activities for the animals to enjoy. Although our bears tend to slow down in preparation for winter, the feline portion of our animal population becomes more active. Tigers, cougars, leopards, bobcats, and lions enjoy the cooler weather. Our lions carro1 more in the brisk fall mornings, tigers enjoy laying in warm sunspots, and cougars and bobcats are more playful. This season is the best time to come to Turpentine Creek and see the animals playing.

We remove the summer pools from habitats as the temperature drops to prevent freezing and damage. Pools are a summer treat for our animals, but in exchange for the cool water the animals will get piles of leaves to pounce in, pumpkins to destroy, and seasonal spices to smell. It is a great exchange and a new set of senses to stimulate.

We encourage you to take the time and come out to enjoy the animals and seasonal changes that happen at the Refuge. We are open year-round so make plans to stop in for a visit this Winter. Our feline residents will be safe and sound in their furry fur coats and warm bedding filled dens. Make sure to bring a warm coat and be ready for the weather. See you soon!

Seasonal Enrichment

Volunteer for Fall Cleanup

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted an annual fall cleanup with the statewide Great Arkansas Cleanup initiative. Volunteers worked hard downtown and at the refuge to make our world a better, cleaner place. Check our website for future volunteer opportunities.

TCWR President Tanya Smith
and the entire team at Turpentine Creek wish you a …
Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

What a big year it has been for all of us at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge – between building, testing out new forms of animal husbandry (see “Every Time a Bell Rings a Black Bear Gets Its (Chicken) Wings” on page 15), preparing for the winter season, and the testing of the new ambulance – we have been very busy. But it was the third Big Cat Sanctuary Conference, held in Minnesota in September this year, where TCWR’s national animal advocacy work achieved its greatest impact. The conference has become an annual event, which gathers animal experts and leaders of reputable sanctuaries throughout the United States.

At the conclusion of first conference, held in 2013, great strides have been made to improve the communication and support between all participating sanctuaries. After all, each of these well-respected facilities and partners agree to and are dedicated to the same mission - ending the captive wildlife crisis. Representatives from 16 sanctuaries, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) were in attendance.

The conference this year, hosted by the Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota, was filled with presentations that covered an array of topics such as: habitat design, sanctuary sustainability, emergency preparedness, and developing a successful animal care internship. I was honored first by being asked to be a presenter, but also, by being able to discuss how the acclaimed Internship Program at Turpentine Creek was developed and how it has grown into a vital part of the care of our animals.

At last year’s conference in Denver, Colorado, the new Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA) was developed, and I have been honored to serve on the Steering Committee for the past year and have accepted another term for 2018. The BCSA has officially been launched and is comprised of professionals dedicated to the welfare of captive big cats. We will be sharing best practices that benefit animals and the organizations, involvement in advocacy efforts, and collaborate on rescues. Both TCWR’s founder, Tanya Smith and I are serving on various BCSA committees. The alliance will work together towards the day when sanctuaries are no longer needed because the private ownership and exploitation of wild cats have been eliminated. Until then, BCSA will speak with a strong, unified voice on behalf of all captive big cats. A great way to begin supporting this effort is by starting with the animal refuge you call home – donate to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge today and help us help them all.

BCSA

BIG CAT SANCTUARY ALLIANCE

Big Cat Ambulance

Last year was an epic year at the Refuge. With the opening of the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital our animals receive the best care in the industry. To insure the safety of both the animals and our team members, we added a big cat ambulance to our animal care tool box.

The big cat ambulance was built on the strongest base we could find: an official military Hummer! In the Spring of 2017, used Hummers became available to the Refuge through surplus and two were purchased, one for ambulance conversion and one for emergency response. The ambulance conversion was done on site by our own Maintenance Department. The top on the back was raised, a cage built, and the top replaced. We added a 3,500-pound aluminum lift, over 200,000 lumens of LED lights, and a red emergency cab-top light.

With the new big cat ambulance online and in service, we can transport our patients to the hospital with complete safety to our team as well as the patients themselves.

Visitor Education Center

Turpentine Creek is moving towards a better future, not only for the big cats but also for our visitors. Creating a state-of-the-art Visitor Education Center will allow us to reach a broader audience and help educate the public about the dangers of the exotic pet trade.

To give this campaign a proper start, we will have our campaign kick-off in the spring. So, keep an eye out for an official date announcement soon. We hope all of our supporters will be able to join us for the event and to help us celebrate the next big step towards the future of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge.
Using Genetics To End Trafficking
Ellie Armstrong - PhD student at Stanford University
TCWR Communications Director Lisa Brinker

Over the upcoming months, Turpentine Creek will be taking steps to discover more about the animals in our care. Recently, TCWR was approached by Tigers In America and Ellie Armstrong, a doctoral candidate with Petrov & Hadly Labs at Stanford University, to participate in a research project to sequence the DNA from rescued tigers that live in America.

Using DNA analysis, we can identify where our tigers come from and what their underlying ancestry is. Using noninvasive methods, researchers can collect hair and feces. During routine check-ups, vet staff can also collect blood or cheek swabs and send samples to Stanford University to analyze the DNA in each tiger. This information can provide a snapshot into the history of each rescued animal, but will also offer Turpentine Creek and other participating sanctuaries and rescues with relevant health information for any individual.

When rescuing big cats, we rarely know the parents of the animal, let alone the subspecies. The lack of knowledge about the subspecies of a rescued animal will not harm them, but this knowledge could improve the quality of care we can offer each animal. This information will allow us to be better prepared for any health issues that might be dominant in a specific subspecies of tiger and make sure our tigers are getting the proper amount of food and the correct balance of nutrition. It will also allow us to identify genetic lineage of our tigers and we might be able to also watch for health issues that known relatives of our tigers might have.

There are currently six subspecies of tiger in the wild, and each of the subspecies has a unique history and come from different geographic regions. However, it can be hard to tell the different subspecies apart by looks alone! For tigers in zoos, each individual is composed of only a single known subspecies, but for rescued tigers, their origin and ancestry are unknown. Only four of the six subspecies are known to be in the U.S. Panthera tigris altaica (Amur tiger), Panthera tigris tigris (Bengal tiger), Panthera tigris sumatrae (Sumatran tiger), and Panthera tigris jacksoni (Malayan tiger).

Most of the tigers in captivity are “generic” tigers. A “generic” tiger is a tiger that is a mix of different subspecies. This mix of genetics is one of the many reasons that captive big cats have no conservation value. Inbreeding, human selective breeding, and genetic issues mean that these animals and their descendants cannot ever be introduced into the wild population.

This study will help not only the captive population by identifying the genetic makeup of their subspecies, but also assist the wild population. Scientists have recently been able to use DNA analysis to trace elephant ivory to its origin and help prevent and identify illegal poaching. Similarly, DNA from our tigers here at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge will be used to help scientists identify the origin of confiscated materials such as pelts and teeth and to help prevent the illegal trade of tigers and tiger parts in the future.

This will not only help America’s population of big cats but will also go a long way in protecting their wild counterparts. We are very excited to contribute to this research project. Hopefully, one day, this information will help us save wild tigers from extinction. Until then, we will do our best to educate the public about the plight of big cats in the wild and captivity. With your help, we can end the exotic animal trade and save endangered animals.

TC and his friends at Turpentine Creek are excited to be involved in the pain-free contribution of fur and other types of samples to help put an end to the trafficking of animal parts. “We give hair because we care.”

Order the new 2018 calendar today! Next year’s calendar features some of the enrichment methods we use to improve the quality of life of our big cats and bears. Will your favorite resident be featured? Order using the form on page 11 or through our online store:

Shop.TurpentineCreek.org

Your Legacy

When poet, Emily Dickinson wrote, “I argue thee that love is life. And life hath immortality,” she meant that with love we experience immortality – that with love, we live forever. What greater way to express love then, than by giving the opportunity of a full life to another?

Supporters of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can continue their legacy by leaving a portion of their estates to the Refuge, and thereby ensuring that all of the present and future animals rescued will be well cared for and live out their lives in peace.

Please speak with your attorney today and consider setting up your legacy by providing the information below.

Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc. DBA Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
FEIN #: 71-0721742
Address: 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
Phone #: 479-253-5841
Fax #: 479-253-5059
Website: www.turpentinecreek.org
Officers: President: Tanya Smith, Vice President: Scott Smith, and Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Smith.

Please help us, help them, in the years to come. Thank you.
Health Check: Metabolic Bone Disease Update on 3 Rescued Cubs

Raising human triplets can be a handful, but raising three tiger cubs with Metabolic Bone Disease is no walk in the park either. At least we never once had to force them to eat their vegetables! Our resident triplets Peyton, Black Fire, and Rocklyn came to Turpentine Creek in September of 2016. When we took over their care, they were all unable to walk and were in severe pain, due to the illness.

It took a great deal of love, care, attention, and a special diet, to get these three cubs back on their paws, and on the road to recovery. After just over a year in our care, the three cubs are almost like normal, healthy tigers. Of course, they still have some issues due to the Metabolic Bone Disease - such as narrow pelvies, slightly bowed leg bones, and other issues. As the cubs have grown, many of the medical issues have corrected naturally. Their ionized calcium levels have normalized, and their bones are no longer fragile.

Out of the three cubs, Peyton is the one with the most visible lasting issues from the Metabolic Bone Disease. She has a noticeable limp due to bone calcification in her shoulder joint that cannot be removed or fixed. After consulting multiple veterinarians and universities, it has been determined that an attempt to surgically repair the joint would not be successful. Because of this, Peyton will have to be on medication for the rest of her life to prevent pain. We are researching NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) to help with the issue, to help her live a long, happy life.

We have been x-raying the cubs often to monitor their bone growth. At Peyton’s last exam, she weighed 211 lbs, which is good for her age. Although they have made improvements and their calcium levels are now normal, the trio will have to continue to eat a special diet for the remainder of their lives due to some of their remaining deformities.

They are all going to be large tigers, but not quite as large as they could be. The Metabolic Bone Disease did have an effect on their growth. To illustrate this, if you look at their siblings, Tanya, and Kizmin, who are four months younger than they are, you will see that they are nearly the same size as the triplets.

If you came out to see these cubs today, you would never know they were the same three cubs that could not walk when they arrived at Turpentine Creek. Now, they run, play, and tackle each other, just like other tigers their age. We are glad that we were able to take over their care early enough to help them. It was touch and go for the first few months, but we all made it through, and now they have a chance to live long, happy lives as real tigers at the Refuge.

The Cub Club Presents:
T.C.’s Wildlife Word Search!

See if you can find and circle the words listed in the puzzle below!

N A L A Y A Y N A T J D S E L
P O P P E R E F A L E R T L A
S P Y K E R A T O Z R A R V
L E I N A D I U F C O P I F E R
N E D G B S L T E V O P S E
E D U C A T I O N C I E E P S
R O T H M W B V R K N L S R R
C K I U B X E H E W T R A E E
R P G F A U E I A A W S D B
E R E F M T C V S R C C N A O
G I R L N O I L X T I A B T O
I D N U M I T A O C L R M O G
L E L E P I D L I W E A R B
H O W H I S K E R A O R R H O
V E U C S E R E F U E Q S

Bam Bam
Bear
Bobcat
Carnivore
Cecil
Chuff
Coatimundi
Cougar
Cub
Daniel
Den
Education
Elvis
Groober
Habitat

Leopard
Liger
Love
Macaw
Nala
Popper
Predator
Pride
Refuge
Rescue
Roar
Sanctuary
Serval
Shakira

Spyke
Stripes
Tanya
Volunteer
Whisker
Whistler
Wildlife

And remember, you are never too small to make a BIG difference!

See the tear out on page 11 to sign up for Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge’s Kid’s Membership, The Cub Club, and help your cub become involved in solving the BIG problems facing BIG cats in the world today.

Experience The Wild

Coloring Book!

Purchase your first edition coloring book from TCWR. The coloring book features images created for the Refuge featuring TC (Titus Creek), our mascot. Buy one for each of your family members this Holiday Season.

Coloring Book!
Choose Your Giving Level Today!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is thrilled to announce our new Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier Program! The program consists of four levels: the Friends of India, the Bam Bam Benefactors, the Kenny Fellowship, and the president’s club - the Hilda Jackson Society. Each tier is its own exclusive community that allows for donors to engage with one another, take home fantastic sign-up gifts, and support the Refuge in the most effective way possible. This new program will allow for TCWR to respond more quickly to the needs of the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and enable us to budget for larger projects, and projects that will have the greatest impact in the years to come. By using a tier model, the program will not only allow for donors of all levels to become involved, but also, the membership donations themselves are funneled directly into our General Fund – allowing us to use funds where they are needed the most and when they are needed the most. Find out more about your tier options below!

1. The Friends of India
   Annual donation of $300 - $1,249*
   Members of the Friends of India will receive the following sign-up gifts:
   - Friends of India Membership Card
   - Entrance into the Refuge
   - Trolley Tickets
   - 15% off in Gift Shop
   - Big Cat Chronicles
   - A Photograph of India
   - Recognition on our Website
   - Exclusive Member E-mails
   - Member Only Events
   - 10% off Lodging**
   - Calendar
   - Decals
   - TCWR Species Fact Sheet

2. Bam Bam Benefactor
   Annual donation of $1,250 - $2,999*
   Members of the Bam Bam Benefactors will receive:
   - Bam Bam Benefactor Membership Card
   - Entrance into the Refuge
   - Trolley Tickets
   - 20% off in Gift Shop
   - Big Cat Chronicles
   - A Framed Photo of Bam Bam
   - Recognition on our Website
   - Exclusive Member E-mails
   - Member Only Events
   - 50% off Lodging**
   - Calendar
   - Decals
   - TCWR Species Fact Sheet
   - Travel Mug
   - Private Tours with Senior Staff
   - The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
   - Recognition in and access to the Annual Report

3. The Kenny Fellowship
   Annual donation of $3,000 - $9,999*
   Members of the Kenny Fellowship will receive:
   - The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
   - Entrance into the Refuge
   - Trolley Tickets
   - 20% off in Gift Shop
   - Big Cat Chronicles
   - A Framed Photo of Kenny
   - Recognition on our Website
   - Exclusive Member E-mails
   - Member Only Events
   - 50% off Lodging**
   - Calendar
   - Decals
   - TCWR Species Fact Sheet
   - Travel Mug
   - Private Tours with Senior Staff
   - Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
   - The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
   - Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
   - A Staff Liaison

4. The Hilda Jackson Society
   Annual donation of $10,000+*
   Society Members will receive:
   - The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
   - Entrance into the Refuge
   - Trolley Tickets
   - 20% off in Gift Shop
   - Big Cat Chronicles
   - A Framed Photo of a Favorite Cat
   - Recognition on our Website
   - Exclusive Member E-mails
   - Member Only Events
   - 50% off Lodging**
   - Calendar
   - Decals
   - TCWR Species Fact Sheet
   - Travel Mug
   - Private Tours with Senior Staff
   - The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
   - Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
   - A Staff Liaison

Members of all tiers will receive:
- TCWR’s Family Membership Kit
- A Staff Liaison
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- A Staff Liaison

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail with included envelope.

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

- $25
- $35
- $50
- $100
- Other $________
- Repeat monthly.

2018 Calendars:
- $10 each X _____ calendars + $5 S/H = $________

First Edition Coloring Book:
- $5 each X _____ calendars + $5 S/H = $________

Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier
A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

- $45 The Club, Kid’s Membership – You are never too small to make a big difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.
- Name of child: ____________________________
- Please circle the plush cat you would like:
  - LION
  - TIGER
  - LEOPARD

- $50 TCWR’s Single Membership – For a full year you have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.
- $90 TCWR’s Family Membership – For a full year you have access to the Refuge for two adults and all children 19 years old and younger, including free trolley tickets, and 10% off in the Gift Shop.

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership. Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible. [ ] Membership Opt Out

- $100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
- $2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear
- $1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey
- $2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard
- $700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird
- $125/yr - Cougar/Leopard
- $500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Sponsorships:
- $25 each X _____ calendars + $5 S/H = $________

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

Adopted/Sponsored Animal’s Name(s): ____________________________

Total Contribution: $________

Name: ____________________________ Phone #: _____________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Credit Card #: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Exp. Date: _____/____/____ CVC Code: __________________

*Be part of a membership tier you must donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level.
**Limitations may apply.
This past year was one that was filled with blood, sweat, and often, tears – but also, it was one that was enriched with a sense of accomplishment, the brightest of smiles, and the greatest of triumphs. Indeed, 2017, was a year of tremendous accomplishment. While we are heartbroken at the loss of a few of our older rescues due to the inevitable complications of old age, we have been able to rescue many others and provide for them with the fullest of lives.

This year we have gained so much through the hard work and dedication of our supporters, team members, and interns. Throughout it we have worked toward concluding the Colorado Project, and are almost there! With the final animals transported from Colorado to TCWR earlier this year we have been tasked with building the largest habitats TCWR has ever constructed and are well on our way. This year, we also finished building two large habitats behind the Gift Shop – now housing five gorgeous tigers and one handsome liger.

On the education front, we not only implemented a brand new education internship, but we also, researched ways to engage the thousands of visitors we receive each year. And with the launching of a new membership tier program and kids’ membership (The Cub Club) we can now do that! We’ve also magnified our national outreach by first, making the necessary strides in advancing toward accreditation with the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), and secondly, by playing a major role in the formation of the Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (see page 4 for more great details).

And on top of all of that – we fed, medicated, and enriched the lives of over 100 animals throughout the year, performed multiple surgeries, brought in new enrichment programs for the bears, continued to make strides toward providing lifetime refuge for the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and on and on and on. But we could only have accomplished this much with your help. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

End of year giving generally makes up about 20% to 40% of our annual operating revenue. Without this support, we would not be able to do many of the things we need to do in order to better the lives of all of our animal residents. Your donations help us change lives and continue to provide the highest quality of care for our animal friends. You can give us the means to finish the year with a fanfare of support by donating today, and helping us, help them.
**Featured Animal: Ringo**

**Male Tiger (Panthera tigris)**

**Born May 28, 2003**

**Arrived at TCWR October 7, 2003**

Ringo was brought to the Refuge from Springfield, MO by his former owner. The man had acquired Ringo as a cub when he and his wife were volunteering for a traveling photo taking scam operator to get closer to the cub. The man running the photo taking scam had to leave for California because a family member was hospitalized, and left the tiny tiger in the couples’ care, never to return, despite promising to do so.

On October 3, 2003, famous magician and tiger handler, Roy Horn, was attacked and nearly killed. This news spread across the United States quickly and the neighbor of Ringo’s new subdivision home was alarmed by this news (because he had small children) and gave an ultimatum to Ringo’s new owners: “find Ringo a new home or I’ll have to turn you in to the police.” The man and his wife immediately called Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and arrangements were made for his arrival a couple days later.

Ringo survived his shoddy beginnings and landed on his feet at a reputable sanctuary. For other casualties of the “pay to play” and “cub petting” industries life was not so fortunate. After their 12-week career as a photo model, most cubs end up being shoved into a life of caged hell. When they were young they were an asset to the owner, now they live life as a liability; an inmate. When Ringo was brought to the Refuge from Springfield, MO by his former owner, the man and his wife were volunteering for a traveling photo taking scam operator to get closer to the cub. The man running the photo taking scam had to leave for California because a family member was hospitalized, and gave an ultimatum to Ringo’s new owners: “find Ringo a new home or I’ll have to turn you in to the police.”

TCWR rolls out its new 2018, Advocacy Initiative - become a big cat champion by urging your representative to support HR 1818 today.

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted a fun-filled event for Bam Bam Day this year! November 5th was jam-packed with interactive activities for all ages, who came to learn about the important role bears play in the ecosystem. Activities encompassed crafting special bear enrichment for the 13 bears at the Refuge, sharing knowledge about unique bear adaptations, their diets, home ranges, bear safety, and of course, highlighting Bam Bam the grizzly!

The favorite activity of the day was “Bearing Down for Winter,” where participants learned how bears cope during frigid winters in the wild. Many wild animals have special superpowers (or unique adaptations) to ensure their survival. Team members helped partakers explore the wonders of animal blubber with a bag full of Crisco and a cold bucket of water, and visitors learned that having a thick layer of fat is what keeps bears warm in the winter time and the reason why they can withstand the freezing temperatures.

Interactive programs that entice creativity and hands-on learning is a fantastic way to create life-long memories, inspire active learning experiences, and create passionate advocates for all animals. We invite our visitors to participate in these unique experiences to enrich their minds in unique and engaging ways and enjoy a new fun way to learn. Bam Bam has always been a staple at the Refuge, and TCWR looks forward to creating more opportunities for educational programs for the public to learn more about our exotic and native animal residents.

Every Time a Bell Rings a Black Bear Gets Its (Chicken) Wings

One of the most iconic Christmas films of our time is Frank Capra’s “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The story of second chances and a lovable angel’s attempt to earn his wings. Like the angel Clarence, we at the Refuge have been witness to many souls living lives of desperation and fear, and like Clarence, we have been called to action. The five bears, our most recent arrivals - Holli, Lollie, Koda G., Xena, and Huggy, are a perfect example of this. Who could have imagined that these poor bears would ever have had a second chance at life? The TCWR Family, that’s who - and that means you!

Thank you for your ongoing support; support that has provided so much for these lucky bears. They still await the completion of their new habitats - the largest TCWR has ever ventured to build - but progress has been steadily made over the last few months. To date, through the Bear Necessities Habitat Campaign, a total of $99,000 of our $150,000 goal has been raised toward completing this enormous undertaking. And with 750 feet of ditch dug, and 48 posts driven, we are well on our way. In the meantime, as we fundraise and build, we have begun a new program with the bears in hopes of making things run a little more efficiently during dinner time.

Our Annual Bam Bam Day celebrates one of TCWR’s most adored bears, Bam Bam the Grizzly. Full of interactive programs that encourage creativity and hands-on learning, Bam Bam Day will always be a family event to remember.
Big Cat Live: Instant Access to Your Favorite Big Cats

Rambunctious cubs playing, life-saving surgeries, habitat releases, annihilating enrichment, and other “aww” inspiring events happening at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge can now be watched live from the comfort of your home. Live video is the latest tool Turpentine Creek is utilizing to get information to our dedicated donors, and is a fantastic way to allow our supporters to interact with our team while watching amazing videos featuring the animal residents of the Refuge.

Our weekly live video show is called “Big Cat Live at TCWR,” and airs every Tuesday at 10 am CST on Facebook and YouTube. In the show each week, Ivy Doss, Animal Care Biologist, introduces our viewers to TCWR’s animal of the week, and to a different team member who will present a keeper talk about all of the exciting things going on at the Refuge. Supporters also get the chance to ask questions about the Refuge and hear the answers to their questions live!

Donor Spotlight - Social Media Donations

Nonprofits, like Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, will always rely on generous supporter donations to fund their missions. This will never change, but how nonprofits fundraise has evolved over the years because of the introduction of the internet. From GoFundMe to Facebook, the internet has provided new tools that make donating to your favorite cause easier.

Facebook recently added a few features that allow supporters to fundraise for their favorite registered nonprofit. Many of our supporters have begun using this feature to help Turpentine Creek and have found them to be fun and easy to use. Some of our online fundraisers have asked friends to donate to Turpentine instead of sending them birthday or holiday gifts; others have added donate buttons to their Facebook posts. No matter how they choose to utilize these new features the team and animals at Turpentine Creek appreciate their thoughtful actions.

We have 23 donors that we would like to say thank you to for their online fundraising efforts: Jonathan M., Lisa B., Hannah W., David E., Sharon C., Kayce K., Rebekah W., Mandi T., Gretchen S., Amber E., John B., Clayton H., Kaitlyn I., Sam B., Brandy L., Clayton H., Darlene C., Jennifer C., Kelsee E., Marcie A., Marcie H., Tabitha L., and Sha R-B.

Since the Facebook fundraising tools have become available, these 23 individuals have raised a combined total of $3,035 through supporter run Facebook fundraising and the donation buttons added to posts has raised $3,106. These features are a great way to help Turpentine Creek and have the funds to donate. It is only with your help and generous donations that we can continue to rescue animals from the exotic pet trade. Learn how you can start a Facebook fundraiser or add a donation button to your posts on our YouTube page at https://youtu.be/Kg8ziETwXr.

Donor Spotlight – Social Media Donations

Hannah

Creating Facebook fundraisers or adding a donation button to your post is an easy way to help us, help them.

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the dens
Not a rescue was caroling, nor chewing on bins:
The wish list of the Refuge was found on this page,
In hopes it would make Christmas morning the very best day!

Our animals will be nestled all snug in their beds,
With visions of meat treats and boomer balls in their heads:
In order to care for them we have a few needs,
So settle down and listen, if you would please.

To start, Fiberglass A-frame ladders would be quite nice.
Followed by, strong carabiners, and lots of Clorox wipes.
The animals need their vitamins, B-12, B1, and A and E,
So if you are a pharmacist, do come and see me!

From large grain shovels, to stock tanks, and a metal chop saw,
We need welding gloves, baling wire, and toys for restless paws!
And there’s always a desire for hand warmers on cold days,
And laundry detergent after buttery sprays!

If you would like more ideas that didn’t fit on that last line,
A four wheel drive pick-up truck would make our hearts shine.
There is also a need for omnivore biscuit treats.

Honey, fig newtons, and cheerios make a “bear-y” good feast.

Each of us, our President Tanya, and Curator Em,
Are hoping to provide the best holiday for them,
Please know that we love each animal the same,
But for goodness sake, they don’t all have rhyming names.

So for Dillian, and Daniel, and Popper, and Kizmin,
To Karma, and Kit Kat, and Donner, and the rest of them,
To ensure good holiday spirits I must certainly insist,
That you immediately check out our Amazon Wish List*.

*Our Amazon wish list!
1. Go to Amazon.com
2. Click Accounts and Lists
3. Select “Find a List or Registry”
4. Search for “Turpentine Creek”
OR scan this QR code on the right with your smart phone.
OR type in the web address below:
http://amzn.to/2iyD0Dd
Throughout the wilderness of North and South America lives a beautiful and misunderstood cat with many names. Puma, Mountain Lion, Panther, and Catamount are just a few monikers given to this elusive cat that is native to our woods, mountains, and deserts. Though many people have heard of a cougar, few have ever seen them in the wild. Cougars are masters at hiding, only leaving behind tracks for us to find.

Weighing up to 200 lbs and with a body length, including their tail, of up to eight-feet-long, cougars are quite large in their own right. However, they are not considered a big cat; they are scientifically classified as a small cat. What is it then that makes them different from a lion or a tiger? A cougar has the ability to purr instead of being able to roar like a lion or chuff like a tiger. Cougars, like your small domestic cats, will purr, make chirp noises, and hiss. Even though they make similar sounds that domestic cats make, it does not mean that they would make a good pet. They are still wild animals that belong in their native habitats, not in our homes or backyards.

Cougars have a vast habitat range spanning from Southern Alaska all the way to the Southern tip of Chile. They can be found in 28 countries in the Americas; giving them the largest geographic range of any native terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. However, this large range also has negative impacts with habitat destruction, human-cougar conflict, prey decline, and legal/illegal killing. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 cougars are killed each year in the US and Canada by hunting and human-cougar conflict; making conservation efforts even more important. Throughout the wilderness of North and South America lives a beautiful and misunderstood cat with many names.