

Letter from the President Co-Founder Tanya Smith

lam consistently amazed at our organization's progress and growth. On May 1, 2016, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge turned 24 years young - that's older than some of our current interns - and, being mindful of our limited resources, it's apparent that our team is dedicated to our mission and knows how to stretch our (your) dollar to maximize opportunities for the animals and enhance your visitor experience.

During one of our weekly staff meetings, I queried our team as to what was most important to them regarding our mission. Rescuing and providing compassionate care to our animal population was a unanimous sentiment. Educating the public about the harmful nature of the exotic pet trade was just as significant. From day one of opening this facility, those two aspects have been the foundation of our mission and we are blessed to have progressed to this point.

We have truly made a difference in the lives of so many people through our educational efforts. We've educated hundreds of thousands of youths and adults through our outreach and docent programs. We've placed new educational signage throughout the Refuge that provides great learning opportunities for visitors. And our internship program offers a robust training opportunity for university graduates interested in careers in the zoological, veterinary and environmental fields.

As our team continues to champion the TCWR mission I encourage you to learn about our efforts and support us as we move forward, creating a special place where abused animals can live out their lives with dignity and respect. With your help, we can continue rescuing and caring for exotic cats, bears, and other mammals, and educate future generations for years to come.

A great way to get involved is by becoming a card-carrying member of the organization. With one annual donation, you can receive a Single or Family Membership, and you and/or your family will be able to visit the Refuge as often as you'd like throughout the year. And did you know that adopting or sponsoring an animal also includes a family membership? So that's another great way you can help support our mission.

Our annual membership picnic is on Father's Day (Sunday, June 19) at noon, during Eureka Springs Blues Weekend. Because of this, there will be live music for you to enjoy after a short membership meeting. So bring a lawn chair and stay a while. Blues Weekend is June 16-19 and if you'd like to purchase day or weekend tickets, or see a schedule of performances, go to eurekaspringsblues.com I hope to see you here!

Find us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information about Refuge events and news. We consistently post fresh content mixed with a little bit of history and education about our animals, our team, and various projects and events. Or better yet, come visit us to learn more about our mission and our plans for the future.

I hope you enjoy reading your Big Cat Chronicles newsletter. Thanks for all you do to help.

Sincerely, Until Next Time...



Your Behavioral Progress Report

Spyke

Spyke's youth and hyperactive nature make him an ideal candidate for our behavioral training program. Spyke started the program jumping off the walls of his night house and never sitting still. This leopard loved to stalk and hunt anyone who came near his habitat or night house.

Since beginning training, Spyke has really calmed down. He now anticipates his behavioral training and we can tell because he will come right over to anyone who has a treat or one of the behavioral training tools, instead of running around or pacing.

Spyke has taken to the training and has already learned multiple behaviors like 'sit,' 'down,' 'up,' 'come,' 'target,' 'side,' and 'station.' Overall, he is doing very well and is right on schedule for behavioral training. We know he will continue progressing quickly.

Wanoka

Wanokawasa'hopeful' candidate for the behavioral training program. Before starting on the program Wanoka rarely came out during the day. He preferred spending his time in his den, loft den, or hiding in his log.

Since beginning the training program Wanoka has become much more interactive with staff members. He anticipates the training, and any time he sees a staff member with a treat or behavioral training tool he will rush out and wait for them, his nub tail happily swishing the whole time.

Wanoka is progressing with training much faster than we initially thought he would. He still has a long way to go but the fact that he comes out and waits, in front of visitors, for training tells us that he really likes training.

Heather

Heather is an energetic cat and we thought she would be great at behavioral training; it turns out that energetic does not always equal being a fast learner. Getting Heather's attention can be a challenge at times. She is easily distracted and, although she loves treats, she can get overly excited and stop paying attention quickly.

Heather is still a work in progress but as long as she is willing to learn we are willing to work with her. We never force our animals to participate in behavioral training. All reinforcement is positive and good for the animal. Most of the animals that are part of the program are doing very well.



Mary Schlieve, Staff Biologist, working with Wanoka, who has begun to socialize more as a direct result of training.



The "Tail" of Two Spays



In Mid-March, Magic leopard had to go in for surgery. She was not acting properly and once we took her into our veterinarian he discovered she had a large tumor in her uterus. Our veterinarian removed her uterus and found no other issues.

Since the surgery, Magic has healed fine, with no infection, no pulled stitches, and she is back to her old self. We are very happy to report that during this whole medical adventure with Magic, we were given the chance to see how well our behavioral training program has worked.

After Magic's surgery, we expected her normal behavior, hissing, spitting, and avoiding staff in general. We were amazed that even the day after her surgery that she approached Ivy and somewhat participated in her daily training. Day two she was still grumpy but more willing to participate in training as well.

After surgery, Ivy utilized the 'up' command to get Magic to stand so that animal care staff could check on her stitches and check for infections. It was thanks to her training that the staff could keep Magic's stress low and watch the progress of her healing.

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Post surgery behavioral training assist when doing health evaluations. This allows staff to check her incision. She is doing great. This would have been impossible prior to her training.

Grumpet tiger has had some issues recently and after trying antibiotics our veterinarian determined it was best to spay the older tiger. We were worried, at first, that her age would make the spaying process difficult. We came to find out her age wasn't an issue... but her size was.

Grumpet is a prime example of why we need specialized equipment in our on-site veterinary hospital. She is so large that we had to bring in the second table to prop up her head during surgery and we had to secure her legs to the walls so that the Veterinarian could perform the operation.

Her uterus was swollen and infected, so the veterinarian removed it. Other than the inflamed and infected uterus he found no other issues, and he completed the surgery without further incident.

Luckily, Grumpet did really well. Our veterinarian and assistants were careful and made sure that she was sedated since she is one of our more temperamental cats; and while she was under they also trimmed her claws. The following day she was still groggy and grumpy but she seems to be feeling much better now.



Grumpet at our current veterinarian's office (she has recovered well), spread over two tables. We only need 32K to complete the veterinarian hospital. Can you donate to the vet hospital once more?

Veterinarian Hospital GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON GUTTING

OPEN TO EVERYONE:

Visit the refuge on Thursday August 18, at 2 PM, to be part of our Veterinarian Hospital Grand Opening. You will witness our ribbon cutting and get the grand tour of the vet hospital and a free tour of the refuge to boot!

Now, don't be sad if you cannot make it to the refuge for the August 18 ribbon cutting of TCWR's Veterinarian Hospital. We will be hosting a MEMBERS ONLY tour from 1-4 PM on Saturday, August 20. Go to turpentinecreek.org to learn more or to become a member today.

Catsatt

Turpentine Creek's fifth annual Cats at the Castle fundraiser was a huge success! Held at the beautiful Castle Rogues Manor in Beaver, AR, it was a picture sque setting for an evening filled with fun and fundraising. Our generous supporters raised a grand total of \$17,770.07, after expenses! Beyond the amount raised for the animals, our supporters also donated \$14,500 to Tigers in America for a 50% matching habitat grant for Turpentine Creek. The grand total raised at the fifth Annual Cats at the Castle fundraiser was \$41,020.07! Thanks to our amazing supporters for making this special evening memorable and successful.

Cats at the Castle



Fred and Sherry proudly display their silent auction treasure. The fundraiser raised over 40K including Tigers in America's 50% match.

Enrichment for Your Furry Friends



What started out as a vegetable garden maintained by Turpentine Creek's founder, Hilda Jackson, has grown into a project of passion by a group of supporters. A few years ago, volunteers took the defunct vegetable garden and created Hilda's memorial garden. They filled the space with herbs like catnip, mint, oregano, rosemary, lavender, and thyme to help enrich the lives of the animals that Hilda loved so much.

Over the years, volunteers have come on a regular basis to maintain the garden. Ivy, our volunteer coordinator, sets aside a few days through the spring for volunteers to work on the enrichment garden.

The herbs are a simple and fun way to enrich the lives of the animals who call Turpentine Creek home. Since cats, both big and small, rely so much on their sense of smell, scent based enrichment is vital to having healthy and happy animals. We provide enrichment for the animals on a daily basis; the herbs are all very aromatic, which gives the cats something new to investigate.

We are grateful to the volunteers who have helped us create and maintain the enrichment garden. It has made the lives of our animals that much more enticing and exciting.

To help with our enrichment garden, or to volunteer for other projects, please contact Ivy at Ivy@turpentinecreek. org. Please watch our Facebook page and emails for information on upcoming volunteer events. Ivy requests that individuals RSVP for event dates when possible. You can also join the Turpentine Creek Garden Club; they come out twice a month to help pull weeds and maintain the memorial garden.

Generic Tiger Loophole Closed

On May 6, 2016, in an effort to strengthen protections for all captivebred tigers in the U.S. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services closed the "generic" tiger loophole in the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which was allowing the export, taking (harm, shoot, hunt, kill, trap, etc.), and interstate sale of "generic" tigers without registering.

"Generic" tigers are tigers where the subspecies (Bengal, Sumatran, Siberian, or Indochinese) is unknown or the tiger is a cross between two or more subspecies.

Now, with the "generic" loophole closed, if a tiger owner wishes to sell a pure OR "generic" tiger across state lines they must first obtain an interstate commerce permit or register under the Captive-bred Wildlife Registration program. In the past, these "generic" tigers were not included in the ESA regulations.

The hope is that with the closing of this loophole, it will reduce the trade in tigers. Although this new amendment is a step in the right direction, the new regulations do not stop or restrict the private ownership of "generic" tigers. We are still a long way away from protecting all big cats from abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Together we can continue to make a difference.



Big cat dealers can no longer breed generic tigers and then travel freely across our great nation.

New Cub Handling Regulations

USDA Updates Regulations on Cub Handling

New rules have been passed down from the USDA regulating the handling of neonatal non-domestic cats (tigers/lions/cougars/bobcats/leopards/etc.). These updated rules have set hard guidelines dictating when cubs can and cannot be handled by the public.

Although these new rules do not affect Turpentine Creek - as we are a hands off facility and do not allow public interaction with any of our animals, no matter their age - we do see this as a very important step to protecting big cat welfare, reducing cub petting schemes, and eventually stopping the unrestricted breeding of big cats in captivity.

The USDA has officially set the neonatal age to 28 days or younger. Cubs, in this age category, are not allowed to be handled by the public. If the USDA finds a licensed exhibitor to be in violation of this new rule, they could have their license revoked.

The updated regulations on neonatal cub handling are due to the fact that cubs from birth until approximately 28 days cannot regulate their own body temperature and do not have a fully functioning immune system to fight off infections. The USDA suggests that cubs of this age either 1) be with their mother and healthy siblings as long as possible or 2) be housed in a controlled environment of heated, clean, and sheltered enclosure (such as a nursery).

We, and the animals in our care, appreciate all the voices that have helped to make these changes. Change can only happen when we stand up for what we believe in and what is right. This is not the end, only the beginning. We still need your help to protect exotic animals from abuse, neglect, and abandonment.



Recent changes to regulations prohibit exhibitors from using cubs under 28 days old, like Spyke (now 8 years old) for money producing petting exhibits.

Please continue to contact your local, state, and national representatives and let them know of your concern about the private ownership of big cats and other exotic animals. Let them know that you support H.R. 3546 & S. 2541 the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which will enact a single, nationwide, regulation on the ownership of big cats and other dangerous animals.



On your next visit to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, you might notice our bears acting a little 'peculiar'. In the wild, female bears typically go into 'heat' starting in May. Wild male bears will begin marking their territory and exhibiting dominance behaviors.

Our bears, particularly Thunder and Harley, have been exhibiting these dominance and territorial behaviors recently. Male bears will stand up on their hind legs and rub their backs against trees and large rocks or urinate on them to mark their territory. They will also stomp around, digging their paws into the dirt, to spread their scent around. This is most interesting to witness.

We have created large habitats with plenty of space to encourage our bears to follow their natural instincts. We are really excited that Thunder, Harley, and Koda, our three male Black Bears, and Bam Bam, our Grizzly Bear, are all showing signs of doing these natural behaviors!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, along with many zoos and sanctuaries, have shifted to a behavior based animal husbandry plan to encourage these natural and seasonally based wild behaviors in the animals. We hope to continue encouraging our animals to act as naturally as they possibly can in captivity. It helps to enrich their lives and makes for happier, healthier animals.



Your Membership Picnic

What are you waiting for? You are the piece to TCWR's puzzle.

Become a member today.

turpentinecreek.org

We couldn't rescue and provide compassionate care to our population without the incredible generosity of our members. Your membership goes a long way to ensure our animal ambassadors are happy and healthy, and we appreciate you. So on June 19, at noon, we will also host our annual Membership Appreciation Day and annual members meeting to celebrate your support. If you are attending the the Membership Party, please fill out the envelope inside the newsletter or email tigers@turpentinecreek.org.

There is a lot going on at the refuge during the third weekend in June, and it'll be here before you know it. So start planning your visit to Eureka Springs now, and come out to the refuge to help us support good music, great dads, and a grand cause!

Strength in numbers.
Will you join the pride?
Together we will make a difference

Lions know the power of a pride. We know from them there is power in numbers. Turpentine Creek has done a lot with the help of our "pride." Will you join? Become a card carrying member of TCWR today. turpentinecreek.org



Headliner: Alvin Youngblood

We're gonna knock your socks off! Come out and enjoy iconic blues musicians, up close on the TCWR stage. Alvin Youngblood, our headliner, is known as a "musician's musician," Alvin Youngblood Hart's praises have been sung by everyone from Bob Dylan to British guitar gods Eric Clapton & Mick Taylor! Alvin has won one Grammy for "Beautiful Dreamer-The Songs of Stephen Foster", and his 2003 album "Down in the Alley" was nominated for Best Traditional Blues Song. Alvin performs Friday, June 17.

Go to eurekaspringsblues.com to get all the info!

DON'T MISS THIS FABULOUS WEEKEND, MARK THE DATE NOW.

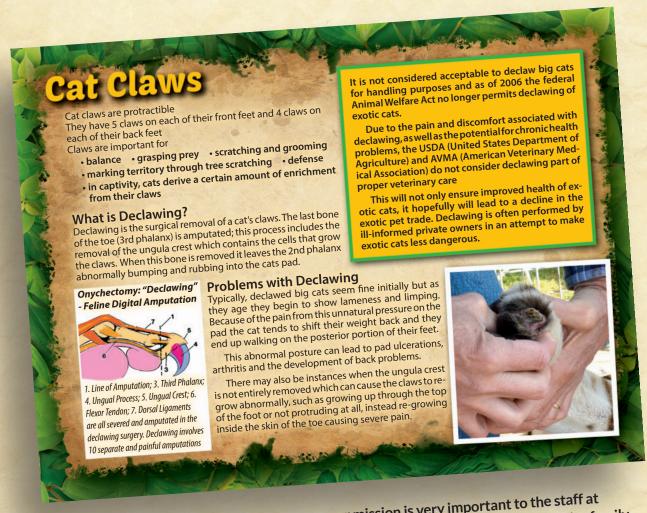
Your New Education Station and Signage

This summer changes are coming to Turpentine Creek! During your next visit to the Refuge you may notice some new additions to the landscape. We have worked hard over the past few months to create educational signage and a new Education Station along the tour path.

Our Education Station will provide a dual purpose by offering tour walkers a place to take in the beautiful Ozark scenery and the amazing animals who live at Turpentine Creek, and also a place to learn more about our mission. It will also offer visitors retreat from the hot summer sun. The new educational signage that will be placed around the tour path will give brief information about animal species, our mission, past rescues, and the animals in our care.

These additions to our facility will help us with our secondary goal, which is to educate the public about the plight of big cats and other exotic animals. This is only one step in our plan to enhance the experience at Turpentine Creek. We are in the process of incorporating different ways for visitors to learn about the animals in our care during their visit.

As we grow and explore different ways to educate our visitors, we invite you to give us feedback about your experiences. We are always looking for ways to improve and enhance our supporters' experience at Turpentine Creek.



Educating our visitors on issues relating to our mission is very important to the staff at TCWR. We hope you find your next visit educational and informative for your entire family.

Zoo / Sanctuary Collaboration - the impact of sharing knowledge

Spreading awareness and educating the public about the big cat crisis is critical to putting an end to the problem. By collaborating with other reputable zoos and sanctuaries, we are able to maximize our efforts, enhancing communication within the industry and benefiting the animals within each organization. The fact is, these animals are in captivity and we need to work together in order to provide the best animal care programs and environments possible.

In March, I traveled to the University of Georgia and was honored to speak with the university's animal welfare and exotic veterinary clubs. The students were in awe of the harrowing stories I shared about TCWR rescues, and the diverse veterinary problems that arise in sanctuaries due to the ignorance of those owning big cats and bear as "pets."

With the completion of our veterinary hospital, in the near future Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge will be providing an externship program for zoo veterinary students. We are confident in the education opportunities that will become available because of this new facility, and the research performed therein can be shared among other facilities caring for comparable species. Reaching out to exotic animal veterinary students is an important step towards creating the program. TCWR's Internship Program is extremely competitive and very successful, and TCWR's staff are pleased to provide an externship program to veterinary students which will prove to be just as effective while continuing to promote our education initiatives to a new group of upcoming professionals.

To further promote inter-organizational collaboration, in April our Training Coordinator, Ivy Doss, and I traveled to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. I was again privileged to give a presentation to the zoo staff to spread awareness about sanctuaries and TCWR's mission. The keepers there had also set up multiple animal behavior training sessions, during which we were able to glean a considerable amount of information to enhance our own TCWR behavioral training program. Along with providing a donation to TCWR, this collaborative effort was generously sponsored by the zoo's Omaha AAZK (American Association of Zookeepers) Chapter. Furthering the collaboration, two weeks later 8 keepers from the zoo traveled to TCWR to volunteer their time at our facility in Eureka Springs.

By working together we can make more of an impact within the industry. And by taking advantage of each organizations' strengths and knowledge, all of our programs, people and animals benefit.



TCWR staff travels to strengthen relations between sanctuaries and zoos. As a result of one visit, zoo keepers from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo came to the refuge in May to volunteer.



One of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo's finest, seen here with a snow leopard.
Collaboration works! See the info about our training program on page 3.



While at the refuge, the group helped with planting reed grass and building a habitat. If you work at a zoo and want to know more about sanctuaries, email:

emily@turpentinecreek.org

Recapping 24 Years at Turpentine Creek

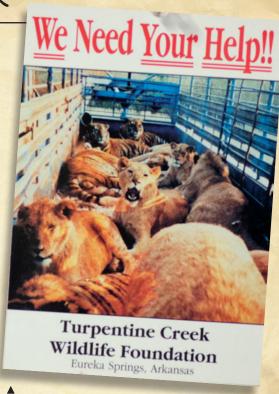
It might have all started with one little lion cub, Bum the lion, but Turpentine Creek has continued to change and grow over the last 24 years.

From a cramped compound to spacious grass enclosures, we have grown and evolved throughout the years. The construction of Turpentine Creek involved a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. Everything that makes Turpentine Creek what it is was built from the ground up by the founding family, a handful of staff members, dozens of volunteers, and hundreds of interns.

Turpentine Creek continues to grow and evolve and we are constantly learning and finding new ways to do things. The last 24 years have been an amazing journey full of love, laughter, and lots of hard work; and the next 24 years look to be even better than the last!

We are so very glad that you have been a part of this adventure so far! We invite you to join us on our continuing journey to save big cats, and although we don't know what the future has in store, we know it will be an amazing ride.

Next May is our 25th! Get ready now.



More than a decade after our founding family rescued their first two lions, three trucks with 30 foot cattle trailers pulled into their driveway in Hope, Arkansas...full of big cats! The Jackson's knew of the perfect place to unload those 42 big cats into temporary cages. Furekal This old post card (sirsa 1992) was one of the first print pieces.

these 42 big cats into temporary cages...Eureka! This old post card (circa 1992) was one of the first print pieces designed to help these magnificent animals.

Spend a Memorable Summer Night at Turpentine Creek



Thor is one awesome vocalist! While spending the night at the refuge, Thor and the other lions are sure to serenade you throughout the wee hours. Others will join in to complete your "Wild Side" adventure. Come, visit Africa In The Ozarks the summer.

Summer is right around the corner and you know what that means... summer vacations are almost here!

We've all been there, trying to find the perfect place to stay during a trip. Choosing the right lodging can make or break the whole vacation. Where you stay is not just a means-to-an-end, it is the jumping-off point. It is also possible that where you stay can be the whole purpose of your vacation, places for fantasy and adventure!

Quit settling for ordinary and make plans to stay with us, take a vacation "On The Wild Side!" We offer a unique experience that will make your time with us unforgettable.

Our guests can immerse their minds in the serenity of our property, and let the effects of the animals sink into their hearts and souls. Sitting on the porch or lying in bed with a window cracked, you can hear the music of the lions caroling during the night.

Quality of life is defined by our experiences; staying in one of our wonderful rooms, with the animals sleeping and caroling only a few feet away, is an experience that your family will cherish forever.

Come enjoy the exotic sounds of nature and *Help Us*, *Help Them*. Book Your Experience Today ———

Why Wild Animals Make Bad Pets An Educational Piece

Although we've rescued many different species of exotic and native animals from numerous states, the majority of our population are large carnivores and/or omnivores such as big cats and bears. A large portion of our residents came from private hands because, contrary to widespread belief, there are no federal laws in place restricting ownership of these animals.

Regardless of whether your state allows private ownership, there are many obvious reasons why you should not pursue the idea. In no particular order, here is a candid list - followed by interesting facts - as to why these animals should (ideally) remain in the wild, or at the very least in safe and reputable sanctuaries like TCWR.

- 1. Tigers are expensive dates. In one night they can eat the equivalent of 267 perfectly portioned 6 oz. steak dinners at your favorite restaurant. (Fact: Wild tigers are capable of consuming up to 100 pounds of meat in a single sitting. Studies also indicate that, if available, tigers can consume 4 - 7% of their body weight on a daily basis.)
- 2. Cougars make other cats jealous because they win all the sweet gold medals for long jump and high jump at every track and field event. (Fact: Cougars are the best jumpers in the Felidae family with a vertical leap of nearly 20 feet and, from a standing position, a horizontal leap of up to 40 feet.)
- 3. Lions don't get along with librarians because of their opposing views on noise ordinances. (Fact: A lion's roar can be as loud as 114 decibels - human ear pain begins at 125 decibels - and can be heard as far as 5 miles from the source.)



- 4. Bears are terrible roommates and will eat all of your food without paying you back. (Fact: Bears are very opportunistic eaters and, while their diet consists of mostly grasses, roots, fruits, nuts and insects, they will eat fish, small mammals and carrion as well.)
- 5. Leopards are hard to shop for because they have unique fashion sense. (Fact: Leopards have different coat patterns than jaguars and cheetahs. A leopard's coat pattern only includes rosettes, whereas a jaguar's coat includes spots within rosettes. A cheetah's coat pattern only includes spots.)

Come visit the Refuge to learn more about our mission and listen to stories of how each of our animals found refuge at TCWR. And follow us on social media for more animal facts, photos and videos!



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge • 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, AR 72632 Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail to:

Thank You!

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

2016 Calendars: \$5 each X calendars + \$5 S/H = \$ Donations: □ \$25 □ \$35 □ \$50 □ \$100 Other			
Membership:	\$Single An	_ nual Pass	\$50 \$90
URGENT NEEDS:			
	☐ Veterinary Hospital Equipment		\$
			\$
Veteri Thanks to our supporters we have be to fund the hospital equipment. Our \$32,000. Please continue to supp	en able to comp team worked ha	rd to get the best deals, up	pital building. Now we need
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