



Fall 2017

BIG CAT CHRONICLES

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

Louisa

Species: Cougar

Sex: Female

Born: June 30 2016

Arrived at TCWR: Sept. 30 2016

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

A Letter from the President

Tanya Smith, Founder & President

After a long hot summer, all of us at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge are thrilled to be moving into the Fall – a time where the Ozark Mountains are an array of earth tones, things in town start to calm, and school is back in session. If only more people knew that this quiet and cool time of year is the best time to come visit the Refuge, they certainly would be in for quite the treat. With the heat gone, the cool days mean some very active cats and perfect camping weather – especially in the new Bam Bam's Bungalow. This Fall will also mark the beginning of an exceptionally busy time for us at the Refuge, with two major projects underway and some fun events, too. Before I dive into those, however, I'd like to briefly mention some of the work we completed in the warmer months of this summer.

In spite of the 105-degree heat index on some days, and due largely to the generous donations of our supporters like you, we were able to accomplish so much that needed to be done. For one, we replaced and rebuilt all of our habitat benches. This is necessary as, over time, wooden habitat benches tend to wear down. The team also added some artistic flair by painting each bench with a daring dash of bright blue, yellow, purple, and green! I love the additions, and I know you will too when you come visit!

We also continued making progress with our Bear Necessities Habitat Fundraiser, which is a part of TCWR's initiative to build the largest bear habitats we have ever had; accommodating the bears we rescued from Colorado and others as well. These natural habitats have been designed with our big bear, Huggy, in mind. Huggy, a Russian brown bear, will be twice the size of Bam Bam when he reaches maturity; meaning he is going to need a lot of space to run, play, climb trees, and swim, and we intend to give it to him, but we can only do this with your help. Currently, we have raised just over \$74,540.00 of our \$150,000.00 goal. Help us accomplish this project by donating today. Every bit counts when you are working to save these animals, and we greatly appreciate any support you can give.

Over the last three years, the Turpentine Creek team has been working on a plan to provide our supporters with a new entrance that will serve as the Visitor Education Center. In the Education Center, you will find new and creative ways to educate the public about the perils of the Exotic Pet Trade. There will also be the added bonus of a cafe and a gift shop! Having served as an educational facility for so long, there is definitely an air of excitement at the thought of this dream becoming a reality, and this Fall the work begins to fund this new project!

Please mark your calendars and join us at the official groundbreaking of the Visitor Education Center on October 27 at 1:00 PM. There will be sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and private individuals who wish to help bring this project to fruition. Additionally, on the day following the groundbreaking, Saturday, October 28th, we will be hosting our annual Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular Fundraiser – the only time of year that the Refuge is open after dark. We hope to see you all there!

Throughout the years, as Turpentine Creek has taken on more and more in order to provide lifetime sanctuary to the survivors of the Exotic Pet Trade, we have always been able to depend on you to help us help them. Without you, we could not keep doing this work. Thank you, friends.



Here is Huggy, TCWR's still growing Russian brown bear, with his friend Lolli, a full sized black bear. Huggy is not full grown yet! He is temporarily being housed in a beefed up tiger habitat but will need to have a permanent home as soon as possible. We have raised half the money needed, can you help set Huggy up for life? Donate to the habitat fund today.

Your New Visitor Education Center

For 25 years, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge has made it a part of our mission to educate the nation about the lives of the animals we rescue. In sharing their stories, we hope that we will be preventing another animal from experiencing the neglect and abuse that comes hand in hand with being a victim of the exotic pet trade.

As we have grown larger, however, we have found that our current model of education is no longer sufficient to our needs. Often, when tours are too large, for example, we find guests opting to remain on the Discovery Tour in the self-guided area, and therefore are missing out on the important message we are trying to share - big cats are not pets; they are not props, and they desperately need our help. While our tours and school visits will remain a central part of our education program, we hope to evolve them to accommodate more guests. In light of this, we began brainstorming new and inventive ways to reach out to our visitors.

We felt it was important to be able to show films about our mission, to have kiosks with species facts and other educational material accessible, a place where the Behavioral Management Program and other similar programs could be taught, and also an array of child-centered programming led by our animal interpreters. It became evident that, in order to accomplish all of these, we would need an entirely new space, and therefore, the dream of the Visitor Education Center was conceived.



Not only will the Visitor Education Center include a multi-purpose educational space but also a cafe where families and school groups can have lunch, surrounded by big cat facts; there will also be a new gift shop area where souvenirs and educational materials can be purchased to help to support the care of all the animals at the Refuge.

Having met with the architects, with a plan that is now in place, we invite you to accompany us to the groundbreaking that will occur on the day prior to our Spooktacular event, on Friday, October 27, at 1 pm.

This is the largest project that we have undertaken to date, but we still need your help! If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, contact us to learn more. We also invite you to consider becoming a Sustainer of Wildlife by committing to a monthly donation of \$25 in honor of the 25 years that we have been educating the country about the consequences of the exotic pet trade. Only with your help will they be saved!

Please help us, help them.

Letter from the Curator - A Happy Reunion

Emily McCormack

The wellbeing of animals forced to “perform” in captivity has long been a topic of concern in animal welfare circles. Circuses and magic shows have used exotic cats for years to provide a short burst of entertainment during a performance. These “tricks” are brought about through fear-based training. Fear-based training destroys trust between any potential animal-human relationships. As a consequence, many also suffer from severe psychological damage. It is specifically with these psychologically broken animals, that regaining trust in people often seems to be the most difficult challenge – as was the case with white tigers, “Mama” Shakira and Bosco.

Imagine spending the first three years of your life forced to perform in a magic show. Then when you are finally ‘retired’ from performing you are transported to a facility for breeding, where within two years, giving birth to four different litters of cubs. All your cubs are taken away shortly after birth and used for “pay for play” cub petting and photo opps. This is the documented past of the white tiger, “Mama” Shakira, and a similar story to many other animals in the entertainment industry.

Mama and Bosco were transported from Colorado to TCWR in early October 2016. While in Colorado, the two had been bred repeatedly. Previous to TCWR’s arrival in September 2016, Tanya and Kizman were born, and the two adults had been separated. Mama had a large gash on her side, which we were informed was from Bosco. We assumed Mama was stressed and protecting herself due to her pregnancy, which was likely very true, however there was another element to both her and Bosco’s high stress levels. Both of the tigers, before going to Colorado, were being used in magic shows.



After years in the entertainment industry followed by years of breeding for the cub petting industry, Bosco and “Mama” Shakira are finally at home. They now enjoy their days lounging in their large habitat on their new bench.

Once at TCWR, Bosco was neutered and both cats were placed in a shared habitat, alternating their days in and out of their night houses. With patience and time, however, it was our hope that they would adjust to their new surroundings and gain confidence in humans once more. And in mid-July, after both seemed reassured by their environment and began to trust a few members of staff, it was decided that they were finally ready to be reunited. This was an important factor in introducing them. Instead of panicking about a new environment with new smells and people, the two tigers could concentrate on each other and have a successful reintroduction. It went flawlessly and we are happy to report that they love sharing their habitat, and they can be seen lying side by side on their new bench.

When rescuing an animal, we can never fully comprehend what their previous life was like. Sometimes, we discover pieces of their past that are truly devastating. The most important task we are given is to rescue them from these horrible situations and to provide them with a second chance at life. This is precisely what we have been able to do for Mama, Bosco, and all of the survivors of the exotic pet trade residing at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, and it is what we will continue to do every single day, with your help.

How You Can Help Keep Big Cats Safe

HR. 1818

In March 2017, House Representatives introduced a bipartisan bill that would greatly reduce the harm of big cats in captivity by banning their private ownership and breeding. HR. 1818, also known as the “Big Cat Public Safety Act” will provide more protections for big cats and the public by amending existing laws. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge stands firmly behind this initiative.

With an estimated 10,000 big cats being kept as “pets” in the United States - many of them experiencing abandonment, abuse, and neglect - the only way in which we can protect these incredible animals is by passing laws to put an end to the exotic pet trade. To that end, TCWR staff members met with Representative Steve Womack’s office while they were visiting in Eureka Springs this summer, and explained to them why Rep. Womack should help us, help them by voting YES to HR. 1818. You can help too!

What does the bill say?

The Big Cat Public Safety Act amends and clarifies regulations set by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act and the Lacey Act of 1981. If the bill is passed, it will be illegal to sell, purchase, breed, or own big cats. Existing owners will be required to register their cats, which will allow law enforcement and first responders to be aware of potentially dangerous big cats in the event of an emergency.

Wildlife sanctuaries and places exhibiting big cats to the public will have to be licensed by the USDA, and they will have to abide by strict standards that will ensure the safety of both the public and the cats.



Why do we need it?

There are no federal regulations preventing the buying and selling of big cats in the United States. Laws by state vary, and big cat owners can move to a different state to avoid local laws. Many states have no regulations at all. Because of this, we are seeing more and more cats in desperate need of sanctuary – it has to stop.



Photo by: Jay Vrecenak, Eureka Springs

What you can do to help?

Currently, the Committee on Natural Resources is reviewing the Big Cat Safety Act. You can help this bill get passed in the House by contacting your local legislator by phone or e-mail – please visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> for more information. If you’d like to read the bill in full, please visit <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr1818/text>.

Only by coming together will we be able to save them, and we will save them.



Building Benches and Building Confidence

Tsavo, a 12-year-old lion, rescued in 2010, spends his days looking out over the Ozarks on his beautiful new, brightly colored, bench. He seems content to relax and watch visitors as they tour the facility, occasionally starting up a rousing round of caroling. But Tsavo hasn't always spent his days lazing in the shade of his habitat. Until recently, Tsavo shared a habitat with three tigers, Chuff, Abigail and Athena, alternating days enjoying the spacious habitat he called home.

When a solo habitat opened up a few months ago, we decided to move Tsavo to the habitat so that all four cats would be able to spend every day enjoying the space that a natural habitat provides. Chuff, Abigail, and Athena, really enjoyed having daily access to their habitat. Tsavo, on the other hand, rarely left his new night house. We knew that the move would be an adjustment for the handsome lion. He had always had tiger neighbors, and this relocation meant he was instead surrounded by other lions.



Thank you for donating to the Refuge. We have been able to replace many of the past wooden benches with new metal benches. Tsavo's positive reaction to his new bench is all the thanks we need. "Tsavo, you are welcome, buddy."

As the days continued, we tried to coax him out with enrichment toys and treats, but still, he seemed to prefer the quiet of his den and night house to the grassy landscape of his habitat. We just couldn't seem to figure out why he wouldn't come out and enjoy the warm sun that all of the other lions were enjoying.

Time passed, and eventually, the day came for Tsavo's new habitat bench to be built. We have been working to replace many of our old benches recently, as over time, they begin to become very worn, scratched-up, and chewed on. Securing Tsavo in his night house, the next few days were spent replacing the old bench. Much to our delight, as we worked, we saw the big and curious golden eyes of Tsavo observing the activity – the first time in a long time that he had shown interest as to what was happening outside of his den.

As soon as we completed the bench, we gave Tsavo access to his habitat, and the change was immediate. As the rebar pole pushed open his door, Tsavo rushed out to investigate the new addition to his home. Since then, Tsavo has spent all his time enjoying his habitat. He loves to stand and look out over the Ozarks, watch the visitors, and proudly carol from atop his "tower."

Benches are a vital part of our habitats. They give our animals shade, a place to rest, sharpen their claws, and provide a great view of their home. With our new bench design, we can easily replace boards that the big cats destroy with their claws and, because the framework is made of sturdy metal, they will last longer than the previous benches made entirely of wood. It is only with your help that we can continue to provide enriching homes for our animal residents. Donate now and join the Sustainers of Wildlife, a monthly giving program that will ensure that all of our animals can have the same experience as Tsavo. See the enclosed envelope and remember to check the box: **"Become a Sustainer of Wildlife!"**

Meet Your New Team Member - Suz

Turpentine Creek welcomes our newest staff member, Susannah (Suz) Manning-Osborn. Suz earned her place on our team after two years interning at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. She first joined us in August of 2015 for her first internship. "After my first week here, I knew that I wanted to stay for at least a year."

About halfway through her fourth internship, a spot opened up and she was chosen by Emily McCormack, our animal curator, to join the team.

Suz graduated from North Carolina's Elon University in May of 2013 with a BA in Psychology. After graduation, she completed a few internships across the country. Her last internship, before Turpentine Creek, was in Oregon, where some team members, who had been previous interns, raved about Turpentine Creek's internship program.

"There is never a day I do not learn something new here. There is no one better to learn from than Emily. I was excited to be offered the job. It came as a huge surprise to me; I had been trying to figure out what else I could do or where else I could go after this internship. I couldn't believe it, but I was excited."

The transition from intern to team member has been different for Suz. She has a different set of responsibilities now, but she's taking it in stride and learning quickly. The team is happy to have her, and she has settled into her new role well.

"I think that finally being able to be part of the staff is a pretty good example of not giving up on something—sticking it out, knowing what you want to do, and being willing to sacrifice, for it is worth it. It is hard sometimes, but there is no comparing to how you feel when you finally make it."



The advertisement features a tiger's head in the top left corner with the text "TURPENTINE CREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE" and "Rescuing Exotic Cats Nationwide". The main text reads "Introducing TCWR's New Kid's Membership: THE CUB CLUB" and "You are never too small to make a BIG difference!". At the bottom, a cartoon tiger is shown with the text "The Purrrfect Gift for \$45!".

Your New Cub Club

"You are never too small to make a BIG difference!" is the theme of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's new children's membership, The Cub Club! The Cub Club is an annual children's membership at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge that allows kids to become involved in solving the BIG problems facing big cats around the world.

For \$45.00 a year the Cub Club membership includes:

- A Cub Club Membership Certificate
- An annual subscription to Big Cat Chronicles
- A TCWR TC coloring book
- A plush big cat of their choice
- A TCWR sticker
- A photo of their favorite kind of big cat

A great gift for children, the Cub Club is a fun new way to become involved in the rescuing of big cats! Sign up today with the enclosed envelope, in person, or on our website!

Your Cougar Cubs Are Growing Up Quickly

Louisa and Marissa, two of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's youngest residents, have nearly outgrown their spots! These two rambunctious cougar cubs came to us from Colorado as tiny, spotted, fluffy, curious, three-month-old hellions. Our girls are full of spunk and enjoy chasing, pouncing, and stalking visitors and team members alike. They also enjoy their new benches, enrichment, and following children who come to visit.

When they arrived here, they only weighed 10 and 11 pounds; now, at 14 months old, they weigh 62 and 70 pounds. Amazingly, these girls are not done growing! When fully grown, they will be 80 to 130 pounds and be 5 to 7 feet long from nose to rump, with their tails being nearly as long as their bodies. They still have about a year to go until they are fully grown. Cougars reach reproductive age at 20-24 months but can continue to grow until they are over 2 years old.



◀ Dr. Ron Eby is shown here spaying Louisa in our onsite vet clinic, the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. As Marissa waits in the other room for her surgery, Louisa does fine. Because of your donations, veterinary care is the most efficient it has ever been. You can help us continue this important work by becoming a Sustainer of Wildlife through monthly giving. See the enclosed envelope and be sure to check: "Sustainer of Wildlife!"

Because we do not allow any breeding at the Refuge, we recently spayed Marissa and Louisa. Although the girls do not live with a male cat, it is our policy to spay all of our female cougars. We do this because cougars are native to our area and if they were to go into heat they could attract wild males.

Beyond just the risk of wild males coming into our parameter, cougars are very vocal animals when they are in estrus. A cougar's scream is ear-piercing and disturbing. A female cougar will go into estrus at any time of the year, and it will last approximately 23 days. To save our team and visitors' eardrums, it is better to spay female cougars and allow them to peacefully live out their lives without trying to attract a mate.

After the procedure performed by our veterinarian Dr. Ron Eby of St. Francis Veterinary Clinic, Louisa and Marissa spent a few days recovering in our onsite veterinary hospital. Since these two girls tend to play rough with each other, we decided to keep them separated until they had healed a bit. It didn't take very long for Louisa and Marissa to return to their energetic selves. We were happy to release them back into their habitat a few days later fully recovered and ready to play!

Over the last year, our new veterinary hospital has been vital to our mission. Simple surgeries, like spays and neuters, are only a small part of the 35 medical procedures performed in the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital since its grand opening on August 18, 2016. It is only through your support that we have been able to see one of our many "dreams" come true. Donate today to help us continue to expand our facility so that we can continue to provide lifetime refuge for exotic animals in need.

Serval Introductions: Encouraging Healthy Interactions



Although the three servals are not cuddling, they are all living in the habitat peacefully.

The same day tigers Mama and Bosco were reintroduced to one another, a second introduction transpired. Whistler, a male African serval, was brought to us in January while we were still in Colorado. He was previously privately owned by a couple who had two other African servals in their home. Because of a decision to get divorced, the couple chose to release the three servals into the Colorado wilderness.

Unfortunately, two of the servals died, leaving Whistler. Whistler was transported to TCWR, where he resided next to two previously introduced servals, Bowden and Giselle. With time, he adjusted to his surroundings, the habitat, neighbors, and daily routine, prompting staff to take steps to bring the servals together.

The introduction was perfect. Giselle was very interested in him at first, but the three each went to their favorite spots in the habitat to relax. The next morning, each went to their own feeding areas without incident. All three are doing great and seem happy to have access to the habitat daily.

Though tigers and servals are solitary in the wild, in captivity many wild animals enjoy companionship. Social companionship and shared housing encourage healthy interactions, which can reduce any stress or anxiety-related behavior in captive animals, as well as increase their locomotion. The stimulation that occurs with having a companion also provides them with a natural source of daily enrichment.

Honing animal care skills at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Meredith Whitney - IFAW Wildlife Rescue Program Officer

The International Fund for Animal Welfare promotes sound protocols at wildlife sanctuaries in order to ensure human and animal safety as well as animal welfare.

I took the opportunity to work recently at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) in Arkansas for two weeks. Not only did I have the pleasure of collaborating with TCWR's staff and interns to care for more than 100 rescued big cats and bears, I got to specifically practice the protocols we preach.

The protocols enforce a specific skill set and knowledge base of how to interact safely and humanely with captive wildlife.

IFAW and TCWR have worked together in the past, and I had the opportunity to visit with some of the animals we worked together to rescue, like Blackfire, Peyton and Rocklyn, each of whom I was overjoyed to see running and playing in their new, spacious habitat.

Each day, I started my work at 8 a.m. and finished at 6 in the evening, working in the scorching sun and in the pouring rain. My days were filled with feeding animals, cleaning habitats, preparing diets and providing enrichment. TCWR also arranged to have their veterinarian perform several necessary medical procedures during my time at the sanctuary.

I performed thousands of small tasks that animal care providers do daily to make life a little bit better for the majestic creatures who have been relegated to lives in captivity instead of in the wild where they belong. However, if these animals have to live captive lives, I'm glad they're able to do it in places like Turpentine Creek. And having followed the many great protocols TCWR has instituted, members of the Wildlife Rescue Program here at IFAW can be better prepared for our rescues and working with other sanctuaries.




Meredith's visit will help members of the Wildlife Rescue Program at IFAW to be better prepared for rescues and working with other sanctuaries. TCWR staff members were proud to be her host.

Featured Animal: Sadie (Tiger)

Female Tiger (Panthera tigris)

Born November 27, 2006

Arrived at TCWR October 27, 2014



Sadie quickly became a staff and intern favorite at the refuge. Her loving, fun attitude is a testament to us all. No matter where you come from, you can enjoy today. Each animal's story teaches people great life lessons. Visit today.

Sadie was rescued from private owners in Arkansas, on October 27, 2014. Her previous owners had divorced and were ordered by the court to find a new home for Sadie, which lead them to Turpentine Creek. Sadie was the last of a family of tigers raised and bred there for a local "pay for play" drive-thru animal park, and despite deplorable living conditions, she is a very friendly tiger and responded positively to rescuers. Unfortunately, Sadie was declawed by her former owners and as a result favors one foot over the other. Despite the pain she experiences in her foot, she is a very active tiger, and is often found playing and leaping around her habitat.

Expanding Education - New Education Internship

One of Turpentine Creek's missions is to educate the public about the plight of big cats and other exotic wildlife in captivity. Our education initiative has expanded over the past few years and has grown to the point that we are testing out a new internship program that will focus specifically on growing our educational outreach.

This new internship will run concurrent with our bi-annual animal care internship, and it will last six months. The first participant in this new internship is Hannah Wherry, a current animal care intern who is interested in the educational side of animal conservation.

When asked about why she wanted to stay for the Educational Outreach Internship, Hannah exclaimed, "I have loved big cats my entire life, and I knew working for them was my calling. I enjoy communicating the importance of respect for wildlife, and my greatest passion is watching others realize that they too can become advocates for the animals."

Educating the general public is key to putting a stop to the exotic pet trade. It is devastating that there are still so many people who do not understand the full extent of suffering that animals face due to a lack of awareness, stagnant laws, and, of course, greed.

"With this education internship, I hope to communicate with as many people as possible, young and old, to create many more voices for all wild animals in captivity. I am so grateful to TCWR for believing in me, and allowing me to help them shape this new position for future intern generations."

With Hannah's help, we hope to continue to expand the Educational Outreach Program and improve upon how we reach out and communicate our mission with the public. With your help, we will be able to continue to create a better world for exotic animals in America. Donate today to help us in our mission to educate the public about the plight of big cats in captivity.



Hannah is with one of her favorite friends, Heather. Like Heather, Hannah will touch the minds and hearts of all through her work to transform our educational outreach for the better. Keep an eye on her efforts on our website, at the Refuge, social media, blogs, and so much more. Congratulations, to the first ever education intern.

Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular

unless you're a scaredy cat . . .

Save the Date:
October 28
{Saturday before Halloween}
7pm to 9pm

The only night of the year to see our animal residents after dark, when they're most active. Family event including themed games, prizes, hayrides, and more!

A "Pic-a-nic Basket" Produce Drive

and an Update on the Bear Necessities Habitat Campaign

Since 1958, the cartoon character Yogi Bear has been a staple in our imaginations when thinking about ever-hungry bears. Yogi and his sidekick, Boo Boo, would find any means they could to collect delectable "pic-a-nic baskets" from humans visiting Jellystone Park and were always on the lookout for Ranger Smith! Fortunately, for the 13 bears of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, their "picnics" are provided for them every day.

Like Yogi Bear, who had a fondness for donuts, our bears also have favorite foods. Thunder Bear is partial to apples, Xena and Koda G. love their avocados, and Huggy, Holli, and Lolli find cantaloupe to be most agreeable. We try to accommodate their taste buds as often as we can by collecting their favorite feasts. Unfortunately, it is becoming harder and harder to do this.

The bears need to eat 20 pounds of produce every day during the summer months—an average of 2,000 pounds of produce a week. For the black bears, especially, ensuring that they receive enough produce is paramount for good health. In the wild, leaves and berries make up a significant portion of their diets. Once we build the two large natural bear habitats down on Rescue Ridge, there will be a plethora of tasty native plants already growing that will supplement a portion of the produce that they need. Currently, we have raised \$74,540 of our \$150,000 goal, and with the tree line marked and the footers dug, we are making progress, but there is still a lot more work to be done. Until the bears have access to native plants, we rely totally on donations and produce suppliers to feed the bears. And with the rescue of five additional bears from Colorado, our resources are dwindling very, very quickly, and we need help.

If you have produce and would like to donate, please call! We cannot accept rhubarb, garlic, and artichokes because they are very dangerous for the bears to eat. However, we are always looking for some of their favorite foods, which include: grapes (they prefer purple), avocados, apples, watermelons, berries, and oranges (depending on their mood). If you are short of fruit but would like to contribute to purchasing produce or helping to build our new habitats, consider donating \$59 a month in honor of the 59 years that Yogi Bear has been enjoying pic-a-nic baskets! We can do this, but only with your help – so please, help us, help them.



Currently the Refuge's bears are consuming about \$1,000.00 of veggies each week! Please consider becoming a Sustainer of Wildlife by donating monthly. See the inserted envelope and check the monthly box.

Please Welcome Your Fall 2017 Interns!



Back

Artan Emin
Quincy U.
BS Biology
May 2017

Rebecca Dharpaul
U. of Southampton
BSc. Zoology
May 2015

Morgan Lazar
U. of New Hampshire
BS Biomedical
Sciences/Pre Vet
May 2016

Matthew Pettepher
University of Alabama
BS Biology/Pre-Vet
May 2017

Erica Moscoso
Utah State University
BS Animal Dairy &
Veterinary Sciences
May 2017

Melanie Branson
SUNY ESF
BS Wildlife Science
May 2017

Sierra Daniels
Arkansas Tech U.
BS Animal Science &
Agricultural Business
May 2016

Eliza Hanes
Otterbein University
BA Zoo & Conservation
Science/Biology
April 2017

Front

Megan Keller
U. of Hawaii Manoa
BS Zoology
December 2016

Brooke Baker
U. of Arkansas
BS Animal Science
May 2016

Carly Hepburn
Bridgewater State U.
BS Biology
December 2015

Erin Whatley
Miami University
BS Zoology
May 2017

Brenda Pedroza
Humboldt State U.
BS Zoology
May 2016

Sarah Vowell
U. of Arkansas
BS Biology
December 2016

Amanda Rhodes
Virginia Polytechnic
Institute & State U.
BS Biology
May 2013

Education - Getting To Know Your Big Cat Hybrids

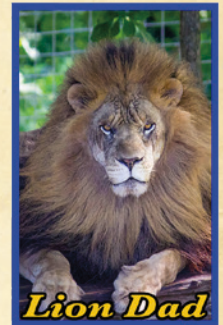
Liger

Father Lion - Mother Tiger



Tigon

Father Tiger - Mother Lion



Tigon and Ti-Tigon Photo by Bill Dow/ Photo © 2017 by the Roar Foundation - www.shambala.org
Do not use, reproduce or copy

- Ligers grow up to twice the size of their parents
- Tigons are small never getting to the size of either of their parents
- Male ligers and tigons are infertile
- Female ligers and tigons are fertile 50% of the time
- Hybrids have a lot of health issues, frequently getting cancer, having organ failure, and deformities.
- A hybrid's life expectancy is shorter than their parents. While lions and tigers live 15-20 years in captivity a liger or tigon's life expectancy is about 10-15.
- Lion/tiger hybrids are not known to naturally happen in the wild
- Ligers and tigons can make both lion and tiger sounds
- Second generation hybrids vocalizations are similar to their 75% bloodline
- Tigons are more rare than ligers.
- **TCWR does not condone the breeding of hybrid animals.**



**Pre-order your
2018 Calendars!**

Enrichment Toy Tree

Staff Biologist Mary Schlieve

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we strive to provide the best care for all of our animals and one way we can do that is through enrichment. Enrichment can come in many forms -- toys, cardboard, burlap, scents, food, and everyday things found in nature. Enrichment is vital for any animal because it encourages them to exhibit natural behaviors they would out in the wild and also provides them with entertainment, keeping them busy throughout the day. All the staff and interns make sure that the residents of TCWR receive some type enrichment item on a daily basis.

There is no doubt that cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, burlap, different scents, and some ice and food enrichment toys have a special place in the hearts of TCWR's animals -- they love to destroy them -- but the most popular items are heavy duty plastic toys that are much more durable when matched up against a 400 lb. tiger.

Currently, there are two popular companies that specialize in making these toys, Boomer Ball and Wildlife Toy Box. Both companies have many different options of toys to choose from, ranging from balls, cylinders, cubes, pills, feeders, and odd shaped toys, to name a few. With the varying types of toys, the strengths also vary from light to heavy duty. The light-duty toys are ideal for the smaller animals, and the heavy-duty toys are perfect for the larger animals.

In the hope of growing our current enrichment resources, this past July during our Wild About Wildlife Month, we set up an "Enrichment Toy Tree" in our gift shop to encourage supporters of the Refuge to purchase a toy or donate money towards purchasing a toy for their favorite animal or favorite species.

There is a guide to enrichment purchase options in TCWR's Gift Shop if you would like to take a closer look at what toys are needed. Toys can also be purchased through our website under the donation section, or you may also consider visiting the websites Boomerball.com or Wildlifetoybox.com to buy toys for the Refuge directly. Donate toward the enrichment fund today - the more enrichment in the animals' lives, the healthier and happier they will be.



Poncho loves enrichment toys and goes through them often. Choose a toy for one of your furry friends by going to our website, www.turpentinecreek.org and clicking on the Donation button at the top right.



GET AWAY TO THE REFUGE

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is always finding new ways to make your next visit unique and fun. On your next getaway, you could relax in Bam Bam's Bungalow or in one of our nine other lodging accommodations. Fall is approaching, and our "glamping" experience will give you the feeling of camping without the inconvenience of setting up camp. Bam Bam's Bungalow can sleep up to six guests comfortably.



Your Wild Neighbors

Animal Interpreter Beckie Moore

Bobcats, opossums, polar bears, manatees, and collared lizards are all different species with unique habitats and diets. But what is the one thing they have in common? They are all living wild creatures that we share Earth with. As the human population continues to grow and we develop more homes and businesses, we are also causing the destruction and devastation of our wildlife's habitat. Growth is a wonderful thing for humans as we move forward into the future, but often we forget that the areas being developed were once the homes of many different species of wildlife.

How can we as humans help protect the environment for our wild neighbors? There are many opportunities in your own yards, communities, states, and countries. You could make your yard a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program. Create habitats by planting flora that is native to your area, and thereby attract many creatures that depend on those plants for food and shelter. You can also say no to plastic bags, avoid using drinking straws, and recycle. Another significant way to help native animals is to avoid taking them out of the wild.

Take TCWR's bobcat, Little Miss, for example. She was found outside of a construction site in the woods, and was taken home to be a "pet." Bobcats do not make good companion animals, and therefore, her "owner" asked the Refuge to step in to help.

Removing wild animals from their habitats not only causes disruptions to the health of the ecosystem, but also makes it very difficult for the animals to ever return to their homes. After being over-handled by humans, Little Miss was no longer a candidate for rehabilitation and reintroduction to the wild. This means that she must remain in captivity for the rest of her life.

Our everyday actions impact wildlife and our environment, so whether you live in the mountains, desert, arctic, or along the coast, we all have the responsibility to protect our wild neighbors so they too can have a future. As Naturalist John Muir says: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." Let's keep things wild; if you see a native animal, leave the animal native.



TCWR staff members provide Little Miss with a life in captivity that is as good as it gets. If she had been left alone that day on the rural construction site, maybe, just maybe, she would be free.

We have also recently added packages to enhance your experience during your overnight visit. We have created a variety of packages for you to choose from when you book your next stay with us.

KID'S PACKAGES FOR 1:

"YOU'RE PURRRRFECTION" – A purrfect surprise for your cub upon arrival; it includes various keepsakes from our gift shop.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" – A great way to celebrate your cub's birthday; it includes a dozen balloons, a double-layered cake in the shape of a lion or a bear, and other items that will make your cub's birthday unforgettable!

ADULT PACKAGE FOR 2:

"CHUFFS AND PURRS" – A sweet romantic package with flowers, nonalcoholic sparkling cider, a spa basket, and chocolate-dipped strawberries.

"THE CAT'S MEOW" – A romantic package for the adventurous couple with flowers, sparkling cider, mugs, seasonal fruits, cheeses, and a hiking stick.

EDIBLE EDITIONS FOR 2:

"CARNIVORE" – Enjoy a snack while listening to the sounds of the Refuge with nonalcoholic sparkling cider, meat snacks, assorted cheeses, fruits, veggies, crackers, and additional sweet treats.

"HERBIVORE" – Get a healthy head start on your visit with nonalcoholic sparkling cider, seasonal fruits, vegetable snacks, hummus, pita chips, and other sweet vegetarian treats.

Plan your purrfect getaway with us by including one of our new packages when booking your next overnight visit. All lodging options at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge are luxurious and unique in their own way. To make a reservation or check on pricing, call or book online today at <http://www.turpentinecreek.org/stay-with-us/view-all/>. We look forward to your visit!



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

Sadie was living in this
cage before we brought
her to the Refuge.

Please, help us,
help them!

Sadie the tiger is our featured animal, see page 10.

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:

2018 Calendars - Order Today: \$10 each X ____ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$_____

Donations: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$_____

Membership:

☐ Single Annual Pass \$50

☐ Family Annual Pass \$90

☐ Habitat Fund - Bear Necessities \$_____

☐ Visitor Education Center \$_____

☐ Other: _____ \$_____

☐ Become a Sustainer of Wildlife - make my donation monthly

TCWR Membership Opportunities

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

- ☐ The Cub 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 BOBCAT \$45 / yr

- ☐ TCWR's Single Membership – *For a full year have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.* \$50 / yr

- ☐ TCWR's Family Membership – *For a full year 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.* \$90 / yr

Adoptions and Sponsorships

Animal Sponsor:

☐ Small Mammal/Bird \$700/yr

☐ Small Cat/Monkey \$1,000/yr

☐ Cougar/Leopard \$2,200/yr

☐ Lion/Tiger/Bear \$2,500/yr

Animal Adoption:

☐ Small Mammal/Bird \$100/yr

☐ Small Cat/Monkey \$100/yr

☐ Cougar/Leopard \$125/yr

☐ Lion/Tiger/Bear \$150/yr

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership.

Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.

☐ Membership Opt Out

Adopted/Sponsored Animals Name: _____

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

Total Contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #:

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