



PAW PRINTS

A
Publication
by
Friends
of the
Moonridge
Zoo a non-profit
organization

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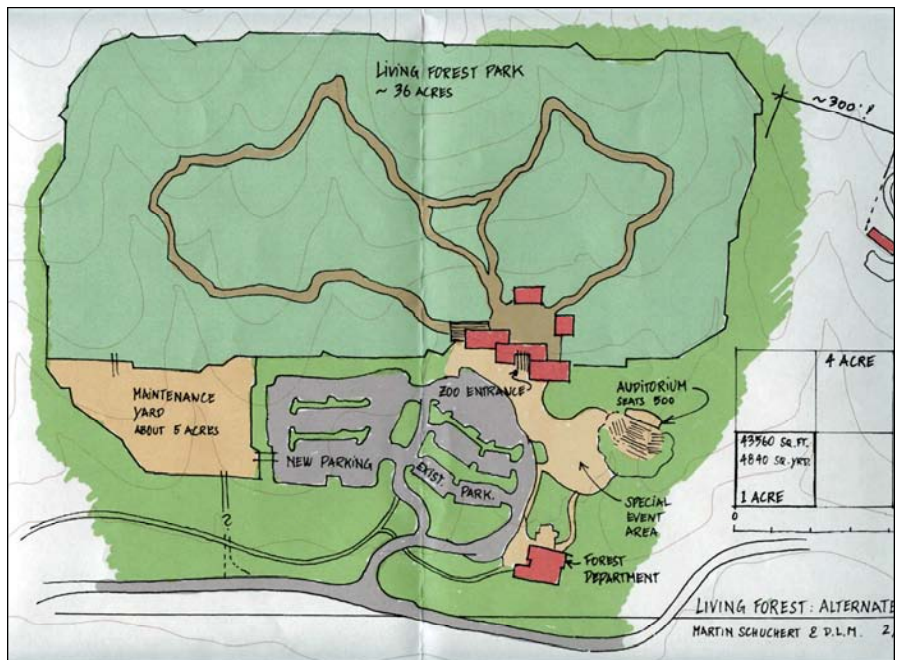
SPRING/SUMMER 2003

ONE STEP CLOSER...

RELOCATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

During the past couple of months the business plan for the future Living Forest Wildlife Center was finalized and submitted to the Forestry Service. The business plan conservatively projects the zoo's income throughout the first 15-20 years to be in the black. That is very good news. The professionally developed business plan demonstrates to the Forestry Service that the Living Forest Wildlife Center will be economically viable.

Submitting the business plan to the Forestry Service was a big accomplishment among the seven items accorded to the Memorandum of Understanding that must be met before the Forestry Service will authorize leasing forest land (next to the Big Bear Discovery Center) to the zoo.



It will now take the Forestry Service several months to go through its review process before we find out whether or not our business plan is accepted.

Meanwhile, it is time for us to undertake another major item in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding: "Demonstrate that the operation of the Living Forest is complimentary and synergistic to the goals, objectives, and management of the Big Bear Discovery Center, if that site were to be chosen." In February, our first organizational meeting was held with the concerned principals. During that meeting, preliminary steps were taken to discuss the larger issues at hand: our commonalties, differences and potential problems that we see and, most importantly, the potential benefits that can be derived from our joint efforts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Relocation Task Force Update.....	1
President's Corner.....	2
Featured Animal - Black Bear.....	3
Membership News.....	4
Featured Docent.....	5
Mountain Lion Cubs.....	6
Wildlife Artist, Carol Heiman-Greene.....	7
Adoption News.....	7
The Zoo Keepers.....	8
Schedule of Upcoming Events.....	9
We Get Letters.....	10
Mother's Day Tea.....	11





PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Paddy Speyers

The little engine that could... "I think I can"... "I think I can"... and Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) is the little engine facing the challenge of raising \$10 million to relocate the Moonridge Animal Park (MAP)... "I think I can"... "I think I can"... "I know I can!"

As most of you know, the 50-year lease will be expiring in 2009. The lease cannot be renewed, which forces the door open for the need of relocating the zoo. The relocation of the zoo presents a golden opportunity to build a zoo using 21st Century technology that is built into our native forest ecosystem. It will become truly a Living Forest Wildlife Center with the potential of national and even world recognition for its infrastructural, eco-friendly alternate energy design.

The relocation of the zoo presents a challenge for the Friends to raise substantial amounts of money. We have been making positive small steps that are building to an orchestrated crescendo of bigger steps, wherein we will be approaching foundations and corporations for major capital contributions. We have made good strides in making the Friends a substantive organization during the past several months. We have updated our bylaws, rules and regulations, elected a very active board, and have great support from our docents and volunteers. We are in the process of updating our website and providing a new business computer system for the MAP.

With respect to relocation, the business plan for the Living Forest Wildlife Center has been completed and submitted to the Forestry Service for review and approval. We have also begun discussions with the Big Bear Discovery Center on how both the zoo and the Discovery Center can collaborate and work together for the greatest benefit of creating a premier Big Bear Valley destination point.

The Big Bear merchant community has been providing their support by accepting our Home For Life donation cans program (see page 11). Furthermore, many businesses have been donating services, rooms, and food for our fund-raising events. Our own membership folks have made a tremendous response to our Christmas card poem about "Hucklebeary," the zoo's recent addition of a three-legged black bear cub. We have received over \$47,000. Wow!

As you can see from the list of events in this newsletter such as the banquet being hosted by Madlon's Restaurant, open house for the zoo at local bed and breakfast retreats, and Jazz On The Green, that there are many fund-raisers in the making. In particular, with the joint efforts of the MAP staff, the Friends, and many local community services and businesses, we are in the throws of creating a July event that we anticipate will grow into becoming the annual signature event for the Home For Life campaign. We really can use a lot of extra help among the Friends' membership folks to make this event a major success. We look forward to developing this signature event in a way that we all can be especially proud of and continue to build upon each year, hereafter.

So, if you haven't been actively participating by producing, supporting or working at any of our events recently, this would be a fantastic time to step forward and chip in (see more about planning for this event in this newsletter).

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

A golden opportunity for Moonridge Animal Park (MAP) exists – it can evolve into the Living Forest Wildlife Center. There are major differences between MAP and the Living Forest Wildlife Center.

From the MAP.....to the Living Forest Wildlife Center

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Noisy, next to ski resort..... | Quiet, surrounded by National Forest lands. |
| 2. Not wheelchair accessible..... | Built to code Standard Disabilities Act. |
| 3. Small 2-6 acre site..... | More room utilizing 26 acres of a 50-acre parcel. |
| 4. Cramped exhibits..... | Spacious exhibits. |
| 5. Winter months cold, deep snow on Northern slope..... | Winter light snows and sunny southern slopes. |
| 6. Very limited parking competes with ski resort..... | Dedicated parking lot sharing with Discovery Center. |
| 7. In very close (across the street) to neighborhood..... | No residential neighborhood within miles. |
| residential housing. | |
| 8. Old buildings, poorly insulated, not built to..... | Completely designed and built as an exemplary model |
| current standards. | of 21st Century facilities and operations. |
| 9. Retrofitted kitchen and animal care building..... | First class wild animal hospital and rehabilitation building |
| | with attached outdoor areas for rehabilitation. |
| 10. An animal park..... | National Certification Zoo. |
| 11. A park..... | Completely contained living ecosystem. |

The difference is as clear as night and day. The opportunity exists to design and develop the Living Forest Wildlife Center as a nationally respected, zoological, botanical and historical tourist center. A center that attracts visitors who will be immersed in Alpine ecosystem experiences. Visitors can choose from among highly-rated, specialized docent tours aimed at age-specific (cohort) group programs, or just meander on their own.

Featured Animal: Black Bear

Black bears are not always black. Although black is the predominant color, chocolate and cinnamon brown colors are also common, which often results in people confusing them with the brown bear. The black bear is medium-sized, lacks a shoulder hump, and often has a white patch on its chest.

Adult male black bears, called boars, range from 50-to-80 inches in length and weigh 130-to-600 pounds. Females, called sows, are about the same in length but weigh less, 90-to-300 pounds. In captivity, both sexes may exceed the normal weight.

Females reach maturity between the age of 3-to-4 years, and males a year or so later. Mating takes place in June, July and August, and pairs remain together for only a few hours or for several days. Pregnancy lasts about 220 days, and the cubs are born in a maternity den in January and February. Litter size ranges from one to five, but two is the average. At birth, cubs weigh 7-to-11 ounces and remain with their mother for a year and one-half.

Except for females with cubs, black bears spend most of their time alone. Female home ranges are 1-to-5 square miles. Male home ranges are larger and, sometimes, overlap the female's range. A young adult female is often allowed to establish her territory within that of her mother, while sub-adult males must leave.

Black bears are omnivorous and feed on a wide range of foods, depending on what is available. Insects (particularly ants), nuts, berries, acorns, grasses, roots and other vegetation become the bulk of their diet in most areas.

Throughout history the bear has been revered, feared and held in awe. It has been depicted in literature, folk songs, legends, mythology, fairy tales, and cartoons. Bears are among the first animals that children learn to recognize.



Native Americans so worshipped the bear that members of the culture were not allowed to speak the word for "bear." Instead they created euphemisms. Some of the Navajo names for a bear were Fine Young Chief, He Who Lives in the Den, and Reared in the Mountains. The Black-foot called the bear Big Hairy One and Unmentionable One.

In Scandinavian mythology, there was a firm belief in the ability of some people to change into or assume the characteristic of a bear. The English word "berserk" comes from this legend. It was thought that if a warrior was to don a bearskin shirt (called bear-sark) which had been treated with oils and herbs, that the warrior would gain the strength, stamina and power of the animal.

Come visit the black bears residing at Moonridge Animal Park. Their names are Seattle (pictured above), Tacoma, Zuni and the Park's most recent resident, Hucklebeary.

BEAR MYTHOLOGIES

- Myth:** A bear standing on its hind legs is about to charge.
- Fact:** A bear standing on its hind legs is simply trying to see and smell whatever piqued its curiosity.
- Myth:** Bears can't run down hill.
- Fact:** Bears can not only run down hill, they can run up hills, and sideways. Bears have even been known to outrun racehorses over short distances but have little endurance.
- Myth:** Climb a tree when a bear attack is imminent.
- Fact:** Black bears are excellent climbers. Their agility and sharp claws allow them to quickly climb trees to escape danger. The grizzly bear can also climb trees but usually don't unless it is sufficiently provoked.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The bison is the largest land animal in North America.
2. The coyote is the best runner of the canids (dog family).
3. Mountain lions run very fast over short distances, but tire quickly.
4. The American badger is the largest member of the "weasel" family.
5. Bighorn sheep with their superior eyesight and agility have few natural predators.
6. In a wolf pack only the alpha male and female are allowed to breed.



membership news

Since the last issue of Paw Prints, membership has grown to a whopping 1000 plus. Our members realize the benefits received by joining the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ).

For just \$35 a year, a family comprised of two adults and three children, can join the FOMZ and attain free entry into the Moonridge Animal Park (MAP). This is not just one time entry only – it's for the entire year. Picture your family on any day of the week, wandering down the paths to the wildlife, watching your children identify the various animals, having a soft drink or snack at the Grazing Corral, viewing the noontime wildlife shows, strolling under the pine trees and taking a tour with the zookeepers as they feed the animals. There's no better way to spend quality family time.

Individual memberships are also available at \$20 per year; supporting members, \$100, which includes entry to the park for the member and guests, and a lifetime membership for \$500, which includes all the above plus a plaque with the donor's name(s) engraved and hung at the MAP.

Supporting members receive a beautiful wildlife trivet. There are six in the collection. The wildlife trivets feature a grizzly bear, mountain lion, wolf, red fox, mule deer, and bobcat. These trivets also make wonderful group wall hangings, as well as a spot to set hot dishes.

All members receive newsletters, 10% off the gift shop, free or reduced rate entry into reciprocal parks, and docent training, if desired.

Now that you've decided to become a member of the FOMZ, you'll realize the satisfaction that comes from knowing you have helped support and care for wildlife that are injured, maimed, or are imprinted and cannot be returned to the wild.

Sign up now! Join the 1000 plus families who have become members of the Friends. Use the Membership Form on this page or use our website, www.moonridge-zoo.org. Be a friend and tell a friend. We thank you and our wildlife thanks you.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We acknowledge and congratulate the following Moonridge Animal Park patrons who have become lifetime members of the FOMZ since the last issue of Paw Prints: Christa Babay, David and Arlene Baum, Ed and Joanna Bohrer, Claude and Joan Burton, Lee and Evelyn Busse, Robert and Nancy Collins, Bob and Sam Flechtner, Ted and Connie Garber, Kurt and Susan Mayo, Rob and

Brenda Phillips, Robert Snider, and Gail and John Sultzbaugh. Your names have been added to individual plaques and are now hanging at the Moonridge Animal Park.

BENEFACTORS

Many thanks to our benefactors who support the MAP with either monetary support, or goods and services. Our newest benefactors are LaVonne Contreras, Rodney Davidson, and Dorothy Wherland. Your spirit of giving is acknowledged and appreciated. Your names on plaques have been added to the lifetime membership wall at the MAP.



FOMZ meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Discovery Center located on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake. For an agenda or more information, call Paddy Speyers at (909) 585-6779.

Join Friends of the Moonridge Zoo!
(a non-profit organization)

Members of the "Friends" are scattered across the U.S. from California to Maryland to (2) members in the United Kingdom!
Members receive

- Free Park admission for 1 year • Member newsletter
- Docent training • Free admission to selected events
- 10% off merchandise in the gift shop
- Free or reduced entry fees into reciprocal parks
- Plus the knowledge you are helping support the Zoo and its activities.

Check appropriate box

Individual Membership\$20.00

Family Membership\$35.00

in Family _____ (immediate household family members - 2 adults & 3 children under 18. Each additional child add \$1.00 to pass price)

Supporting Membership \$100.00* Lifetime Membership \$500.00*

*(also receive Park admission for their guests)

Are you interested in docent training? Yes No

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone No. with area code _____

E-mail _____

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Paid by: Check Mastercard VISA

Acct.#: _____ Exp.: _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to:

FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO (FOMZ)

Mail to: Cheryl Moore • P.O. Box 130666, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

featured docent - dayle vigilione

Anyone visiting the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo's (FOMZ) Gift Shop within the last few years couldn't help but notice the well-stocked, well-displayed shelves and counters, and the new merchandise with varying assortments of items. The person responsible for this well-run operation is Dayle Vigilione, whose name has become synonymous with the gift shop to FOMZ members.

Dayle is retired from the home building industry where she was a purchasing agent. She brought her knowledge of purchasing with her to the FOMZ and applied it to the gift shop, where she buys all the merchandise for this well-run operation.

Dayle said she became interested in the FOMZ after one of her friends "twisted her arm" to enter a pie contest that was being held and judged at the Moonridge Animal Park. She not only won first prize, but also met so many nice people she decided to join the organization.

"I love the zoo and all the people involved with it," Dayle said. "I also enjoy giving tours and working on special events."

Dayle and her husband, Sam, owned a cabin in the Moonridge area for 12 years and after he retired from McDonnell Douglas, they moved from Tustin to Big Bear permanently.

She is currently working on several things to improve the gift shop: obtaining a storage shed for merchandise so she can keep more inventory on hand and make it more accessible, and getting a porta-potty near the gift shop for patron convenience.

Dayle sums it all up by stating that the fun and education she's received from all the Park's precious animals is priceless.

Well, the FOMZ feels Dayle's contributions are priceless, too, and we thank her for all she's accomplished..



DOCENT TRAINING

Interested in learning about wildlife and being with people who are like-minded? Have several hours per week to spare? Like to know what docents are and what they do? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) offers you a rich and rewarding experience.

FOMZ docent training classes are given spring, summer, and fall, and are held at the Park. Classes, which continue for three days, are four and one-half hours long. In addition to the three classroom sessions, 20-hours of informal "hands-on" learning is required.

There are no prerequisites for enrolling in the class and there is no age limit. The only requirement necessary is a love of wildlife.

After completion of the training and membership in the FOMZ, all the requirements necessary to become a docent will have been fulfilled and the docent is ready to become a tour guide, work in the snack or gift shop, or perform other services, depending on his/her special interests.

No time for docent training, but interested in helping out? Be a volunteer. Volunteers are always needed for gardening, repairing enclosures, helping with special events, and other programs.

For more information about docent training or volunteerism, call Connie Garber, (909) 866-3290.



MOUNTAIN LION CUBS MAKE THEIR WAY TO MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK (MAP)

During November, the MAP received three mountain lion cubs following the death of their mother in Northern California. The mother had been shot on a goat ranch under a depredation permit issued to the rancher. When it was discovered that the female was lactating the Department of Fish and Game tracked down the den and discovered the three female kittens.

Earlier this summer the Department of Fish and Game had been in contact with the MAP curator about future placement of mountain lions should the need arise. "The Park's female mountain lion, named Chirpa, is becoming very old at age 18," Curator Don Richardson said. "When the Department of Fish and Game contacted us at the beginning of November regarding the cubs we expressed our interest in them coming to the Park," he elaborated.

Don went on to say the cubs are doing very well right now. The animal care staff provided the three cubs names - "Peg" was named in honor of Mrs. Blanche Nay. Mrs. Nay formed the Gene and Blanche Nay Foundations, which will provide operating funds for the Park each year. "Canyon" and "Cascade" are the other two young cats. The Department of Fish and Game was very concerned with the cats' welfare and provided round-the-clock care for several weeks before the transfer to MAP. "Our staff has continued this care and are thrilled with the new additions," Don said.

The MAP has been open to the public since 1959. The Park is currently seeking donations and sponsors for the development of a new park to be named the "**Living Forest Wildlife Center.**" "\$10 million dollars is needed to build Phase 1 of the new center. This will build enough enclosures, infrastructure and support facilities at the new site to house all the animals from MAP, including a new mountain lion exhibit," Don stated.

During the first two years of life, mountain lion cubs remain in close contact with their mother. This bonding and training period provides a level of maturity to deal with life on their own. Our new kittens were hand-raised and continue to remain in contact with the staff on a 24/7 basis. This bonding period with the keeper staff is critical since the kittens will remain part of the Wildlife Awareness programs operated by Park staff. "The staff presents the education program to 40,000 school age children each year in addition to over 600 education programs presented to 100,000 yearly visitors," Don said.

Much of our native wildlife is losing ground as the human populations are expanding and causing reduced ability to move within their territories. The mountain lion in particular once inhabited all the mainland states. It is now isolated to 12 Western states and Florida. The estimated number of mountain lions in the United States ranges from 10,000 to 50,000

America's majestic cat carried many names through the period of its development. Some examples are, Klandajar from the Cherokee which means, "Lord of the Forest," Cougar, Puma and Painter (a Southern twisting of the word Panther). At the turn of the century, Teddy Roosevelt abandoned the reverent names provided to the great cat by our Native Americans.

Teddy was a hunting enthusiast and he managed to change the great cats' perspective with names such as "Village Murderer" and "Forest Killer."

This shy and reclusive cat became a target for destruction. The mountain lion finally received protection in California during the hunting bans initiated in the 1960s. California voters have continued to uphold the ban during several attempts to overturn it. Another major problem facing mountain lions during the next 50 years is the continued loss of forested areas. As the MAP becomes the new "Living Forest Wildlife Center" an emphasis will be placed on educating our public about the need to protect our forest wildlife for future generations to enjoy.



CAROL HEIMAN-GREENE - WILDLIFE ARTIST



Carol Heiman-Greene will be showing her wildlife artwork at the Moonridge Animal Park Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday May 24, 25, and 26, during regular zoo hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Carol has been a staunch supporter of the Moonridge Animal Park where she has given solo exhibitions each Memorial Day since 1997. "We have beautiful wild places in the United States that we need to protect and preserve. I hope to share the beauty that I have seen in our very own country," Carol said.

She began drawing as a child, and her formal art training started in college. She earned her bachelor of fine arts degree from California State University, Long Beach, and her love of nature drew her to the world of wildlife art. Her style is a delicate blend of color and detail, and she captures the emotions and character of her subject. For her subject matter, she focuses mostly on the animals of North America, although she does have some big cats in her collection.

The following are just a few of Carol's numerous exhibitions – San Bernardino Wildlife Art Festival, featured artist, 2003; Southwestern Wildlife Exposition, Charleston, S.C., 2002-2003; Southwest Art Festival, 2003; LaQuinta Arts Festival, 1998-2003; Pacific Rim Art Expo, Sept. 1999 and 2000, award winner, badge remarque competition; Arrowhead Arts & Wine Festival, 1998-2002, taking Best of Show in 1998 and first place in acrylics, 1999, and Women Artists of the West Fourth Annual International Exhibit, 1997, second place award for mixed media.

In addition to her showings, Carol is published by Northlight Books, "Best of Wildlife Art 2," and Rockport Publishers, "Art of the American West." She is shown in the following galleries: Water's Edge, Rancho Mirage; Wildlife Art Gallery, Kern County; Blue Jay Gallery, Blue Jay, and Richard James Galleries in Charleston, S.C.

ADOPTION NEWS

Thinking about adopting an animal or a bird? The Moonridge Animal Park (MAP) has many seeking a sponsor. Pictures of the adoptees are available in the Educational Center at the Park or on our website at www.moonridgezoo.org.

Adoptions make wonderful gifts for birthdays, special occasions, holidays, or for any reason or no reason. They come with a "ready-for-framing" picture of the adopted animal and a brief story of how it came to the Park.

The Park's wood bison are two of the hundred plus species available for adoption. Their names are Kiowa, born June 1992, and Taza, born May 1992, both from parents on loan from the San Diego Zoo. Wood bison are on the Endangered Species List.



To adopt an animal/bird, please use the adoption form on page 10. For more information, call Hope Smith, adoption coordinator, at (909) 585-9992.

MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK'S KEENEST KEEPER

Among Moonridge Animal Park's (MAP) extraordinary wild animal keepers, Alexis Coupland is a shining star! Alexis, 27-years-old, spent her childhood in the high desert in Pearblossom, Ca. As a child she was surrounded by pets and traveled extensively to experience many animals in the wild and in zoos. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Humboldt State University, graduating magna cum laude.

During her college career she interned at a zoo in Northern California and volunteered for several animal facilities. Alexis worked with exotic animals, training and performing in wildlife educational programs. Upon graduation, she worked at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in merchandising and in the bird department. Then lo, she saw an advertisement for a position in MAP, and the rest is history.

"Working at a small facility, I have gotten to know all of the animals and work closely with them. The daily routine of an animal keeper involves cleaning enclosures, preparing diets, maintaining animal health and enriching the lives of the animals at the zoo," Alexis explains. At MAP, zookeepers are involved in all facets of zooing, such as rehabilitation, education, training, conservation, animal enrichment, and more.

While all of MAP's keepers are educators and present some 652 wildlife programs annually, Alexis is very spe-



cial. With all the experience she brings to MAP, she has been invaluable presenting many of the zoo's off-site wildlife educational programs, which reach about 30,000 children annually.

According to Alexis, "Zookeeping is a tough job, physically and mentally demanding, but worth all the effort. I am so lucky to be able

to work with my life's passion – animals. I am continually learning about animals and their impact on us. I look forward to continuing my career in the animal science field."

Alexis goes on to relate new positive developments in her life. "I am engaged to be married to a game warden for Department of Fish and Game – (a gentleman she met at MAP). I have been so blessed with such wonderful animals and wonderful coworkers at MAP."

And we are very lucky to have Alexis at MAP. Stop and say "hello" to her next time you're in the Park.

UPDATE ON "HUCKLEBEARY"

Our youngest bear cub, Hucklebeary, is miraculously alive and doing well after a very shaky start. This male cub was found in the back yard of a home in Oak Glen. He suffered a severe compound fracture, which had become infected. He was very underweight, severely dehydrated, frail and close to death. The anonymous rescuer took the cub to VCA Lakes Animal Hospital in Big Bear Lake after several other veterinarians had refused to treat him. At VCA, he was treated by an expert team consisting of Dr. N.J. Hovick and technicians Kelly Dills and Teresa Green. The team worked for several hours amputating the infected foreleg below the shoulder and was able to save the bear's life.

The first week of November 2002, Hucklebeary was transferred to Moonridge Animal Park (MAP) where experienced animal care staff worked for several months to nurture him back to health. Park staff estimated the cubs' age to be about 6 months and the cause of his injuries could not be determined.

The cub cannot go back to nature because of the foreleg amputation and also because he is orphaned with no mother to teach him to forage for himself and survive in the wild.

Little Hucklebeary must have his own enclosure since he will be unable to defend himself against other male bears on exhibit. The new exhibit will have special features to help him adapt to having three legs. The new exhibit will be adjacent to the zoo's other black bears, ages 25, 24, and 3. All three are non-releasable due to human impact.

"The cub will get used to having only three legs, but a home for life depends on raising \$10 million for a new park site," according to Don Richardson, curator at MAP. The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) is helping raise money to move to a large site as the land it leases has been sold. It is vital to raise the money for the new park as MAP, an important wildlife education facility, is home to many impaired animals that would not be accepted at other facilities.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 25, Friday.....Madlon's Benefit Dinner.....(5 p.m.)
Madlon's of Madlon's Restaurant will hold a seven-course dinner, including wine, to benefit the FOMZ. Madlon's is known for her great recipes and cuisine. Cost is \$75 per person. To make reservations, call Madlon at (909) 585-3762. Checks reserving a place at the table should be made out to the FOMZ and mailed to P.O. Box 2557, Big Bear City, Ca. 92314. Call Paddy Speyers for information at (909) 585-6779.

May 10, Saturday.....Build a Pool at the Park.....(10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
Volunteer to help Build a Pool at the Park in the red fox habitat. If interested, call Eric at 1-800-522-5043 or visit the website at <http://www.exoticaquatic.org>.

May 10, Saturday.....Bed & Breakfast Tea Tour.....(1 to 5 p.m.)
Just in time for Mother's Day. Eight Big Bear B&Bs will serve tea and treats with a souvenir guide full of recipes. (See story on page 11)

May 18, Sunday.....5K & 10K Run/Walk
Contact Bernie Knudsen at (909) 585-9906 for information and/or pre-registration. On race day, registration is at 7:30 a.m.

May 24, 25, Sat. & Sun.....Bear Country Fair.....(10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
Fun days for kids and their families. Games, prizes, booths, and more. Renowned wildlife artist, Carol Heiman-Greene, will present a showing and sale of her artwork in the MAP Education Center. (See story on page 7)

June 28 Sat.....Snarlz 'n' Snooz.....Evening hours
This is one of two overnight camping adventures in the zoo. Includes a pizza party, flashlight safari and a continental breakfast. A chance to see nocturnal animals. Call (909) 866-9700 early for reservations or information. This event fills up quickly.

July 4,5 Fri. & Sat.Zooccasion.....(10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
A time for fun at the zoo. The FOMZ annual Zooccasion has vendor booths, presentations, educational games and coloring contests for the kids.

July 19 Sat.....Alpine Wildlife Celebration.....Day and Evening Events
The major fund-raiser for FOMZ's "Home For Life." Call Paddy Speyers at (909) 585-6779 for information.

Aug. 2 Sat.....Snarlz 'n' Snooz.....Evening
The second sleep over in the zoo. Includes a pizza party, flashlight safari and a continental breakfast. A chance to see nocturnal animals. Call (909) 866-9700 early for reservations or information. This event fills up quickly.

Aug. 16 Sat.....Ice Cream Safari.....(11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
The annual Ice Cream Safari offers several varieties of ice cream served at booths set up around the Park.

Aug. 30 Sat.....Music In The Zoo.....5:30 p.m.
Music In The Zoo is the FOMZ'S annual fund-raiser. Cookie, coffee, punch, etc. is served as musicians staged at various locations in the Park offer melodious music for your entertainment.

August 10, Sunday.....Jazz On The Green.....6:30 p.m.

August.....Harley Davidson Owner's Group Annual Ride
For information, contact the Inland Empire HOGS, Linda Rachwitz, at 1-310-417-8252.

October - Saturdays.....Flashlight Safari.....Evening
Take a guided tour and discover nocturnal animals in action. Flashlight and warm clothing are a must.

Oct. 31, Fri.....Boo In The Zoo.....(3 to 5:30 p.m.)
Trick or treat at the zoo. Gives kids the opportunity to have Halloween fun in a safe environment. Costumes are optional.

Unless otherwise stated, all inquiries on any of the above activities may be directed to the FOMZ at (909) 584-1171 or Paddy Speyers at (909) 585-6779.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

We were overwhelmed with donations in 2002. They came from all over the United States - from the East Coast to the West Coast and states in-between, with the majority received from our members. Your generosity was remarkable. Not only did our donors donate monetarily but they also donated goods and/or services, joined the FOMZ, adopted an animal, or bought a brick. For example, St. Columba's Episcopal church parishioners collected old towels and blankets for the cougar cubs and the bear cub, Hucklebeary, and Bob Ludecke's Electrical Service in Big Bear City donated material and labor to install motion lights for the MAP's employee gate on Moonridge Road and in the Educational Building. Thanks so very much.

Letters received from all over the country, along with donations, were heartwarming. How can we ever thank you! We just want you all to know that we appreciate every donation received and assure you that 100% of your donation goes toward the care, rehabilitation and move of the wildlife at the Moonridge Animal Park to a new facility. All of FOMZ's work is volunteered.

The following is the total number of people donating monetarily in the following categories:

Between \$1 - \$100	445
\$101-\$500	76
\$501-\$1000	16
\$1001-\$5000	6
Sover \$5001	2

The FOMZ gives special recognition to Mary and Zygmunt Woroniecki, lifetime members of FOMZ, whose spirit of generosity has aided in the care of our wildlife. They donated \$7,000 this year, and consistently give each year.

Yes! I'm wild about the MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK.

Please sign me up to:

Adopt a wild bird or animal\$15.00

I want to adopt _____
(name of bird or animal)

for _____
(name of person)

Mail **adoptions** to: FOMZ/Hope Smith
P.O. Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

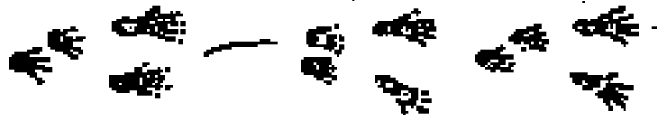
Make check payable to: **FOMZ** (Friends of the Moonridge Zoo)

Date: _____ Amount \$ _____

Paid by: Check Cash MasterCard VISA

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____



WE GET LETTERS

The FOMZ gets letters with its donations and we'd like to share excerpts from randomly selected ones with our members.

- **Beverly Sherman** in Carson writes, "I recently visited your zoo with the Peninsula Seniors and was so very impressed by the way the animals were cared for. I thoroughly enjoyed our tour and hope I can get back to see you all sometime in the future."
- **Christa Babay** of Beverly Hills, "What fun seeing these wonderful sweet animals. I hope all goes well with the little bear cub. It's so wonderful that you are helping injured or lost animals. Thank you and keep up the good and kind work for our great animals."
- **Dorothy Amend** of Redlands, "I commend the dedication of your local people to protect the animals. Praise to you all."
- **Laura Howell** of Anniston, AL, "It is unfortunate that so many animals meet with such circumstances (talking about the bear cub). I commend you for all your efforts to take care of and provide for them."
- **Lester Dean** of Florence, AL, "Thank you for the beautiful Christmas card with the bear on it! I believe very strongly what you are doing at Moonridge is for a good cause."
- **Sylvia Lewis** of Thousand Oaks, "Thank you for your wonderful work!"
- **Jane Warger** of Riverside, "Thank you for taking in the injured baby bear. I hope he is doing fine and I know he will need long-term support."
- **Barbara Silveira** of Hawthorne, "I have heard of the good work you have done saving the baby bear! Best wishes."
- **Eli Phillips** of Birmingham, AL, "I recently read an article in the Birmingham News about a black bear cub who needs help and "eats like a pig." I, too, have a rather sassy cat that chows down in a similar fashion."
- **Brenda & Rob Phillips** of Mission Viejo, "We loved the Christmas card with the picture of the three-legged cub. Until he is officially named, we lovingly call him Tripod."

Keep those letters and cards coming. We love to hear from our donors and members.

DONATION CAN PROGRAM

The FOMZ would like to thank all of our local businesses for their support in the Donation Can Program, chaired by Rhoda Hartstein. The Donation Can Program aids FOMZ efforts to relocate the Moonridge Animal Park to a permanent home. A special invitation tour of the zoo for the merchants is scheduled for June 11, 2003. To see the businesses where cans are located visit our website at www.moonridgezoo.org.

TWO WOLVES

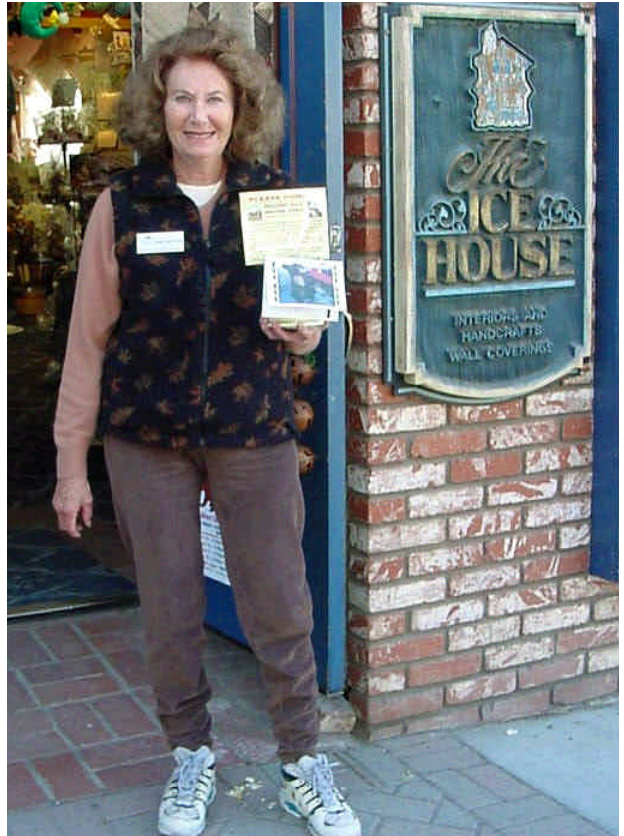
The following tale about two wolves was received from Melinda and Paul Hope, lifetime founding members of FOMZ. We'd like to share it with you.

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside you - and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



TEA IS SERVED

Looking for somewhere to take your wife, mother or grandmother for Mother's Day? We suggest taking her to tea. Saturday, May 10, from 1 to 5 p.m., tea will be served at eight Big Bear Bed and Breakfasts (B&Bs).

Each B&B brings its own expression of tea service and treats, with a souvenir guide full of recipes and a map to show tour-goers the way to the next B&B. Put on your straw hat and white gloves, and take a trip down memory lane, when times were slow and easy, and the treats were homemade. An experience you won't want to miss - a chance to see the B&Bs and sip a cup of tea in a relaxing, elegant, pampered atmosphere.



The B&B Tea Tour is a fund-raiser for the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) in its effort to raise money to help relocate the Moonridge Animal Park ((MAP). Tickets, \$15, may be purchased at the MAP, Big Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce, Big Bear Lake Resort Association and individual B&Bs. Or tickets may be purchased through the mail. Use the following form to ensure your reservations now. Participating B&Bs will also offer a 15 percent discount on a two-night stay. For further information, call the FOMZ gift shop at (909) 584-1171 or Chair, Nancy Naftel at 909-585-9695.

Please send me _____ tickets for the B&B Tea Tour to be held Saturday, May 10, in Big Bear Lake, from 1 to 5 p.m.

I enclose \$15 per ticket with check or money order payable to FOMZ.

Send to FOMZ, P.O. Box 2557, Big Bear City, Ca. 92314-2557.

Charge my: MasterCard, Visa (Please check one)

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Send tickets to:

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

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NUMBERS TO SAVE

(all 909 area code)

FRIENDS' INFORMATION LINE/BOOTH.....584-1171
 (Manned daily 10 am - 4 pm • When not manned, leave message)
 ZOO CURATOR (DON RICHARDSON).....866-0183, 584-1299
 GIFT SHOP.....584-1171
 TOUR SCHEDULING, (Monday - Friday).....866-9700
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 PUBLIC RELATIONS (JEANNE HUGHES).....866-5153

VISIT THE WEB

Before your next visit to the zoo why not spend a few minutes browsing our website **www.moonridgezoo.org**? Learn what's new at the zoo and when the next Special Event is scheduled. You can read about some of the animals and find out why they are with us. Looking for a way to help the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo or want to join the Friends yourself? You'll find out right here. There is even a wish list where Don Richardson, our Curator, has listed some of the special needs he has for providing the best possible environment for our animals.

Visit us soon and often on the web as well as in person.



FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO

P.O. Box 2557

Big Bear City, CA 92314-2557

www.moonridge.org

Address Correction Requested

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