



VOL XXII ISSUE 1

# PAW PRINTS

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

\$1.00 DONATION

SUMMER 2010

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support the Moonridge Animal Park through (1) educating the public regarding the treatment, protection, and conservation of wildlife, (2) recruiting and coordinating zoo volunteers, and (3) Fundraising.

The Moonridge Animal Park is owned and managed by the Big Bear Recreation and Park District of San Bernardino County. The park is an alpine wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center. For those animals that cannot be released, they are provided a "Home for Life" in the park.

## Receive the Electronic Issue of Paw Prints

Sign up to receive an electronic copy of Paw Prints and help lower our newsletter cost. Rather than getting a black and white copy of Paw Prints in the mail, read a color copy online or even download it to read later. Visit our website at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/pawprints.html>

### Blues for the Zoo

**Celebrating 50 Years of Sanctuary**  
Nancy Meyer

*BLUES FOR THE ZOO* is a celebration of the Moonridge Animal Park for providing *50 Years of Sanctuary*. The concert takes place Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the Big Bear Lake Swim Beach Outdoor Amphitheater with a line-up of world class Blues artists. The musical program is being produced by the Open Sky Music Foundation, promoter of the successful Open Sky Music Festival, which ran for several years at Whaler Pointe Lakeside Park in Big Bear Lake.

(Continued Page 4)

### Good Bests Perfect

Neil Derry,  
Third District Supervisor, San Bernardino County

It is not uncommon for projects of significant size and scope to get bogged down in bureaucratic channels for a variety of reasons. Addressing and tackling some of these stalled projects that seemed to have languished was of great importance to me upon taking office..

One such project was the relocation of the Moonridge Animal Park. For nearly a decade, this project had been in various stages of discussion and implementation with action in earnest occurring over the last five years. Things had deteriorated to the extent that state funding sources would be lost if we did not act quickly and secure an achievable plan to relocate this gem of the mountain.

While there was much discussion and urging to relocate the zoo near the Big Bear Discovery Center, there were numerous hurdles and obstacles impeding this path. Completing the infrastructure toward providing municipal water to this site was estimated at more than \$1 million. The topography would have required approximately \$3 million in grading, and that was even if we could appease regulatory concerns pertaining to existing or potential Native American cultural sites and other sensitive features of historical significance.

(Continued Page 4)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Electronic Edition of the Paw Prints .....	1
Blues for the Zoo.....	1
Good Bests Perfect .....	1
President's Corner .....	2
Park Open Hours .....	2
Concert Flyer Blues for the Zoo .....	3
Little Coyote .....	3
Celebrating 50 Years with Big Gift .....	5
Map of New Park Site .....	6
Meiko's Fun Stuff .....	7
Adopt an Animal .....	8
Visits us on the Web & Membership .....	8



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Young, President

Wow... what a wonderful time to be a part of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. As you may know, after 8 years on the FOMZ board, including the last 5 years as President of FOMZ, Betsy Henke has decided to let someone else have that fun!! I am lucky enough to be the new President of FOMZ. But how could anyone replace Betsy? I surely can't replace her, but I can carry on with the wonderful foundation she and the rest of the board established. I too have been on the FOMZ board as Secretary and editor of Paw Prints for the last four years.

This is the first edition that we've prepared in the last 9 months... so much has happened in that time. We're all excited with the fact that the County of San Bernardino has purchased 10.4 acres just north of the Zoo as a possible site for the Zoo's NEW location. However, as Supervisor Derry's article says, there is a lot of work to be done before the new site can be approved as the new Zoo location. We'll keep current information posted on the FOMZ website: [www.moonridgezoo.org](http://www.moonridgezoo.org).



We're half way through the Summer season already, and most of the new little baby animals from this Spring have grown up. As you know, the Zoo receives lots of baby raccoons, possums, birds, and a variety of other creatures brought in each Spring. After the babies go through Rehab, the Keepers release those little critters that haven't been imprinted, but the Zoo's "Home for Life" must keep the few creatures that are either imprinted by humans, or injured.

And at this writing, the little Wolf puppies are 15 months old and weigh 65-100 pounds each. All 9 puppies are healthy and full of "puppy mischief." What a treat it is to see the puppies playfully jump all over the keepers as they enter the enclosure

with food. As you may remember Debbie Richardson, the Zoo's Curator, took 5 of the 9 puppies home immediately after their birth and bottle-fed them every two hours. The other four puppies were taken home in a shoebox by Christy McGiveron, the lead Keeper, and feed regularly at 2 hour intervals. Now all 9 puppies acknowledge Debbie and Christy as the "pack leaders." You can go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "Moonridge zoo 2009" to see short videos of the puppies growth from birth to about 8 months old.

The next 18 months will be a very busy time for the Friends as well as the Zoo management. We've started meeting regularly with some very creative folks to put cool ideas on paper for the new Zoo. Things like making the Zoo "green," having wheelchair accessible features, what to do with "Zoo Poo," as well as thinking about winter features we can create for the 3-4 months of snow and cold weather here at 7,000 ft.



And finally, your FOMZ dollars are at work building a new Wolf Puppy enclosure, building an amphitheater for Animal Shows at the zoo, and maybe the most important addition is a Veterinarian that will be on-staff and on-location at the Zoo.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends. It's your fiscal support that will allow us to provide the design work on the new Zoo.

**The Moonridge Animal Park is Open Year 'Round,  
(Weather Permitting)  
with Daily Noon Animal Presentations**

**Summer hours:** Memorial Weekend (May) thru Labor Day Weekend (September) 10:00am—5:00pm with Daily Animal Feeding Tours 3:00pm (excluding Wednesday).

**Winter hours:** 10:00am—4:00pm Animal Feeding Tours only on Saturday & Sunday 3:00pm

**Admission prices:** Ages 11-59 \$9; 3-10 \$6; Seniors \$6 and children under 3 free. Friends of the Moonridge Members free gate entry.

**Tour Groups** available call 909 866-9700 for details.





## Good Bests Perfect from page 1

The county pursued this path for a good three years and submitted three proposals to the U.S. Forest Service. It became clear that all concerns and obstacles might never be satisfactorily mitigated when the county was asked to submit a fourth proposal and thus we sought to look for an alternative site.

Additionally, relocating to this area would necessitate a name change and after many years of existence, there were significant concerns that such a change might destroy the intrinsic value of this name and undermine years of marketing.

I want to make it very clear that I took a very hands-on approach to this project and did not simply delegate this to county staff. There were several factors that were voiced when I met with the curator and members of the zoo's nonprofit support organization, Friends of the Moonridge Zoo.

After we analyzed over a dozen potential relocation sites and upon receiving the blessing of the curator, this site (at Clubview Drive and Moonridge Road) was selected. In weighing the purchase of land versus pursuing an extended lease, I thought it prudent to take advantage of lower property values so that the zoo would have a permanent home. Otherwise, 50 years from now after a lease had expired, we might once again be faced with relocating to another site.

Is it a perfect location in a textbook definition sense? No. But, I am confident given the hierarchy of needs and concerns expressed by various stakeholders, that this site was the best fit.

It is very easy to allow perfect to become the enemy of good. In this instance, seeking perfection would have resulted in keeping the zoo in its current location, which is inadequate.

It must also be noted that an additional sense of urgency arose when the owners of the land upon which the zoo now sits, upped their financial demands from a nominal payment of \$1 a year to \$5,000 a month.

For these reasons and more, I am confident that we have made the best decision possible given the current circumstances and limited resources at our disposal.

## Blues for the Zoo from Page 1

The lakeside setting on Park Avenue, offers a scenic backdrop for an afternoon of internationally recognized musicians plus a **selection of local arts and crafts** and a **freshly prepared food/beverage** menu.

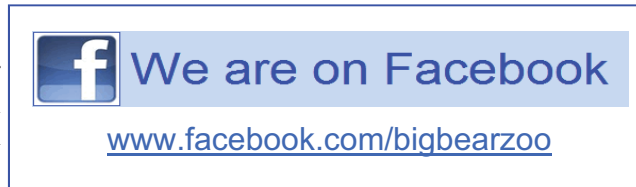
Headlining are the **Delta Guitar Slingers**, an all-star group featuring three heralded guitarists from the Blues' current generation of virtuosos. With distinct styles and a body of respected recordings documenting their various careers, the **Delta Guitar Slingers** bring together **Lucky Peterson, Michael Burks** and **Sherman Robertson** on the same stage.

This rare appearance unites Louisiana-born Robertson with Burks (who hails from Arkansas) and Dallas-based Peterson for a set of fire and brimstone blues.

**Guy Davis**, an east coast singer-songwriter, steeped in the folk tradition shares the bill. Davis is known for Gospel tinged vocals and poignant original compositions. He also tips his hat to the great giants of the music, interpreting material by Leadbelly and Muddy Waters. Davis recently finished a run on Broadway in the revival of "Finian's Rainbow." He is the son of civil rights activists and actors Ozzie Davis and Ruby Dee.

Rounding out the day are Southern California favorites **Cafe R&B**. This band is led by powerful singer Roach, described by Hits Magazine as "Etta James riding a Harley out of an active volcano." Muscular guitar and dynamic vocals exemplify Chicago Blues, with a modern twist. Cafe R&B will perform a mix of originals and Blues classics.

**Tickets, are on sale: \$30 in advance or \$35 at the gate. Children 10 and under admitted free of charge.** Music runs 3:00pm to 7:30pm with gates opening at 2:00pm. Beach chairs and blankets are welcome for lawn, festival-style seating. **No Pets and No coolers please;** a selection of food and beverage will be available on site. Parking is \$3.00. Tickets are available from the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce, at the Moonridge Animal Park Gift Shop or online at [www.moonridgezoo.org/concert](http://www.moonridgezoo.org/concert). You may also combine lodging package with your ticket purchases online at [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com)





# The Moonridge Animal Park Celebrates 50 Years With Big Gift

Markus Dietz

The Moonridge Animal Park is celebrating its Golden Anniversary with an awesome present *a new home!*

The “Home for Life” campaign came to fruition in late April when it was announced that Moonridge Animal Park, which marks 50 years of providing animals sanctuary in 2010, finally has its own new home. It’s not the one it originally looked like it would be, on the north shore next door to Big Bear Discovery Center, but it’s a terrific location, along the Moonridge corridor on the way to its current location, so it won’t have to change names and will be easy to find. The new site is immediately below Bear Mountain Golf Course’s driving range, at the “Y” where Clubview heads up to the ski resort. At 10.4 acres is more than quadruple the size of the current facility’s 2.5 acres. Purchase price for the new site of San Bernardino County’s only zoo is \$2,062,500, of which over \$1.5 million came from Prop. 40 state funding that was nearing a critical expiration deadline.

The zoo’s lease at its current location across from Bear Mountain ski resort expired earlier this year. Before the economy crashed, the plan called for the zoo to move across the lake onto Federal land, but as prices plummeted other suitable locations came on the market, which it was required to explore.

Plans drawn for the Discovery Center location should carry over well to the new site, Bill Treadwell, vice president development director for Friends of the Moonridge Zoo, said. “We plan

to develop a truly green park and think we might fit in all that’s in the original plans, even though at 14.5 acres that [the Discovery Center site] was larger. We want to make as much of the old design work as possible.”



**Wolf Pups, now fully grown**

That means incorporating nice features like one-way mirrors into the fisher exhibit and underwater view shelters looking into the beaver ponds which will give people unique vantage points to see the animals. Native American, gold rush and early 1900’s Big Bear building structures will tell local history. The original plans were drawn by PGAV Destination Consulting—the same folks who designed the new mega-Aquarium in Georgia.

Final price tag for the new zoo—one of only two alpine parks in the country—is expected to run \$25 million. About \$8 million has already been raised which will pay for the first phase, mainly just relocating the animals with basic design features.

“That seems like a lot of money, but zoos can spend \$18-\$20 million on one exhibit,” Treadwell said. “Here, we’re building a whole park for 180-plus animals.”

Even as plans for a new zoo heat up, the current location has to be kept up too since the new facility won’t be ready till mid-2012. The wolf enclosure is getting a remodel since the nine pups born a year ago are now almost fully grown and in need of more room. “The wolves are forming their own packs,” Treadwell said. “We’ll see if two alpha males develop or if we have to find homes for some. The idea is to keep all nine.”

The new wolf enclosure costs about \$8,000 in materials—all labor will be done by park staff. Making a lot out of a little has been a strong point for Big Bear’s little zoo that could, since it began providing sanctuary to animals that often have nowhere else to turn in 1959. Who would think, for an instance, that Moonridge Animal Park is one of only two zoos in California to be home to the state’s symbol, the grizzly bear.

Have you watched any of the videos we have online? They are located at <http://moonridgezoo.org/map/education.html>

# PROPOSED 10.4 ACRE SITE FOR THE MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK



**Owned and Managed by**  
The Big Bear Valley Recreation  
and Park District



**Supported by:**  
The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo  
and the NAY Foundation



## STATUS

- Escrow closed June 2010.
- July 2010 starting the environmental study and designing the park's master plan. Estimated time to complete the study and planning is 8-12 months.



# Meiko's Fun Stuff!

By 3 Hawks



## Word Search

VDEEDEAYTH  
 KQEOIDHAKR  
 QMDYXTCTAV  
 REUSVBOFCR  
 EACIORUBQR  
 VGABTNECOD  
 ALTOTSZVVB  
 EEIUHZCEVT  
 BS OAASCLUU  
 ESNAKEXOFF

Words to find:

Beaver Eagle Fun  
 Bobcat Education Snake  
 Docent Fox Tortoise

Chipper is a grey squirrel.

She had 13 acorns. She ate 4 for lunch. How many does she have left?

**Do YOU know??** My name is Zuni and I live at the zoo. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ bear.

Circle the words that are spelled correctly:

Couger Raccoon  
 Badger Deeer  
 Hawk Raptor

## WHO AM I?

I am built very close to the ground and am usually wider than I am tall. My front claws are very good for digging and I do enjoy making holes. My color is black, gray, and white with some brown here and there. I am the American

\_\_\_\_\_



Howdy!!

I am Wally the Frog and I hope you are enjoying your summer this year. There are many things to do that will be fun for you and keep you busy! Please remember to recycle and when you are in the outdoors, please take your trash to the proper places so animals, birds and yes, us frogs, don't get hurt by them. Thank you for being smart and doing your part ....to keep our earth clean!

**Meiko says...you are like our earth...one of a kind and very special!**

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

*Please help me Adopt a wild bird or animal for \$25.00*

I want to adopt \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of bird or animal)

for \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person)

Mail this form to: FOMZ, Adoptions  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit Us on the Web**

**Discover More**

Before your next visit to the Moonridge Animal Park, browse our website at <http://www.moonridgezoo.org>

Learn what's new at the park and when the next Special Event is scheduled. You can read about some of the animals and find out why they are with us.

Also background information of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo can be reviewed, and you can read details regarding the relocation efforts to move the park.

**Membership**

Has your membership lapsed or have would you like to join as a new member?

You can renew or become a new member online at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/join.html> or call 909 878-4200

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-8-

Return Service Requested

[www.moonridgezoo.org](http://www.moonridgezoo.org)

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