

# PAW PRINTS

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

VOL. XVI, ISSUE 3

\$1.00 DONATION

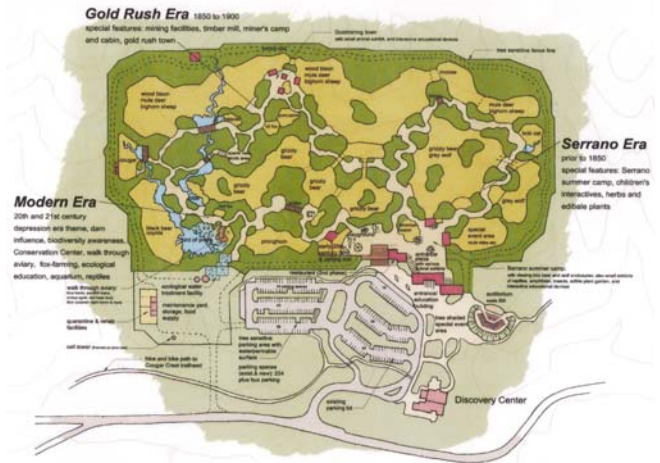
FALL 2005

## RELOCATION PLANS GO FORWARD...

An agreement has been reached between San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger and San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman that the Forest Service will accept a permit application for the new Zoo to be built just north of the Big Bear Discovery Center. Translated, it means that we are now beginning to conduct the final step needed to receive the forest permit to build the Zoo. And what's the final step? It is the Environmental Impact Statement (study). The study is scheduled to start this August and take at least one year to complete. Public hearings could begin as soon as this September.

The Environmental study is estimated to cost about \$260,000. Most of the funding has been provided by a \$250,000 federal grant through Congressman Jerry Lewis and the lobby efforts provided by Bill Speyers on behalf of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. The balance of the fee has been paid for by the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo.

The Forest Service has requested that engineering drawings of the actual park layout be provided in the study as part of the



environmental analysis review. Therefore, at the latest zoo task force meeting, initial steps were undertaken to create the selection process for retaining a zoo design firm that will consult the zoo task force and create the needed engineering drawings. The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo will contract the winning firm and fund the work

## AZAD Conference by Christie Helm (Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents)

This year's conference is being hosted by the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. on September 25 and seven docents from Big Bear plan to attend. Along with workshops - two of which are presented by FOMZ education co-chairs, Diana Blair and Christie Helm - they will be visiting the National Zoo's Conservation & Research Center for a rare look behind the scenes at the endangered species conservation program. The Center is on 3200 acres adjacent to the Shenandoah National Park.

A day long tour of the National Zoo is highlighted with more behind the scene tours with some of the participants enjoying a final outing to Mt. Vernon and Alexandria. This is an opportunity to network with other docents from zoos all over the U.S. and to share ideas and concerns. The seven enthusiastic docents from FOMZ are Betsy Henke, Diana Blair, Christie Helm, Shelley Golden, Judi Vannatta, Susan Amerson and Carmen Prouty.



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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Paddy Speyers

I want to thank all those that have included personal messages along with your donations to help the Zoo's animals. It's great to know a bit more from all our "Friends"- "Lobo" from Palm Springs, "Madeline" from Riverside and "Edna" from Los Angeles, to name a few.

Several events held recently have raised monies for the Relocation: The Holcomb Valley Trail Run donated \$1,000, The Chamber Maids of Big Bear Valley donated \$300 and the Big Bear Bed & Breakfast Experience is donating \$3,000!

Events in the near future that will benefit the Zoo include "Concert on the Green," "Run for the Grizzlies," and "Music in the Zoo." On page 5 you may read about our successful Alpine Wildlife Celebration held at the Zoo on July 23. Our docents and the community are working hard to ensure a successful relocation!

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo's General Meeting will be held Friday, September 9 at 6:00 pm at the Discovery Center. The first presentation of nominees for next year's Board of Directors will be announced along with a program of interest and an update on our relocation efforts.

'Hope to see you there!

## FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO Statement of Financial Position As of July 31, 2005

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CASH IN BANKS	
1110 - Citibank General Acct	\$ 7,714.87
1120 - Union Bank of California	21,925.84
<b>Total Cash in Banks</b>	<b>29,640.71</b>
INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	
1311 - UBS-Relocation /Capital	629,751.00
1312 - UBS-Life Membership	47,650.04
<b>Total Investment Accounts</b>	<b>677,401.04</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>707,041.75</b>
Other Current Assets	
1370 - Bulk Mailing Deposit	747.72
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>747.72</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>707,789.47</b>
Fixed Assets	
Equipment-Original Value	
1510 - Original Cost	12,247.88
1500 - Depreciation	-8,874.72
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>3,373.16</b>
Office Equipment	
1610 - Original Cost	10,324.47
1600 - Depreciation	-3,543.50
Office Equipment - Other	81.73
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	<b>6,862.70</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>10,235.86</b>
Other Assets	
1410 - Inventory	12,604.07
1430 - Library Books	3,736.15
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>16,340.22</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 734,365.55</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2500 - State Sales Tax Payable	\$ 1,027.42
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,027.42</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,027.42</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,027.42</b>
Equity	
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	899.07
3100 - Net Assets	682,091.90
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>50,347.16</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>733,338.13</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 734,365.55</b>

## "SHE" BEAR CUB NAMING SAGA

One of our Friends Board Members, Bill Treadwell, met with James Ramos, who is the cultural affairs liaison for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians—the immediate decedents of the indigenous Native Americans that lived throughout the general Big Bear Valley area. Bill asked James if he would consider conducting a blessing and naming ceremony for our new "she" bear at the Moonridge Animal Park. He said yes, he felt honored with the opportunity to do the ceremony. However, during that meeting James mentioned he was not sure if they would come up with a name for our "she" bear. It all depended if the grandmothers would be receiving a name before the ceremony occurred.

Given the ambivalent situation of maybe not having a name provided for the bear by the tribal grandmothers, we decided to solicit possible names for the bear. As you may recall, in our previous Paw Prints newsletter, on the front page, we told you about the new baby "she" black bear that was brought to the Moonridge Animal Park by the Fish and Game Department. Also, we suggested that you to submit a name for our new arrival.

On Saturday morning June 25th, we held the bear naming ceremony at Moonridge Animal Park. Curator Don Richardson brought the "she" bear out on the lawn, while James Ramos was telling park visitors some Native American creation stories about his people in the Big Bear Valley. James then announced that the new name of the bear was Pakuma. Pakuma is the name given to the first leader of the Yuhaviatam or People of the Pines (San Manuel Band of Mission Indian's own given name). Therefore, naming the bear cub Pakuma, which means one who prays, has special meaning to the tribe. After announcing Pakuma's name, James Ramos and his group celebrated the naming by singing creation songs. The celebration concluded with lunch.

So what happened with all the names submitted through the Paw Prints solicitation for our seven pound "she" bear? Well, we decided to select a nickname. The winning name, Hollybeary, was picked to be Pakuma's nickname, because Hollybeary had a ringing rhyme with Hucklebeary, our three-legged black bear.

By the way, Pakuma is thriving and now weighs 40 pounds!



# The Big Bear All Nations Pow Wow

The Friends were invited to have a booth at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual All Nations Pow Wow in Big Bear City held at the Los Vaqueros Arena Off Highway 38 on July 15-17, 2005. We handed out visitor's brochures and provided updated relocation information—the Environmental Impact Study is underway to relocate on National Forest Service land immediately North of the Big Bear Discovery Center; public hearings will be occurring soon; also the Friends will soon be soliciting and retaining a zoo design firm to create engineering drawings for the new Big Bear Zoo.

The recent Big Bear Pow Wow is not the only one attended by the Friends. Last year one of our board members, Bill Treadwell, started the Native American Cultural Council (NACC) as one of the Friends of The Moonridge Zoo committees. Kirk Ghala has been instrumental in guiding Bill to form this group of inter-tribal Native Americans (and teaching Bill about Native American traditions). The two-fold purpose of the group is to (1) create awareness among Native Americans about the Moonridge Animal Park and its efforts to relocate and (2) help formulate how the eastern section of the new Big Bear Zoo will represent early Native American history in Big Bear Valley. Anyway, last year the group had booths at four pow wows. They were the Mother Earth Gathering Inter-tribal Pow Wow in Hesperia, the Soboba Pow Wow held at the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Reservation, San Manuel Pow Wow at

San Bernardino State University, and the Eagle Pow Wow held at San Jacinto College Campus.



At three of the pow wows, we were permitted to bring animals. It is amazing how the mountain lion and eagle impacted the people at those pow wows. At the Hesperia pow wow, Don Richardson lead the opening ceremony by walking a golden eagle around the enter circle, while the MC spoke of the eagles significance to the people. At the Soboba pow wow, a boy came up to our booth saying, "I can tell you anything you want to know about eagles, but I have never seen one so close." The eight year old child was in complete awe. Overall, it was surprising to discover how many people never heard of the Moonridge Animal Park. Even among those people who frequented Big Bear, they were surprised to learn there was a zoo in Big Bear.



This year some members of the Native American Cultural Council—Kirk and Patricia Ghala, Hank Lopez, and Bill Treadwell—designed a logo to represent the Friends Native American Cultural Council's effort to promote the Moonridge Animal Park (and the future Big Bear Zoo). The logo includes the zoo motto "Home For Life." The bear claw-eagle logo is printed on t-shirts that

are being sold at pow wows this year. Last year's t-shirts exhibited charcoal animal drawings by Yatzee, who is a Native American artist living in the Southern California area. The Council had the original charcoal drawings framed, and they are hanging in the Friends administrative office.


**RACCOONS**

✎ Draw a Raccoon ✎

Raccoons are very curious, smart and playful. Their paws and toes can identify objects as well as our human hands do. Raccoons use their hand-like front paws and long, thin fingers for catching food, and often dip their food in water before eating it.

Publisher .....FOMZ  
 Editor .....Bill Young  
 Contributors .....Bill Treadwell  
Bill Young  
 Graphic Design/Layout .....Joan Robb  
 Photographer .....Barbara Jordan



# Spotlight on: **DIANA BLAIR**

## *Director of Training and*

When my husband and I decided to move to Big Bear and leave Newport Beach, our home of many years, the very first thing I did was to call Moonridge Zoo and "beg" them to let me be a docent. I guess I thought they'd tell me they were "full-up" on docents and they would put me on a waiting list.

Of course that didn't happen. What happened was I found many new friends and a passion for a small zoo tucked away in the mountains.

I am retired after 32 years as a flight attendant. Not having to work every day enabled me to start volunteering years ago. I have volunteered at the Santa Ana Zoo, a no-kill shelter, and Centennial Farm at the Orange County fairgrounds teaching school children about agriculture.

My main focus at the Moonridge Animal Park is developing educational programs and zoo tours. I like to tell the visiting school children that the animals at our park are truly ambassadors to their species and are here for us to learn about. From knowledge comes respect!



I feel very fortunate because the only other job I would have liked to do beside being a flight attendant was to work in a zoo... and guess what? I do !

**Editors note:** *Diana is far too humble. Diana's dedication and pressing desire for doing the right thing have made her a role model for all humans at the zoo. As a flight attendant, Diana had to work with all types of people...that was probably where she honed her consummate People Skills. By the way, Diana's favorite animals at the animal park are the mountain lions. She was able to handle them when they first arrived as infant cubs, and has carried that affection for them ever since.*

*Diana is a member of our Board of Directors, the Director for our Training & Education committee, and an instructor for all of the New Docent training classes as well.*



## **WISH LIST** from Curator Don Richardson

There will always be things that the Zoo needs but for which there are limited funds. The following is a list of the most pressing of these needs at the present time. If you would like to make a donation of any of these items, please contact the Zoo at (909) 584-1299. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Plants for exhibits  | 15. Reptile heat lamps and pads and supplies | 10. Kitty Litter  |
| 2. Small and medium air kennels   | 16. Bobcat tractor                           | 11. Bags of shavings  |
| 3. Lumber for enclosure renovation 4x4, 2x6, 2x4s                             | 17. ATV 4x4                                  | 12. Gardening supplies - fertilizer                         |
| 4. Upright steam cleaner in working order                                     | 18. Golf Carts - motorized                   | 13. Chip bark for plant beds                                |
| 5. Artificial skeletons for education programs (Bone clones can be purchased) | 19. Architectural experience                 | 14. Pine trees and other high elevation plants for exhibits |
| 6. Boomer Balls for large carnivores  | 20. Spa pumps 120v                           | 15. Flower bulbs  |
| 7. Heavy commercial grades hoses 3/4"   | 21. Portable Chainlink enclosure             | 16. River Rock for exhibits and plant beds                  |
| 8. 12x12 or 10x10 or 8x8' storage sheds                                       | 22. Asphalt coating                          | 17. Astroturf   |
| 9. Professional CD ROM guided tours   |  | 18. Jars of honey or molasses for bear treats               |
| 10. Camcorder   |  | 19. Big Knuckle bones for large cats                        |
| 11. Digital Camera  |  | 20. Ziplock bags to store fish, etc.                        |
| 12. Web Cam   |  | 21. Fish for food   |
| 13. Lifesize animal sculptures and statues                                    |  | 22. Solar walkway lights                                    |
| 14. Medical equipment and veterinary supplies                                 |  | 23. Reptile holding exhibits                                |
|   |  | 24. Reptile heat pads                                       |
|   |  | 25. Reptile heat lights                                     |

### **INEXPENSIVE ITEMS NEEDED**

1. Solution for hummingbird feeders
2. Wild bird seed
3. Medical supplies - syringes
4. Infant formulas - Similac
5. Esbilac and KMR (puppy & kitty milk replacer)
6. Hair clippers
7. Surgical Light
8. Bones / honey / molasses
9. Hemocytometer and other blood analysis equipment

*Thanks for Helping*

# ALPINE WILDLIFE CELEBRATION...

## and thanks to Garrett.

There are many ways to help support Big Bear's Moonridge Animal Park. One of the most creative ways to help support our zoo is done by actor Garrett Maggart. Through the efforts of Garrett and his website, [www.garettmaggart.net](http://www.garettmaggart.net), he was able to cyber-connect with his fans and encourage them to attend the recent Alpine Wildlife Celebration event in Big Bear's Moonridge Animal Park. Garrett's fans contributed more than \$15,000 to support our animals before the actual event date !!

Contributions are still coming in, so we don't have the actual revenue total yet. Despite the fact that thunderstorms encircled the Park on event day, there were six bidders who contributed \$500 each to the support of our big cats. As you can tell from the picture, Cascade is very thankful to everyone's support... including Garrett Maggart.



A big thanks to Garrett from Cascade

Below you'll find a partial list of supporters that came from as far as England just to attend our Alpine Wildlife Celebration, meet Garrett, and help support our animals. Most of these folks had never met each other, eyeball-to-eyeball, until this event. They knew each other only through an internet computer. Pretty cool story, eh?

By the way, if you were one of "Garrett's Friends" in attendance and your name doesn't appear below, please forgive us. Your support and encouragement are sincerely appreciated. This list doesn't include the names of hundreds of Garrett's fan/friends who could not come to the Alpine

Wildlife Celebration, but are valued supporters of our animals nonetheless.

If you get the opportunity, please send Garrett a note telling how much you appreciate his support. You can mail him at:

ProgressiveArtists  
400 South Beverly Drive  
Suite 216  
Beverly Hills, CA



### *Friends of Garrett*

- \*Jessica and Susie, San Francisco
- \*Sylvia Bartle, Vancouver BC
- \*Marilyn Hay, Vancouver, BC
- \*Shirley and Comeo Roman, Stafford, VA
- \*Ande Lawrence, Minnesota
- \*Debbie and Allisyn McLarty, Georgia and Florida
- \*Penny Collins, NY City
- \*Linda Rusuoelli, New Mexico
- \*Lisa Adolph, Washington
- \*Sylvia Bartle, Vancouver, BC
- \*Lupe, Downey, CA
- \*Cedy, Trabuco Canyon, CA
- \*Debra, Sierra Vista, AZ
- \*Maggie, Knoxville, TN
- \*Mo, North Carolina
- \*Barbara, Chicago
- \*Chris, Chicago
- \*Pam H., Coulterville, CA
- \*Marilyn, Washington
- \*JoAnn, Mesa, AZ
- \*M.J., Mesa, AZ
- \*Suki, Marina Del Rey, CA
- \*Terry, Marina Del Rey, CA
- \*Karen, Arlington, VA
- \*Kat, Goose Creek, SC
- \*Chris and Chris, Montreal, PQ
- \*Enid, Santa Monica
- \*Mary Pat, Mountain View, CA
- \*Terry, Pinole, CA
- \*Diane, Hummelstown, PA
- \*Evelyn Shamkon, PA
- \*Rae, Shropshire, England
- \*Sarah, Lancashire, England
- \*StarWatcher, New Mexico
- \*Gerri, Kent, England
- \*Lucy, ?
- \*Katherine, MO
- \*Glenda, Sacramento, CA
- \*Pamster, San Pedro, CA
- \*Donna, Carson, CA

# YMCA Teens Help at the Moonridge Animal Park

*Thank You, one and all*

On Thursday, July 14, a group of 50 teens and a handful of Leaders came to help clean up our little Alpine animal park. The kids came from the Culver City YMCA High School Leadership camp at Camp Whittle... but most came from homes in Culver City, Westchester, Inglewood, and Playa del Rey. The interesting thing is that most of these teens had never done any manual labor before. Yet, here they were painting, gardening, pulling weeds, weed-whacking, and moving heavy logs around the zoo enclosures. One of the Leaders asked the group "has anyone ever weed-whacked before?" One person said that they did it once at home... well, that was enough to qualify him as the official YMCA week-whacker for the day. Also present were member of the FOMZ Docent team: Diane Roberts, Dave Johnston, Lynnette Larsh, and Ed Moore.

How did the Culver City YMCA end up at the Moonridge Zoo? Mostly because of the High School Camp director, Heidi Nees. Heidi had been visiting friends here in the Big Bear Valley a couple of years ago and stopped by the Zoo... and, she has friends back home in Ohio who have a private zoo as well. Always looking for a way to demonstrate volunteering and community involvement, she thought the Zoo would be a good place for her campers to help the community and learn what it means to become involved..

Where is Camp Whittle? (from their website) "On the north shore of Big Bear Lake is the small, quiet town of Fawnskin... Owned by the Los Angeles YMCA, the Whittle site is 140 private acres surrounded on all sides by National Forest."

None of the helpers had ever been around large animals... even horses. So you can imagine the wonder, fright, joy, and excitement that they must have felt while sweeping pine needles away from Zuni's cage (our largest Black Bear). "I could hear him breathing - he LOOKED at me." Heidi said that the bears were the animal favored by

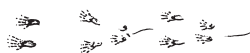
most... however when a couple of the raccoons reached their little human-like hands out of the enclosure, that really entertained the helpers who were working near there.

One of the camp helpers told Heidi that "I don't believe in zoos... I don't like the fact that they've captured the animals and put them on display". I'm sure more of the kids felt the same way too. So, Heidi explained to the young girl that all of the animals in Moonridge Zoo are either injured, or imprinted on humans, so that they can not be released back to the wild. None of the animals were captured just to go on display. Hucklebeary, the 3-legged Black bear, is an obvious example of a physical injury...but some of the animals *look* healthy. "What's wrong with the mountain lions- they look perfectly healthy." Fortunately, our mountain lions ARE perfectly healthy... but they've been raised by humans because they were orphaned just after birth They don't know how to be wild mountain lions...they couldn't catch enough food to survive... and perhaps most importantly, they can't defend themselves from other predators. These cougars are very friendly with the keepers they come in contact with daily at the Animal Park. Imagine for a moment that the big cats were released into the wild... imagine what they would do the next time they saw humans... they'd probably run right up to them and want to play or get fed. Now, imagine what those same humans would think... a mountain lion coming straight at them...Yikes! No, we can't ever release Cascade or Peg or Canyon back to the wild... and we don't want to either - they are part of our family.

By the way, once the skeptical young lady realized the true motive and purpose of our animal park, she agreed that we are doing a very good thing for the animals. Thanks to Heidi Nees for carrying our message of education and protection for all Alpine animals.



Paddy Speyers, President of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) spent time with Kaylee (left) and Lindsey (right), along with their parents who stopped by the Relocation tent to learn more about our plans and needs regarding the Zoo Relocation project during the Alpine Wildlife Celebration on July 23.



## 10th Annual "RUN FOR THE GRIZZLIES"

The "Harley" run this year is being sponsored by Big Bear's Kiwanis Club and The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo.

There will be 5 Poker Stops ending at the Zoo. And, this year lunch is provided for the \$15 entry fee. The RUN starts and ends at CHADS in the Village.

Contact Diane Blair 909-878-3588 or Pat Bryant 909-866-5406 for further information.

Net proceeds benefit the Zoo.

## 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!

See benefit packages under box at right.

**Check appropriate box**

- Individual Membership .....\$30.00
- Couple .....45.00
- Family Membership.....65.00
- # in Family \_\_\_\_\_ (immediate household family members - 2 adults & 3 children under 18. Each additional child add \$3.00 to pass price)
- Contributing Membership \$150.00\*
- Sustaining Membership \$500.00\*
- Keepers' Circle \$1000.00
- Curator's Circle \$5000.00 - One Time

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)**

## MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

Curator: 909-584-1299

### Open Year 'Round

Park Hours September-May

Monday-Friday 10:00AM-4:00PM

Saturday-Sunday 10:00AM-5:00PM

Animal Presentations at Noon

Group Tours 909/866-9700

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

- Admission General (Ages 11-59) .....\$5
- Seniors (Ages 60 plus) .....\$4
- Children (Ages 3-10) .....\$4
- Children under age 3 ..... free

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS, DUES & PRIVILEGES

### BASIC MEMBER BENEFITS

- Free admission to the Big Bear Zoo for one year
- Free or reduced entry to reciprocal zoos
- Subscription to Paw Prints, FOMZ newsletter
- 10% discount in gift shop
- Free or reduced entry to zoo special events
- Docent training

### MEMBER CATEGORIES AND BENEFITS

**INDIVIDUAL** – \$30 per year, one person –  
**Basic member benefits**

**COUPLE** – \$45 per year, 2 adults –  
**Basic member benefits**

**FAMILY** – \$65 per year, 2 adults, 3 children (under age 18, immediate household) - additional children \$3 per child per year – **Basic member benefits PLUS**

- Four (4 ) free one-day guest passes

**CONTRIBUTING** – \$150 per year –  
**Basic member benefits PLUS**

- Free admission to Zoo for family members
- Two (2) additional guests each visit
- 10 free one-day guest passes
- Animal Adoption of your choice

**SUSTAINING** – \$500 per year –  
**Basic member benefits PLUS**

- Free admission to Zoo for family members
- Two additional guests each visit
- 12 free one-day guest passes
- Animal Adoption of your choice
- Paving Stone with family name in a new specially designated area

**KEEPERS' CIRCLE** – \$1,000 per year –  
**Basic member benefits PLUS**

- Free admission to the Zoo for family members
- Two (2) additional guests each visit
- 15 free one-day guest passes
- Animal Adoption of your choice
- Paving Stone with family name in a new specially designated area
- "Behind the Scenes" Tour of the Zoo

**CURATOR'S CIRCLE** – \$5,000 – ONE TIME –  
**Basic member benefits PLUS**

- Lifetime free admission to the Zoo for family
- Four (4) additional friends each visit
- Unlimited one-day guest passes
- Animal Adoption of your choice
- Paving Stone with family name in designated area
- 20% discount in the gift shop
- Annual behind-the-scenes Tour of Zoo
- Annual Dinner Party with Zoo Curator
- Lifetime plaque on Curator's Circle Recognition Wall



# New Docent Fears

*They won't care about how much you know, until they know how much you care.*

This has never been truer than for Docents (old and new) at Big Bear's Moonridge Animal Park (MAP). During the first three-hour session of New Docent training at the MAP, you are given a green manual that has about 130 pages of facts and details about the zillion creatures living at Big Bear's Moonridge Animal Park..

The first thought is that "there is no way I'll be able to learn all of this stuff... to know that the Owl is nocturnal, but the Red-tailed Hawk is a day-person... to know that very large animals, like a 280 pound Black Bear eats very small berries, but the king snake eats prey larger than it is!! It defies all common sense... How will I ever keep this stuff straight?"

Challenging to say the least. However, since the Docent trainers at the zoo are actually caring humans first, they make it easy to pick up the details of each animal. In my recent Docent training class, we had volunteers from several different careers and walks in life. A retired engineer, a college Writing professor, a housewife, a nurse, a REALTOR(R), and a grandmother... average age was probably 50 (sorry MJ). It didn't take long to find out that all of us had at least one thing in common: love for animals. Our teachers, Christie and Diana, understood our motives within the first 10 minutes of class #1.

Do I have the courage to stand in front of Zuni's enclosure with perfect strangers and start talking about Black Bears? Or explain to a child in a wheelchair why Hucklebeary has a leg missing? Or go up to a group of people at the Mountain Lion's enclosure and start talking about what cute big kittens they were... or try to explain to the crowd that Cascade's tail is darker than the other two. "What do they eat?" "Where do they sleep?" "Are there any Cougars in the Big Bear Valley?" "What's the difference between a Cougar and a Mt. Lion, and a Puma?" "How old are they?" "Can they purr?" "Are they dangerous?" ... These are the kind of questions that come rapid-fire from kids and could nail a new Docent's foot to the floor in a heartbeat.

However, here's what we found out early on in Docent training: 1) we know more about the animals than we thought we did, and 2) at the end of the 20 hour Docent training, we knew more about the animals than almost all of the zoo visitors... (gotta keep this in mind... gotta keep this in mind... gotta keep this in mind).

Then it comes time to jump in the pool, not just stick a toe in. Time to put on the Green shirt, march confidently down to the Bobcat's cage and start "chatting them up about *Rufus Felis*." Nervous? You bet.... But since I'm already in the pool, I might as well swim.

A couple of times I marched confidently down to the cage, saw the large crowd standing there... and kept marching right past that cage, looking for a smaller crowd to cut my teeth on. Just as I get up even with the crowd, someone spots my Green shirt and thinks, "geez he must be a docent like the one telling us about the Wood Bison"... "Excuse me Sir, can you tell us something about this Bobcat?"... Rats, I'm caught now... "Sure, this little guy's name is Mica, she's the one that will come outside... the one we can't see is Tornado... still very shy, even though he's been here for nearly six years." Damn, I sounded just like a Docent. By the way, that conversation lasted about 10 minutes and I was able to answer just about all of the questions. Christie and Diana would be proud... shoot, EVERYONE I know would be proud. It's funny what a little success can do for one's confidence. And yes, they found out how much I cared, and *then* they cared about how much I knew.

## WELCOME NEW DOCENTS

We are happy to have so many diversified and talented new docents that have dedicated some of their time to us. Whether it's doing a tour, working in our gift shop, in the Grazing snack Corral, or helping the zoo keepers in the kitchen, we appreciate their time and commitment. We all enjoy meeting and making new friends, and sharing in helping the Moonridge Zoo in any way we can.

Pat Cline  
Chrzanowski  
Nora Hofmans  
MJ Roberts  
Thia Vanora

Julie Chrzanowski  
Marlene Endler  
Suzanne Montoya  
Nicki Forbes Robinson  
Bill Young

## VISIT US ON THE WEB

Before your next visit to the Zoo why not spend a few minutes browsing our website [www.moonridgezoo.org](http://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.



Friends of the Moonridge Zoo  
42001 Big Bear Blvd., Suite 3  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

*Mailing Address:*  
PO Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

*Hours:*  
Open Tuesday - Saturday  
11 am - 4 pm  
Office: 909-878-4200



# "It's OK to Play With Your Food!" by Diane Roberts

There is a new "buzz" around the Zoo these days. Look at all those people gathering around our grizzly enclosure! There are shouts of joy and lots of laughter and giggling going on. What's all the "fuss" about, you ask? It is the famous "Coconut Caper" in full swing starring Mama Tutu, Ayla and Harley! What.....say that again! Yes, you heard it right! Coconuts (yes...whole ones!) are thrown gingerly into their pool and the visitors and staff alike are watching in great anticipation to see what would happen next. Mama Tutu and Ayla ever so daintily reached for their coconuts and managed to push them over to the edge of the pool and opened each coconut by stepping on it with their front paws over and over again until it cracked open! Oh.....did they enjoy their bite-sized morsels of the sweet tasting coconuts. Harley's venture with the coconuts was a whole different story. With great style and drama, he sets out on his mission to "capture" his coconuts. He sits down in the water and takes the coconut in his two gigantic and powerful paws and lifts it above his head and smashes the coconut against the cement walls of the pool and then delightfully eats the yummy pieces of his smashed coconut. Oh yes....he also has a more dramatic version of this coconut-smashing technique! He stands up on his hind legs (quite a formidable figure, to say the least!) and with only one paw, he lifts the coconut above his head and throws it....much like a professional baseball pitcher would..or better yet...like the all-time great quarterback, Joe Montana!

While the visitors and staff are watching in awe and thoroughly enjoying this wonderful experience, suddenly Ayla sweetly saunters over to her brother Harley who has just finished another one of his smashed coconuts. She seems sure that Harley will show some brotherly love and share some of the delicious pieces of HIS coconut with her. Harley with coconut juice dripping from his mouth turns to Ayla and with a low growl lets her know straight up that he has absolutely no intention whatsoever of sharing HIS coconut with his sister! But, Ayla, is not put off by her brother's less than stellar attitude on sharing and she turns on her very best feminine charms on him in hopes that he will change his mind. It did NOT work....in an instant, Harley had had enough and he began growling very loudly so the whole world could hear....not to mention Ayla! Very soon, they were intertwined (sort of like aggressive bear hugging?!) and they were going at it like two human sibling teenagers would. Finally, realizing that her feminine charms failed, Ayla heads on over to Mama for some comfort and sympathy. Mama looks sweetly at Ayla and offers her some of her coconut! What a beautiful and touching moment between mother and daughter.. indeed! This whole experience of watching our grizzlies with their coconuts left everyone thrilled and in awe!

What is going on, you ask! It is the Animal Enrichment Committee in action which Don, our curator, had envisioned and excitedly planned with us for some time. Our "mission" was to help in improving the quality of the animals' lives by creating fun and novel items to specifically improve animal well being by increasing exercise, satisfying behavioral needs

and optimizing the level of stimuli the animals receive. With that in mind, we had a special meeting with Debbie, our head zoo keeper, who gave us excellent suggestions and leadership and the other keepers who also gave us valuable input. Armed with much enthusiasm and great excitement about enriching the lives of our amazing animals at the Moonridge Animal Park, we were all excited to get started with this very special new venture.

And indeed, as we began our mission of enrichment, we noticed a certain (almost palpable) excitement in the air at the zoo. There seemed to be an extra "lilt" in the wolves' howling, an extra bounce in Zuni and Hucklebeary's steps, and more melodious and louder purrs coming from our three sweet mountain lion sisters, Canyon, Cascade and Peg - as they all watched us approach their enclosures carrying special treats for them each Wednesday and Saturday at 3:00 pm. Believe you me, it is just so very special and rewarding to see how our animals are responding to these special enrichment days...and our visitors too! How fun it is to watch Cascade and Canyon thoroughly enjoying their brightly decorated treat boxes with their names on them filled with such exciting goodies as rose petals, fresh catnip, and yummy chicken drumsticks complete with almond extract poured inside and outside the boxes. And Peg being personally served HER treat box at poolside (on a silver platter?) by Debbie. How special it is to watch Zuni and Hucklebeary with their pinecones slathered in peanut butter, honey, and peanut hearts, and Shania, Wakiza, Navarre and Nova playfully throwing their colorfully decorated treat tubes into the air, and the raccoons with their fun Easter baskets filled with bright pink and purple Easter eggs, gently touching each egg and picking them up with their velvet soft paws and carrying their treasure to a special place to eat and enjoy.



We feel so very lucky to be a part of this new venture and to bring some fun and excitement into our animals' lives! As one of the enrichment articles from Don's files stated: "enrichment can positively impact all of the animals and people involved with it." No truer words were ever spoken! It reminds me of three of my favorite sayings, one by James A. Garfield, "the spirit should never grow old" and the other, "we don't stop playing because we get old, we get old because we stop playing" - and last but certainly not least, "nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm" by Ralph Waldo Emerson. The animals are loving every minute of our enrichment days and we all (animals, visitors, staff alike) are truly having a ton of fun and the time of our lives!

# Featured Animal - SAW-WHET (*Aegolius Acadicus*)

Have you ever seen an owl that is no bigger than a Pepsi can? Most people never get a chance to see this little Saw-Whet owl (*Aegolius Acadicus*) outside of captivity, but we've got one and his name is Yoda. The Saw-Whet is the smallest of the 19 different owl species in North America.

Saw-Whet is a strange name, but the people who gave this little owl its common name thought that its song sounded like a saw blade being sharpened. The only time these owls make sound is during the mating season... otherwise, they are completely silent. During mating season the little male Owl also sends out an endless series of low whistled toots, about two per second. If you hear this call at night in the forest, the little owl could be as far away as 300 yards. You may actually see this owl flying at night, but you might think it's a bat since there are lots of bats around. Few people are lucky enough to actually spot the Saw-whet in the wild.

***If you happen to see the little owl in the daytime, be cautious not to draw too much attention to its position. You may give away its location to crows or other birds that would harass it. Remember, nocturnal birds are resting during the day.***

This little owl lives in the Pine forests throughout California and the northern parts of the U.S. Their primary diet is mice and other small rodents. These little owls have excellent black and white vision since they hunt at night and color vision isn't necessary. It is even thought that these little hunters can also see in the ultra-violet (UV) part of the spectrum. Have you ever seen how your white T-shirt glows under a black light (UV)? Well, the underside of the Saw-Whet's wings glow in the ultra-violet range too. This makes it easier for Saw-Whets to spot each other when they're hunting in the forest at night.

Yoda, as with all owls, can turn his head almost completely around. Know why? Think about your own eyes for just a minute... if you hold your head still, you can still shift your eyes left and right and up and down to see things. Now imagine that your eyeballs were so big that they couldn't move around in the eye socket...you'd have to turn your whole head in order to see anything that wasn't right in front of you, right? Well, that's the situation that all owls find themselves in too. So, to give them the ability to spot mates and food and enemies, owls can turn their heads almost completely around without moving their lower body. Owls can turn their heads that far because nature has provided them with nearly twice as many cervical vertebrae as we have... actually, they can't turn their heads completely around...just 270 degrees or about 3/4 of the way around.

You might ask: if the Saw-Whet owl preys at night, then he must sleep during the day, right? Right ! Then why is Yoda awake when I see him in the Flight? Good question. Yoda is at Moonridge Animal Park because a large part of his wing is gone... he can't hunt or fly for himself anymore. We feed him during the day and this is changing his natural habit of hunting/feeding at night. You might have seen Yoda's meal laying on a branch next to him... it was probably a mouse. Normally in the wild, Saw-Whets will catch a mouse and consume the front part of their prey first, then carry the back half of the meal back to their nest. If the meal should freeze in the winter, the little owl will lower itself down on the frozen meal and thaw it with their body heat before dining.

Is this owl Shy? Debbie Richardson, lead keeper, said that Yoda, as with all raptors, doesn't like eye contact when they're eating. In fact, Yoda will sometimes try to cover the meal with his wings if someone is watching him eat. Only when the keeper looks away for longer than a few seconds will Yoda start feeding. The little owl thinks that the viewer is trying to snatch his food away... and they guard their catch with fury.

How do we know if Yoda is a male or female? There are clinical ways of "sexing" the little owls, including a blood test and genetic analysis, but this is fairly costly and somewhat traumatic to the bird. Generally, the males are 10% smaller, and weigh up to 30% less than the female.

**Yoda's formal name is The Northern Saw-Whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).** Typically these little owls are 6-8" tall, and weigh a whopping 3-4 ounces. To give you a comparison in weight, a whole banana weights nearly twice as much as this little owl !! Furthermore, Yoda and a cell phone weight about the same !!

Saw-whets begin nesting in April. The female will takeover a woodpecker's hole or other natural nest-like structures including man-made nesting boxes. The female will lay 4-6 eggs, with each egg being about the size of a jellybean. Her mate feeds her during egg-laying, incubation, and brooding, often storing numerous extra prey items around the nest.

The eggs are laid over a period of several days so that when they hatch about 26 days later, the chicks' ages will be staggered. Since the chicks grow so quickly, by staggering the hatching day, the mother gives all of her attention to the newly hatched chick, then the next day moves on to the next new chick in the clutch. The little owlets will be completely feathered (fledged) at about 30 days. After fledging, young birds tend to remain together. The father, and sometimes the mother too, continue to feed the young for at least a month after they leave the nest. Unlike many other owl species, Northern Saw-whet Owls are capable of self-powered flight immediately upon fledging.



# RACCOON - A Story by John 3 Hawks



I am a small animal that can climb trees very easily. I usually walk on all four of my feet, but can also stand on just my hind legs if I am trying to reach for something I want. The color of my fur is black, gray, and white. I also have a bushy tail with black rings, and on my face you will see what appears to be a black mask.

Now do you know who I am?

Yes, Raccoon is my name, and finding food is my game!

My small front paws are very useful for opening jars, latches, and even some cabinet doors if I can reach them. I enjoy searching for food during the night, and this has caused some people to call me a thief, and even a bandit! So be careful with your food items, because if I am near, they may disappear!

Have you ever put on a mask so you could be someone else for a while? If so, who did you want to be?

I am here to remind you that putting on a pretend mask can help when you are having difficulty with something you are working on. If your math work is giving you

trouble, you can put on a pretend mask and be the child who asks questions of others in order to help you learn. Or, if you don't feel like helping do chores around your home, put on a different type of mask and become the one who pitches in to get things done at home. After you do this a few times, you will probably see how fun it can be when you have solved a problem for yourself, or helped others to get things done.

Here is something else you can do at school or at home: try putting on a pretend mask that will get you to see the fun of learning about the animals in your area. As you learn more about them, you will see how important they are to you and our earth. This will also increase the fun you have when you see them in their natural homes, and give you the chance to tell others about what you have learned.

When you see me, remember to take care of the things and people that are important to you, and don't be afraid to stand up and reach for your goals!

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

*Please help me Adopt a wild bird or animal for \$15.00*

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

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

Mail this form to: FOMZ, Fran Fish  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2005 SPECIAL EVENTS

### **AUGUST 20 ...11 am-2 pm .....ICE CREAM SAFARI**

Tour the Zoo and enjoy ice cream served at special stations around the animal park!

### **AUGUST 21 ...7:30 am-1 pm RUN FOR THE GRIZZLIES**

Fundraiser for Zoo -co-chairs: Diana Blair 909-878-3588 and Pat Bryant 909-866-5406.

### **SEPT. 3 .....5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.MUSIC IN THE ZOO**

Tour the Zoo and enjoy a variety of musical performances.

### **\* SEPT. 9 .....6 pm .....F.O.M.Z. GENERAL MEETING**

At the Discovery Center. Informative program including relocation update. 909-585-6779

### **SEPT.10 - 11 ..TUES-SAT.NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL**

Native American traditions of honoring forest animals. Storytelling, songs and dances, crafts. Call 909.878.4200

### **OCT.....FRI & SAT 6:15 pmFLASHLIGHT SAFARIS**

Experience the nocturnal life of zoo animals on this one-of-a-kind guided tour. A wonderful experience for everyone!

### **OCT. 15..... 11 am - 3 pmWOLF AWARENESS DAY**

Learn all there is to know about these majestic animals, plus there will be special activities for the children.

Call Betsy @909-584-9510

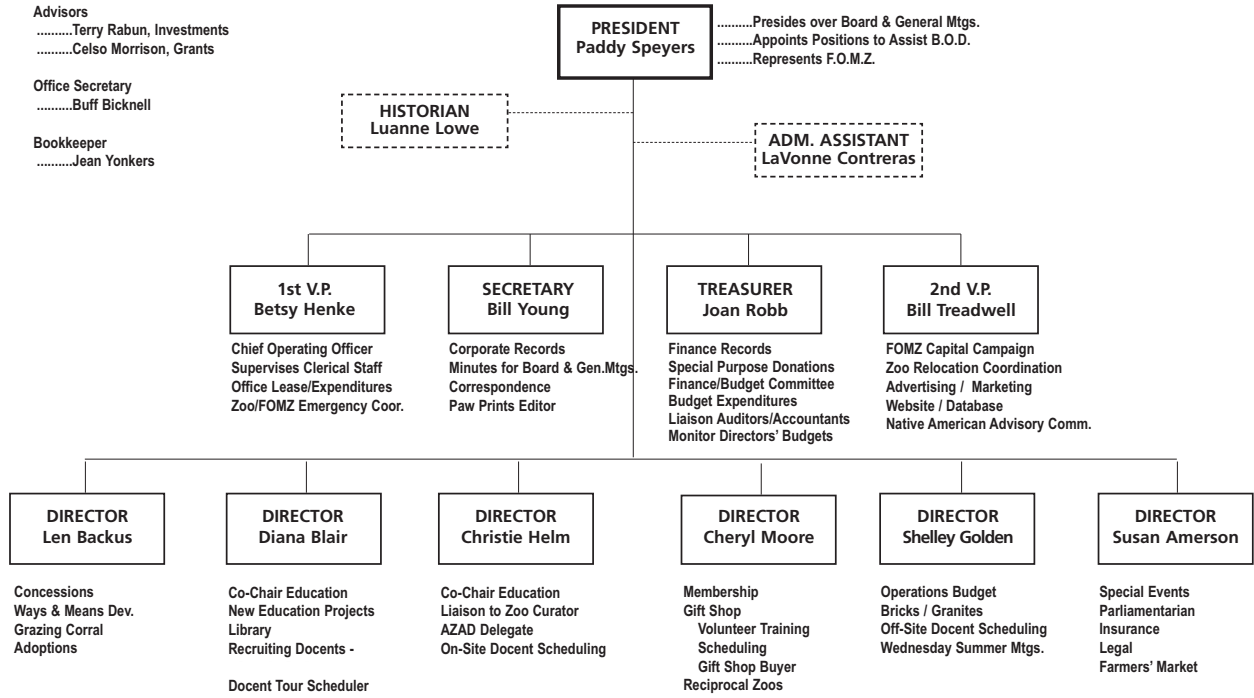
### **OCT. 31 ..... 2 - 5 pm....."BOO" IN THE ZOO**

Trick & Treat event. Call 909-584-1171.

### **\* NOV. 5.....10 am ..F.O.M.Z. GENERAL MEETING**

Election of 2006 Board of Directors at Park & Rec bldg.

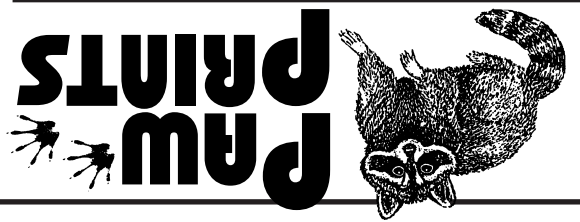
# OUR 2005 F.O.M.Z. TEAM!



Revised 08/05

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