

PAW PRINTS

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

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FRIENDS NAME 2005 AS THE YEAR OF THE OWL

Throughout history, paintings and stories have demonstrated the attraction of owls to humans. Ancient peoples, who worshipped and feared owls as spirits with magic powers, drew images of these creatures on cave walls. Today, the owl is considered a symbol of wisdom, perhaps for its large, staring eyes or because it sits quietly, observing everything around it.

Owls are valuable to humans. They destroy pests, such as rodents and insects that eat crops and damage grain. They are the best mousers of any species and the most efficient controllers of rodent populations.

Owls are defined as soft-plumaged, short-tailed, big-headed birds of prey with flat facial disks and large, forward-facing eyes. The word owl comes from ule, the Old English word meaning “to

howl,” a reference to the birds’ distinctive calls.

For 2005, Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (F.O.M.Z.) is owling a bit about our many programs and the growing accomplishments of these activities. So, we named 2005 as “The Year of the Owl” and have selected several species of owls as mascots for these programs. In all of our “Paw Prints” this year, we will be reporting latest news about these programs and sharing information about our owl friends, too.

For 2005, Paw Prints focuses on four F.O.M.Z. committees:
Education with its mascot, the Great Horned Owl
Administration – the Barn Owl
Relocation – the Snowy Owl
Docents – the Northern Saw-Whet Owl



1st Row: (L-R): Christy Helm, Hope Smith, Installing Officer Liz Harris, Paddy Speyers, Shelley Golden
2nd Row: (L-R): Bill Treadwell, Susan Amerson, Diana Blair, Len Backus, Mike Conolly, Cheryl Moore, Betsy Henke

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED & INSTALLED

At the November, 2004 Friends of the Moonridge Zoo General Meeting, the slate of nominees for 2005 Board of Directors was presented and accepted. No additional nominations were submitted. The Board was elected by a unanimous vote.

On December 15th, the Holiday Luncheon and Installation Ceremony of the 2005 Board of Directors was held at Best Western Big Bear Chateau. The 2004 Board of Directors was thanked for the very successful year and the 2005 Board was installed. Big Bear Lake Councilwoman Liz Harris presided. The 2005 Board immediately began its planning and programs for the coming year.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Paddy Speyers

It's time to recognize some very special "Friends" of the Moonridge Animal Park, the Benefactors. But first and by way of background, here is a reprint from the spring 1996 Paw Prints of the zoo's first major challenge.

FRIENDS RESCUE GRIZZLY BEAR FAMILY

Story written by Ann Bailey and Poem by Art Harriman

*Have you heard the story 'bout the Grizzly
that strolled into town one day?
She was big and bold and had hunger pains
that just couldn't keep her away.
She went through the trash by the feed store,
to see what she could find.
Folks started yellin' and tootin' their horns,
but she didn't pay 'em no mind.*

And so begins the ballad of mamma grizzly bear and her two cubs, who were sentenced to die March 1 (1996), unless a zoo offered them a permanent home. Their only "crime" was hunger. Seems mom and the cubs sauntered once too often into residential and recreational areas looking for food.

*Rubber bullets made her take off runnin',
they thought that she'd stay gone....
It's only a year and she's back in town
with two little cubs tagging along.
The game warden said, "Three strikes and you're out,"
and three times they've been back to town.
If a zoo won't take 'em in the next six weeks,
we'll have to put 'em down!*

The "town" that the bears wandered into was just outside of Yellowstone National Park, where the family was finally captured. Under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bear management "Three Strikes You're Out" guidelines, bears are removed from the wild when they stray too close to public areas three times. These so-called nuisance bears are then killed unless a zoo offers to give them a permanent home.

Enter Don Richardson, Moonridge Animal Park curator, and the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. Don learned of the grizzlies' predicament and decided to try and save their lives by bringing them to Big Bear. But that would require raising at least \$55,000 to design and build a habitat for the bears at Moonridge Animal Park. Plus, the money would have to be raised within six weeks!

With the bears housed temporarily at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Wash., following their capture, Big Bear Valley sprang into action and the "Grizzlies Come Home!" campaign was launched Jan. 19 (1996). We told the story of "our bears" on the hill and off. We spread the word to newspapers, radio and TV stations. The phones started ringing and the letters and donations trickled in. But they kept coming – and coming. And we kept on talking about saving our bears – the bears that gave Big Bear Valley its name. The very same bears that once freely roamed the mountains of San Bernardino until they were hunted to extinction in California in the early 1900s.

*My heart cries out for the grizzly bears!
They're as innocent as can be!*

*They have as much right to live, as much right as you and me
So let's give 'em a home where they used to roam,
they shouldn't have to die...*

*They'll be mounted on the wall at the ol' town hall,
or we can bring them back alive!*

With generous Big Bear merchants, contractors, residents, and supporters leading the way, donations skyrocketed. Well-wishers from across the country sent cards, letters, and the much-needed funds to build a home for the grizzlies at Moonridge Animal Park.

Fund-raising events started sprouting here, there, and everywhere we looked. Restaurants, school children, motorcycle clubs, banks, Indian tribes, Air Force reservists, and even residents of Los Angeles' Skid Row (many of them homeless themselves) came to the aid of our bears.

Exactly one week before the March 1 deadline (and execution date for the bears), donations surpassed the \$55,000 minimum needed to spare the lives of the three grizzlies.

*The funds that were needed have more than doubled
and volunteers from miles around...*

*Have come to the Moonridge Animal Park,
to clear and break the ground.*

*Now the bears have a home, where they used to roam,
and all in a very short time...*

*And thanks to the work of so many special people,
mama bear and her cubs are doin' fine.*

"The plight of these bears captured the hearts and attention of well-wishers from every corner of the United States," said Friends' President Paddy Speyers. "We extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to every group and individual who took action to help us keep our bears alive."

F.O.M.Z. needed a formal way to recognize those who contributed significantly with money, labor, materials and other services to the "Grizzlies Come Home" campaign. Thus, the **Benefactor** designation was created. A plaque was designed to be hung at the zoo with the names of the Benefactors.

"Benefactor" designation is awarded at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors to people or entities that contribute substantial value or service to the efforts of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. The monetary equivalent of such contributions, if it can be determined, will normally be a minimum of \$10,000 (\$3,000 in 1996). Benefactor benefits are equal to those received by members of the Curator's Circle.

Meet the Benefactors to the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo

- 1996 Singleton Construction: Tom & Valerie Beede
163rd Air Refueling Wing, March AFB
Harley Owners Group, Inland Empire Chapter
Recycle Inc. of Corona: Susanne Brookie
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- 1997 Mary & Zygmunt Woroniecki
Genevieve Wall
Bill & Joan Robb: Big Bear Printing & Graphics
McDonnell Douglas Employees Community Fund
VCA Lakeside Animal Hospital
- 1998 Bryan & Kristine Holland
Connie Kelley & Shane Smith
Resort Directories: Jan & Walt Henderson
- 1999 Animal Specialty Group: Dr. Kirk Wendelburg, Dr. Steve Bilbrey, Dr. Rodney Ayl
Richard Smith

(continued on page 4)



FEATURED ANIMAL – THE GREAT HORNED OWL

The 2005 mascot for the F.O.M.Z. Education Committee is The Great Horned Owl. Often called a hootie or hoot owl because of its deep resonant HOO-Who-Who-Who-HOO-HOO, it can be heard for miles.

This large and very powerful bird varies in color from reddish brown to gray or black and white. The underside is a light gray with dark bars and a white band of feathers on the upper breast.

The Great Horned Owl has large, staring yellow-orange eyes, bordered by an orange-buff facial disc. The only North American owl with ear tufts, its name is derived from these tufts of feathers that appear to be “horns,” sometimes referred to as “ear tufts,” but which have nothing to do with their hearing. Its large feet are also completely feathered.

Unlike other species, the immature Great Horned Owl resembles the adult. Also, the female is ten to twenty percent larger than the male. The second largest North American owl, it grows to as much as 25” in length with a wingspan of 50-60” and can weigh as much as 60 ounces.

The Great Horned Owl has probably the most diverse habitat and climatic tolerance of any of the North American owls. It inhabits virtually every type of terrain in North America from sea level to 11,000 feet elevation. It is very adaptable for its three primary requirements: nesting sites, available prey, and roosting sites. If there is a preferred habitat, it would include mature deciduous woods with scattered conifers for maximum roosting concealment, plus that border water with adjacent open habitat for hunting.

Scarcely anything that moves is safe from this owl. It will eat prey as small as insects and scorpions or as large as domestic cats, woodchucks, geese, and Great Blue Herons. Its diverse diet may include small mammals to rabbits, birds, and reptiles to fish and amphibians. It will even take carrion when the weather is bad.

With one of the most powerful grips with their feet of any of the owls, it regularly preys on smaller owls and has been reported to attack and kill even Red-Tailed Hawks. It has no predators and will eat anything from crayfish to young foxes.

Despite its long average lifespan of 28 years, the Great Horned Owl is threatened mostly by man. Hunting, pesticides, electrocution, traps, and declining habitat have affected the population greatly.

Five Great Horned Owls at Moonridge Animal Park aptly demonstrate these issues. Bubo and Hooter are both missing wings due to car accidents. Cosmo arrived with a fractured wing and, despite two surgeries and six months of healing, is unable to fly. Barbie, aptly named because she was found



The Great Horned Owl

wrapped in barbed wire, has torn flight muscles.

Sierra was found in the gymnasium at Victor Valley College. The nest had been so disturbed by the number of people looking at the owlets that the mother abandoned the nest. Sierra along with her siblings were raised in captivity and are imprinted on humans since they first focused on people. As a result, they cannot be released into the wild.

Owl

By John 3 Hawks

Whoooo! Whoooo! Whoooo!

Whoooo do you think I am? Whoooo would say that I am the Owl?

Do you know what is special about me?

Well, I have large eyes, and I can see very well in the dark. Do you see well in the dark, or do you need a flashlight?

I can fly during the darkest of nights and never bump into anything. In fact, I look for most of my food during the night times. My wings and feathers are made so that when I fly, there is almost no sound to be heard.

Also, I can turn my head very far around to my backside so that I can see in just about every direction without having to move the rest of my body. Some people think I look funny when I do this, and I suppose that I do.

I will remind you that just as I fly silently to get my work done, you can go about your work quietly rather than bragging about what you do.

So don't forget, that even though things may seem dark around you at times, you can make your way through those times if you try to see things clearly.

I hope you will see or hear me someday, and when you do, remember whoooo you are. You are a special gift to our earth!

WILDLIFE QUILT GOES TO NEVADA

The extraordinary handmade quilt donated by Big Bear's "Busy Bear Quilt Guild" to the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo has been won by Kim Cooley of North Las Vegas and is now a prized possession in Kim's North Las Vegas home. Kim's entry was drawn on December 4th at the zoo's annual Santa Claus Visit. Despite a cold and blustery day, several anxious ticket holders were on hand to watch Nancy Walker draw the prize winning ticket.

Against the quilt's navy blue background, dozens of woodland animals, all representing Big Bear wildlife, scamper and play among native plants. With every piece handstitched, the one-of-a-kind quilt will never be duplicated. The thirteen quilters who worked on the piece were so pleased with their finished craftwork that they signed the quilt on the reverse side as a remembrance.

Kim Cooley and her husband were visiting Big Bear

in November with their young son and decided to go to the zoo. The youngster was fussy, and while they were walking out, Kim noticed the Quilt Drawing poster. She loved the quilt and, later that day, returned to purchase \$20 in tickets.

Lucy Camacho, who organized the Opportunity Drawing for the Quilt, said, "This was a good fund-raising project. It generated lots of interest and awareness about the zoo and we earned nearly \$2800 in ticket sales."

Special thanks go to Haus and Home furniture store and Union Bank, both of which allowed for the 6-foot-square quilt to be displayed at their businesses.

"The Penny War was a fantastic idea," said Paddy Speyers, president of Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. "I would like to thank Natalie for including the Park in her school assignment and all the students of North Shore Elementary School for participating. I am delighted to receive this money on behalf of the Moonridge Animal Park and its wildlife."



Nancy Walker selects Quilt Raffle's prize-winning ticket.

LET'S GO SHOPPING!

Beautiful animal books make excellent gifts, and there's a lot to choose from at the Zoo Gift Shop right now! You can choose from just about every animal or bird in the forest, such as, owls, wolves, bears, snakes, birds, rabbits, butterflies, hawks, bison, beavers, raccoons and even salamanders! There are books for toddlers, young readers and adults. All are brilliantly illustrated or include superb photography. We even have coloring books with text information so that young artists can read and learn while they create colorful drawings.

The Gift Shop is open seven days a week and F.O.M.Z. members receive 10% discounts on all purchases. Stop by and pick-up several books, stuffed animals, posters, or any of the other dozens of items we offer. Whether it is a gift or a special treat just for you, you will be pleased with your new purchase from the Zoo Gift Shop.



(Continued from page 2)

Meet the Benefactors to the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2000 | Carolyn Radakovich
Carol Heiman-Greene |
| 2002 | Garrett Maggart
Howard & Linda Awand
Sheldon Bell
Blanche & Gene Nay Foundation
Rodney J Davidson
Dorothy Wherland |
| 2003 | LaVonne Contreras
Greg & Jane Kriesel & Family
Susan Labouri |
| 2004 | Nancy Walker |
| 2005 | Larry & Connie Baker |

EDUCATIONAL DVDs TO FEATURE MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

F.O.M.Z.'s 2005 Education Committee has launched an exciting new program to videotape the animals and facilities at Moonridge Animal Park. The DVD will be used in docent training, both for beginners and follow-up. It will also be shown at the hundreds of offsite programs the docents host offer each year to promote the zoo locally and throughout Southern California.

Dana Landreth's video production company, Mountain Valley Productions, has teamed with F.O.M.Z. Education Committee to produce the videos. According to Landreth, "Every Tuesday, we shoot footage of the animals at the zoo and edit for multiple uses, the primary one being the docents' educational DVD." Landreth is also developing a half-hour weekly show about Moonridge Animal Park to be shown on his Big Bear Valley online television station, which is now in development.

"When all production phases of the project are completed, we will combine the television shows and educational DVD into one 90-minute DVD to be sold throughout Big Bear Valley, including, of course, the Zoo Gift Shop. Mountain Valley Productions will donate 50% of the sales to Moonridge Animal Park," Landreth added.

When asked why he took on the project, Landreth was quick to



Dana Landreth of Mountain Valley Productions videotaping at the zoo

respond. "I like the animals; I like the zoo; and it's all fun to me. What else could I want for a great project!" Mountain Valley Productions is donating its services for this important Education Committee project.

Education Committee Co-Chairs Diana Blair and Christie Helm are thrilled with progress so far. "We should be finished with the educational component by early April just in time for the start of Docent Training," said Diana Blair. "The video will help our new docents learn about the animals and also serve as an excellent refresher for docents who have not retrained in the last couple of years.

SIGN UP NOW FOR DOCENT TRAINING

F.O.M.Z. members interested in becoming Moonridge Animal Park docents must complete a three-day Docent Training Program. This year, the training will be offered three times, all on Tuesdays, 11:30 AM-4:00 PM, and held at the zoo. Dates are April 12, 19 and 26; June 14, 21 and 28; and August 16, 23 and 30. This allows ample opportunity for participants to make up missed days in subsequent sessions.

Sondra Haile teaches the classes, which are an excellent way to learn more about the animals, zoo operations and how to interact with our visitors at the zoo and at off-site programs.

Docents, if you have not retrained recently, this year's sessions will be very informative. The new educational DVD to be used in the training provides much important new information.

Call the F.O.M.Z. office to sign-up for one of the three Docent Training programs.

ANIMAL LUNCH BOX PROGRAM EXPANDING

In 2004, the F.O.M.Z. Education Committee initiated its Animal Lunch Box program for use in the docent-led children's education programs. Especially aimed at pre-schoolers, the four lunch boxes each contain foods appropriate for the species. The boxes also carry a photo of the animals on the outside.

"This is a program I learned about at AZAD (Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents)," said Education Co-Chair Christie Helm. "We started with a few boxes last year and were very pleased with the response. We are expanding this year to 12 boxes and plan for them to be used extensively with the docent-led children's tours.

HISTORY OF THE MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

1985 THROUGH 1995

1985

Praise from the Top

Park Officials receive praise after two surprise visits by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. The conditions of the Zoo, the beauty of the environment, and the dedication of the personnel impress them.

A Bald Eagle Comes to the Zoo

“Stumpy,” a bald eagle, gets a free ride on Alaska Airlines from Alaska to Southern California. Stumpy lost his right foot after being accidentally trapped in a wolf’s trap. He is a young bird, 2 to 4 years of age, weighs 8.5 pounds, and has an 8.5-inch wingspan. Stumpy has the elite status of being the first bald eagle to reside at the Zoo. He shares an enclosure with the golden eagles.

His savior is former Big Bear resident Linda Saunders Ogg, who works at the Wrangell Ranger District in Alaska. Previously, Linda had been assigned to the Big Bear Ranger Station and, when Stumpy was found, the Moonridge Animal Park was the first safe haven that popped into her mind.

1986

Stumpy Gets a Roommate and the Zoo Earns Kudos

Another bald eagle, named “No. 41,” joins Stumpy in his enclosure. Like Stumpy, No. 41 came from Alaska and was injured in a wolf trap. Unlike Stumpy, No. 41 has not been named, because his injuries are not considered to be debilitating. He lost two toes and the heel of one foot with enough of the foot remaining to allow him to hunt adequately. However, additional problems occurred in Alaska when the keepers at the rehabilitation center cornered the bird daily to check his injuries.

“The poor guy got so he was scared to death of humans,” Moonridge Animal Parkkeeper Joe Duret said. “He damaged his wings from flying up against the wall.” Joe went on to explain that his wings are healed, but No. 41 is convinced he cannot fly. “It must be in his mind ‘cause I’ve seen him fly twice,” Joe said. “If we can convince him he can fly, we’ll probably release him. Meanwhile, No. 41 sits on the ground or in the lowest branches of the perch tree.”

1988

Three Bald Eagles Massacred & Friends of the Moonridge Zoo is Born

Three bald eagles are stolen and found massacred near the Woodland Trail on the North Shore. According to Big Bear Sheriffs, talons and feathers were missing from their bodies. Officials feel it is a cult, and rewards are offered for the arrest and conviction of the culprits: \$1,000 by Fish & Game and \$500 by Big Bear Lake Councilman John Eminger.

Outraged by this heinous crime, four local women headed by Carol Dingley inquire about security at the zoo, which is run by the San Bernardino County Recreation and Parks District. They learn that the county’s lean budget cannot provide funds for adding security. Carol, Melinda Hope, Phyllis Siegel and Louise Dand establish a non-profit corporation called “Friends of the Moonridge Zoo” to solicit funds for a security system. The small group attracts about 10 more members in the next few months.

Security is not the only goal for the fledgling group. The FOMZ founders want to create a Visitor Information Center where educational materials are available to zoo visitors.

1989

FOMZ is Recognized in Big Bear Valley and Friends Programs Grow

FOMZ’s membership grows, and local businesses sponsor numerous fund-raisers. FOMZ begins its “Adopt an Animal” program, and the security system becomes a reality. The \$7,000 security system and its first-year maintenance, \$2,400, are raised through various community and FOMZ events and activities. The friends learn from zookeeper Joe Duret and help lead tours.

“Zooccasion” is Born

FOMZ holds its first Zooccasion on the deck at Bear Mountain Ski Resort. The successful event includes tours of the zoo, games and prizes, performances by the dancing Polka Tots, and presentations by representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Forest, and Friends of the Big Bear Valley Preserve.

1990

A Newborn Bear is Found

A tiny bear cub is brought to local veterinarian, Dr. Kent Walker. The bear, named Coconino, soon generates controversy. California Fish & Game wants her released into the wild and battles Dr. Walker in court for her custody. Bear Valley people rally around the cub and raise \$8,000 to keep the baby bear in the San Bernardino Mountains. As the fight goes on, the bear grows and becomes imprinted by man. In a no-win situation, Coconino is sent to Bear Country USA in South Dakota to live out her life in captivity.

New Enclosures Arrive

Coyotes and cougars receive new enclosures with funds provided by FOMZ.

1992

Woodland Bison Take Up residence and Baby Bison are Born

Two males and two female bison are delivered to the Moonridge Animal Park from the San Diego Zoo. Soon, both females are pregnant.

Two male Woodland Bison are born, one in May and the other in June. A "Name the Baby Bison" contest is held with the stipulation that all names be Native American, such as Geronimo, Cochise, etc. The names chosen are Taza and Kiowa.

1993

The Zoo Continues to Change and Grow

Curator Terry Silfies resigns. Don Richardson comes on board as his replacement. Don was previously at the Los Angeles Zoo as senior animal keeper.

Cochise, a wood bison on loan from the San Diego Zoo, dies of respiratory problems. Geronimo and the two female bison are moved to Minnesota. Taza and Kiowa, the two young males born at the Zoo, remain.

New Zoo Plans Revealed

Plans for a new Zoo to be called "The Living Forest" are presented. A site near Metcalf Creek is recommended. Upon hearing the news, local residents near the proposed site complain.

Thirty members of the Southern California Artists Association assemble at the Zoo to take pictures of the wildlife. The animals oblige by "saying cheese," tempted by tidbits of food doled out by the keepers.

1994

A Fitting Use for Coconino Funds is Chosen and the Zoo Population Grows

Coconino funds, totaling \$8,000 raised by Valley residents to keep the bear in Big Bear, are used to create a better home for Seattle and Tacoma, two resident black bears.

A rare fisher called Tas, short for Tasmania, takes up residence at the Zoo.

Amelia Earhart, a ringtail cat, falls from the landing gear of a departing aircraft in Big Bear City. Except for a few broken bones, she appears to be "none the worse" for wear.

1995

More Sites Considered for the New Zoo

The Zoo is offered 25 acres in Sugarloaf by an owner of 98 acres of undeveloped land. At a meeting of Sugarloaf residents, some spoke out about not wanting the Zoo in their backyard.

At least a dozen other potential sites Zoo are considered with the mostly likely spots being the Forest Service Visitor Center and the Sportsman Club. Second in line are a Baldwin School site and Minnelusa Canyon. Metcalf Bay and Dana Point Park are eliminated.

Music in the Zoo is Launched and Amelia Earhart Moves In

Amelia Earhart, a ringtail cat, moves into her new home during the first "Music In The Zoo" concert. Accompanying her is Gizmo, another ringtail, from The Living Desert in Palm Springs.

Zoo Signage is Modernized and the Animals Flourish

The Zoo sports a new sign system, designed by Curator Don Richardson.

The Zoo opens its season with a "Beary Good Day" in celebration of 35 years of operations in the Big Bear Valley.

A male kestrel is released after his compound wing fracture heals. The kestrel was found at the Big Bear landfill.

A male red-shouldered hawk named "Tommy-hawk" is due for release after being at the zoo for nearly two years.

Isaiah, a partially blind golden eagle found on a Palm Desert golf course, is doing well and will be used in educational programs.

Moonridge Zoo gets five new owls: Aspen, a snowy owl, and four barn owls compliments of the Los Angeles Zoo.

A Coup for the Zoo

California Fish & Game grants permission to the Zoo for a single breed of fishers. The species has not been bred in captivity for 10 years.

Rev. Marian Stinson of St. Columba's Episcopal Church blesses the beasts at a special Zoo ceremony.



MEET 1st V.P. BETSY HENKE

One look at Betsy Henke's menagerie at her home out at Big Bear's Shay Meadow – 3 birds, 5 cats, 2 dogs, 1 guinea pig, 1 rabbit, 24 chickens, 3 goats, 2 horses, and 4 llamas, plus 3 more llamas that she boards! – and it's easy to see why Betsy became a F.O.M.Z. member. She loves animals. In fact, Betsy Henke joined F.O.M.Z. so she could be a docent and spend even more time with more animals!

Though a Big Bear resident only since 2002, Betsy packed lots of activities into these three years. In addition to settling into her new home, Betsy has been a F.O.M.Z. docent for three years and served two years on the board of directors as treasurer.

This year, Betsy Henke continues on the board as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Her duties include day-to-day operations of the organization, zoo emergency operations, and backing up President Paddy Speyers as needed. She also continues as Committee Chairman for the annual Alpine Wildlife Celebration, this year scheduled for July 23rd.

"I knew I wanted to live in the mountains of Southern California so Big Bear was an easy choice," said Betsy. "I joined F.O.M.Z. to be a docent so I could give tours and be around the animals any way possible," she added.

When asked what she likes the most about being a docent, Betsy is quick to respond. "There are special times that are incredible, like holding a baby mountain lion in my hands. That was amazing!" Betsy adds that she likes the keeper programs and the tours best of all.

So, why did Betsy Henke become a F.O.M.Z. board member? "I was concerned about the relocation and wanted to help the dream become a reality," she responds.

Now retired, Betsy had a creative, yet technical, career. After eight years at Hughes Aircraft as a computer technician, she switched professions to lighting design and technology in performing arts theaters, mostly at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and the Alex Theater in Glendale.

In addition to completing undergraduate studies in Sociology at UC Santa Barbara, Betsy later earned an Associate of Science degree in Animal Science at Moorpark College.

"My interest in animals was general with special emphasis on horses and domestic animals. I just wanted to learn more," Betsy explained. "It's really all about the animals," she added.



F.O.M.Z. 1ST V.P. & COO Betsy Henke

MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK RELOCATION MOVING FORWARD

On January 31, 2005, F.O.M.Z. Relocation Committee Chairman Bill Treadwell spoke with Jeff Rigney at the County of San Bernardino Special Districts Office regarding progress on the Moonridge Animal Park's relocation. Rigney is the County's lead person in processing the paperwork between the County and the U.S. Forest Service to relocate the zoo to the proposed site on the north shore of Big Bear Lake and adjacent to the Big Bear Discovery Center.

During the first week of February 2005, the final Management Collaboration Report and application for a Special Use Permit was submitted to the Forest Service. It is anticipated that the report and application will be approved once all the required studies are completed.

A Collection Agreement has been drafted by the County on behalf of the Forest Service, thereby allowing the County to deposit funds with the Forest Service to pay the costs of the Environmental Impact Study. The resulting Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which could take as long as 18 months to complete, is required in order to issue the Special Use Permit.

Midway through the EIR process, engineering drawings will be prepared in order to begin construction as soon as the Special Use Permit is issued. The earliest date possible for the start of construction of the new zoo site is February, 2006.



FRIENDS AWARDED AZAD GRANT

The Association of Zoological & Aquarium Docents (AZAD) has awarded a \$500 educational grant to F.O.M.Z. The grant is specifically to fund a new video camera and is awarded in recognition of the Friends' Education Programs. Docents Sharon Lubert and Don Alexander wrote the grant proposal.

The grant will be formally presented at the AZAD conference in Washington, D.C. September 28-October 2, 2005. At the conference, F.O.M.Z. Education Co-Chair Christie Helm will present a paper about F.O.M.Z. Training & Education Programs and how the use of videography is enhancing these efforts.



F.O.M.Z. RECEIVES UNISENSE FOUNDATION GRANT

In September, 2004, F.O.M.Z. President Paddy Speyers received confirmation that the UniSense Foundation had awarded a \$20,000 grant to F.O.M.Z. in support of its Educational Programs. The money was received in November.

According to President Speyers, "This wonderful gift came as a complete surprise, and it proves that everything going on at the Moonridge Animal Park, especially the important educational programs, are truly a contribution to the community."

Thomas Manire, chairman of the foundation, visited the zoo during the summer months and was so impressed with what he saw that he decided to award the grant. F.O.M.Z. educational programs include Docent Training, Docent-led Tours, Off-Site Programs, Animal Lunch Boxes, Flashlight Safaris and Paw Prints.



WE GET LOTS OF HELP FROM FRIENDS & DONORS!

We could never accomplish so much without the help of so many contributors of time, materials and money.

Moving into our new offices was a breeze with coordination by **Betsy Henke**, savvy electronics and computer advice from **Bill Treadwell**, and the special gift of significantly discounted, brand new office furniture from **Bob Wallace at Wild Bear Furniture Company**.

Joan Robb at Big Bear Printing donates all the graphic design and layouts for Paw Prints, a huge donation of time and expertise.

Special thanks to **Carolyn Radakovich** for her generous donation of \$5,000 made at the F.O.M.Z. Holiday Luncheon and 2005 Board of Directors Installation. Carolyn is a F.O.M.Z. benefactor and a docent. With this donation, she is the first to join the Curator's Circle.

Connie & Larry Baker donated a portable office trailer to F.O.M.Z., which will be used at our new site. Equipped with cabling for computer stations and built-in cabinetry, the trailer will give us an on-site office during the relocation process.

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



F.O.M.Z. IS ON THE MOVE!

Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (F.O.M.Z.) has moved into its first "official" office at 42001 Big Bear Blvd., Suite 3, in Big Bear Lake. The office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM.

According to F.O.M.Z. First Vice President Betsy Henke, "Our new office gives us many advantages over trying to "work" out of the Zoo Gift Shop or from our homes. Our new bookshelves will house the F.O.M.Z. library, a big advantage over the closet where the books were stored at the zoo! We have everything centralized in one space, and Buff Bicknell, our new office secretary, coordinates supplies, database maintenance and more," Henke added. Board of Directors and committee meetings are also held at the new office.

"Because of its location right on the boulevard, the new F.O.M.Z. office is also a great place for the general public, both Big Bear Valley locals and off-the-mountain visitors, to stop by or call for information about Moonridge Animal Park and F.O.M.Z.," Henke added.



1st V.P. Betsy Henke listens to Office Secretary Buff Bicknell at the new F.O.M.Z. office.



Don Richardson, Curator and Zoo visitor admiring Owl.

2005 is "The Year of the Owl." Visit the Moonridge Animal Park to learn more about these fascinating birds.

F.O.M.Z. Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2004

Assets, Checking/Savings			
Cash in Banks	43,622.43		
Investment Accounts	652,985.09		
Bulk Mail Deposit	<u>1,120.15</u>		
Total Current Assets			697,829.90
Fixed Assets			
Equipment less Deprec.	3,373.16		
Office Equip. less Deprec.	<u>6,862.70</u>		
Total Fixed Assets			10,235.86
Other Assets			
Inventory & Books			<u>16,340.22</u>
TOTAL ASSETS			724,405.98
Liabilities & Equity			
State Sales Tax Payable	211.16		
TOTAL LIABILITIES			<u>211.16</u>
Equity			
Opening Balance Equity	38.74		
Net Assets	680,623.90		
Net Income	<u>43,945.50</u>		
TOTAL EQUITY			<u>724,617.14</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			<u>724,405.98</u>

COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars today to be sure and enjoy these fun and informative events!

Meet the Easter Bunny, Saturday, March 26, 1:00-3:00 PM at Moonridge Animal Park – Celebrate the Easter Holiday with the animals at Moonridge Animal Park and have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny! He will have some tasty treats and games for everyone to enjoy.

Farmers' Market, Every Tuesday, May 10–September 6, 8:00 AM-1:00PM at Big Bear Lake Convention Center - Stop by the F.O.M.Z. booth to purchase Zoo Gift Shop items, find out about events and other zoo & F.O.M.Z. news. Our booth attracts lots of attention and increases awareness of the zoo to residents and visitors of Big Bear Valley.

Big Bear Bed & Breakfast Inns' Spring Tea Tour, Sunday, May 15, 1:00-5:00 PM – Get an insider's peek into eight spectacular private inns. For only \$15 admission – all donated to F.O.M.Z. – you will tour these beautiful inns, meet the innkeepers, and sample their favorite and most delicious pastries and savories, plus every admission fee includes free entry to the zoo! Attendees each receive the "Big Bear Bed & Breakfast Experience" passport, which includes favorites recipes from each of the innkeepers.

Bear Country Fair, Memorial Weekend/Saturday & Sunday, May 28-29, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM at Moonridge Animal Park – This annual celebration marks the start of our new season's fun and educational programs.

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, Karen Conolly
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

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.*

MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

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

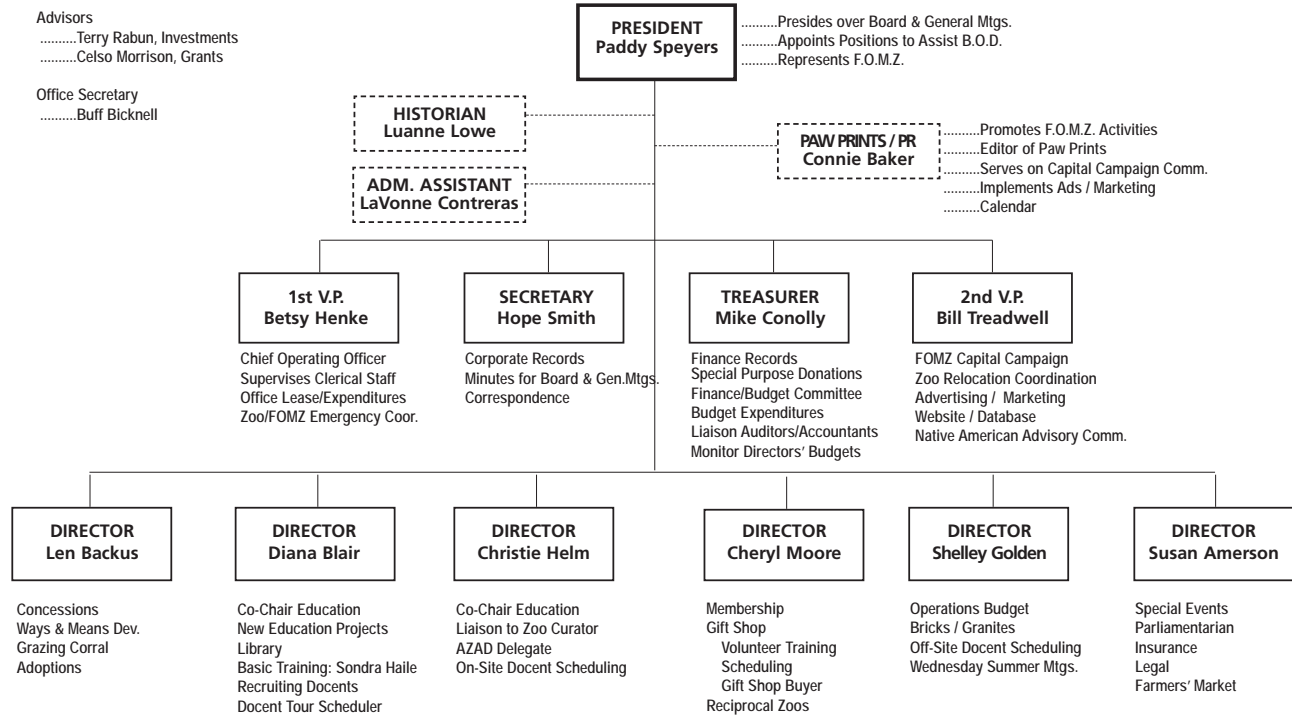
OUR 2005 F.O.M.Z. TEAM!

Advisors

.....Terry Rabun, Investments
Celso Morrison, Grants

Office Secretary

.....Buff Bicknell



Return Service Requested

www.moonridgezoo.org

Big Bear City, CA 92314-2557

P.O. Box 2557

FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO



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