



PAW PRINTS

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

OL. XIII, ISSUE 3

FALL/WINTER 2003-2004

“SHOW-STOPPER” ON MOONRIDGE ROAD

An unlikely spot for a zoo, but that’s what occurred Saturday, Sept. 13, on Moonridge Road in Big Bear Lake, when several species of wildlife were taken from Moonridge Animal Park to Bear Mountain Essentials, a variety gift shop, for show and tell for several hours. Several docents remained with the animals and answered all questions that passersby asked. But the climax came when Curator Don Richardson brought Peg to the party. Peg is one of the three sisters mountain lions. Necks were craning as people drove by and slowly turned around to catch a glimpse of this magnificent animal, and spectators were delighted with the show.

The sponsors of this “wild animal escapade” are Mike and Sandra Gray, owners of Bear Mountain Essentials for a little over a year. Why did they sponsor this show and tell? Mike summed it all up by stating, “We both love animals and have been to many zoos over the years, some of them were really big, and we find them overwhelming. At the Moonridge Animal Park you can get up near and feel close to the animals.” Thank you Mike and Sandra for a terrific day.



Canyon stops along Moonridge Road for a rest while Curator Don Richardson gives her a belly rub.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Show-Stopper.....	1
President’s Corner.....	2
“Howl With the Wolves”.....	2
Featured Animal - Raccoon	3
Membership News.....	4
Featured Docent - Connie Garber.....	5
Boo in the Zoo.....	5
We Get Letters/Email.....	6
Adoptions.....	7
Student Calendar Contest.....	8
Schedule of Upcoming Events & Thank Yous.....	9
Relocation Progress & Christmas Card.....	10
Farewell to Tacoma & Seattle.....	11
Officers & Phone numbers.....	12





It's been a very busy year for both the Moonridge Animal Park and the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. The Park's relocation has been first and foremost in all our minds – raising \$15,000,000 is no small task. We've held fund-raisers, talked to civic groups and businesses, have volunteers working on a Capital Campaign and a Task Force working on the development plans for the move across the Lake. But more is needed. As I weighed our successes against what we still have left to accomplish, I determined that to attain our ultimate goal we need to know what we currently have, what we're striving for, and what it will take to get there. I'm sharing this in the hope that you can help us attain our goal.

What the Moonridge Animal Park and the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (FOMZ) currently have:

1. A most special zoological park.
2. Over 80 species of wildlife.
3. A wonderful curator and zoo staff.
4. Dedicated docents and volunteers.
5. Community support - Chamber of Commerce, merchants, local publications, service clubs.
6. 100,000 visitors annually – including bus loads of school children.
7. 200 outreach programs at schools/service clubs, etc.
8. Over 1,000 "memberships."
9. FOMZ financial support for the relocation – \$400,000 to date.
10. Updated website: www.moonridgezoo.org.

What we're striving for:

1. To become one of the top 10 zoos in California.
2. To be the sixth accredited zoo to serve 30,000,000 people in Southern California.
3. Providing a sanctuary for non-releasable wildlife and expanding our capability.
4. Developing an ecologically-balanced environment with alternative energy and water recycling.
5. Providing a Multi-Media Center with classrooms for children and adults where the relationship between wildlife and the ecosystem will be taught.
6. Maintaining world-class exhibits with spacious, natural habitats.

What we need to get there:

1. Help in meeting the total relocation costs of \$15,000,000.
2. Help with grant writing.
3. Volunteers with professional marketing and financial skills to serve on the FOMZ Board of Directors.
4. National TV coverage.
5. Stories/articles in national magazines.
6. More docents to help with our Educational Programs.
7. More Exhibit Sponsors.

Please call President Paddy if you think your talents/resources could help as an advisor on our Development Campaign Committee. (909) 585-6779 or FAX: (909) 585-6110.



"HOWL WITH THE WOLVES"

The second annual "Howl with the Wolves," is scheduled at the Park, Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On this day the Park joins other zoos and wildlife sanctuaries around the country in celebrating Wolf Awareness Week, designated as Oct. 18-25. Some of the educational and fun things planned to stimulate children's curiosity include Native American Hop Scotch, wolf tales and a treasure hunt where kids hunt for answers to questions about wolves, puzzles and games,

Start practicing your howling skills as the Howling Event begins at 2 p.m. See if your howling voice is authentic enough that our five wolves will answer, Navarre, the youngest, 1-1/2, Shania, 3, Nova, 3, Wakiza, 3, and Echo, 8.

Wolf Awareness Week is an important vehicle for dispelling misconceptions and educating the public about the role predators play in maintaining biological diversity. The wolf is a striking symbol of wild nature, yet they have long been shrouded by myth and superstition. Wolf Awareness Week encourages conservation efforts not only for wolves, but for all wild species.



FEATURED ANIMAL: RACCOON *Procyon lotor*

(pro = before + cyon = dog) lotor (washer)

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo was created in 1988 and the Raccoon was adopted as its logo. The logo was sketched by artist Louise Dand, one of the original founders of the FOMZ. Melinda Hope said she remembers that day well. Three of the four founders were sitting around a kitchen table discussing “zoo things” - Melinda, Louise and Carol Dingley. As Louise started to sketch a raccoon, the others said, “that’s it.” From that day forward this lovable wildlife character has adorned T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other wearing apparel, as well as bookmarks, coloring books, etc. Since the FOMZ is celebrating its 15th anniversary, we thought it appropriate that the featured animal be a Raccoon.

Raccoons are well known for their curiosity and mischievousness. Most everyone at one time or another has seen this nocturnal animal with its black mask of fur around the eyes and its long, bushy tail with anywhere from four-to-eight black rings encircling it. It is at home anywhere from Canada to the United States. It is very adaptable and lives in various types of areas though it prefers woodlands near water. It prefers to den in trees but will use burrows when necessary. Contrary to popular belief, raccoons do not hibernate during cold weather but they may sleep for several days.

The color of a Raccoon tends to range from gray to a reddish brown but lighter colors are not that unusual. It has a stocky body and its tail makes up one-third of its total length of 2-3 feet. It weighs anywhere from 8-to-22 pounds. (In Minnesota, raccoons have been found as large as 45 pounds!)

The Raccoon walks flat on its feet, as humans do. Its forepaws resemble slender hands with each paw containing five digits, giving it unusual dexterity. It has been known to open latches and garbage cans, untie knots, and turn doorknobs. It also has excellent hearing and sees extremely well in the dark. The Raccoon is an agile



climber, sometimes going down the tree head-first.

Raccoon noises are variable. Sometime females twitter to reassure their young, and both sexes growl and snarl when angry or threatened.

This animal is omnivorous and eats a variety of foods, including frogs, fish, amphibians, shellfish, insects, birds, eggs, mice, carrion, berries, nuts, vegetation, salamanders, insects, corn, cat food, and human garbage.

The Raccoon is a solitary creature. The only semi-permanent grouping of raccoons is that of a mother and her young. Raccoons give birth to one litter per year. A litter can have as many as eight young but is generally three or four. Young raccoons are helpless when born and stay with the mother for about a year although they are weaned and hunt on their own after about three months.

Predators to the raccoon are the great horned owl, bobcat, domestic dogs and man.



Preventing Raccoon Invasion

Raccoons are attracted to urban areas by the easy accessibility of food, water and shelter. Reducing or eliminating the availability of all of these factors will encourage raccoons to leave. Tight fitting lids should be kept on garbage cans; pets should be fed during daylight hours and any leftovers removed immediately; water bowls should be emptied or taken inside at night; gardens should be frequently harvested and windfall fruit picked up. Food should never be intentionally left out for wild mammals.

It is a violation of California state law for any wildlife to be kept as pets

- Reprint of Department of Fish and Game

Did you know that although the raccoon appears to “wash” its food, this is actually a myth. The raccoon’s acute sense of touch is accentuated by water, and it kneads and tears at its food to find the edible portions.

According to the Dream Dictionary: Seeing a raccoon in your dream means deceit, thievery, and of false friends secretly conspiring against you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As reported in the Mid-Summer 2003 issue of Paw Prints, the price of memberships will rise in January 2004 for individuals and families. Individual memberships will go from \$20 to \$30 and families from \$35 to \$45. This small increase is to offset mailing and printing costs, which increase yearly. Supporting, lifetime and benefactor memberships will remain the same at this time – \$100, \$500, and \$3,000 respectively.

The Friends is working on a new database system that will allow members to renew from year-to-year, rather than renewing the first of every calendar year. This system should be up and running by January 2004.

Memberships are still a bargain. Visits to the Park are unlimited for the year, no matter what type of membership you purchase. Plus all members receive newsletters, 10% off items in the gift shop, free or reduced entry into reciprocal parks, and docent training, if desired. Lifetime members receive all the above plus a plaque with their name(s) engraved which hangs on the lifetime members wall at the Park.

Being able to enter the Park whenever you want is one reason to purchase a membership, but not the only one. Each time someone becomes a member in the FOMZ, they are helping to support our wildlife. Our wildlife depend upon the generosity of people, like you, for their support.

We value your membership. Dues are a vital part of our support to the MAP. Without this support we would not be able to take in and care for the many animals in need. Example of this are the enclosures built this year, to house Hucklebeary, our three-legged bear, and a large enough enclosure to accommodate our three mountain lion siblings. You truly make a difference and we thank you for your past and continued support

Sign up or renew now. Join the 1,200 plus supporters who have become members of the Friends. Use the membership Form on this page or use our website www.moonridgezoo.org. Be a friend and tell a friend. We thank you and our wildlife thanks you.

Join Friends of the Moonridge Zoo!

(a non-profit organization)

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

Members receive

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

Check appropriate box

Individual Membership\$20.00

Family Membership\$35.00

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

Supporting Membership \$100.00* Lifetime Membership \$500.00*
*(also receive Park admission for their guests)

Are you interested in docent training? Yes No

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone No. with area code _____

E-mail _____

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Paid by: Check Mastercard VISA

Acct.#: _____ Exp.: _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to:

FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO (FOMZ)

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

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo's general meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Discovery Center on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake, at 6:30 p.m. The general public is invited. The meetings will be dark from December 2003 through March 2004, and will resume in April. For more information, call Paddy Speyers, (909) 585-6779.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We acknowledge and congratulate the following Moonridge Animal Park patrons who have become lifetime members of the FOMZ since the last issue of Paw Prints: Jerry and Jackie Kehle, Peter and Tracy Phillips, Mikki St. Germain, Bruce and Sue Ann Stroh, Len and Kathryn Backus. Your names have been engraved on individual plaques and are now suspended on the lifetime membership wall at the Moonridge Animal Park.

BENEFACTORS

Many thanks to our benefactors who support the MAP with either monetary support, or goods and services. Our newest benefactors are Greg and Jane Kriesel and Susan Labouri. Your spirit of giving is acknowledged and appreciated. Your names on plaques have been added to the benefactors' wall at the Park.

FEATURED DOCENT - CONNIE GARBER

Connie Garber is a woman who is enthusiastic about the Park and its wildlife. It shows in her warm smile when she talks about the animals and her knowledge of all the animals at the Park is impressive. She became acquainted with the Park in the '60s and '70s when she brought her children to visit the zoo. "Now, I'm bringing my grandchildren," Connie said. "I have always loved animals and enjoy spending time at the Animal Park."

She has been an active docent since 1996 after seeing an article the Friends had posted in *The Grizzly*, the Big Bear weekly newspaper, requesting volunteers. After fulfilling her training, Connie became very active in the organization. She works in the gift shop, is in charge of the reciprocal zoo list, recruits and schedules training for new docents, puts together the inauguration for the Board of Directors and works with the animals at special events.

Connie and her husband, Ted, have lived in Big Bear full-time for 16 years, and were part-time residents for 17 years. Prior to their permanent move here, she was a court reporter working mostly in outlying municipal courts in Los Angeles County.

But that's not all! Ted also is involved with the Moonridge Animal Park. He serves on the joint collaboration team which is a sub-task force of the Park's relocation task force. Both Connie and Ted are very interested in seeing that the Park has a new location before its current lease expires.

May we suggest when visiting Moonridge Animal Park, you stop in the Gift Shop and say "hi" to Connie. But be forewarned, her enthusiasm is catching.



BOO IN THE ZOO



(Spooks, goblins and witches, first row, LtoR: Susan Amerson, Christy Helm, second row: Betsy Henke, Christy Jones, Paddy Speyers)



Cute trick or treaters

Everyone's invited to the third annual "Boo in the Zoo," Friday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. Last year, there were witches, spooks, goblins, and treats. And this year promises to be more of the same. "Boo in the Zoo" gives young children the chance to trick or treat in a safe environment. Children in costumes get in at half price. Here are some pictures of last year's cute "trick or treaters."

WE GET LETTERS and E-MAIL

North Shore Elementary School, Big Bear Lake, teachers of the 2nd and 3rd grade classes – Mrs. Tipps, Mrs. Geiger, Mrs. Rammel, Mrs. Chaltam; Mr. Tobin: “On June 5, Don Richardson came to Camp Whittle to do an animal presentation. It was last minute on our part due to a cancellation. The kids were fascinated by the animals and his presentation and wanted to donate the remainder of the money they raised for the camping trip to the new home for the animals. Thank you to Don; the snake; the owl; Alma the possum, and Peg the mountain lion.”

Maureen Webster of Colorado Springs, Co.: “I greatly admire your dedication and hard work to care for (the animals) and educate. I had hoped to make it there for the Alpine Wildlife Celebration, but circumstances wouldn’t allow it. I was made aware of your purpose and goals through Garrett Maggart and Richard Burgi. I admire their work and personal integrity. Best of luck.”

Amy Spencer of Valencia: “Dear Friends: Keep up the good work!”

Phyllis Ambrose of Playa del Rey: “This is my contribution toward moving the zoo. Keep up the good work!”

Michelle Baillot of France: “Greetings from your French fans! I am starting my school work year and thought about the marvelous moment I passed with you this summer. I was in Moonridge in 2001 and have seen how you worked to offer a better place to animals and a lot of information to the visitors. You did a wonderful job. This year I loved to see the smile in Garrett Maggart’s face when he discovered how much money his fans have collected. I just want to send you my best wishes for this new year of work. Good luck for preparing for the move.”

Terri Carlstrom of Redlands: “We had a really good time (at the Moonridge Animal Park) and Carly was so happy the kids were excited about their adoptions after our wonderful tour with Judy. I definitely would recommend to anyone wanting to do this sort of adoption party to have the tour. We had several adult converts who were not too sold on the idea until after the tour when they better understood the mission of the Animal Park. Give our regards to Judy and your Board. You are all obviously doing a wonderful job. We’ll see you again soon.” (Read about Carly’s birthday party below..)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARLY

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo and the Moonridge Animal Park join together in wishing Carly Carlstrom a very, happy 2003 birthday.

Carly, who turned 7, celebrated her birthday at the Park on Saturday, Sept. 13. Her mom, Terri, said that Carly loves animals and wanted to volunteer at an animal shelter but, of course, she is too young. So, Terri was thinking what entertainment might she provide that revolves around animals for Carly’s birthday party. And then it came to her. The family



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARLY (w/pix) Partygoers LtoR: Docent Judi Vannatta, Bailey, Callie, Claudia, Anthony, Carly, Natalie, Olivia, Brittany, Christopher, Gabriella, Danielle. Missing from picture are: Jean Showalter, Carol Showalter and Terri Carlstrom

had visited the Park before and they all agreed it would be great place to have a birthday party.

But the appealing and generous part of this birthday party is that Carly decided she wanted to help the animals. So her invitation stated “no presents.” Instead bring money to adopt an animal at the Moonridge Animal Park. And that’s what happened.

The animals adopted were: Duncan, kit fox; Hucklebeary, black bear cub; Lakota, coyote; Windsong, red fox; Talon, Bobcat; Alaska, bald eagle; and Kali, snow leopard.

On behalf of our wildlife we thank all the partygoers for their caring and concern.



ADOPTIONS - HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU KID!



Gomez, our turkey vulture

Looking for an addition to your family tree? How about a wildlife adoption? Adoptions can be given at any time of the year, for any occasion, or for no occasion at all. Adoptions support the wildlife at Moonridge Animal Park. All wildlife at the Park are available for adoption, including Gomez, our turkey vulture.

Gomez lives in an enclosure with the bald eagles, and sometimes she (yes, it's a she) loses her identity as people occasionally mistake her for an immature eagle.

Although long classified as a raptor, she is really related to the stork.

She said, "No one has ever adopted me. All the bald eagles are adopted and are 'oohed' and 'aahed' over but everyone sort of ignores me. I feel left out. They say I have a turkey head. But unlike a turkey, I'm gentle, inquisitive and very intelligent. If you

could only see how graceful I soar. And I'm a clean bird. I spend at least two-to-three hours a day preening myself."

Please help Gomez and others like her at the Park find a family. To make your selection, visit our website at www.moonridgezoo.org, or visit the Park. Get up close to your choice at feeding time, weekends, at 3 p.m. Use the adoption form or call the gift shop at (909) 584-1171. On behalf of the wildlife we say thank you.

ALPINE WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

The Friends wish to thank Garrett Maggart's fan club for donations made in his name this past year. The amount received totaled a WHOPPING \$17,472.20. Fans of Garrett have been outstanding in helping the Moonridge Animal Park in the care, feeding and relocation of its wildlife. And a big thanks to Garrett for appearing at the MAP's Alpine Wildlife Celebration in July and for soliciting help on our behalf on his website, www.GarettMaggart.net.

For outstanding pictures of the event, which include adoptions and entertainment, go to proeventlab.com. There you'll find many pictures taken by Robert Fletcher, a professional photographer. The pictures are for sale and a portion of the fee goes to the Moonridge Animal Park relocation fund - just another way to help. Use fletcher for the user's name, and moonridge for the password.



EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

Does your employer have a matching gift program on behalf of their employees? When your company matches your contribution, the donation can be doubled or even tripled depending on your organization's policy. The matching gift program usually covers full-time and retired workers, and their spouses. Ask your Human Resources if they support a matching gift program. If they do and you are eligible, send in your employer's matching gift form with your gift. This is another way to help the wildlife.

Listed is a sampling of companies who do have a matching gift program. Is your company one of these? Bank of America, Boeing, Merrill Lynch & Co., Microsoft Corp., Nintendo of America, Inc., Northwest Airlines, QWest, Safeco Corp., U.S. Bank, Washington Mutual Savings.

We recently received matching funds from Boeing, through employees Brian Stuart Hoare and John Wesley Spencer. Thank you both and a thank you to Boeing.

Did you know the Moonridge Animal Park is:

- A licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility.
- A member of the Species Survival Plan network
- The only Alpine zoo west of the Rockies and only the second in the United States.
- The only zoo in the 20,160 square miles of San Bernardino County.
- 50 years old in 2009.

CALENDAR DRAWING CONTEST



Serena Silvan holding her winning drawing.

The Calendar Drawing Contest has ended and what a time our judge, Susan Labouri, had in selecting the winners. "There were so many and all so well done that it was difficult selecting just 14 of them," Susan said.

The artists whose drawings were selected are: Devon L. Brown, 12-years-old, Big Bear; Maria Reynoso, 10, Big Bear; Tera Wood, 18, Big Bear; Alyssa Larson, 9, Big Bear; Johnny Gross II, 10, Sugarloaf; Sydney Bowman, 11-1/2, Big Bear; Sara Chatham, 11, Big Bear; Serena Silvan, 10, Laguna Niguel/Big Bear; Jose Pacheco, 10, Big Bear; Nanfo Desiree Downs, Long Beach; Megan Huebner, 7, LaQuinta; Brittany Caldwell, 13, Big Bear; Carrie Feldman, 10, Parkland, Fl.; Miranda Almeida, 6-1/2, Hesperia, and Rachel Barker, 8, Sugarloaf.

The artist's name will appear on the bottom of the month in which his/her artwork appears, along with a brief history of the animal. Every child's name who submitted a drawing will appear on the back of the calendar, unless the name was illegible. The winners will each receive a calendar in October when they go on sale in the Friends' gift shop for \$10 each. "A lot of talent was represented and even though all drawings could not be chosen, I hope the artists will continue to nurture their creativity in the arts," Susan concluded.

For more information, contact the gift shop at 584-1171.



Amber Shambli, a middle-school student in Big Bear Lake, is one of the artists who entered the Calendar Drawing Contest. Although her drawing was exceptional, it did not meet the criteria for the contest in that it was drawn vertically rather than horizontally. The Friends acknowledge her talent and award her special recognition.

Docent Training Information

Are you looking for a volunteer job? Do you like wildlife? Do you want to be with people who have the same interests? If you answered yes to these questions, the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo has an offer for you – sit in at a docent training class and see if you're interested! What have you got to lose? If you find it's not your cup of tea, you're under no obligation to continue with the class.

FOMZ training classes are held at the Park in the spring, summer and fall. Classes, which continue for three days, are four and one-half hours long. In addition to the three classroom sessions, 20-hours of informal "hands-on" learning is required. There are no prerequisites, except you must be over 18, for enrolling in the class.

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

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

Be the first to sign up for the spring classes. For more information on docent training or volunteerism, call Connie Garber at (909) 866-3290.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details on each event, check out our website at www.moonridgezoo.org or call (909) 584-1171.

2003

Oct. Each Fri. & Sat.....	Flashlight Safari.....	6:30 to 8 p.m.
Oct. 25, Sat.....	Howl With The Wolves.....	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Oct. 31, Fri.....	Boo In The Zoo.....	3 to 6 p.m.
Nov. 19, Wed.	Gen'l. Meeting.....	6 p.m.

An election of Board of Directors will be held.

Dec. 10, WedInstallation of the BOD.....noon
Officers elected in November will be installed at the Robin Hood, on the corner of Pine Knot and Big Bear Boulevard in Big Bear Lake.

Dec. 17, WedFOMZ Fall/Winter Potluck party.6 p.m.
At the home of Cheryl and Ross Moore in the Moonridge area. All members are invited. Last names beginning with A-G, bring a salad; H-M, main dish; N-Z, desserts. Call (909) 585-9013 for directions.

2004

Jan.17, Sat.....	Tracks 'n' Scat.	TBD.
Feb. 14 Sat.....	Wild Animal Valentines.....	TBD.
Apr. 10, Sat.....	Easter Bunny at the Zoo.....	TBD
Apr. 30, Fri.....	Madlon's Benefit Dinner.....	6 p.m.
May 16, Sun	5K/10K Run or 5K/Walk.....	TBD
May 29,30, Sat. Sun.....	Bear Country Fair & Carol Heiman Greene Art Show.....	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Thanks, Gracias, Danke schön, Merci beaucoup

"Thanks" conveys a big message in a small package, no matter what language is used. The Friends' message to every supporter is a "thanks" for your continued support and belief in the Moonridge Animal Park and the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo.

A very big thanks to Nancy Lucas, who not only gives us a full page in her "On The Mountain" magazine each publication period, and will continue to do so until our relocation is complete, but has also donated an Izusu Trooper to the FOMZ. Thanks also goes to Barbara Scharnhorst who donates a full page in her "Big Bear Magazine," and collects donations from her readers for the Friends. Thanks also to Michael Russell and his new publication, "Air Resorts Magazine," a travel guide for general aviation pilots and passengers. In his first issue he published an article about Moonridge Animal Park.

And thanks to the following news media who publish our press releases: The Grizzly, Big Bear Today, Big Bear News, the San Bernardino Sun and the Press Enterprise. We'd also like to thank KBHR, KWBB and Channel 6 for keeping the public informed of our special events. Without the above sources of press coverage, Moonridge Animal Park and its cause would be unknown.

We'd also like to give a big "thanks" to the service organizations for their continued support: The Soroptimists, Big Bear Senior Center, Chamber Maids, Contemporary Club of Redlands, Friars Charitable Foundation of Beverly Hills, Kiwanis Club, North Shore Eagle Boosters, North Shore Improvement Association, Woman's Club and Venture Club.

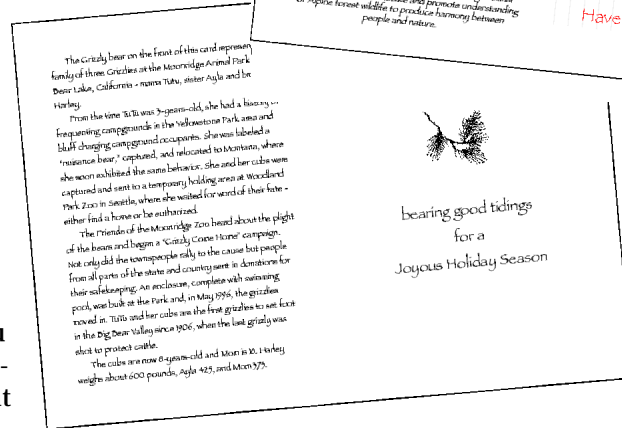
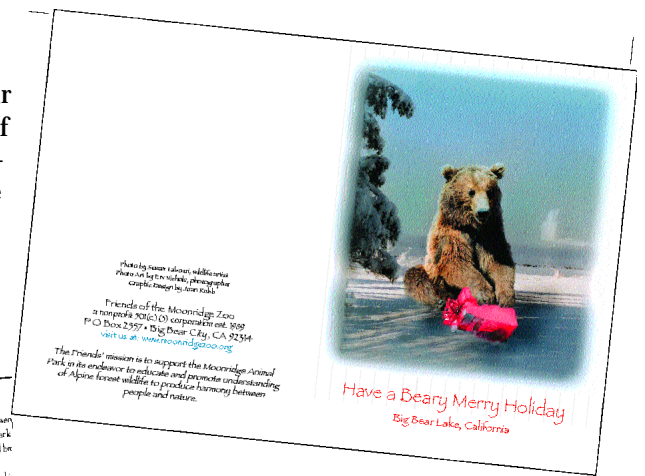
The Friends would also like to recognize the following donors for their consistent giving: Alexis Peterson of Aliso Viejo, Scott & Debbie Hollender of Riverside, Mark and Marcia Grothe of Norco, Karen Provder of Buena Park and Doug and Pam Wimpee of Alabama. Although you all get "thank you" letters with each donation, we'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how much your caring is appreciated.

If we've missed anyone, it is not intentional. We very much appreciate all our donors, whether donations are monetary or goods and/or service-related. You are the life-blood of the Friends organization. With your continued help we move one step closer to our goal of relocating the Park and assuring our wildlife are kept in a safe, comfortable and loving environment, where they do not want for food or medical attention.

OUR GIFT SHOP

The Friends' Gift Shop is stocking up for Christmas, including our newest item - Christmas Cards. On the front of the card is a picture of a grizzly bear, sitting in snow under a blue sky, holding a pretty-wrapped red present. The background shows Big Bear Lake and the solar observatory. The inside of the card tells about the grizzly bears at Moonridge Animal Park and the greeting is "From our den to yours....bearing good tidings for a Joyous Holiday Season." The photo of the bear is by Susan Labouri, wildlife artist; photo art by Erv Nichols, photographer, and graphic design by Joan Robb. The cards are undated so they can be used in any year. They come 20 to a package for \$25. For members there is a 10% discount.

If you're thinking about what to get Uncle Bill or Aunt Susie, your favorite teacher, mom, dad, brother, sister, or anyone, come on over to our gift shop. You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts, T-shirts, sweat shirts (the real soft, fleecy kind), stuffed animals, book marks, coloring books, story books, posters, jewelry, and lots more. You can also buy memberships in the FOMZ or adoptions. For more information, call the gift shop at (909) 584-1171.



ZOO RELOCATION PROGRESS REPORT

Any day now, the Forestry Service should be announcing its review of the zoo's relocation business plan submitted by San Bernardino County several months ago. There still remains a lot of work to be completed before the Forestry Service will finally decide whether or not to allow the zoo to sign a 30-year (permit) lease. But when the permit is granted, it will be San Bernardino County that receives the Forestry Permit to build the new zoo. The County will ultimately be responsible for seeing the project through completion and maintaining the zoo through the life of the permit. The Friends will be supportive of the County's efforts and, in particular, raise substantial funds to supplement government funding and grants to get the new zoo built. Once the doors open at the new zoo, it is projected that the zoo will be able to operate in the black.

Meanwhile getting back to what needs to be done now, the Collaboration Task Force Committee is in the final throws of coming to terms about how the zoo and the Discovery Center can work together at the proposed Living Forest Center location, where the zoo will be the next door neighbor of the Discovery Center. Mary McKay has been retained as the facilitator of the collaboration meetings and charged with the responsibility to draft a report of collaborative opportunities. The general impression among those participating in the meetings is that the Living Forest Center, with its primary tenants being the Big Bear Zoological Park and Discovery Center, will create a new composite venue that can become a primary destination, where visitors come and enjoy the day.

FOMZ FINANCIAL POSITION • AUGUST 31, 2003

Current Assets			
Cash	\$81,811.74		
Prepaid Expenses	2,307.74		
Inventory	14,644.72		
Securities & CD's	383,796.53		
Total Current Assets		482,560.73	
Current Liabilities			
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,994.62		1,994.62
Net Assets - Unrestricted			
Total Net Assets	484,830.65		484,830.65
Total Liabilities & Net Assets			
	\$486,826.27		

Doucett & Silfies, CPA's, Inc., Big Bear Lake, CA

THE KEEP ME WILD PROGRAM

-A campaign supported by the California Dept of Fish and Game

Wild animals are in trouble due to people's carelessness and irresponsibility with food and garbage.

Black bears and other wild animals naturally fear humans. But if they have access to human food sources, they become addicted, lose their natural fear of humans, and can become aggressive.

If bears and other wild animals damage property or threaten human safety, they might be killed. Allowing wild animals access to human food is dead wrong. It can also be deadly.

Please - STASH YOUR FOOD AND TRASH. Keep them wild.

THE BEAR THAT CARES

Two times this past year, the greeter bear from the Big Bear Lake Resort Association, has donated his time for the enjoyment of the kids and their parents at the Moonridge Animal Park. The first time was during our Bear Celebration held over Memorial Day weekend; the second was "Music In The Zoo," in August. We can't thank the bear enough. You brought out smiles in many adults and the kids loved you. Anyone who missed the bear this year, watch for him next year during one of our special events.



FAREWELL TACOMA AND SEATTLE

Two of the Park's black bears, Tacoma, 27, and Seattle, 25, died this year of natural causes. They lived to be a ripe old age for bears. Black bears in the wild live to be about 10. They will be missed by the zookeepers, docents and visitors.

Tacoma, a male, and Seattle, a female, were both 4-years-old when they arrived at the Moonridge Animal Park from the Wildlife Waystation.

Poachers in Sequoia National Forest shot Tacoma's mother for her fur, and he had been left to die. Fortunately for Tacoma, his mother was a Forest Service study bear, and they were on the way to check on her when the shots rang out. Tacoma had been showing his age over the past few years. He had trouble developing and holding his winter weight requirement. Arthritis and loss of teeth that is typical of old age bears had also started to affect him over the past five years.

Seattle, was found wandering the streets of Sacramento when she was about 1-year-old. She hopped in the back of a police squad car. From there she was sent to Moorpark College to be used as a study bear but was not cooperative, so was then sent to the Waystation. Seattle was euthanized after a large abdominal tumor was discovered on her liver.



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

Please sign me up to:

Adopt a wild bird or animal \$15.00

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

for _____
(name of person)

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

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

Date: _____ Amount \$ _____

Paid by: Check Cash MasterCard VISA

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

FOMZ 2003 OFFICERS

PresidentPaddy Speyers
 1st Vice President.....Susan Amerson
 2nd Vice PresidentCheryl Moore
 SecretaryHope Smith
 TreasurerBetsy Henke
 Fundraising/Development.....Bill Treadwell
 Coordinator of Zoo Special Needs.....Connie Large
 Public Relations.....Jeanne Hughes, Joan Robb
 Ways & Means/Grazing CorralLeonard Backus
 Docent CoordinatorDiana Blair
 Education/Outreach.....Sondra Haile

PAW PRINTS (A Friends of the Moonridge Zoo Publication) is published twice a year, fall and spring and is sent to all members, federal, state and county officials, and to all contributing organizations.

PublishersJoan and Bill Robb
Printing contributed by**BIG BEAR Printing & Graphics**
P. O. Box 2739 • 1032 W. Big Bear Blvd. • Big Bear City, CA 92314
909-585-7576 • Fax: 909-585-7586
 email: info@bigbearprinting.com

NUMBERS TO SAVE

(all 909 area code)

FRIENDS' INFORMATION LINE/BOOTH.....584-1171
 (Manned daily 10 am - 4 pm • When not manned, leave message)
 ZOO CURATOR (DON RICHARDSON).....584-1299
 TOUR SCHEDULING, (Monday - Friday).....866-9700
 PADDY SPEYERS (PRESIDENT).....585-6779
 DIANA BLAIR (DOCENT COORDINATOR).....878-3588
 HOPE SMITH (ADOPTIONS).....585-9992
 CHERYL MOORE(MEMBERSHIPS).....585-9013
 PUBLIC RELATIONS (JEANNE HUGHES).....866-5153

VISIT THE WEB

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

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



FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO

P.O. Box 2557

Big Bear City, CA 92314-2557

www.moonridgezoo.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT #269
 BIG BEAR LAKE, CA