

PAW PRINTS

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

VOL. XIV, ISSUE 3

\$1.00 DONATION

SPRING/SUMMER 2004

Scouts Helping the Zoo

The Moonridge Animal Park has a new coyote viewing platform thanks to a Boy Scout Eagle project. Over the past several months, Nathan Beaver from Crestline has been visiting the Zoo, working with an engineer, organizing, contacting merchants, and supervising the construction of a coyote viewing platform.

Friends of the Moonridge Zoo docents noted during school tours that smaller children could not view the Zoo's coyotes as their enclosure is on a hillside. They had requested a viewing platform be built so younger children could enjoy their visit.

Nathan is a member of Troop 253 in Crestline. He heard about the Zoo's plight when he stopped in and asked if there were any jobs to be done, and there was. At least 250 hours went into the project. He organized and supervised 20 Scouts and adults to design and construct a new coyote viewing station so our youngest visitors could see the coyotes. The design and preliminary construction was done in Crestline, and it took two trips to the Zoo to install and stain.

Nathan worked with an engineer to design the structure. He asked for and received donations from Big Bear Lake's Carl's Jr. (lunch for 13 participants at the zoo) and Butcher Block's Lumber (materials). In addition, he contacted merchants in Crestline: Rim Forest Lumber (materials), G.R.D.C. Dance Studio (lunches twice), and the local church of Latter Day Saints participated. It was a community project that Nathan organized wonderfully.

"I thank the Moonridge Animal Park for the opportunity it afforded me to help accomplish my Eagle project," Nathan said. "It was a wonderful learning experience. I hope the children enjoy the view."



Nathan, 18, attends Rim Of The World High School where he is a senior. His plans for the future include studying to become a history teacher. The Friends thank Nathan for his professionalism in all aspects of building the platform. The finished platform is sturdy, well-built, safe and cool.

Girl Scouts, Troop #822, grades 9 and 10, from Glendora decided to make Moonridge Animal Park its service project working toward a Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting.

The service project began when some of the Scouts visited the Zoo the previous year and found that it was trying to move and needed not only funding but also food for the animals. The Scouts had planned to go to a cabin in Arrowhead in April so they decided to combine this visit with a trip up the hill to the Zoo.

The Scouts made a flier and gave it out to the 45 troops in Glendora, asking for donations of bird seed, dog food, bones, kitty litter etc. as well as monetary donations. On the flier, they gave a brief description of why these items were needed and what the Zoo provided for the animals. They arranged to have the various troops bring items to its meeting place and then arrangements were made to present the donations in April as they toured the Zoo.

Seven of the eight girls in the troop were able to make the trip, along with three adult leaders. The Girl Scouts are Sarah, Corbett, Jackie, Maria, Erin, Danielle and Kristin. The adult leaders are Julie, Kathy and co-leader Donna.

"They happen to be a very dedicated group of young ladies who are all attempting to achieve their Gold Award, which is the highest honor in Girl Scouting," said Girl Scout Leader Julie. "They truly love doing service projects and they have a very soft spot for your Zoo."

Troop leaders also extends a huge thank you to our staff for helping the Girl Scouts to plan this and for giving the troop the tour - especially since it started snowing pretty hard and the staff still gave the tour and were very cheerful.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Scouts Helping the Zoo	1
President's Corner	2
Membership Classifications	2
Featured Animal - Porcupine	3
We Get Letters/Email	3
History of the Zoo	4
Featured Docent - Len Backus	5
Thank You's	5, 6
Adoptions	6
Docent News	7
What's New at the Zoo	8
Alpine Wildlife/Zoo With a Heart	9
Call of the Coyote/Musical Tribute	10
Schedule of Events/Financials	11



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Paddy Speyers

I've been reflecting on our Zoo "names" over the past 45 years. In the early years, 1960, it was the Zoo in Moonridge. Then the newspapers called it the Moonridge Zoo and it was sometimes referred to as Moonridge Wild Animal Park. In the 1980s, the Big Bear Valley Recreation & Park District officially named the Zoo the **MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK**.

For marketing identification during the interval of relocation, we are starting to call the Zoo, the **BIG BEAR ZOO**. The full name will possibly be the **BIG BEAR ZOOLOGICAL PARK at the LIVING FOREST WILDLIFE CENTER**.

This month the admission to the Zoo has been slightly raised.

Also the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo has reorganized the membership categories to bring us in line with other zoos.

Memberships can be purchased at our old rates until Sept. 30, 2004. Annuals are now renewable on the date purchased. Note: Previous **LIFETIME** (\$500) members will maintain their recognition on the Lifetime Wall and will continue their present Lifetime benefits. **BENEFACTORS** (\$3,000 PLUS) will maintain their names on the original Benefactor's Wall and will be included in the Curator Circle benefits.

The primary purpose of FOMZ is to support the Zoo's mission: To educate and promote our understanding of Alpine wildlife to produce harmony between people and nature. FOMZ's mission is "to inspire understanding, respect and responsible action of wildlife and wildlife habitat through public education, volunteer support, fundraising and development of key project financial support."

Big Bear Valley has not escaped the drought plaguing the Western states. We all must conserve. At the Zoo, our Curator reports that they are conserving water by using blowers on pathways and limiting pool drainage. Water still needs to be used for cleaning and animal welfare issues. The new Zoo will have more versatility in water use with non-potable lines installed at the time that new water lines are put in for irrigation and landscaping.

Docent Christy Helm has been appointed as FOMZ's delegate to the A.Z.A.D. Convention in September in Philadelphia.

For evacuation or disaster of the Moonridge Animal Park, Docent Betsy Henke will be responsible for coordinating FOMZ volunteers to work with Zoo staff.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or suggestions that may help in our relocation efforts. Paddy Speyers (909) 585-6779, FAX (909) 585-6110.

As of Oct. 1, 2004, the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo will change membership classifications and increase rates. Following are the basic member benefits and member categories.

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



Featured Animal - Porcupine

Order: Rodentia

Family: Erethizontidae: *Erethizon dorsatum*

Ask anyone what they know about porcupines and chances are you'll get the answer "they shoot quills." Contrary to popular belief, a porcupine does not shoot its quills. The quills are loosely attached so they detach easily and can become painfully embedded in the skin of an attacker. Not only do they inflict painful wounds, but they also work into the skin and may even cause death if they puncture vital organs or if the wounds become infected.

A Porcupine's barbed quills are used for protection. If attacked, the porcupine tries to keep its back facing the attacker and strikes back and forth with its tail. Many dogs have ended up with a muzzle full of quills by getting too close to a porcupine. The quills have barbs which work their way in deeper if left alone. A single porcupine may have 30,000 quills. Quills are modified hairs that have hollow shafts with solid tips and bases and can be up to 5-inches long.

Porcupines are vegetarians and eat the inner bark of trees. They will also eat foliage, twigs, leaves, buds, fruits, berries, nuts, flowers, and will sometimes feed in fields. They also have a fondness for salt, which often leads them to roadways where salt has been sprinkled to melt the ice. Around campsites, they will gnaw on anything containing salt, such as canoe paddles, ax handles, etc. The young are able to move about quite briskly shortly after birth and, unlike their stoic parents, are quite playful. Porcupines are excellent swimmers.

The average weight of an adult male porcupine ranges from 15-to-18 pounds. Females weigh about two pounds less than the males. Although porcupines have an excellent sense of smell, hearing and taste, they do not see too well. They make a wide variety of sounds ranging from shrill screeches, whimpers to screams, and low grunts, depending upon the circumstance.

Breeding takes place in the fall from September to November. This rodent has an extremely long gestation period – about 210 days, and only a single young is born. Its eyes are open and its body is covered with long grayish-black hairs and quills. Fortunately for Mom, the quills are soft but within a matter of hours the quills dry and serve as protection. The mother nurses her offspring for 3-1/2 months. Baby porcupines are called "porcupettes."

During the winter, porcupines roost in their dens during the day. They use earth or rock caves, hollow logs and trees, or even the thicker vegetation in a tree for dens. In areas without snowfall, dens are not used so much. Porcupines stay active throughout the winter.

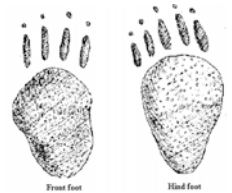
A porcupine's life expectancy is about 10 years in captivity and 5-to-6 years in the wild.

Visit our porcupines, Buffy, Willow and Spike. Buffy and Willow are 2-year-old females and Spike is 4-years-old.



In the Native American medicine wheel, the porcupine takes the place of an innocent child. Its disposition is friendly and loving; it is never the instigator of trouble. If it happens to be attacked by another animal, its spines will protect it. The teaching of the porcupine embraces faith and trust. Since faith is said to move mountains, this is a very significant power to have.

Porcupine tracks show four toes on the front foot and five on the hind foot. Marks made by the long claws usually show. The heel pads have a pebbly texture. This acts as a non-slip surface and helps them climb trees.



We Get Letters and E-Mail

- Ruth Kelley, Chicago, Il. – "When I looked at your website, I discovered that you have Ghengis and Kali, snow leopards. I watched them grow up at Potawatomi Park Zoo (South Bend, Ind.) They were always active and playful."
- Marlene Zamberlin, Norco, Ca. – "Thank goodness some people care about the animals. Keep up the good work." (In regard to the October 2003 fire)
- Casey Johnson, Huntington Beach, Ca. – "Thank you for the work you are doing!"
- Rosemary West of So. Pasadena, Ca. – "I live in a small but populated little town and have been fortunate to have a beautiful, big buck come to visit every morning lately. I have no idea where he is living but from the size of his antlers, he has been doing something right for a number of years. Keep up the good work!"
- Eula Alvarez of Whittier, Ca. – "Thank you for being such caring, loving people with God's creatures."

We received many letters and e-mails after the October 2003 fire. We wish there was room to print them all. Unfortunately, there isn't. All the letters and e-mails wished good luck to the burnt bears (see update under "What's New at the Zoo?" page 8). The letters also thanked us for being there for the bears. We sincerely thank you for your care and concern.

We also received an e-mail from Marek Fronczek, a 12-year-old boy, who lives in Poland. His mother is a veterinarian at the Warsaw Zoo. His passion is wildlife and his ambition is to work in a zoo. He requested we send him any information we could on our Zoo, which we did.

Thank you for your cards, letters and e-mail. It lets us know there are people out there that care. Please keep the messages coming. We also accept suggestions.

HISTORY OF THE BIG BEAR ZOO

From time to time, members of Friends of the Moonridge Zoo and visitors have asked how the Zoo began. We knew what year the Zoo began but the history of what led to its development was elusive. (Many people involved with the Zoo's inception had either left the Big Bear area or had passed on.) Paddy Speyers, president of FOMZ, took on the assignment to research how our Zoo began. She searched local papers (The Grizzly), Big Bear Parks & Recreation District minutes of meetings, and talked to old-timers. The final outcome of her intensive research culminated with a chronological history of the Big Bear Zoo. The Zoo's history is quite interesting and we wish to share it with you. The history of our zoo, past, future and present, will be told in three installments. The first installment covers the years 1959 through 1985.

NOTE: In the late 1950's Jo Tyndall Alexander, owner, general manager of Snow Summit, collected animals for a small "zoo" at the base of the Ski Resort. ("Jo" was the mother of Dick Kun, present owner of Bear Mountain and Snow Summit). Some of the animals were indigenous to the mountain area and some were not - such as monkeys, African lions and peacocks. It is not certain what became of these species, but it is felt they became part of the Moonridge Zoo in the sixties.

A Zoo is Born (1959-60)

In late 1959, after a fire tore through the San Bernardino Mountains, many displaced and injured wildlife were brought to the Bear Valley Parks & Recreation District (BVP&R) for safekeeping until they could be nursed back to health and returned to the wild. They were kept in makeshift enclosures because, at that time, there was no "real" zoo in the Big Bear area. Orval Warren, park superintendent, kept a watchful eye on the wildlife.

What started out with just a few rescued animals grew until more room was needed to house them. So, in January of 1960, a promise of \$2,800 was made by BVP&R to start a wildlife zoo. In February of that year, 2-1/2-acres was leased from Goldmine Ski Resort, now known as Bear Mountain. The lease was offered at \$1 per year for 50 years. The move into the new location began, enclosures were built, and a doe and fawn arrived in the fall of 1960, followed by Herman, a bear cub, who was a survivor of a fire in Barton Flats. The zoo is referred to in newspaper articles as "the zoo at Moonridge."

The Zoo Receives Visitors (1961-65)

In the years 1960 and 1961, the zoo continued its growth with the addition of three silver foxes donated by a former fox farmer in Big Bear Lake, followed by deer and a raccoon, wolves and raccoons. BVP&R allocated \$4,094 for improvements. In 1963, restrooms and a storage area were added and visitors began to arrive. There was no admission fee but there was a contribution box. Food for the growing menagerie was provided from market scraps and vegetable trimmings picked up daily by park staff from local grocery stores and restaurants.

In 1965, Herman's enclosure was completed and a new black bear



ing to the fawn. "Don Ferris, owner of Moonridge Market, and his son, Dick, were horseback riding along Skyline Drive, south of Big Bear Lake, when they heard a noise which sounded like a 'trapped rabbit.' They then spotted the fawn being attacked by an animal. Don yelled to scare off the attacker and then rode down into the brush where the fawn had been dragged. He said the deer was badly hurt and was near death." He turned the deer over to a Fish and Game Warden, who called in a veterinarian to treat it. After recovery, the deer was placed at Moonridge Zoo.

Celebrity Animals Play a Role in the Zoo's History (1967)

Over the years, the zoo at Moonridge housed many celebrity animals, such as "Tiger," a cougar, who played in "Charlie, the Lonesome Cougar," a 1968 film. He was donated by film producer Hank Schloss. A California mule deer, "Me-He," starred in a 1967 film titled, "Day at Beedle Rock," and also on Walt Disney's "Wonderful World of Color," in which Me-He had a featured role. Another little known male celebrity was born at the zoo to the cougar, Shieba. He played on a Lincoln-Mercury commercial as a black leopard. In one scene it showed a cat running. The cat running was not a leopard, but Shieba's son dyed black! Injured wildlife continued to be received from Fish & Game and local residents, including a turkey!! The peacocks were not too happy with this intruder, but 'a few short forays between newcomer and permanent residents brought about a peaceful solution.'

The Zoo Plans for Future Acquisitions (1968-1983)

In June 1968, Harold Darling is named Park Superintendent (zookeeper). A new plan for expansion is in the works and the acquisition of animals is to be limited to animals native to mountain areas. A facility for snakes native to the area is also being considered.

During the years 1968 to 1978, the zoo continues to expand. The restroom hookups are completed and five cougar kittens are born. In September of 1978, a zoo admission of 50 cents is requested to offset the rising cost of food.

Tacoma, a 3-year-old black bear, arrives from the Wildlife Way Station in Aug. 1982. Her mother was killed by a hunter. She is followed by Seattle, 3-1/2-years-old in Nov. 1983. Also, in 1983, the zoo gets a new zookeeper, Joe Duret.

Tragedy Strikes but the Zoo survives (1984-85)

A flash flood in 1984 closes the zoo for two months while repairs are made. A creek that ran through the mountain lion and bear enclosures was rerouted and improved. The zoo reopens with additions to its growing collection: three red foxes, a golden eagle, and two mountain lions.

A wolf cub, Nakita, 4-months-old, is stolen from her den at the zoo. She is recovered in Orange County, Ca. The three persons responsible for her kidnapping are found and jailed after they told their boss they stole her from Moonridge Animal Park. Nakita's brother, Lucky, pines for his sister and almost dies from loneliness. The zookeeper said the reunion between brother and sister was astounding. They played for 24-hours straight.

(Next issue: The years 1986 to the present, including the birth of Friends of the Moonridge Zoo and the acquisition of the grizzly bears.)

FEATURED DOCENT – LEN BACKUS

Len is director of Ways and Means and has been a member of Friends of the Moonridge Zoo since his retirement in 2001 from Bank of America where he served as a customer support representative. “That means I handled ‘executive complaints,’” he stated.

In the three years Len has been with the Friends he has been very instrumental in raising money for the Zoo’s relocation by placing “donation cans” in Big Bear businesses, setting up and chairing special events, and staffing, stocking and managing the Grazing Corral at the Zoo. (The Grazing Corral provides snacks and drinks for Zoo patrons and also acts as an information booth.) A fashion show presented by Leslie L’Heureux, independent fashion coordinator, and dinner at Madlon’s, a local cuisine, are just a few special fund-raising events setup by Len that received high marks from both the community and businesses.

Len is married to Kitty who is very supportive of his zoo activities. “It may be that she just needs me out of her hair since she works from home,” he says with tongue-in-cheek. “But she tells me that it is because she’s happy that I’m doing something worthwhile and being appreciated for it.”

The couple has owned a family cabin in Big Bear City since 1948. Upon retirement they decided to make the mountains their permanent home. They had previously lived in LaCanada.

Len and Kitty have a dog, Lucky, an 85-pound lab mix they adopted from the Pasadena Humane Society. They also have a cat, Ashley, rescued by the mother of Kitty’s colleagues (Michael and Katie Kappelman, who now also live in Big Bear, just around the corner). Lucky’s favorite pastime is trying to scare coyotes away from the fence, and Ashley likes watching this dog make a fool of himself.

“Visiting the zoo has been a frequent activity with my sons and now my grandchildren,” Len said. “When we retired I saw an ad in ‘The Grizzly’ saying that docent classes were going to be held. I signed up and met President Paddy Speyers. She immediately put me to work,” he stated.

Four children, Tom, Marilyn, Derek and Dave, three daughters-in-law, and five grandsons, Josh, Anthony, Andrew, Devin, Daniel, and one granddaughter, Kendall, make up the family circle. “They all live in the San Gabriel Valley and look up at the mountains and know that these mountains ‘belong’ to Grandpa and Grandma,” Len stated. “They love the Zoo as much as we do.”

The snow leopards are Len’s favorite animal at the Zoo. He said they are so agile – they can jump 50 feet, and use their tail in midair as a rudder. He was sorry to see one of them leave but understands the Zoo will be getting a replacement in the future. “I also like the fact that this Alpine animal that lives at 15,000 feet in the Himalayas, is living happily in our Alpine environment,” he said.

The Friends would like to commend Len for his outstanding service and tell him how much we appreciate his cheerfulness and willingness to tackle any assignment until the job is complete.

Next time you’re at the Zoo, stop in at the Grazing Corral for a soft drink, candy bar, or snack, or just to chat. — — — — —



Cream of the Crop

The Friends would like to give a special thank you to Laurie Rennie of Santa Monica. Laurie is a consistent giver of her time and talents in pursuit of helping care for our wildlife. For many years, at her own expense, she has taken professional photos of our wildlife and pasted them into greeting cards, complete with envelopes. She donates these greeting cards to the FOMZ Gift Shop.

In addition, Laurie has also taken professional pictures of domestic pets and as payment has asked the owners of the pets to send a check to FOMZ. Last time Laurie visited the Zoo, she brought in two framed pictures taken of our wildlife. She told us they were not for sale but should be hung in the Educational Center so all could enjoy. Laurie, you’re the cream of the crop.

Next time you’re in the gift shop, ask to see Laurie’s cards. The picture of the coyote, wolf and bear in this newsletter are representative of Laurie’s photography.



A TIP OF THE HAT

A TIP OF THE HAT TO ALL OUR DONORS. Without your loving care and support, the Zoo would be struggling to survive. All your donations go toward feeding and medical care for the wildlife at the Zoo. Donations also go toward the Zoo's relocation fund, if so designated.

Last year, with the wildfires and the resultant evacuation, an extra financial burden was placed upon the Zoo. Not only was there an added expense in relocating the animals to temporary quarters, there was the expense of taking in two burnt bears, and one injured bear, and absorbing the medical costs to nurse them back to health. (See bear update on "What's New at the Zoo," page 8.) You, our donors and supporters, came through with flying colors. Along with your prayers and wishes, we received over \$60,000 toward the burnt bears' expenses and evacuation of the animals.

In addition to our monetary donors, we wish to thank our donors who support the Zoo with goods and services. This includes all magazines and the media, who strive to keep the general public informed of happenings at Moonridge Animal Park. And a big thank you to our service organizations for their continuing support and to the Big Bear businesses who display our "donation cans."

We'd also like to thank **Forest Farms**, a farmer's market and deli, on Big Bear Boulevard in Big Bear Lake, for its donation of fruit and vegetables; **Community Market in Big Bear City**, chicken parts; Von's Bakery, bread, and to all our fisher people who bring in fish for our hungry wildlife.

Kudos to **Madlon and Terry Meade**, owners of Madlon's Restaurant in Big Bear City. Madlon and Terry hosted their second annual "Feast," fundraiser in support of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. The atmosphere was delightful, the food was delicious, and the service provided by Madlon's staff was outstanding.

Another thank you goes to the **Redlands Contemporary Club**. The Club began supporting the Moonridge Animal Park and the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo in 2002, and remembers us in each of its newsletters. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you to **Bill Robb** for the wonderful pictures of the eagle and porcupine shown in this newsletter. We can always count on Bill to snap a picture for us on the "spur of the moment."

We do not have enough space here for a complete list of our donors, but we are grateful to all just the same.

ADOPTIONS



Adopt Echo, she'll howl for you

Looking for an addition to your family tree? Adoptions make wonderful gifts. They can be given at any time of the year, for any occasion, or for no occasion at all. Adoptions support the wildlife at the Big Bear Zoo. All wildlife at the Zoo are available for adoption, including Echo, a 9-year-old female, gray wolf, born into captivity.

For the first five years of her life she worked at Six Flags Magic Mountain as part of its show. In 1998, Magic Mountain was purchased by a roller coaster company and all animal programs were dis-

continued. She was left homeless, but not for long. The Big Bear Zoo came to her rescue and she was brought to her permanent home in Big Bear Lake, where she's free to roam and play within her enclosure. And, best of all, she never has to work for her supper again.

She lives in a pack with four other gray wolves, Shania, Nova, Wakiza, and Navarre (the baby and the only male). The wolf den sits in the back of the zoo in a beautiful setting with large trees. Its ambiance includes a pine tree which dates back to Columbus's time.

So why does Echo need to be adopted? Feeding and medical care for five wolves costs a lot. Adoptions help defray the cost of food and medicine. Adoptions are \$15 and come with a picture of the adopted animal, and a story of how they came to the Zoo. The adopted parents also receive a certificate of adoption, suitable for framing. Will you help? Please use the adoption form on this page or go to our website, www.moonridgezoo.org.

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: _____

BEING A DOCENT TAKES A REAL COMMITMENT...

It Doesn't Just Happen

What is a docent? The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo think of docents as teachers. Why? Because they are. The word docent comes from Latin and means to teach, to illustrate, to bring out, to exhibit. Before docents can become teachers they have to be learners. What makes FOMZ docents such lively, enthusiastic and eager people is their love of wildlife and nature, and their avid appetite for learning, as well as their fondness for sharing knowledge.

Docents are Moonridge Animal Park representatives. They provide invaluable experiences to hundreds of school-age children, as well as to groups of adults. In doing so they provide an important link between our visitors, our wildlife, and our environment.

At present, more than 90 docents and volunteers share their time and talents at the zoo. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their dedication. Alphabetically they are: **Aguisanda, Barbara; Akkerman, Red & Don; Allen, Peg; Amerson, Sue & Andy; Astor, Barton S.; Baca, Sam; Backus, Len; Bartley, Sharon & John; Baum, David; Bedoe, Charlee; Bicknell, Buff; Blair, Diana; Boyd, T.C.; Brickert, Jim; Briggs, Eileen; Bryant, Pat & Curt; Busse, Lee & Evelyn; Cahoon, Jack & Debbie; Camacho, Lucy; Chrzanowski, Julie; Clark, Betty; Clark, Diane & Alan; Clarke, Erika; Cleary, Robert; Collett, Natalie; Conolly, Karen; Contreras, LaVonne; Cortez, Gina; Ellis, Evalyn; Ellis, Sandy & Frank; Embree, Gerri; Ferris, Marcia; Garber, Ted & Connie; Fish, Fran; Glidden, Dana; Golden, Shelley; Haile, Sondra; Hanna, Bonnie; Harris, Carol; Hartnett, Cindy; Helm, Christy; Henke, Betsy; Herr, Jeanne; Hilliard, Nancy & Anna; Hughes, Jeanne; Jacquez, Bill; Jones, Christy; Kako, Beth; Kent, Priscilla; Knudsen, Carolyn & Bernard; Labouri, Susan; Larsh, Lynette, Heather & Misty; Lowe, LuAnne & Bob; Lubert, Jay & Sharon; Markey, Sally; Marks, Melinda & Natalie; Martin, Louise; McCauley, Dee; Moore, Cheryl & Ross; Moore, Ed & Barbara; Morrison, Celso; Mott, Nancy; Naftel, Nancy; Parrish, Stacy Ann; Payne, Kip; Phairis, Owen; Piersante, Ginny; Pontious, Carl; Portillo, JoAnna; Prouty, Carmen; Robb, Joan & Bill; Roe, Cal & Barbara; Sampson, Patrick & Lynn; Schkade, Judie; Smith, Barbara; Speyers, Bill & Paddy; St. Germain, Mikki; Stafford, Anne; Treadwell, Bill & Carol; Vannatta, Judi; Viglione, Dayle & Sam; Yamamoto, Leo.**

Docent Training Information

Docent training classes are being planned at the Zoo in the near future. 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. The only prerequisites for enrolling in the class is you must be 18 or over and a member of FOMZ

After completion of the training and membership in the FOMZ, all the requirements necessary to become a docent will have been fulfilled and you'll be ready to become a tour guide, work in the snack or gift shop, or perform other services, depending on your special interests. Initial training sessions teach prospective docents good communications and interpretative skills, as well as an introduction to the Zoo's wildlife and its exhibitions.

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, such as serving on the FOMZ Board or being a relocation committee member.

To sign up or for more information, call Connie Garber at (909) 866-3290 or e-mail her at conniegarber@pineknot.com



The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny hipped-hopped into the zoo Saturday, April 10, to pass out goodies to all the kids. The kids were delighted but looked at him very suspiciously wondering why the Easter Bunny had a human's face. But the wolves really howled in delight when they saw this "funny bunny." We imagine in wolf's language they said, "Did you ever see such a stupid bunny?" The rabbit is aka Alan Clark. Thanks, Alan, for your interpretation of the Easter Bunny.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

- **The two burnt bears and the one hit by a car** during the October 2003 forest fire were released. Their burns and injuries had healed to the point where Fish & Game felt they were ready to be released into the wild. Their whereabouts are unknown but we feel they are happy to be back in their beloved forest, foraging for food, climbing trees, and playing.
- **Hucklebeary**, our three-legged cub, is no longer a cub. He is going on 3-years-old and is quite heavy. His coat is a beautiful cinnamon color. He is very active and has a big pine tree branch in his enclosure that he swings around, much like a weightlifter or drum majorette. When he's not playing with his branch, he's enjoying his pool where he splishes and splashes to his heart's content. He always enjoys visitors.
- **Sarge**, a 10-year-old badger, came to the zoo in January. She is the first badger the Park has had in 14 years. She's very roly-poly and playful and wouldn't stand still long enough to get her picture taken. She came to us from the Wild Animal Park.
- **Five new Fallow Deer**, one male and four females. (Kids can relate to Fallow Deer as they look like Bambi.) The male and one of the females is approximately 10-years-old. The other three females are 3-to-4-years-old. They will be introduced to the public in June or July.
- **Two new barn owls**. They are babies (chicks) and are still in rehabilitation.
- **Kali, a snow leopard**, who was at the zoo under the Endangered Species Act, has left for the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Ghengis is still in Big Bear.
- **New exhibit signs** in front of each wildlife enclosure.
- **A Boa Constrictor**, located in the Educational Building, donated by Chuck Kersavage. It will be used for general education on snake behavior.
- **A new female beaver**, who shares a home with a male beaver already in residence. She also came from the Wild Animal Park. She immediately adapted to her surroundings.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following members have upgraded their memberships to Lifetime since the last issue of Paw Prints. In alphabetical order, they are: Acosta, Eduardo & Christy of San Diego; Aguisanda, Barbara, Big Bear City; All, Norma Jean, Downey; Amerson, Susan & Andrew, Big Bear Lake; Bremer, Don & Carol, Chino; Burdo, George, Newbury Park; Cheung, Jojo, Los Angeles; Gardner, Kathy, Sugarloaf; Henke, Betsy, Big Bear City; Hudson, Kathi & Tim, Visalia; Konstan, Barbara & Ralph, San Pedro; Kurtzer, Betty, Chino Hills; Madnick, Jan & Leon, Huntington Beach; Marks, Dr. Gerald & Natalie, Fawnskin; Page, James & Noel, Diamond Bar; Rieder, Richard & Edelgard, Oceanside; Weaver, Donna, Riverside; Wiesen, Beverly, Irvine, Viglione, Sam & Dayle.

Congratulations. Your names have been engraved on plaques and hung on the Lifetime Member's Wall at the Zoo.—

The public is invited to attend the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo's general meetings. There will be three held this year on the following Wednesdays, May 26, Sept. 22, and Nov. 3. The meetings are held at the Bear Valley Recreation & Parks District Office, 41220 Park Ave., Big Bear Lake, at 5:30 p.m. Native American Kirk Glaha will be the speaker at the May 26 meeting. His talk will center on the Zoo, its importance to children and wildlife, and the ecosystem.

NEW ZOO ADMISSION

General:.....	\$5
Ages 10-59	
Seniors:.....	\$4
Ages 60 plus	
Kids:	\$4
Ages 3-10	
Kids:.....	Free
Under 3	

Charge cards/ATM will soon be acceptable for admission at the cashier's booth.



Alpine Wildlife Celebration

The fourth Alpine Wildlife Celebration will be hosted by Friends of the Moonridge Zoo, Saturday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Moonridge Animal Park. This is FOMZ's biggest fund-raising event and guaranteed to be lots of fun with lots of activities.

The celebration includes a children's silent auction, "mini" tours of the Zoo, a DJ providing music and entertainment, the "Just Kids" of Corona singing group, "Roamers" with some of our animals, an Animal Adoption Auction, Celebrity auto-graphs/photographs, photographs with selected animals and a "cocktail" hour with a live auction. Garrett Maggart, star of "Demon Under Glass," and "The Sentinel," will join us for a day of fun and games. Garrett is a devoted fan of the Moonridge Animal Park.

Don't miss this one!! Tickets are now available for purchase and may be ordered by either personal check, money order or via PayPal. Purchases via PayPal should be sent to betsy17@charter.net. Prices are \$8 for adults; \$5 for children 3-11, and \$5, seniors 60 plus.

For more information, call Betsy Henke at (909) 584-9510, or e-mail her at betsy17@charter.net.



Garrett at the Zoo



"Just Kids"

Zoo With A Heart

The Moonridge Animal Park received a Bald Eagle from California Fish and Game wardens on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. The Eagle was removed from Lake Skinner. Upon arrival the banded eagle was very weak and exhibited a heart murmur and eye cataract.

"It was just two years ago that a Bald Eagle we nicknamed 'Freedom' was found in Big Bear suffering from a respiratory infection. We cleared the infection up and released him back on the lake," Don Richardson, the Park's curator, said. "But this guy has a few more problems to deal with." Keepers at the Park spent several weeks building his strength and weight back to normal. But there was still the problem with his eye. "While it is normal for an Eagle to lose weight in the migratory process there might also be a problem with locating food with only one eye," Don continued.

The wardens were very concerned for the safety of the Eagle when they noticed people were walking up and touching it. Contact of that type is not only a Federal offense but creates the possibility of severe injury from attack by the Eagle.

During the recovery process, the Federal Banding Center was contacted. The report back from this agency is that the Eagle is 14-years-old, and is a female. "The age of this Eagle is surprising considering the cataract," Don said. She was transported to a veterinary eye specialist for evaluation of her sight since she will not eat food placed on that side of her body, which may be the reason she was found in an emaciated state. The heart murmur was eliminated as she regained weight and hydration. "We're crossing our fingers," Don concluded.



Update: The Eagle has not been named as yet. She will remain at the Zoo as she has been determined non-releasable due to cataracts in both eyes. She is currently in the Bald Eagle exhibit and has adjusted very nicely

Calls of the Coyote

Most everyone has heard and remembers the call of a coyote. It is very distinctive and recognizable. Sometimes it howls, other times it yip/yaps and, sometimes, it may even bark. What do these various sounds mean? The Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Foundation in Arizona has studied the sounds made by the many coyotes in its care and has interpreted the various calls as follows:

- **Alarm Call** – A shrieking, repetitive bark, warning to other coyotes of danger.
- **Distress** – Similar to an alarm call that an individual coyote needs help,.
- **Greeting** – A yip/howl happy vocalization that welcomes others back to the pack.
- **Location howl** – A lone, long howl where coyotes try to locate other members of the pack.
- **Territorial barks** – Repetitive barks that act as a warning for others to keep out of their space.
- **Pack communication** – A kind of yip/howl “talk,” among members.
- **Summon puppies** – Very high-pitched barks and whines.
- **Puppy distress sounds** – Howls and cries.
- **Puppy feed-me sounds** – High-pitched whimpers and whines.
- **Submissive** – Yelps and cries as if a member is being killed.
- **Dominance** – Growls.
- **Pair Bonding** – Frenetic whining and whimpering.
- **Challenge** – Multiple repetitive barks.

Other combinations of barks, yips, shrieks, whines, whimpers and howls are thought to summon other coyotes, signal others of feeding opportunities, ask for information, and to announce a coming out among a bonding pair.

(Permission to reprint the above was obtained from Geri Dury, assistant director at the Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation. To hear these various sounds visit the Foundation's website at www.southwestwildlife.org)

Visit our coyotes, Lakota and Link. Lakota, a female, is 10-years-old, and was brought to Moonridge Animal Park from the Tujunga Wildlife Station. Link, a male, is 5-years-old. His mother was hit by a car and he was partially hand-raised.



Musical Tribute to PATSY CLINE

Sunday, Aug. 8, at 6:30 p.m., Nancy Walker will pay a musical tribute to Patsy Cline, at the Inn at Fawnskin, 880

Canyon Rd., in Fawnskin. This is Nancy's third annual musical tribute to benefit the Moonridge Animal Park. The first tribute was to Nat King Cole, the second to Rosemary Clooney.

Who can forget the memorable Patsy Cline? Were you on a date when you first heard her rendition



Nancy Walker with Cougars

of “Walking After Midnight?” Or were you dancing with that special someone to the sounds of “I Fall to Pieces,” or had you dropped a few coins in the jukebox and listened to “Crazy.” To most of us, her songs bring back fond memories. Come on, join us under the stars at the Inn, and relive those memories.

Nancy Walker is a musical virtuoso. She started her singing career in the fourth grade when she was asked to perform a solo of the school song for her new elementary school. Her singing was piped into all the classrooms. Her early musical training included clarinet and piano lessons. Nancy had early vocal training singing with auditioned chorales from age 12 through college. She later earned her living as a torch singer in local clubs and restaurants in Orange County, Ca., where she was born and raised. Her jazz singing is legendary. She sang with jazz trios, big bands, and piano accompaniments at numerous restaurants and hotels in the area, including Barnabey's Hotel, the Westwood Marquis Hotel, Manhattan Bar & Grill, and Pointe 5, to name a few.

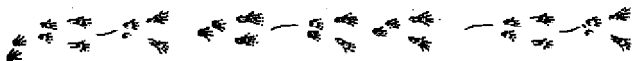
Tickets are \$25 each and go on sale the first week of June. They may be purchased by calling the Inn at Fawnskin (909) 866-3200, Dayle Viglione, (909) 866-0924 or Lucy Camacho (909) 866-4035. Seating is limited. Don't be disappointed, reserve your tickets early.

Refreshments will be available for a small donation. There will be two chance drawings – one will feature a package of overnight stays at The Northwoods or the Inn at Fawnskin. Packages will include dinner plus other surprises. Other dinner packages will also be part of the chance drawing. Tickets for the drawing are \$5 or three for \$10. In addi-

2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- JUNE 13****HOLCOMB VALLEY TRAIL RUN**
Fundraiser for Zoo. Call Gary or Pam Kalina 909-584-7925
or email pgkalina@gte.net.
- JULY 3-4****10 am - 5 pm ZOOCCASION**
Call Paddy at 909-585-6779.
- JULY 24**.....**10 am-5 pm ALPINE WILDLIFE CELEBRATION**
Call Betsy Henke at 909-584-9510.
- AUGUST 8****630 pm CONCERT ON THE GREEN**
Call Lucy Camacho at 909-866-4035
- AUGUST 22** ...**7:30 am-1:00 pm RUN FOR THE GRIZZLIES**
Call Terri Martinez 909-783-4979. Harley-Davidson Group.
- AUGUST 21****11 am - 2 pm ICE CREAM SAFARI**
Susan Amerson
- SEPTEMBER 4****530 pm MUSIC IN THE ZOO**
Tour the Zoo and enjoy a variety of music.
- OCTOBER, FRI & SAT 6:15 pm****FLASHLIGHT SAFARI**
909-584-1299
- OCTOBER 16** **11 am - 3 pm WOLF AWARENESS DAY**
Call Betsy Henke 909-584-9510
- OCTOBER 31**.....**2 - 5 pm "BOO" IN THE ZOO**
Trick & Treat event. Call 909-584-1171.

All the above events take place at the Moonridge Animal Park, except for the Holcomb Valley Trail Run and Run for the Grizzlies. For more information about any of the listed events, please call the person listed. All area codes are (909) unless otherwise noted.



Here is another vital way to help the operations of the park. The care of the animals requires many items that could be donated by our supporters. This is a wish list to help with operations and with ground support. Some small and some large. Please look over the list and call the park (909) 584-1299 or e-mail if you think an item might be useful MoonridgAP@aol.com

ANIMAL CARE

1. Blankets
2. Vacuum cleaner
3. Spa pumps
4. Veterinary care donation (Let FOMZ know this is for the Veterinary Fund)
5. Livestock scale
6. Baggies-for food storage (Large and Small)
7. Veterinary medicines, equipment, Dental equipment
8. Large panel laminated glass for exhibits " minimum 4' x 5' or larger
9. Reptile bedding material and supplies

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

As of April 15, 2004

Assets, Checking/Saving		
Cash in Banks	110,074.41	
Investment Accounts	452,231.25	
Bulk Mailing Deposit	<u>2,019.62</u>	
Total Current Assets		564,325.28
Fixed Assets		
Equip. less Deprec.	3,668.56	
Office Equip. less Deprec.	<u>1,378.93</u>	
Total Fixed Assets		5,047.49
Other Assets		
Inventory & Books		<u>16,340.22</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>585,712.99</u>
Liabilities & Equity		
State Sales Tax Payable		<u>1,413.42</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,413.42
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	452,231.25	
Net Assets	479,633.92	
Net Income		<u>347,565.60</u>
Total Equity		<u>584,299.57</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity		<u>585,712.99</u>

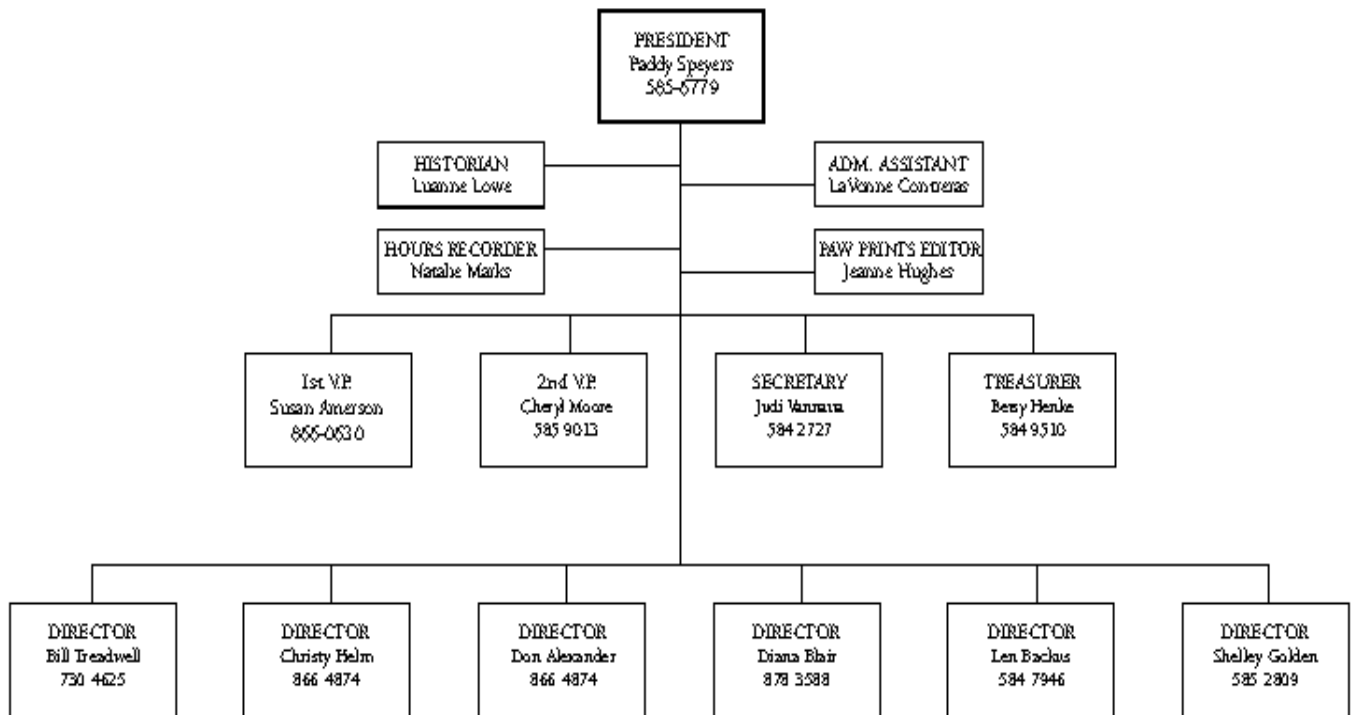
Accountants Compilation Report, Doucett & Silfies, CPA's

10. Canned dog food and Cat food, Vegetable and Fruit for emergency supply stock
11. Small and Medium Air kennels
12. Medical equipment and veterinary supplies
13. Boomer Balls for large carnivores
14. Reptile heat lamps and pads/supplies

ADMINISTRATION

15. Copy paper
16. POS System
17. Vacuum Cleaner
18. Carpet replacement
19. Prepared specimens for display cases
20. Bone Clones
21. Prizes and handouts for Zoo Camp kids
22. Construction paper
23. Fire Safe
24. Time clock w/ timecards
25. Folding tables-Estimated cost per table -\$150.00
26. Small PA system for offsite programs-estimate \$300-500

FOMZ ORGANIZATION CHART



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