



# PAW PRINTS

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

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SUMMER 2006

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

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

## Children Enjoyed the 18th Annual ZOOCCASION

by Bill Treadwell

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo volunteers had lots of fun with the children who came to the Moonridge Animal Park during Zoocasion. The Zoocasion event has a children's educational focus.

Children had the opportunity to become Wildlife Experts by completing three wildlife games: What are Baby Animals Called, Identify Animals by their Tracks, and Identify Animals in the Park. A total of 28 children became Wildlife Experts. They were: Jacob Steele, Carter Pankow, Emma Edwards, Aliya Carpenter, Terry Sullens, John and Hannah Hilden, JoAnne Leon, Aimee Bruening, Casey Harrell, Alex and Eric Benedon,

Karen and Myrand and Angel Ruiz, Maxneff Warner, Anthony Galustyan, Corey Park Lewis, Kyle Schultz, Nahal Jalali, Corynne McMulin, Briar Engel, Colleen Kustura, Jared Slone, Lindsay Frazier, Alexis Ramirez, Abby Bultemeier, and Katie Adams.



Children had fun coloring a snake on paper and then turning it into a hanging snake mobile. Buff Bicknell, who worked the snake mobiles, said "It was very popular with the children, and even some teachers took home copies of the snake to be used in their classrooms." Also many children played the Pine Cone Toss game, where around 150 wood

carved animal magnets were given out to winners.

If you missed this year's Zoocasion, then you may want to calendar the weekend before July Fourth in 2007 to visit the Moonridge Animal Park and catch the 19th Annual Zoocasion.



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### VISIT US ON THE WEB

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

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

Looking for a way to help the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo or want to join the Friends yourself? You'll find out right here. There is even a wish list where Don Richardson, our Curator, has listed some of the special needs he has for providing the best possible environment for our animals.

**Building Tomorrow's Zoo**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*When I first visited the Moonridge Zoo with my then 2-year-old granddaughter, we were both so excited by the closeness of the animals on exhibit. We could see clearly almost every animal. This intimacy is one of the things that make our zoo unique.*

*This special feature of our Zoo is top on the list of our plans for the new zoo. Our talented design team from PGAV, understand and support our goals to make our new home a bigger, better version of our current home. The animals will have larger, more natural habitat, but the design will allow our visitors to experience the animals as we do now, "close up and personal". As you can probably tell, I'm very excited about our plans.*

*We do need to continue our fundraising efforts and in fact, we need to "amp" them up. So I would appreciate any ideas and/or help from all of you. We are entering a critical time for fundraising.*

*In other news, the Board of Directors has changed the time period for our officers and directors to serve to coincide with our fiscal year. So our elections will be in September of each year and the new directors and officers will begin their terms in October of each year. This change required that we update our bylaws and was ratified on June 21, 2006.*

*We have had a shift of positions on the Board. Diana Blair has moved off the mountain and Shelley Golden has taken the Chief Operating Officer position. Joan Robb has moved from the Treasurer position to a Director's position focusing on marketing and we are fortunate to have Sam Baca back on the Board as Treasurer.*

*As I mentioned above, Diana Blair has moved off the mountain and we've had some other of our docents move or become involved in other projects. This has resulted in a "docent shortage". We fortunately have several new people in training right now but we really do need more help. Our calendar is booked pretty solid. So if any of you have thought about becoming a docent or volunteering for us, now is the time!*

*As always, I welcome calls and/or emails from any of you. 909 584 9510, [bhenke@moonridgezoo.org](mailto:bhenke@moonridgezoo.org).*

*Betsy Henke*

## Sentinel Day

by Betsy Henke

Formerly called Alpine Wildlife Celebration, this event was renamed to honor the fans of the sci-fi television series "The Sentinel". In the past few years these fans have been such a phenomenally supportive group of this event that we renamed the event to reflect our appreciation. The Sentinel fans were incredibly supportive again this year. We had people travel from as far away as Germany and the United Kingdom. There were participants from Canada and 9 different states of the union as well.

The highlights of the day were the two animal adoption auctions. Garret Maggart, who portrayed Blair Sandburg on "The Sentinel" series, helped display each of the animals as they came up for auction. We auctioned Speedy- the Sulcata tortoise, Avalon- the red-tailed hawk, Ringo- the young raccoon, King Tut- a Mountain King Snake, Slate- an American Kestrel, Lancelot- a striped Skunk, Daphne- a Sand hill Crane, Hollybeary- a California Black Bear and Nova- a Timber Wolf in the morning showing. The bidding was lively and lots of fun.

In the afternoon showing we auctioned Jasmine- the boa constrictor, Ares- the Golden Eagle, 3 baby hedgehogs, Yoda- a Saw-Whet owl, Jorga- a gray fox, Yukon- the Bald Eagle, Simon & Garfunkel- two baby opossums, and Cascade- one of our mountain lions. Again the bidding was great and combined the two auctions raised over \$15,000 for the care of our animals. Each of the "winning bidders" had their pictures taken with Garret and their animal. Additional pictures were taken at the event and will be posted on our website, [www.moonridgezoo.org](http://www.moonridgezoo.org) and are downloadable.

We also held a raffle that featured items from programs that Garret Maggart was involved with, as well as several beautiful art pieces commemorating "The Sentinel" series. More than \$600 was raised in this raffle.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the fans for their support... incredibly, they raised over \$18,000 with an on-line auction. It was the fans that made this day so successful for the zoo and our animal pals as well.



# BUFFALO or BISON?

by Bill Young

When you see Norman or Kiowa in their enclosure at the Moonridge, can you tell whether they are buffalos or bison? And can you tell which of them is Norman?

To the scientific world, our two large creatures are only distantly related to the water buffalos of Asia or the Cape Buffalos of Africa. Technically our two guys are Wood Bison... and what we call the American Buffalo from Wild West days are either the Plains Bison or the Wood Bison. However, ask almost everybody what Norman and Kiowa are, and you'll hear "buffalo". We probably agree that "Buffalo Bill Cody" sounds more wild-westly than say, "Bison Bob Benson" (no offence to any Bob Benson)... and I can't find a town in the U.S. called "bison"... so I guess it's OK to call them Buffalos.

Technically the Wood Bison and the Plains bison are separated by only a few genes, both being members of the North American Bison family. Wood Bison like Norman and Kiowa are the largest land mammals in North America. It's curious that the name first given to the bison by the Lakota Indians was Tatanka... with "tank" being the operative root word. Since these guys weigh almost 2,000 pounds, the word "tank" really applies!

Norman and Kiowa are half-brothers. They were born at the Moonridge Zoo about 14 years ago. Although these guys move pretty slowly inside their enclosure, they can run at a top speed of about 35MPH when spooked or mad. Before our Keepers enter the enclosure to tidy things up a bit, both Norman and his brother are coaxed into another part of the enclosure for everyone's safety. By the way, when you weigh more than an old VW, and are nearly as tall as Kobe Bryant, you need to eat LOTS of hay each day. The Zoo's curator, Don Richardson, supplies food balanced with vitamins and minerals and other food supplements to keep Norman and Kiowa happy and healthy.

By the way, here is the answer to the age-old question of how much a buffalo pic weighs: about 8 pounds.

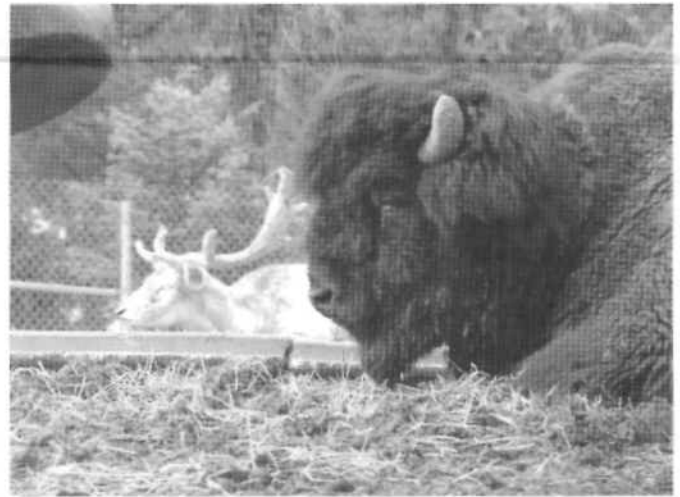
A couple of years ago, we had separate enclosures for the Wood Bison and the Fallow deer... mostly because the weight ratio of 2,000 lbs -vs- 50 lbs was not

in the Fallow deer's favor. Well, one morning the Keepers found the fence between the Fallow deer and the Bison was laid flat, with both animal families in the same enclosure! Since there were no signs of

battle, and everyone looked healthy, Don Richardson and the keepers kept a watchful eye on the group, and stood ready to break up any Ruminant scuffles that might ensue. But nothing bad happened... both groups wandered around the enclosure without any territorial disputes. By the way, shortly after this "merging", I saw a young male Fallow deer, with tiny emerging horns about 2" long, butting heads with Norman. This picture below shows that Norman couldn't have cared less about the mock-battle... in fact, it seemed that Norman wasn't even aware that the young Fallow buck

was hitting him in the head. The real human humor emerged when Norman, still laying on the ground, snorted loudly as only a 2,000 pound Bison can, and scared the little buck so badly that it jumped backwards about six feet, and made a noise like a barking dog.

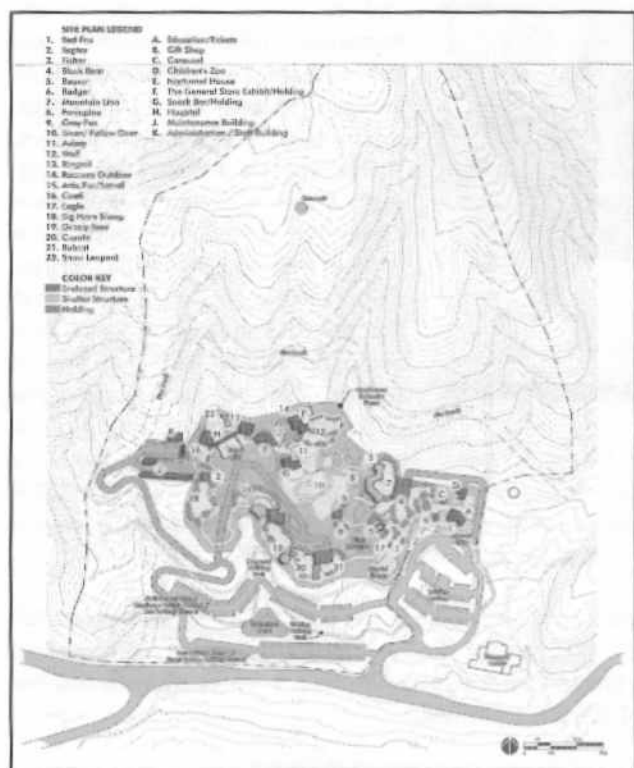
Norman and Kiowa are brothers, and look alike. So, how do we tell them apart? Well, all we need is Carmen Prouty. Read about this humorous identification process on page 5 where Carmen and her many good deeds are profiled.





# Relocation Progress — July 5, 2006

by Bill Treadwell



Since the last report on relocation, a lot has been happening and the news is all good!

A destination design firm (PGAV<sup>1</sup>) has been contracted to create a Big Bear Zoo master plan, but to satisfy the Forest Service, the design work is actually called the Moonridge Animal Park Relocation Master Plan. As you may well remember, the new zoo is planning to move next to the Big Bear Discovery Center on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake.

The newest plan has the park contained within 15 acres. That is the area where all the animal exhibits will be, visitor buildings, and walkways. When the surrounding firebreak area, maintenance area, and parking lots are included, the park will total about 30 acres.

How about taking a walk through the park for some highlights? Imagine you are walking up to the new Big Bear Zoo entry. The entry area buildings will have an appearance like those built 1920-1930's. The entry area, according to PGAV, "will have the feel of Big Bear the way it ought to be." When the PGAV design team was scoping out Big Bear Valley to get a feel for the area, they identified a lot with the early building styles found in the valley.

Now, when you walk into the central area of the park (we've been calling it the "hub"), you will see

gold rush themed buildings. Here the plan is to have one building designed as a two story mining eatery that provides excellent lunches. We are

looking at serving just lunch. We would like you to come to the park and stay the day. Therefore, a good lunch is needed for a day venue. Okay, so attached to the eatery you will find an aviary. Across from the eatery you will see the outdoor animal presentation area. A tad higher in the park (North up the hill direction) you will have the opportunity to walk into a general store. However, you will not find anything to buy because the store will be a display of live snakes, lizards and bugs—well, maybe some preserved ones too. Then around the corner of the general store you may peer into a private living room and see raccoons all over the furniture. The raccoons have an open door out to the front porch too.

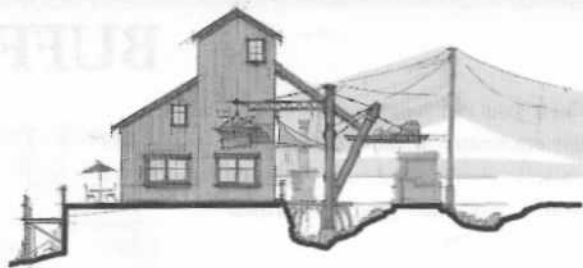
You will leave the hub area by walking through a nocturnal house, still in gold rush motif, to come out the other side and be confronted by a futuristic 21st century "organic" rehabilitation hospital. The animal park will retain its founding roots and continue to be a rehabilitation center first and a zoo second.

When you leave the rehabilitation hospital you will enter the Serrano Native American experience—Big Horn Sheep, Grizzly Bears, wolves and eagles. Possibly when you walk by the wolves they will be running around a vacated Serrano Village and then across the walkway on the opposite side of the walk may be a couple of Serrano huts containing native artifacts.

As you re-approach the park entry area you will have walked around a quarter mile circle all on ADA approved walkways. Well, that is it for now, stay tuned as we later tell you about how the park will be off the electric grid, providing its own energy sources, and recycling the animal enclosure water within the park for animal enclosure reuse.

<sup>1</sup> Peckham Guyton Ablers & Viets, Inc. (PGAV) is out of St.

Louis. They recently finished building the Atlanta Aquarium, the largest aquarium in the world at a cost of \$250 million. They have worked on Busch Gardens and Sea World plus other international projects ([www.pgav.com](http://www.pgav.com)). Their firm has 200 employees. PGAV markets themselves as the destination design firm. PGAV has said, "there projects entertain over 44 million visitors a year."



Where in the world is Carmen San Diego?  
Where in the world is Carmen Prouty?

## A Hidden Asset

by Bill Young

Both of these questions have lots in common... Carmen San Diego is a kids computer game that focuses on geography and world cultures, while Carmen Prouty is a Docent that focuses on Big Bear geography and animal cultures for the Moonridge Zoo.

Almost everyone who has visited the Moonridge Zoo in the last six years has seen or chatted with Carmen Prouty. Carmen retired as an Administrator at USC in the summer of 2001, and has been working at the Discovery Center (early on) and the Zoo ever since. Carmen has enjoyed the Big Bear Valley for a long time, and is a lifelong animal lover. When I asked her if she is a big USC football fan, she said "Nope, I don't want to drive down the hill just for a football game."

If there is anything you want to know about the black bears, eagles, skunks, badger, or Bison, just ask Carmen. She is the undisputed "Aunt Carmen" to Huckelbeary, our 3-legged black bear. She told the story about how Huck came to the zoo three years ago... he was about 13 pounds and 3 months old and "completely emaciated"... at that age, he should have weighed 30-50 pounds. She explained that most of the Zoo people didn't give Huck much of a chance to live, but "they didn't know how much we loved that little guy." Of course, now Huck is a 225 pound 3-legged black bear and is perfectly happy watching all of the people walk by. When I saw Carmen walking to Huck's enclosure, it appeared that Huck was elated to see her and came running (naturally at feeding time). Carmen explains that Huck is actually driven by food, not by her... but I can tell a happy bear when I see one... Huck's Auntie is entirely too humble. Carmen hopes that when we move the Zoo to the new location, that Huckelbeary won't be within eye-sight of the kitchen... he's completely food-driven now.

And speaking of black bears, Carmen has stories about Zuni, our 400+lb male black bear, that sound like Zuni is part of her family. When I mentioned it to her, she looked at me as if to say "well of course he's family."

And then there's Norman... he and Kiowa are the two male Wood Bison at the Zoo. These two boys look a lot alike... so much so that unless you spend lots of time with them, you can't tell them apart. So, how do we know which big 2,000 pound bull Bison is Norman? Simple, we use Carmen as bait.



Norman *really* doesn't like Carmen, and when he sees her, he puts his 500 pound head down and starts charging. That's how we know which Bison is which. When I asked Carmen if she thought Norman was giving a bluff-charge, she said that it just doesn't matter... "even with my bad legs I can still clear a 6 foot fence when he's heading at me... the LAST thing I'm going to do is look to see if he's bluffing!!" We all think it's pretty funny, but I don't think Carmen sees the humor in it yet. So, thanks to Carmen, we can tell which Bison is which.

Carmen has completely devoted the last six years to the Zoo. She has worked in the kitchen, in the snack bar called the "Grazing Corral", sold tickets, and told countless stories to children (primarily) and to their parents as well. Carmen is also the

author/editor of the internal newsletter called "Critter Chatter"... that paper keeps all of the docents, keepers, and other zoo-people informed about important dates, educational tours, meetings, training classes, and other announcements. She also is the coordinator for off-site education programs... this includes scheduling specially-trained docents (trained in animal-handling) to travel with the keepers for off-site programs.

I asked Carmen what she would do if we could snap our fingers and change anything at the Zoo, what would she wish for. Immediately she said "more space for the animals", followed by "more docents and keepers". So, if you've ever thought about devoting time to the zoo, now might be the perfect time... get trained as a docent before the Zoo moves to the new location... that would make Auntie Carmen very very happy.

### Friends of the Moonridge Zoo

42001 Big Bear Blvd., Suite 3  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 • 909-878-4200

#### Mailing Address:

PO Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

#### Hours:

Office Open Tuesday - Saturday  
10 am - 6 pm

## Join Friends of the Moonridge Zoo!

(a non-profit organization)

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

See benefit packages under box at right.

Check appropriate box

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

Are you interested in docent training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. with area code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: ☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA

Acct.#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO (FOMZ)**

Mail to: Membership

P.O. Box 2557, Big Bear City, CA 92314

## CURATOR'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

2005-2006

Charles & Marjorie Fautz-Dye .....11/05  
 Jim & Lola McGrew .....12/05  
 Carolyn Radakovich .....4/05  
 Laurie Rennie.....3/05  
 Chris & Lorraine Wolfe .....12/05

*Thank You!*

## 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



## MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

Curator: 909-584-1299

Open Year 'Round

Park Hours September-May

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

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

Animal Presentations at Noon

Group Tours 909/866-9700

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

Admission General (Ages 11-59) .....\$5

Seniors (Ages 60 plus) .....\$4

Children (Ages 3-10) .....\$4

Children under age 3 ..... free

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

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

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

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

Mail this form to: FOMZ, Fran Fish

P.O. Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: FOMZ

(Friends of the Moonridge Zoo)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Events Calendar for 2006

### AUGUST

- 6 Concert on the Green, 6 p.m., Fawnskin Inn
- 16 Board Meeting, 1 p.m. at office
- 19 Music in the Zoo, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 26, 27 Native American Arts Festival,  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Ice Cream Safari, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 9 Run for the Grizzlies, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 13 Board Meeting, 1 p.m. at office
- 20 General Meeting, 4 p.m. at Discovery Cntr.
- 23 Flashlight Safaris, 6:15 p.m.

### OCTOBER

Flashlight Safaris

(every Saturday night through October)

- 4 Installation Luncheon
- 18 Board Meeting, 1 p.m. at office
- 21 Wolf Awareness Day, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 31 Boo in the Zoo, 2 - 5 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

- 15 Board Meeting, 1 p.m. at office

Publisher ..... FOMZ

Editor ..... Bill Young

Contributors ..... Bill Treadwell,

Bill Young

Graphic Design/Layout ..... Joan Robb



# Special "Thanks"

by Bill Young

We'd like to recognize a young lady that was visiting the Zoo with her grandparents. Her name is Rebekah Moss from Thousand Oaks California. Rebekah told me that she's always loved animals and is considering some sort of Animal Science when she graduates from high school.

Now here's the good part: Rebekah asked if there was anything she could do to help at the Zoo that day. Little did she know that there is ALWAYS something to do at the Zoo. So within a few short minutes, she was helping a keeper clean and care for some of our smaller animals. A couple hours later, she returned to the Zoo office with a giant smile on her face (and a few dirty stains on her clothes)... the animals loved the help she gave them, and the keepers loved the help as well.

We hope that these few hours of hands-on experience will ignite the desire to start and finish a fine career in the animal sciences. And our hats are off to you Rebekah, for offering to help our little fur-creatures during your visit to our Alpine Zoo.



If you know of any other animal-lovers that want to get a taste of what our keepers and docents do, just have them inquire at the Zoo office during the next visit.

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