



PAW PRINTS

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of the
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Zoo a non-profit
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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.

Belle and Trooper

By Betsy Henke

We are Burros. We are coming to live at the Children's Farming Era Barn at the new Big Bear Zoo.

Our wonderful Dad, 3 Feathers gave us to the Zoo. 3 Feathers is an honest to goodness mountain man. For many years, we traveled the mountains and deserts with him carrying his belongings. It was a great life. We got to see so many beautiful places.

Time goes on, though, and all three of us got older and it got to be too hard on us to live out in the cold and wind all of the time. So, 3 Feathers had to give up this kind of life and he decided it would be best for us to retire too. He gave us to the Moonridge Animal Park because he knew that we would be happy there. He knew the people from the Zoo would love us and take really good care of us too.

As we said in the beginning, we'll be living at the new Zoo in the Children's Farming Era Barn. It's going to be a lot of fun there because we'll be living with other animals from that Era like goats and cows. Best of all, we'll get to visit with lots of people, especially children.

In the meantime, since the new Zoo isn't ready yet, we're living with Betsy Henke, on her farm. It's great here. We have lots of other friends, llamas, goats, horses, and we have our own pasture and shelter. Betsy feeds us lots of hay and our favorites, grain and carrots.

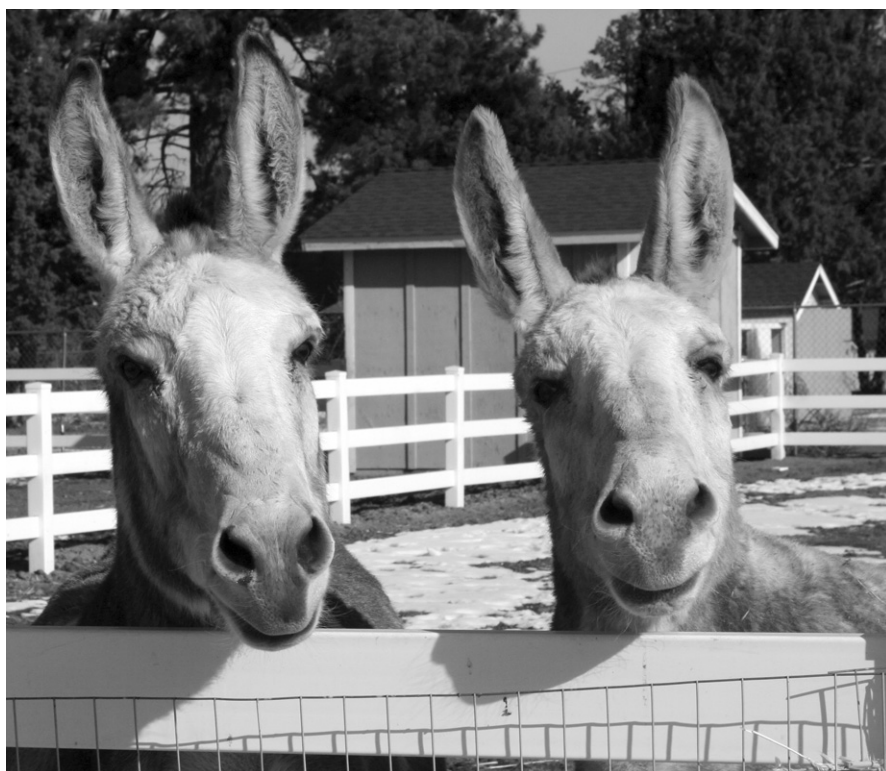


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Thanks for reading our story, we hope to see you when the new Zoo opens!

(Hi, this is Betsy Henke. Baby Belle and Trooper asked me to type this for them because they don't type very well with their hooves. I want to say how much I enjoy having these two guests. They are both very sweet. They love people and they will be wonderful additions to the new Zoo.)

Building Tomorrow's Zoo



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring has arrived! It is such a wonderful time of year for all of us and especially for our animals. This year we might be greeting a few "new" arrivals. Hopefully, we will welcome some babies. We'll keep you posted of any new additions to our family.

Spring is also the time of year that we begin to plan and organize our coming special events. As I mentioned in my last column, this year we are introducing a photo event. On May 19, we will have our first annual Photography Contest. Amateur and professional adult photographers and children will be given the opportunity to shoot digital photos of our Zoo and animals. The winning photos will be published in a professionally produced calendar. So, grab your cameras and we'll see you there!

Our next event is Bear Country Fair on May 26-27 and our new chairperson, Linda Anderson, is full of enthusiasm and great ideas for how to make it lots of fun.

I even heard a rumor that our burros, Baby Belle and Trooper, may make an appearance. Read all about them in an article they wrote for this issue.

As always, thank you for your ideas and support. And a heartfelt "thank you" for your donations, memberships and adoptions. Every dollar sent our way ultimately ends up making a better life for our animals and we are so very grateful that you care about our beloved critters!

Betsy Henke

Friends of the Moonridge Zoo

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Mailing Address:

PO Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

Hours:

Office Open Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 6 pm

Friends

Sun rises in eastern sky
Beauty awakes
Warmth and healing begin
Bringing light to a wanting world

Sun travels to western places
There to rest as Moon arrives
Always light
For the darkest of times

Animals see this same sunrise
They too need these healing ways
Humans have forgotten them
Few friends remain

As their homelands fade
And their value diminished
You are their Sun
You their Moon

Love and compassion
Given to all
Used only by some
You are those few

You are the Earth Stewards
They your teachers
Enlightenment is the animal path
Compassion your journey

Of all things we are a part
Not apart from
You are the givers
As they give to you

You see love in their eyes
Spirits who cry out to be known
You know them
And they know you

You touch their soul with kindness
They touch you with understanding
You are the gift to all that is
You are the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo

Sidanelai
3 Hawks



Update on the Relocation of the Moonridge Animal Park

March 22, 2007

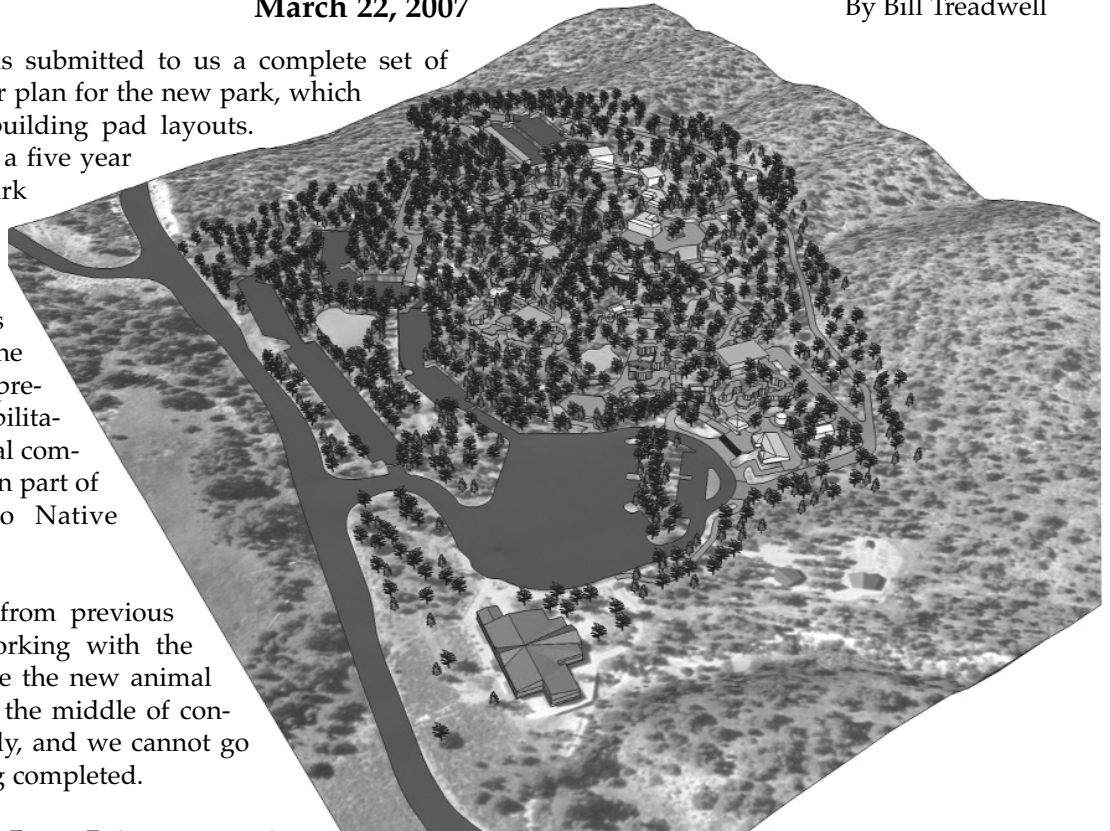
By Bill Treadwell

Our design firm, PGAV, has submitted to us a complete set of drawings that lay out the master plan for the new park, which includes animal exhibits and building pad layouts.

The master plan is proposed as a five year project for completion. The park has four themed zones, which included 1920-30's themed buildings for the entry area to the park, the center of the park is themed after the gold rush era, the Northwest section of the park represents the 21st century (the rehabilitation hospital, nursery, and animal commissary), and the whole southern part of the park depicts the Serrano Native American era.

As you most likely know from previous Paw Prints stories, we are working with the National Forest Service to locate the new animal park on forest land. We are in the middle of conducting the Environmental Study, and we cannot go forward without the study being completed.

Meanwhile, a computerized PowerPoint presentation of the proposed park plans has been created. At the March 28, 2007 General Meeting for the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo, Bill Treadwell will do the PowerPoint presentation. If you belong to a civic organization, and would like a half hour presentation at one of your meetings, please contact Bill Treadwell (909) 878-4200.



MOONRIDGE ZOO EARNS ACCREDITATION

By Brett Croxton

It's official. The Moonridge Zoo has been accredited by the Zoological Association of America. This is a huge accomplishment for the Zoo, curator Don Richardson said after announcing the accreditation at the March 20 Park District meeting. "Fewer than 10 percent of the 2,400 zoos licensed by the Department of Agriculture are accredited," Richardson added.

This accreditation means many things for the Zoo. First, being accredited unlocks grants that are not available to non-accredited zoos. These grants will be especially important as the Zoo prepares to move to its new site on the North Shore. Secondly, according to Richardson, being accredited provides pride in our Zoo being one of few that are accredited.

Third, the accreditation enables the Zoo to reach outside the Valley to the zoological community as a whole to acquire additional professional staff to carry on what Richardson is trying to accomplish with the Zoo. Accreditation also enables the Zoo to move and acquire new animals from other accredited facilities, a feature only available to accredited zoos. Lastly, being accredited "enables us to manage our collection (of animals) without a whole lot of interference ... (and) red tape from the state and federal governments," Richardson said.

ing to light the excellence of the Moonridge Zoo. A bear-keeper symposium of experts in the field of caring for bears will be stopping by the Zoo to make an example of its bear-keeping facilities and procedures.

While this is a monumental award for the Zoo, Richardson is already looking ahead. Of the two associations that provide accreditation, the Zoological Association of America, while difficult to obtain accreditation from, is not the most difficult. The tougher of the two is the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, according to Richardson. This is largely due to the expense involved in applying for accreditation from the AZA, which is usually an insurmountable cost for small zoos such as the Moonridge Zoo.

This does not deter Richardson, however. "Once we move into our new location, we will probably end up going for both accreditations," Richardson said.

While the Zoo waits for its plaques and logos to arrive so they can be put on display for all to see, Richardson also eagerly awaits the arrival of some new animals. Slated to arrive soon are an Arctic Fox, a number of groundhogs, a Red Fox and Ringtails. Luckily for these animals, they will be arriving at a newly accredited zoo where they will be sure to receive the best care possible.

The Animals “Lucked Out” on St. Patrick’s Day at the Zoo

Excerpts from an article by Diane Robert

On St. Patrick’s day, the Moonridge Zoo was honored to have Girl Scout Troop #970 from Highland, CA, all decked out in their official bright green Girl Scout vests, visit with us. The troop is working on obtaining the Girl Scout Bronze Aware which is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn, and shows that they have made a promise to help others, improve their community and world, and become the best they can be. So, they thought what better way to help others



than at our Zoo with our amazing animals. Their leaders contacted Len and Kitty Baccus and then together with Don, our curator, and Diane Roberts, the animal enrichment coordinator, arranged for the troop to come to the Zoo to work on some very special enrichment projects.

Fifteen girls in all were greeted by Don Richardson, zoo curator, who welcomed everyone and introduced Diane Roberts, Len and Kitty Baccus, and John 3 Hawks.

The girls and their leaders were quite excited to get started on their special projects and they enthusiastically got right down to business... Half of the girls sat at one of the two tables and started making Pineapple Balls for our black bears and grizzly bears. The girls dug right in, literally. The rubber gloves that were given to them lasted all of 2 seconds... and they all declared that “bare hands are the best”. As you can imagine, the granola, oatmeal, raisins, coconut, peanut butter, peanut

hearts, honey, crushed pineapple, and canned pumpkin all mixed together can be very messy and sticky indeed. The girls were laughing and all agreed that “messier is better”... and much more fun. In no time at all, fingers were flying... and so was the mixture! It was in and outside the bowls, the tables, fingers and hands and arms and elbows and faces of the girls... and even all over the leaders and helpers too. When the mixture was finally prepared, it was formed into individual balls and placed inside special treat boxes and tubes for our beloved bears. It is a fun and healthy treat for our animals.

At the lunch break, the girls got to see a special presentation by Jenna, keeper of our Great Horned Owl, Boo. Also, Debbie and Diane displayed Simon, a male opossum, while John 3 Hawks told a special life lesson story about the Opossum. Keepers Josh, Mark, Jenna, and Lisa stopped by to chat about the animals as well.

Then the girls had the privilege of watching their specially made enrichment items in action. Debbie took six different tubes and bags which the girls had decorated and filled with tasty drumsticks into the wolf enclosure. The girls, along with many patrons, excitedly watched Navarre, Nova, and Wakiza have fun flinging their tubes and bags all around... and then seeing the wolves enjoy those yummy chicken stix treats... a very special treat for everyone, human and animal.

The girls were also thrilled watching Windsong, our beautiful red fox, play with the green eggs that the girls decorated earlier in the day. Windsong put on a show for the girls by taking each egg in her mouth and then running around her enclosure several times before



burying it... and then returning to Diane for another one. The girls also got to see our Coati's play with their egg-treats too.

The Raccoons weren't left out either... earlier the Girl Scouts combined peanuts and mealworms inside of specially decorated bags, then gave the bags to the raccoons. Girls and raccoons alike really enjoyed sharing the special goodie bags. Craig, one of the scout leaders, was the mealworm expert, and had fun convincing the girls that the worms weren't yucky after all.

And finally, the girls and their leaders, went on a pinecone hunt throughout the zoo. It was such fun watching the girls come back with bags full of pinecones. Later, the pinecones were covered with peanut butter and peanut hearts, then given to our three black bears and our three grizzly bears.

It was most definitely a "Pot of Gold" day for everyone at the Zoo on Saturday. While we didn't actually find a "pot of gold", the girls hand-crafted many treats... surely as good as gold to our animals.

As the scouts left the Zoo that day, many people heard the girls cheering and saying that it was the "best day ever" for them. And Marci Burdette, one of the leaders, sent a very heartwarming note telling us that the girls are still talking about it and that they could not think of a better way to do a community service and have fun at the same time. We all truly appreciate their special service and caring by making it a most extraordinary day for all of our beautiful animals.



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 Membership65.00

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

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MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

Curator: 909-584-1299

Open Year 'Round

Park Hours September-May

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

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

Animal Presentations at Noon

Group Tours 909/866-9700

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

Admission General (Ages 11-59)\$5

Seniors (Ages 60 plus)\$4

Children (Ages 3-10)\$4

Children under age 3 free

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS, DUES & PRIVILEGES

BASIC MEMBER BENEFITS

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

MEMBER CATEGORIES AND BENEFITS

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

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

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

- Four (4) free one-day guest passes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Shania Hits Pay Dirt

Saturday, January 20, 2007 3:23 PM PST

By JULIE WALLACE , The Grizzly

Shania is moving up in the world. She now has a full acre of land and a pack of males to call her own. The feistiest of the four timber wolves at the Moonridge Animal Park was put in a crate the day after Thanksgiving and shipped to the Minnesota Zoo.

The decision was difficult for the entire Zoo staff, said Animal Park curator Don Richardson, but they believe it was the best decision for the entire wolf pack. Shania was hand raised at the Zoo, but too aggressive to live in the same enclosure with the park's other wolves. There is a special social hierarchy that exists in wolf packs, Richardson said, and Shania has always had too much alpha status in her to live with other females.

The opportunity to send Shania to Minnesota came about because of the Animal Park's baby raccoon inundation. The park received 22 baby raccoons last year. Too many were imprinted by humans and could not be released back into the wild. The surplus raccoons were put on the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's placement list. The Minnesota Zoo, having just completed a new raccoon enclosure, was interested in adopting the animals.

Also, Minnesota Zoo recently completed a new wolf enclosure and during the raccoon transaction an employee asked Richardson if the Animal Park had any available wolves. "I hesitated," Richardson said, "but thought it would be a positive thing for Shania." The move will place Shania on an acre of land, which is significantly more than she had at the Animal Park, and she will be surrounded by males, which she loves, Richardson said.



The Moonridge Animal Park has many options for what it will receive in exchange for Shania. Staff will choose either one of Shania's anticipated offspring, or a wolverine, female fisher or female porcupine. Whichever animal the park decides upon, the transaction will not take place until the zoo relocates. At that time there will be space for new animals and better conditions to increase the size of the current wolf pack, which the Zoo has hopes of doing.

Richardson said the decision to move the wolf was made quickly and the process of Shania's departure was easy. The Minnesota Zoo happened to have a driver at the San Diego Wild Animal Park and had room in the truck for Shania. As one of the animal park's education outreach animals, Shania was in the habit of crate travel and was easily prepared for the cross country trip, Richardson said. And the wolf experienced no stress.

Shania is now at the Minnesota Zoo in quarantine, which Richardson said is common protocol for animals placed in new zoos. Navarre, Nova and Wakiza, the animal park's three remaining wolves, have had a positive response to Shania's relocation, Richardson said.

There is no sparring now, tension has been relieved, and the two females the Zoo has held off on breeding, may soon be taken off birth control.



Yes! I'm wild about the MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

Please help me Adopt a wild bird or animal for \$25.00

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

for _____
(name of person)

Mail this form to: FOMZ, Adoptions
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: _____

Notice

All donor bricks and paving stones will be moved to the new zoo where they will be replanted. We will be transitioning sometime in the near future to donor recognition trees (where the brass leaves will be engraved with the donor names/recognition.) Leaf pricing remains to be determined.

Meanwhile, you may still purchase bricks or paving stones, but they will be held to be planted in the new park.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

Before your next visit to the Zoo why not spend a few minutes browsing our website www.moonridgezoo.org?

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

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

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Return Service Requested

www.moonridgezoo.org

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