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) Fundraising.

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

Receive the Electronic Issue of Paw Prints

Sign up to receive an electronic copy of Paw Prints and help lower our newsletter cost. Rather than getting a black and white copy of Paw Prints in the mail, read a color copy online or even download it to read later. Visit our website at http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/pawprints.html

Good Progress on Relocating and Building the new Park

Bill Treadwell

After many years of attempting to relocate and build the new Moonridge Animal Park on the North Shore of Big Bear Lake, that effort has been dropped. The public land, which was controlled by the National Forest Service, was deemed unfeasible due to a number of challenges. In June of 2010, the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District purchased 10.5 acres of land in the lower Moonridge area of Big Bear Lake as the proposed location to build the new Moonridge Animal Park. For those who don't know, the Park District owns and manages the Animal Park.

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Since that time, steady progress has been made. PGAV, the design team that created our master plan for the North Shore location, has drafted a new master plan specific to the Moonridge location. The Lilburn Corporation has been retained to conduct the environmental study, and they are now doing a botany study to catalog what types of plants are found on the property. The environmental study will determine how the final master plan can utilize the land.

It is anticipated that the proposed new park could have their grand opening Memorial Day weekend of 2013. You can stay updated with the relocation progress, and view the draft master plan of the proposed park at http://moonridgezoo.org/newpark/StatusPoints.html



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Young, President FOMZ

Greetings to all

A very big part of the Moonridge Animal Park is caring for Springtime's babies... and a larger part of our Docent job is explaining why people shouldn't bring every baby they see to the Park. In this edition of Paw Prints, you'll find a very interesting and informative article on Springtime babies.

The proposed new Moonridge Animal Park is coming closer and closer to actually having shovels hit the ground. Still a lot of work to do with the Environmental Study and preliminary design, but things are moving forward. And Friends of the Moonridge (FOMZ) is playing a major part in funding this design effort. Our "job" as FOMZ goes beyond just leading tours at the Moonridge Animal Park. Through the contributions of time and money, FOMZ is helping the new park design move forward at a faster-than-normal clip. But we've still got a long way to go in terms of fiscal support. I just can't wait to see these plans turn into larger enclosures for the animals, easier care and maintenance of the grounds, and a more robust experience for visiting patrons.

And finally, several of us will be attending the annual Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents Conference (AZAD www.azadocents.org) this year in Memphis, hosted by the Memphis Zoo. We expect to be there with 500 or so other docents from about 100 zoos across the U.S. And FOMZ is one of just a few docent groups selected to present a paper at the conference. Our presentation is titled: "Building a new Zoo: Re-Starting the Conservation Conversation." What a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of a completely new Zoo!! A copy of the presentation will be available on the FOMZ website in early September this year. And we should soon receive the results of a comprehensive AZAD survey taken by all docent organizations across the U.S. I'll make the survey results available to you shortly after we receive them from AZAD. By the way, if you haven't joined AZAD yet, please consider spending the \$20/year to become a member of this informative docent collective.

Best wishes for a fun-filled summer of Animals, Bill Young



Blues for the Zoo Concert

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Moonridge Animal Park in 2010, we held our first "Blues for the Zoo" concert last August. Due to last year's success, we have decided to hold our 2nd annual "Blues for the Zoo" concert on Saturday, August 6th, 2011. Headlining the show will be the CHICAGO BLUES GUITAR SHOOTOUT with Ronnie Baker Brooks, Lurrie Bell, and Larry McCray. Maria Muldaur and her Red Hot Bluesiana Band are also in the lineup, and Brother Yusef will lead off the afternoon of great entertainment, music, food and crafts. What a lineup!

You can further check out this year's event on Friends website www.moonridgezoo.org/concert. You can buy tickets online, and they are the same price as last year. In addition you can reserve a room at Northwoods Resort for \$69/night; wow! That is a deep discount from their regular prices. The Northwoods Resort is our exclusive host hotel for all the musicians.

Enjoy a great outdoor blues concert on the lakeside beach at Big Bear Lake, and at the same time, you will be helping to raise funds for the Moonridge Animal Park. Specifically, these funds are designated to buy badly needed medical equipment and supplies that will help save wildlife.

Message From our Curator

Debbie Richardson



Moonridge Animal Park is a sanctuary for animals that have been permanently injured or impacted by humans to the extent that they have no other options. That is what our park is known for, but we provide another service that people generally don't hear about. We are also a rehabilitation facility for animals that need to heal or grow and eventually be returned back to the wild. It is extremely satisfying to watch an animal that had an injury or was too young to survive on its own leaping or flying back out into the wild. After all, the wild is where they truly belong, and in a perfect world all creatures would be able to live together in the balance that allows nature to work so well when left to its own devices. Unfortunately we don't live in a perfect world and the wild can be a very dangerous place to live and raise your young. It's hard enough to deal with predators, disease and insufficient food sources, but when you throw humans into the mix it changes everything. We are constantly expanding our territory into theirs, using up the majority of available resources, over hunting and pulling cute exotic baby animals out of the wild as pets.

Every year the Moonridge Animal Park receives lots of injured and baby animals that we work hard at returning back to the wild. This year we have had a baby bobcat, a couple of baby raccoons, several squirrels, a couple of baby skunks, a baby gray fox, lots of birds, and five baby kit foxes that someone was trying to sell out of their house. Most of these animals and birds will be, or already have been, successfully returned to the wild. Unfortunately some will not be able to be released, and some should not have come in to us at all.

There are people with the best of intentions who "rescue" animals from the wild because they believe they have been orphaned or abandoned. Actually this is almost never the case. Adult animals often leave their offspring in a safe place while they search for food. Adult deer will go foraging for food for long periods of time, leaving their offspring well camouflaged. Baby deer give off no discernable scent and remain very still when left alone, so they are usually very secure.

When baby birds start to fledge and begin "branching" behavior they often end up on the ground, but the parents are usually nearby watching. If a baby bird has fallen out of a nest the best thing you can do for it is put it back in the nest if you can reach it, or place the baby as high up near the nest as you can in a box the parents can reach. Most birds have no sense of smell, so they cannot smell your scent on the baby and will continue to care for their offspring. Most animals will not abandon their baby just because it has been touched by a human.

It is always best to observe any baby for a while to determine if the parents are coming back and still caring for them before pulling them from the wild. You can help improve their safety while observing them by keeping your pets inside the house and perhaps placing some protection around the baby. If, however, the baby is in immediate danger, you have seen the parent killed or the parents do not return in a reasonable amount of time, then action should be taken.

A licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility should be contacted to care for the baby, never try to raise a baby wild animal on your own. Not only is it illegal, but it can be detrimental to the animal since baby exotics can be very difficult to raise. They often initially need medical care, require specialized diets and proper handling to insure survival. They must be released at the proper age, with the proper survival skills, and in the proper area as well. It is wonderful when people want to help an animal they feel is in danger, but it is important to take some time to assess the situation first before taking action. You may be taking a baby away from a parent that is still caring for it, and they are the best ones for that job. If there is an animal that truly needs help, then facilities like Moonridge Animal Park can help them, and if they cannot go back to the wild, then we will be here for them.

OUR WONDERFUL KEEPERS WHO CARE FOR THE BABIES

We are so fortunate to have wonderful keepers and foster parents who are doing their best to ensure that many of



the animals can be released back into the wild. Our curator, Debbie, is raising the baby grey fox in a manner which, hopefully, will not allow it to imprint on her. She is very

hopeful that it will be able to be released soon. Keeper Diane is raising a baby barn owl, which had a badly bro-

ken leg, and can never return to the wild. Keeper Christy received the baby bobcat, now named Shakespeare, before his eyes were even open. Shakespeare had to be bottle fed every couple



of hours, and is now completely imprinted on humans. He will remain at the park and be an educational animal.

How we became involved with the Friends of Moonridge Zoo

Written by
Diane and Steve Web, from the United Kingdom

Cast your mind back to the mid-1990's, the cost of Gas was \$1.09, the 55mph speed limit has just ended, and Steve & Diane Webb visited Moonridge Animal Park for the first time.

Now you are probably asking yourself, why are two English people writing an article for Paw Prints? Well two reasons really; we have been members of the Friends of Moonridge Zoo for over 16 years now, and Paddy Speyers asked me to. Now who can resist a request from Paddy?

In the United Kingdom, we live in a village called Brocton in Staffordshire. Staffordshire is one of the counties in the general area that is called "The Midlands." Our village is on the edge of Cannock Chase, an area of outstanding natural beauty with rolling heather hillsides, and mixed woodlands. Herds of Fallow deer roam across the Chase, and the smaller shy Muncjac deer are present but are rarely seen. There is a lot of human impact on this small area of Cannock Chase. It is only 26 square miles in size, with over 44 million people living within a 1 hour drive of the park.

We had been on holiday to Big Bear Lake a couple of times before we actually visited the Moonridge Animal Park. During our first visit, and as we walked around the park, we bumped into Paddy Speyers, or so we thought. In reality Paddy had bumped into us to show us around the Park, and before we left, Paddy asked us over to her house. That is where we met Bill Speyers, and this started a marvelous friendship that has lasted to this day.

We were so impressed with the way the Moonridge Animal Park looked after injured, orphaned, and problem animals, that we decided to join the Friends of Moonridge Zoo. As I said earlier we had visited Big Bear Lake before and felt "right at home" here. So joining the "Friends" allowed us to form a bond with this area. We have visited the Moonridge Animal Park almost every year since joining the Friends.

Over the years Diane's father, George, has also visited the Moonridge Animal Park, and we have all purchased a number of bricks that are in the Park's walkway. Some bricks were in memory of our departed Staffordshire Bull Terrier dogs--Pip, Bruce and Jake.

We have always looked forward to receiving our Paw Prints newsletter, but I must admit I always felt guilty at the postage cost incurred sending it to us in the UK. I was really pleased when recently Paw Prints became available via e-mail, and we signed up right away!

In principle, we do not really like Zoo's. We appreciate that some rare animals need captive breeding programs, but wild animals, in our opinion, should be wild!

The Moonridge Animal Park, on the other hand, is not really a Zoo, it is an animal rehabilitation facility and sanctuary. Animals that would perish or be put down by the State are given a second chance and that principle really appealed to us.

But even more importantly is that these animals can become ambassadors for their wild brothers and sisters, allowing the public to see the strengths and the fragility of these beautiful creatures. This gives visitors a chance to consider how their actions can impact on the lives of the wild animals around them, and hopefully change negative attitudes or misconceptions.

This is what really has impressed us, to be able to see, close up, these wonderful birds, mammals, and reptiles and learn about their problems. With the Park staff and docents, providing information that allow visitors to better understand how we can all live alongside America's wild heritage!

The Moonridge Animal Park is a unique facility, and we have always been amazed at what has been achieved in so cramped a space. It may only be small in size, but it has always been big in heart, and the staff does a marvelous job with the facilities at hand. We are looking forward to the day when the Moonridge Animal Park moves to the new proposed site, because the ten acres will really allow all the animals and staff more comfort and greater facilities.

All being well, we will be attending the opening ceremony of the new facility, and anticipate the move full of hope for the future of one of Big Bear Lake's greatest assets. So if you are there that day, and over hear a couple of people with strange accents, don't be surprised, it's probably

us!

Wishing all the Park staff, volunteers and the "Friends" our very best wishes,

Diane & Steve Webb

Recap of the 2011 Photo Contest

Barbara Jordan

We had a great turn out for the photo contest. Twenty-six photographers participated in fun day full of photo opportunities. Many of the photographers were from off the mountain. All of the photographers were thrilled with so many babies to photograph. Shakespeare, the baby bobcat, was a real hit, as was Peggy Sue, the baby barn owl. Our photographers were also treated to watching Summer bottle feed a very young raccoon. Our photo contest judges should have a challenge picking the winners for our 2012 calendar.

Did you know that we have many videos of our animals on our website? Follow this link to view them.

www.moonridgezoo.org/map/education.html

Do Animals Talk To Us?

3 Hawks

Do Animals Talk To Us?

"If you talk to the animals, they will in' when we seek answers. Bear surtalk to you, and you will know each vives winter sleep by drawing from dark. What is she telling you? As she other. If you do not talk to them, you within...that is, drawing from the can fly silently through the darkest of will not know them...."

mals and humans is much easier than Consider:

- wav.
- 2. "I am looking at the map." "What's it say?" "Says 38 miles to Redlands." "Okav."
- have eaten and you are really hun-language, you will know what they are you direction along your path of life, sign. "Great Food. All You Can Eat a Hawk circling above, you are being balance, harmony, unity, and under-\$5.99." There you see a picture of told things. Hawk tells us to stay fo- standing each other as we walk upon your favorite meal and a tall iced soft cused and be careful with our use of this earth together. drink. You hear your stomach growl a words. As Hawk dives for her prey, little louder, and you turn in the drive- she must not be distracted or she will Dan George was saying... "And what wav.

sions from time to time and each of us head off in less than one second, and knows that signs tell us things and our this reminds us that we must be careful ers. Are we good students? Hmmm... mind or body will react to these mes- not to do this verbally or emotionally now what say that Mouse, Spider, sages in one form or another. Ironical- to another person. ly, none of these signs have verbalized told us something.

arranged in certain familiar pat- out verbalizing anything. have a soft or strong side, be good and

nurturing mothers, walk with care ized, but the message is clear. Be care-Chief Dan George once said, through the forests, and to 'look with- ful. Communication between ani- summer and fall. Introspection!

we may think, and yes, they really do letters YIELD tells us to be careful and not have to boast about our accomtalk to us! Impossible you say? Well here, we do not have the right of plishments. As she gets through these way. Seeing a snake in your path will dark times, so can you! 1. You are driving down the road and remind you that just as when their eyes catch a glimpse of a sign. You ask cloud over and the painful process of our dogs or cats with human words and your companion, "What did that sign shedding their skin starts so they can respond to their reactions? We do this "It said 'Narrow Bridge be renewed by this process, that there with ease, but are uneasy being in pub-Ahead." You enter the narrow bridge will be times in our life that we must lic and talking to a Raven, Opossum, hoping a big truck does not come your let go of hurtful things that we may not or Ant, lest someone have us locked clearly see the reason for at the time, up. but we will come out of this situation made anew.

We have all used these expres- known to grab a snake and take its one fears, one destroys."

Isn't it interesting that during anything, but we understand they have the winter season in the mountains we will see dark clouds building as the So it is that animals will 'talk' wind picks up and we start thinking to us if we take the time to know about snow, icy roads, and did we them. Signs are a series of symbols check the condition of our chains that have meaning to us when they are yet. Images that send messages withterns. An eight sided red sign with the yourself hiking by yourself in the white letters STOP tells us that we mountains and you come upon a sign must stop the car, look both ways, and that says, "Entering Mountain Lion then proceed if it is safe. Seeing a bear Habitat." Would that stir up images in tells us that we can be like them and your head...you bet! Nothing verbal-

An owl flies near you in the things she took in during the spring, nights and never bump into things, she reminds us that we too can do our A three sided sign with the work in the darkest of circumstances

And how often do we talk to

So you see, animals really do talk to us! All we have to do is under-A person using sign language stand what their messages are and each may not have the ability to verbalize one will have something to say to 3. It has been long hot hours since you things to you, but if you know sign you. Just as those painted signs give You are coming up to a trying to tell you. So too when you see so do the animals give direction on

> Oh, and the rest of what Chief miss out on her prize. Hawks are you do not know, you will fear. What

> > Animals are great teach-Deer, Buffalo...?

> > > Sidanelai (we are all family) 3 Hawks



Musings by Paddy

Paddy Speyers

This spring has again brought many wildlife babies to the "Zoo." Some have been injured and others have lost their Mom. The injured can sometimes be reintroduced to the wild if they heal enough. Others become permanent residents that can delight and educate. The babies that have to be hand-raised by keepers need to stay at our "Zoo" as they have not been conditioned to be wild—they have become dependent on people. We also inherit creatures that have been illegally kept as "pets."

In the past 50 years there have been some really memorable rescues:

- "Herman" the bear cub found hiding from fire high up in a tree;
- 2) The baby fawn who was saved from a canine attack and brought to us;
- "Seattle" and "Tacoma", 10 lb. bear cubs whose mother was killed by a hunter. They lived for many years at our "Zoo".
- 4) "Lucky" and "Nikita" brother and sister wolves who moved to our facility after their movie star Mom gave birth to six pups. The other four pups were sent to Yellowstone in the 1985 wolf reintroduction project. All four have since been killed. "Lucky" had health problems which allowed him and his sister to stay with us. An interesting side note to this story is that "Nikita" was stolen from the Park by some young people from Newport Beach, and was not recovered until two months later! She was returned to her home with us on September 24th, much to the delight of "Lucky."
- 5) "Hollybeary" was left in a crate as an 8 week old, 7 lb. black bear cub. She was placed with us by Fish and Game.
- 6) "Hucklebeary" was hit by a truck and orphaned, and his leg had to be amputated. He is now 9 years old, and still delights visitors every day.
- 7) Our mountain lions, "Cascade" and "Canyon" came to us as tiny orphans after their Mother was shot and killed by a goat rancher.
- 8) Our most famous rescue was the 3 grizzlies, who live with us to this day. We nationally promoted their plight with "Bring'em Back Alive" and "Grizzlies Come Home" campaigns. The Mother, a female grizzly in Yellowstone, first got into trouble as a 3 years old; then again when she was 7; and finally, when she was 10—making her a 3-strikes bear. She was tagged and relocated the first 2 times, and would have been put down the third time except that she had two cubs with her. Our curator at the time saw her plight on the Internet and asked FOMZ to help raise the funds to bring her and her cubs to Big Bear Valley. Mama "Tutu" was only 200 lbs. when she was taken out of Yellowstone. She is now 26 years old, and weighs about 350 pounds. Her cubs, "Harley" and "Ayla," are both healthy and hearty with normal grizzly weights.

So many of our rescues have given us a better understanding of wildlife that we can share with others—particularly children who have never had the opportunity to see animals in the wild!

Peggy Sue the Barn Owl

Diane Roberts

Sweet Miss Peggy Sue, a baby barn owl, was brought to the Moonridge Animal Park on April 14th by a couple from Redlands, who found her on the ground. She had a severely broken leg, quite possibly from falling out of her nest. She was approximately 2 ½ months old, and she had lots and lots of yellow downy fur all over her cute little body. I took Peggy Sue home with me, took care of her, and became her Mommy. I gave her 2 whole mice each day, and she loved watching "Animal Planet" with me. I also gave her antibiotics twice a day to ward off any infection that might occur because of her badly broken leg. On April 21st, she was taken to the VCA Animal Hospital to have her broken leg amputated. I picked her up at 5:30 pm that day, and took her home with me. I placed her in her big cage in my living room at approximately 6:30 pm. She immediately stood up on her one good leg! She started hopping around and continues to do that to this day. Soooo special indeed!

I've been taking her to the zoo with me on my work days, and she is very comfortable with that. In fact, she seems to enjoy it so she can be with her human Mommy. I took her to the Photo Contest Day on May 14th,

and the photographers loved her! I held her for a while, telling her story, and then placed her on the ground. She hopped around for a bit, and then saw me sitting on the lawn nearby. She immediately hopped right over to me, and it was such a sweet moment.

She will not be able to be released back into the wild because she is a bird of prey, and birds of prey need both legs and all their talons to hunt. On Saturday, June 25th, I knew it



was time to let her spend the night in her new Park enclosure and, with a heavy heart, I left her there and went home alone. I couldn't sleep, and had to rush over to the Park first thing Sunday morning to check on her. She was fine! She seems to be content in her new enclosure, as she now begins her new life in her "Home for Life." Soon, she will be introduced to Jareth, (a male barn owl), and the others in his enclosure. Hopefully, they will all get along and live together for a very long time. This has been such a rewarding experience for me – I totally LOVE being "Miss Peggy Sue's" Mommy!



www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo

Word Search	Find:	Chipper	is a grey squ	iirrel.		
WGLDICLRKR IWEDUASCYE LRCRVCUBPD			uried 12 acorns. She has 9. How many are left to be 		RECYCLE !!!!!	
I B R U H K W G D L Z E V C T A M NA	Nocturnal Raptor	Connect t Barn	he names: Eagle	Have fu	nn with Nature Crafts!	
I STDZWAT EB FNOCTURNAL	Serval Wildlife	Gray	Hog	leaves, peb	need: paper, glue stick, twigs, obles, acorns, grass, flowers, or atural and of course, your imagi-	
E O R A P T O R U J WG O H E G D E H I	Woodchuck	Hedge	Owl	nation.	attatal and of course, your imagi	
QFV LABVDVV		Arctic	Wolf		o: Create your own art work by	
		Bald	Fox	much fun i	r items to your paper and see how it can be!	

Do YOU know?? Bald Eagles may live for more than 40 years!

<u>Circle</u> the words tl	at WHO AM !?
are spelled correct	y: may be místaken for a dog, but am not a dog. am smaller than a full grown wolf and
	you may see me in many areas as my places to roam give way to buildings and homes.
Tortuse Duck	have a rather pointed nose and my colors can be brown, gray and may be mixed with
Frog Owl	white or even a rust color. My sounds are more of a 'yip' rather than a howl. Some
Raven Wolff	Native Americans refer to me as a 'Trickster'. I am the



Howdy!!

I am Wally the Frog and I hope you will come visit my friends at the Moonridge Animal Park this summer. Remember when in the mountains to drink plenty of water and be sure to use sunscreen. This will help you stay comfortable in the high altitudes and clean air so you can enjoy your visit here. Please be sure to put your trash in the proper places so my wildlife friends don't try to eat your foods and get sick. Have a GREAT time!

Meiko says....you are like our earth...one of a kind and very special!

Visit Us on the Web

Discover More

Before your next visit to the Moonridge Animal Park, browse our website at http://www.moonridgezoo.org

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

Also background information on the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo can be reviewed, and you can read details regarding the relocation efforts to move the park.

Membership

Has your membership lapsed or would you like to join as a new member? You can renew or become a new member online at:

www.moonridgezoo.org/fomz/join.html or call 909 878-4200

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Yes! I'm wild about the Moonridge Animal Park

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