



A Publication by Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (a non-profit organization / EIN: 33-0350180)

VOLUME XXIV \$1.00 DONATION SPRING 2012

# PRINTS

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo is a non-profit 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

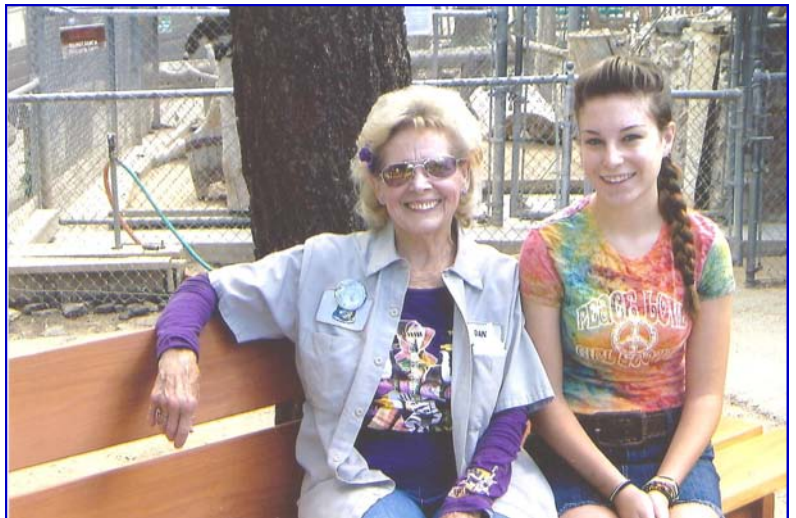
The Moonridge Animal Park is owned and operated by the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District of San Bernardino County. The park is an alpine wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center. For those animals that cannot be released, the park provides them a "Home for Life".



## Generous Girl Scout Builds Beautiful Benches for Moonridge Animal Park

Camryn Patin, from Girl Scout Troup #11264 in Alta Loma, built three awesome benches for our park last summer. It was a special project for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, and our own Diane Roberts was her special advisor. The **Anfison Lumber Company in Fontana, CA**, donated the redwood lumber that Camryn used, and we are most grateful to them for their support. When Camryn and her family delivered the benches to the zoo in late July of last year, it was a very special day. As soon as the benches were set up in front of the animal exhibits, visitors immediately flocked to them so they could sit and observe our animals. Diane was so excited that she could barely contain herself.

Diane has worked with several Girl Scout Troops on their special projects for the past 8 years, and she has developed great relationships with the girls, their Troop Leaders, and the Girl Scout Council. Troop 11264 and their Troop Leader, Heidi Cox, also built and donated to us the beautiful display cases in the Education Building a few years ago. These kinds of partnerships help forge strong bonds with our community.



Diane and Camryn on one of the new benches

## Please...Help Us Go Green...With an Electronic Issue of Paw Prints

We need your help in going "green", by going "green" we help save the planet, the environment, the animals, AND we save on postage costs. The postage and paper costs alone could generate approximately \$2,500 per printing to support the Moonridge Animal Park.

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY ELECTRONICALLY.....

All you have to do is visit our website at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/pawprints.html>





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kathy Greenwood, President FOMZ

Being Irish, St Patrick's Day is very special to me. This St. Patrick's Day however, was much, much more so. Valentine laid an egg! That's right, Valentine the blind bald eagle who came to the park in 2005 has laid her first egg. Discovered by keeper Andrew when he entered the enclosure, Valentine immediately tried to protect her egg by attacking him. Fortunately for Andrew, she could only access his pant leg, not his head.

Unfortunately the egg was left out in the elements too long and was frozen. Since eagles are capable of laying more than one egg, the keepers are watching closely for any new signs that this could be happening. In the meantime Valentine and Alaska have been provided with nesting material which they have put to good use. They are taking turns sitting on this egg and it remains to be seen whether there might be a second one coming.

The big question, of course, is whether there is a chance that the egg will be fertile. In the wild, eagles perform a rather complicated and beautiful mating ritual in the air. Since this is not possible, only time will tell.

Whatever the end result, it is wonderful to watch the pair exhibiting some of their natural instincts and parenting abilities.

As the new President of the Friends, I've had the privilege over the past few months to gain some insight in to what it takes to plan for a new animal park.

The new park, located on ten and one-half acres at the bottom of the golf course, will provide our animals with a much more natural environment. One which will allow them to live out the rest of their lives in enclosures much more suited to their needs.

The mission of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo has been and always will be to support the zoo in every way possible. Whether we provide the funds for a new cage or new carpeting or provide docents for tours and public education the goal is the same-SUPPORT. This now includes finding ways to raise the funds needed to make the park an exceptional one.

The Friends was founded by four ladies who saw that the park needed an alarm system but couldn't afford one. That need ignited a passion to do whatever they could to improve the lives of the injured, orphaned and confiscated animals living out their days in this wildlife sanctuary.

That passion has been sustained over the years by you. Either as a member or a contributor, your support is invaluable in our growth. We sincerely appreciate your interest and continued involvement in our cause. Stay tuned. There's exciting news to come.



Wow! Have you seen the newly remodeled Gift Shop? It looks fantastic. Gale & Dean Nichols, Kathy & Mike Greenwood, Cheryl & Ross Moore, and Bill Treadwell took it upon themselves to remove the merchandise; gut the entire room; and install beautiful white shelving and paneling. The new display really showcases our items for sale. Remember, all proceeds from the Gift Shop go back to support the Moonridge Animal Park. The old shelving was donated to Doves.



The Gift Shop, stripped down to bare walls

# Tom Miller, Master Zoosman

*By Bill Young*

Tom Miller is one man that you're probably never met at the Moonridge Animal Park, but his work at the Zoo can be seen everywhere.

So what is a Kansas farm boy doing at a mountain-top Zoo? Well, he's doing just about everything that needs to be



done. After all, he's a Master Plumber, a Master Electrician, a General Contractor, and a personal friend of Cascade, one of our Mountain Lions... and the Kansas farm boy comes out in him when he's driving the tractor to move snow, zoopoo, building material, etc.

One of the little known stories is Tom's colorful background before moving to Big Bear Lake. Tom was wounded "a couple of times" while serving our country as a Navy SEAL. Can that be true? Nice Ol' Tom was a Navy SEAL? Tom doesn't brag much, but I'll bet he's got some interesting stories to tell.

And when Tom is not in the seat of the Zoo's tractor, or swinging a hammer, or building a new Wolf enclosure, he's riding his Harley Davidson bike in all kinds of weather, and bowling very high scores at the local Bowling Barn. "Is there nothing he can't do?"

But the one story that resonates with us all is Tom's love for Cascade, one of our Mt. Lions. Tom isn't sure why Cascade befriended him, but on Tom's first day at the Zoo, Cascade started "talking" to Tom... Mt. Lion "talk" consists of purrs, chirps, and little growls.



Tom's been around animals all of his life, but Cascade's attention grabbed his devotion and respect immediately. Here is Tom's tribute "tat" to Cascade. Do you know anyone else that wears ink of their favorite Mt. Lion?



## Moonridge Animal Park Wish List

The following is a partial list of items that are greatly needed. If you would like to make a donation, or purchase any of these items, please contact the FOMZ at 909-878-4200. Your donations are tax deductible. A complete list of needed items is on our website.

\*Pupperoni    \* Large Milk Bones

\* Kitchen knives    \*WD-40`

\*Cutting boards    \* Coconuts    \* Fig Newtons

\*Leashes & collars—all sizes

\*Astroturf    \*Food storage tubs

\* Cat box pans for foot baths

\*Large first aid kits    \*Wheel barrows

\*Extension cords    \*Flashlights    \* Batteries

\*Rope, chain, zip tires & wire

\*Duct tape    \*Kong dog toys

\*Ziplock bags

\*Stainless steel bowls



# BLUES FOR THE ZOO

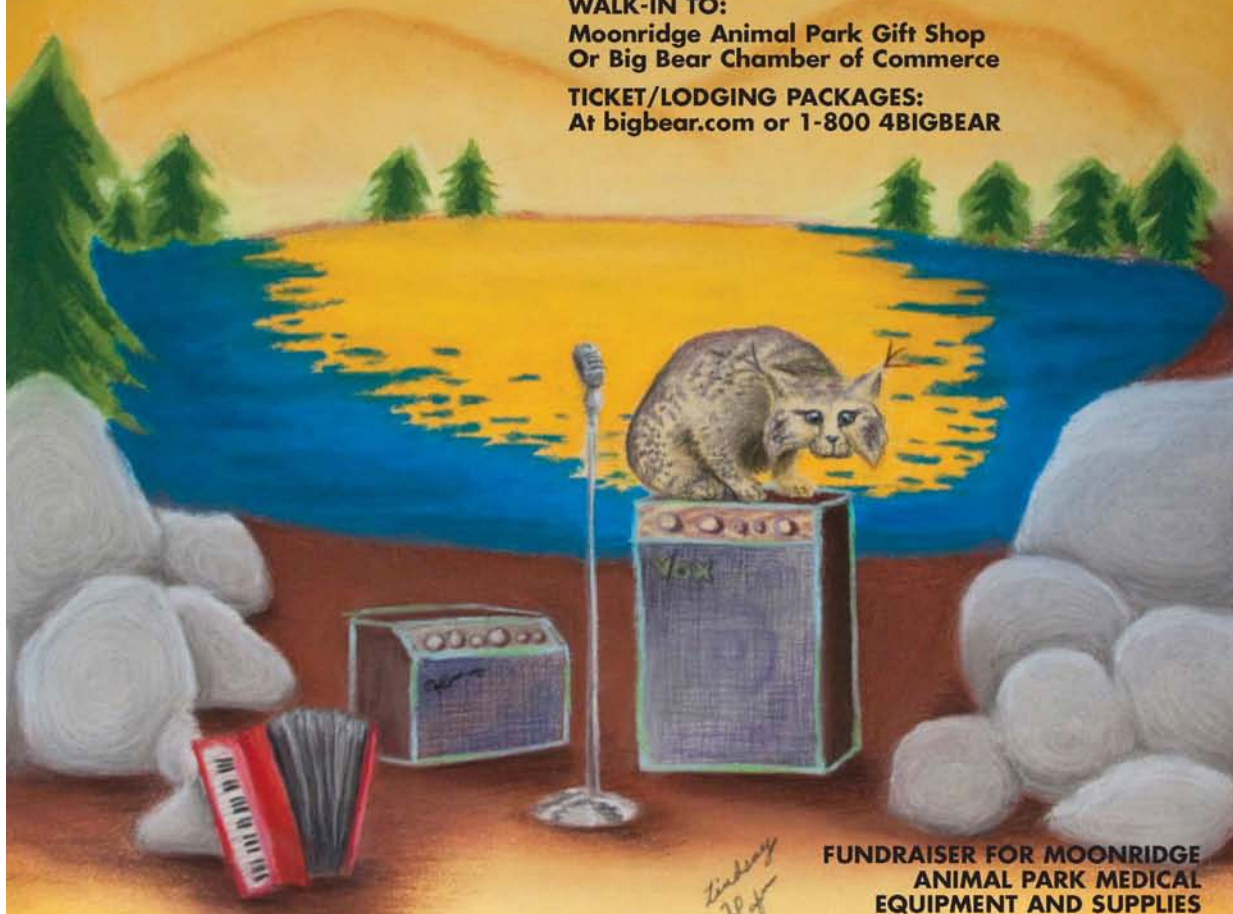
SAVING WILDLIFE SINCE 1959

**TICKETS: \$30 ADVANCE \$35 Day of Show**  
On Sale June 1st

**ON-LINE AT:**  
[www.moonridgezoo.org/BluesConcert](http://www.moonridgezoo.org/BluesConcert)

**WALK-IN TO:**  
Moonridge Animal Park Gift Shop  
Or Big Bear Chamber of Commerce

**TICKET/LODGING PACKAGES:**  
At [bigbear.com](http://bigbear.com) or 1-800 4BIGBEAR



FUNDRAISER FOR MOONRIDGE  
ANIMAL PARK MEDICAL  
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

**CJ CHENIER and the Red Hot Louisiana Band**  
**JIMMY THACKERY and The Drivers**

plus

**ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2012 – ON THE BEACH**

SWIM BEACH OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER – BIG BEAR LAKE, CA  
MUSIC 3:00PM – 7:00PM • GATES OPEN 1:00PM

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BEACH CHAIRS & BLANKETS WELCOME • BRING YOUR SWIM SUIT! • NO COOLERS PLEASE

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CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE, BIG BEAR GRIZZLY, KBHR-FM

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Illustration by Lindsay Hufen • Graphics by Robbie Box/Mountain Creative Services

# *Christy McGiveron* *Navarre's friend and foe* by Bill Young

When Master Keeper Christy goes anywhere near the adult wolf enclosures, Navarre goes on the defensive... hackles up, tongue-moistened teeth gleaming, lips rolled up, and tail straight up in the air. And Navarre means business too. He would like to eliminate Christy. Could this be real or just a fierce-looking bluff? After all, the other animals in the zoo love Christy, and always have.

It was 10 years ago that Navarre came to our little zoo. He and Christy and Debbie were the best of friends for several years. However, if you've seen the reaction that Navarre has towards Christy now, you wonder if they've ever been friends. When Navarre came to Moonridge Animal Park in late 2002, he was only months old. Debbie put him in the same enclosure as the older half-sisters Nova and Wakiza. All three Gray wolves came from a movie industry breeder.

As you can see from these 2002 pictures, Navarre was about 1/2 of his current size. Christy quickly established herself as the pack leader when Navarre arrived. How do you establish yourself as Alpha to a large male wolf pup? You pin him to the ground whenever he shows any desire to be the boss. Can't you just see him glaring at Christy in a half-play move? Then "whack" he's upside down and pinned to the ground with Christy staring him in the eye. Sounds kind of rough, but that's exactly what needed to happen. Young male wolves completely understand that action.



easily now. Within several months, Christy stopped going into the wolf enclosure altogether. Her absence

So, for the next couple of years, everyone was happy with the hierarchy. Then as Christy grew more pregnant with her unborn daughter, she became more cautious about entering the wolf enclosure with the three full grown Gray wolves. She was still the dominant one, but Christy couldn't bend down to pin Navarre to the ground very

opened the door for Navarre to become the dominant one. Just as in nature, when the Alpha leaves the pack, another male is ready to assume the job.

A couple of months later when Christy returned with her new baby daughter, she tried to reclaim her Alpha position. Nope, that just wasn't going to happen. Navarre was the boss now and no one was going to take his throne from him without a fierce battle. Naturally, Christy wasn't in a position to do battle then, and the stand-off continues to this day.

And Yes, much to our surprise, Navarre is the father of the 9 wolf puppies born here at Moonridge Animal Park in April 2009... but Christy didn't get one of the cigars...



## **TRIVIA:**



Thirty (30) bald eagle feathers = one penny in weight.

A bald eagle has a total of 7000 feathers which together weigh 1 pound; that is 437.8 feathers per ounce.

The federal fine for possession of a bald eagle feather without a permit is now \$100,000.



# Norman's not a bad guy...

*Bill Young*

Sure, he weighs 2,000 pounds... and sure, he can pick up a small car with his little toe, but he's really not a bad guy. OK, so he's been knocked down with drugs in these pictures... but you can still see the love that Debbie and Christy have for our beloved Norman. And the picture with Christy and Tim show just how large our favorite Wood Bison is.



It was always difficult for Docents and Patrons (and some Keepers) to tell Norman and Kiowa apart... they were half-brothers born here at the Moonridge Animal Park to the same Mom in 1992. Their mother was on loan from the San Diego Zoo.

Here is a picture of Debbie Richardson (Curator), and Christy McGiveron (Master Keeper), with Norman about 14 years ago... and Yes, there were some knock-down drugs involved with Norman.



**Norman or Kiowa?** There is a wonderful Docent here named Carmen Prouty. Everyone loves Carrmen... except Norman. For some reason when Carmen was around, he would charge the enclosure fence and huff and puff and snort and paw the ground when he saw Carrmen. And Carmen said that his action was pretty unsettling each time he'd do that. Well, if we needed to determine which big Bison twin was Norman, we called on Carmen to come near the enclosure... it was immediately known to all which big bovine was Norman by the cloud of dust heading towards Carmen! By the way, Carmen hates this story but gave me the OK to tell it.

Norman lost his enclosure-mate, Kiowa, a few months ago. We all wondered if Norman (official name is Taza) would miss Kiowa. Well, it doesn't seem to have bothered Norman too much. Kiowa, rest in Peace.

## ***What's New at our Zoo?***

Norman, the Wood Bison, has a new enclosure to protect him from the weather.

The new possum exhibit is done, and Thelma is in it.

An artic fox, which was found on a rooftop in Beverly Hills, is now a resident of the Moonridge Animal Park.

The new Mews has been completed. For those of you who might be unfamiliar with the term, Mews is a British term which describes cages for birds, usually hawks. Our Mews is located down at the bottom of the park, on the way to the amphitheater.

Spring is here, and the Department of Fish and Game is once again reminding people to avoid handling any baby animals that they may encounter. Many people falsely assume that baby animals that they see need rescue. This is usually not the case – the adult animals often need to leave their young while they go out to search for food. In 2009, 537 fawns were turned into California rehabilitation facilities by well-meaning members of the public. Many of these fawns were healthy and should not have been disturbed. Disease is another reason that wild animals should not be handled. Wild animals can transmit diseases that can be contracted by humans, including rabies and tularemia, and also carry ticks, fleas and lice. The Department also reminds the public that wildlife belongs in the wild. As wildlife experts say: "If you care, leave them there."



**We are on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo](http://www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo)

<b>MOON RIDGE ANIMAL PARK SPECIAL EVENTS 2012</b>	
<b>DATES &amp; TIMES</b>	All special events are subject to <b>weather permitting</b> . All special events in the park, except Ice Cream Safari, have no additional costs--regular <a href="#">admission</a> applies.
<b>June 9</b> 10am - 4pm	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST:</b> This year, <a href="#">New Contest Rules</a> . You do not have to come to the park on June 9 to be a participant. However, this will be a special photo op day of the animals. Regular park admission fees required to enter the park. For the <a href="#">Friends of Moonridge Zoo</a> members, entry is free.
<b>July 7</b> 10am - 3pm	<b>OLD TIME BEAR COUNTRY FAIR:</b> Enjoy country fair activities for the whole family. Includes face painting, jewelry making, bear toss, and bear roaring contest. Also pie eating contest between our 3 black bears--who eats their pie the fastest? For the <a href="#">Friends of Moonridge Zoo</a> members, entry is free. Call (909)878-4200 for more information.
<b>August 4</b> 1pm - 7pm	<b>BLUES FOR THE ZOO CONCERT:</b> To be held outdoors at "Swim Beach" at Big Bear Lake.
<b>September 1</b> 11am - until ice cream runs out	<b>ICE CREAM SAFARI:</b> Tour the Zoo and enjoy delicious scoops of ice cream at five special stations throughout the park. Additional price to participate in Ice Cream Safari is \$5.00 per person. For the <a href="#">Friends of Moonridge Zoo</a> members, entry is free. For more information call (909) 878-4200.
<b>September 8</b> 9:30am - 5pm	<b>RUN FOR THE GRIZZLIES:</b> 17th Annual Harley Bike Run fundraiser for our Grizzly Bears. Open to the public and all bikes welcome! Poker Run around the Lake with 7 stops including our animal park. For more <a href="#">Information Background and History of event</a> , visit <a href="http://www.moonridgezoo.org/events">www.moonridgezoo.org/events</a> . There is no pre-registration.
<b>October 20</b> 11am - 3pm	<b>WOLF AWARENESS DAY:</b> We dispel myths about wolves and inform everyone of their importance within the circle of life. Have a fun day at the zoo with fun activities for the kids. For the <a href="#">Friends of Moonridge Zoo</a> members, entry is free. For more information, call (909) 878-4200.
<b>October 27</b> 1pm - 5pm	<b>BOO IN THE ZOO:</b> Bring your children (and yourself) dressed in costumes to this special afternoon of Tricks 'n Treat-- Visit The Graveyard, Pumpkin Patch, Electric Dungeon of Doom, Witches Brew, Scarecrow Land, Witches Lair, and Goblins throughout the park. Enjoy seeing the park animals receive their Halloween treats! Win a prize for best costume(s) in several categories. For the <a href="#">Friends of Moonridge Zoo</a> members, entry is free. For more information call (909) 878-4200.

## Our Little Bobcat Grows Up



Shakespeare, the little bobcat that was found in a back yard in Redlands last spring, is getting to be quite the big boy! When he came to the Moonridge Animal Park last spring, his eyes were

barely open, and Christy had to bottle feed him. Now, as he approaches his first birthday, he has his own enclosure. He continues to delight our guests with his antics.



## 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 of 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 <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/join.html> or call 909 878-4200

Editor / Layout.....Sue Morrissey  
Contributors..... Diane Roberts, Bill Young, Gale Nichols (Thanks for the new masthead design), Kathy Greenwood  
Publisher.....Big Bear Printing

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

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to adopt an animal for \$25

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

For: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail form & check to:  
FOMZ, PO Box 2557, Big Bear City, CA 92314**

Return Service Requested

[www.moonridgezoo.org](http://www.moonridgezoo.org)

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