



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

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PRINTS

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo by inspiring understanding, respect and environmentally responsible action for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat through: public education, volunteer support, fundraising and development, and key project financial support.

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



Meet Two of our Longtime Residents....



My name is Alaska. I am a male bald eagle born in 1986. I came to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo (formerly the Moonridge Animal Park) in 1992 from the Woodland Park Zoo in WA. I was found with a gunshot wound. I am blind in one eye due to an infection. The bald eagle our national bird and the largest predatory raptor in North America. We have a wingspan of 7 to 8 feet. We are fish eating birds

and we mate for life. Bald eagles are winter visitors of Big Bear Lake. Here our keen eyesight lets us spot fish in the lake from up to a mile away. We usually leave in March or April. Our average lifespan in the wild is up to 20 to 40 years and in captivity 50 years has been reported. We are sacred to Native Americans.



My name is Valentine, and I am a female bald eagle. I came to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo in 2005. Due to cataracts, I am virtually blind. Even though I cannot see, I recognize the voices of my keepers when they bring my food. When I get excited, I flap my wings and jump into the air and shriek. I know the visitors love to watch me do that. In the summer, Alaska and I live in harmony with the many red-eared slider turtles who share our enclosure. "Bald" is an old English word for white and the white feathers on our heads only develop in our 5th or 6th year. (Continued on page 5.....)

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.....

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kathy Greenwood, President FOBBAZ

It's hard to believe that fall is here! The zoo is slowly changing from its' beautiful vibrant carpet of flowers to soft warm autumnal colors. What's more, we are already seeing signs of winter. The wolves and mule deer have started displaying their winter coats and the grizzlies are eating pine needles, a method they use to slow down their digestive system. Both of these are good indications of things to come.

While most of the zoo inhabitants take winter in their stride it can present some serious challenges to our dedicated keepers. So naturally we are hoping that these signs might not be a true forecast. Time will tell.

Many zoo visitors express their concerns by asking: "What do you do with the animals when it snows?" It's amazing how many people think that the animals are taken inside. It's a perfect opportunity to teach the public that wildlife is simply that--Wild! With the exception of a few animals such as the reptiles, Speedy the Sulcata Tortoise or Cinnamon, the African serval the rest are very well equipped for inclement weather and many actually enjoy it.

Another question being asked: "When will we see the new zoo?" This one is a little more difficult. Reese Troublefield, General Manager of the Recreation and Parks District states that the next step is the public comment period which occurs in December. Following that, the County Board of Supervisors will have all the information they need to move forward. I'm hopeful that we will have more details by the next Paw Prints issue .

We have taken the first steps to initiate our Capital Campaign which is designed to raise the funds needed to make the new zoo an exceptional one. Fundraising in the form of grants and sponsorships is an art. Therefore, we are working with St. Somewhere Marketing to get the ball rolling. They were chosen because the staff is animal oriented and they are as passionate as we are in our cause. The other reason is they are a "virtual" company-no office expenses, they do business mainly by phone and computer which means very low overhead. In the future months we are hoping that, with their help we will be successful in getting out the message to foundations and corporations that we are "the little zoo that could" and we need their help.

Rest in Peace, our beloved Aslan

Our lovely Canadian Lynx, Aslan, passed away last month after a brief illness. Aslan came to us in 2006, when he was about a year old. He came from the California Living Museum in Bakersfield, CA because he could not adapt to the hot weather there and needed a cool alpine environment to thrive. Canadian Lynx, as the name implies, are native to Canada and the Northern U.S. states. He especially loved the snow here in Big Bear. His huge paws and long legs helped him in the snow. He loved his keepers, and particularly when they brought him his favorite treats, like pumpkins and toys he could play with. Canadian Lynx can live up to about 15 years in captivity, but their life span is much shorter in the wild. Trapping continues to be the major threat to the lynx (for the fur) as well as loss of living space due to home and business development. One odd note about Aslan: although he was examined by veterinarians on several occasions, it was not until his death that it was determined that "he" was really a "she". We will all miss him/her dearly.



The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is Open Year 'Round

(Weather Permitting)

Summer Hours: Memorial Weekend (May)
thru Labor Day Weekend (September) 10:00 am – 5:00
pm with daily animal feeding tours at 3:00 pm
(excluding Wednesdays).

Note: the zoo is closed on Christmas Day
Admission prices: Ages 11 – 59 \$9; Seniors \$6; Chil-
dren under 3 are free. Free gate entry for members of
the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

Grounded Eagle Feathers

Bill Young, FOBBAZ



Ever wonder what our Zoo Keepers do with the loose eagle feathers that have fallen to the ground?

The larger feathers are gathered up soon after the feather hits the ground, and stuck in one of the ropes on the upright poles in the eagle flight. And then, periodically, the Keepers box up the feathers and ship them to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Sacramento, CA. It is these FWS folks who distribute feathers and other eagle parts to pre-qualified Native Americans. The law that supports this strict control is The Bald Eagle protection act of 1940 as amended in 1962 to include Golden eagles... and then in 1994, President Clinton, reformed the law, and moved the National Repository to the present location near Denver.



The average bald Eagle has 5000-7000 feathers... including 10 primary feathers and 13 secondary feathers plus thousands of downy small feathers. Our adult Bald eagles, Alaska and Valentine, and our adult Golden eagles, Aries and Lulubelle, will molt about once per year usually in the summer and fall... but the interesting thing is that it's not a complete molt. They don't lose all of their flight feathers at the same time; rather, matching flight feathers from each side are generally lost at separate times, so the birds are never left flightless. By the way, there are typically 5 different kinds of plumage during the 5 years it takes for the birds to reach adulthood: Juvenile molt, "white-belly-1 and -2", and "Adult transition" molt... all of our eagles are well past that first 5 years of pre-adulthood.

Several patrons in our Zoo have told me that it's OK to hand out eagle feathers to any Native American that asks for one... wow, that couldn't be farther from the truth!! Only pre-qualified Native Americans can receive eagle feathers, and the only people who can decide who gets the feathers are the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).



One little twist to eagle feather possession... The U.S. Army has a special division called the 101st Airborne Division... aka the "Screaming Eagles"... any soldier who has served with the Screaming Eagles can possess ONE eagle feather as recognition of their service. Pretty cool, eh?

By the way, the law allows for fines from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for the unauthorized possession of eagle "parts" including feathers. Bald eagle feathers found on the ground are either to be left there and reported, or promptly turned in to federal authorities such as National Park or Fish and Wildlife representatives, a local Zoo, or even police.



What's New at the Zoo?



Reese Troublefield gave an update on progress with the new zoo at the general meeting in September. Although progress is slower than we had all hoped, things are moving along. Certification of the plans are expected anytime now. Public meetings to get input from the community will follow, probably in December or January. The County Board of Supervisors are expected to vote on the matter in late January. If the environmental review is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, then grading on the site can begin next July, and actual building can begin in September. We are anticipating a 12—18 month construction period, dependent upon the weather.

Our Curator, Debbie Richardson, had Aslan's old enclosure fixed up for our little bobcat Shakespeare. He is so active and playful, she thought he would love a bigger enclosure. Unfortunately, he did not like the move and was terribly frightened by the change in his environment. The new enclosure was next door to the mountain lions, and they may have scared him. After just a couple days of not eating and hiding in his crate, Debbie moved him back to his old home. He immediately perked up, ate a big bowl of food, and settled back into his normal routine.



Norman the wood bison is doing much better due to his new hay and new medications.

The "Golf for the Grizzlies" golf tournament has been postponed until late April 2013. It was decided that it just wasn't practical to hold the event in the middle of the busy holiday season. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, as well as spots for golfing foursomes.

The annual AZAD conference, which was held in Los Angeles this Fall, was a big success. A group of about 45 attendees made a day trip to Big Bear. They visited the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, and rode the sky chair to the top of Snow Summit for a BBQ lunch.

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Our FOBBAZ volunteers turned in 10,215 volunteer hours during the period of October 1st, 2011 through September 30th 2012. They deserve a big round of applause!

The 2031 Big Bear Alpine Zoo calendar is now available for sale in the Gift Shop.

Debbie, our curator, recently began a Wolf Observation program. Keepers and a group of specially trained docents are observing and recording the behavior of our wolf "pups", as they vie for dominance in their pack.



Our annual Wolf Awareness day, which is designed to dispel myths and rumors about wolves was held this fall. This photos shows Christy and Blair (one of the wolf "pups") displaying his canines.

You Can Help With Just a Click

Our mailing list for subscribers to Paw Prints continues to grow, which is a very good thing. In fact, we have almost 5000 readers worldwide. The problem, though, is that the vast majority of our readers still receive the paper copy mailed to them, and this is expensive. Would you please consider trying the electronic version of Paw Prints, which would be emailed directly to your computer? You do not need any special software to view and/or print it. All the photos and graphics will appear in color on your screen, and you can make the print larger or smaller. As mentioned in the "Help us go Green" block on the cover page, you can help us save the planet, the environment, and the animals. We'll use so much less paper, and less postage and, together, we can really make a difference. Please sign up today to receive your copy electronically. If, for any reason, it doesn't work out for you; you can change back to the paper version – but at least you will have tried it. All you have to do is visit our website:

<http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/pawprints.html>

Bald Eagle Trivia Challenge—How much do you know?

1. In what year did the bald eagle become the National Emblem of the United States?
A. 1776 B. 1782 C. 1876
2. What is the length of a bald eagle's wing span?
A. 4-5 feet B. 5-6 feet C. 6-7.5 feet
3. How many talons does an eagle have on each foot?
A. 3 B. 4 C. 5
4. True or false? The beak of an eagle is almost as long as its head. T F
5. How many feathers do bald eagles have?
A. 2000 B. 5000 C. 7000
D. over 9000
6. True or false? All bald eagles have white head and tail feathers. T F
7. How long is the incubation period for an eagle egg?
A. 15-25 days B. 31-45 days C. 53-68 days
8. How old are bald eagles before they fledge, or take their first flight?
A. 4-6 weeks B. 7-8 weeks C. 9-14 weeks
9. Eagles are diurnal hunters. What does this mean?
A. They hunt during the night
B. They hunt during the day.
C. They hunt anytime—night or day.
10. A bald eagle can see a rabbit or other prey from _____ away.
A. 0.5 miles B. 1 mile C. 2 miles
11. True or false? The bald eagle appears on the Illinois State Flag. T F
12. Bald eagles usually use the same nest year after year. How heavy was the largest nest (found in Ohio)?
A. 500 pounds B. 1 ton C. 2 tons

Go to page 7 for the answers to this trivia challenge.

Alaska and Valentine Continued.....

This Spring, for the very first time, I laid an egg. I was so proud! Alaska and I guarded that egg fiercely. I even went after my keeper, Andrew, trying to protect it. I did my best to sit on it and keep it warm, and Alaska took turns with me. Alaska tried so hard to be a good father. He even kicked hay over me and the egg to make sure we stayed warm. Unfortunately, the egg did not hatch. Maybe we will be luckier next Spring. If you would like to make a donation for our new enclosure at the new zoo, you can send a check to the FOBBAZ office and specify that the funds are to go to Alaska and I. We would so appreciate it!

NOTE: The bald eagle is the only eagle unique to North America, and was once a common sight throughout the United States and Canada. These powerful fliers can swoop out of the sky while hunting, while remaining in control as they descend at 100 miles per hour. Yet, despite the strength and power of these amazing birds, the entire species was nearly wiped out in the lower 48 states by the pesticide DDT, which caused birth defects and weakened their eggshells. Downgraded from “endangered” to “threatened” in 1995, the bald eagle is still fully protected in the United States.



Aslan,

Oh my, what a gift your earth walk has been to
each of us

One of a kind you are

A true spokesperson for your species
Your beauty cannot be put into human words

The time you spent with us has taught us much
May we humans see that we owe your kind a fair
way of life

You were brought here because your family is dy-
ing

And we humans can help you and yours along this
way of survival

Your time with us has touched many
A personality such as your would do well among
humans
For here we could understand a way of oneness
A path of getting along no matter our differences

To all who have seen you
Spent time with you
So it is
Each shall know

That we are all different
Yet we are all one
As Diane fed you
You became one with her

These lessons you gave
Are for us to learn
We may be different
But we are all one

May your journey to your spirit lodge be swift

Pure
Beautiful
And one of peace

Aslan

You speak for those who do not speak the human
language

May we one day leave our desire to control nature
And see that without your kind
We will have no life at all

Humans are a part of nature
Yet we seem to set ourselves 'apart' from that
Here we can learn from you
That our own lives will be long

Your keepers loved you
So did we
Take this with you
And always be with us

You have touched our hearts
May we have touched yours
Harmony is a way of peace
You have taught this well

Sidanelai (we are all family)
3 Hawks



Bald Eagle Egg Trivia ANSWER KEY

1. In what year did the bald eagle become the National Emblem of the United States? **Answer: B. 1782**

It was selected because it is a species unique to North America. Ben Franklin wanted the wild turkey to be the national bird, because he thought the eagle was of bad moral character.

2. What is the length of a bald eagle's wingspan? **Answer: C. 6 - 7.5 feet**

An eagle's wings are made up of three types of feathers. Primary feathers are found at the tips and can be spread out like fingers on a hand. Secondary feathers found along the back of the wing can be moved up and down to control the amount of drag. Covert feathers add thickness to the front of the wing so air moves faster over the top of the wing.

3. How many talons does an eagle have on each foot? **Answer: B. 4**

An eagle has four talons on each foot. Three of the talons face forward and one faces towards the back.

4. TRUE or FALSE? The beak of an eagle is almost as long as its head. **Answer: TRUE**

An eagle's beak is designed to help them tear meat. The hook at the end is used to pull and rip animal flesh of its favorite foods.

5. How many feathers do bald eagles have? **Answer: C. 7000**

This number includes the wing feathers as well as the contour and down feathers that cover the head and body.

6. TRUE or FALSE? All bald eagles have white head and tail feathers. **Answer: FALSE**

Young bald eagles, called immatures, do not have white head and tail feathers. These feathers do not appear until the age of 4-5 years.

7. How long is the incubation period for an eagle egg? **Answer: B. 31 - 45 days**

Eagles lay from one to three eggs usually on separate days. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs and turning them about once every hour.

8. How old are bald eagles before they fledge, or take their first flight? **Answer: C. 9-14 weeks**

Most eaglets, or baby eagles, fledge around 12 weeks of age.

9. Eagles are diurnal hunters. What does this mean?

Answer: B. They hunt during the day.

10. A bald eagle can see a rabbit or other prey from _____ away. **Answer: B. 1 mile**

Eagles have a higher concentration of cones on their retina giving them excellent resolving power!

11. TRUE or FALSE? The bald eagle appears on the Illinois State Flag. **Answer: TRUE**

It is also found on the Illinois State Seal!

12. Bald eagles usually use the same nest year after year. How heavy was the largest nest found in Ohio?

Answer: C. 2 tons

Eagles add to their nests year after year. This super-sized nest was over 9 feet wide and had been used for over 34 years!

Winter Wish List

Donations of supplies and other items are always needed and appreciated, but never more than as the weather turns colder. There are many inexpensive items that the zoo animals and keeper could really use. If you would like to make a donation or purchase any of these items, please contact the Big Bear Alpine Zoo at 909-878-4200. Your donation is tax deductible.

- Sheets, blankets, and towels
- Heat pads for infant warmth \$15-\$30
- 40 # bag of Rolled oats (at feed stores) \$15
- Gift cards for animal food purchases from Vons, Stater Brothers, Petco
- Freezer storage bags-large size zip lock
- Bag of mealworms or boxes of crickets \$13-\$18
Feeds and treats for a lot of animals!
- Esbilac and KMR \$25
- Milk Bones
- Pupperoni (the wolf pups favorite treat)
- Bird seed
- Gold Fish for feedings
- Bones/honey/molasses \$4-\$15
- Kitty Litter \$7-\$10
- Big Knuckle bones for large cats
- Ziplock bags to store fish etc.
- Fish for food
- Reptile heat pads and lights
- Ceramic heat bulbs, regular heat bulbs, and ceramic base fixtures for the heat bulbs
- Many of the animals love berries, but cherries are not allowed because the pit contains cyanide



We are on Facebook

www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo

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

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Yes! I'm wild about the BIG BEAR ALPINE ZOO

Would like to donate \$ _____ for relocation

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Would like to adopt an animal for \$25

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

For: _____
(name of person)

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