

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXVIII WINTER 2020

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's VISION is to be a valued nonprofit, whose cooperative support will be a key partner to ensure the success of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's MISSION is to support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo by inspiring understanding, respect, and environmentally responsible action for the stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat through conservation, education, volunteer support, and fundraising.



We're Baa-aCK!

After a lapse of a few years, FOBBAZ is putting together a new version of *Paw Prints*, our e-newsletter. We lost our beloved editor, Sue Morrissey, two years ago, and were shell-shocked. Now we're trying to pick up where she left off—a mighty big task! Please know we have not forgotten you, as you are the people who enable us help support the zoo!

We Love Our Members!

Many and profound thanks to the Board of Directors, Docents, and our Office Manager for their generous contributions to this publication.

Laurey Haviland, Editor

Thank you for helping us "go green" by joining our online service!

IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.....

Please send us an email at

fobbaz@fobbaz.org

President's Message

Welcome to 2020! As we move together into this New Year, we look forward to another year of supporting this unique place, the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, and to the opening of the new Big Bear Alpine Zoo. We hope you will be able to attend some the events listed in the calendar and described throughout this newsletter. Such events include Bear Awareness Day (May), Bowling for the Zoo (June), Flashlight Safari (October), Wolf Awareness Day (October), Boo in the Zoo (October), and, my personal favorite, the Ice Cream Safari (August). Hope to see you at the Zoo!

John Sweeney

FOBBAZ President

Who's Who on the FOBBAZ Board . . .

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo is elected every year in May. The newly-elected people serve (without voting rights) with the already-seated people so as to observe and learn. The "new" board is then installed in September. They meet once a month, generally on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) at the FOBBAZ office, and board meetings are open to all members of FOBBAZ.

This year's board consists of the following: John Sweeney, President; Kathy Greenwood, Vice-President; Laurey Haviland, Chief Operating Officer; Ariel Keupper and Kathy Greenwood, Co-Treasurers; Kitty Backus and Sharon Johnson, Co-Secretaries; Vicki Cummings, Eloise Lepore, and Joanne Norton (Directors at Large).

. . . and an invitation!

✓ It Out . . .

Our FOBBAZ Facebook and Instagram pages are up and running! To keep up with all things FOBBAZ, please go to both pages, and follow at "Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo"... and thanks for your interest and support!



Meet Aurora Borealis, the zoo's Arctic Fox. She's somewhat shy, but very sweet and purely gorgeous!

FOBBAZ

Calendar of Events



*Reduce, Re-use, Re-purpose,
Recycle, Respect at*

Earth Day—April 18th



Bask in their Beauty at

Bear Awareness Day—May 23rd



Help purchase an Ultrasound Machine at

Bowling for the Zoo—June 7th



Five Fabulous Flavors at

Ice Cream Safari—August 15th



Wander Downtown Big Bear at the

Village Fundraising Walk—Sept. 5th



Meet the nocturnal ambassadors during

**Flashlight Safari—all Friday &
Saturday evenings of October**



Have a howling good time with us at

Wolf Awareness—October 24th



Come in costume for

Boo at the Zoo—October 31st



Meet The Man at

Santa Claws—December 12th & 19th



NOTE: All dates are tentative. Please go to the FOBBAZ website (fobbaz@fobbaz.org) and check on the first page for information prior to the event.

Did You Know . . .

. . . you can **ADOPT** our animals! Yep, that's right. Unfortunately, you can't take them home, but it's lovely to go to the zoo and talk to them any time you'd like!

There are several levels and dollar amounts for you to select, and with each adoption you'll receive an Adoption Certificate and a picture of your new family member. You may even adopt for another person—great birthday or holiday gifts.

The money you give helps all the animals by providing necessary and customized diets and medications.

Just go to our website (fobbaz@fobbaz.org) to get all the particulars.

HERE IS JUST A SAMPLING OF OUR ADOPTABLE ANIMALS



Vinnie the raccoon is always happy to chat with you. He's named after Vincent van Gogh (left ear missing), though his "starry night" doesn't quite come up to scratch! Raccoons are highly intelligent and have a manual dexterity that comes close to that of apes. Their long delicate fingers easily open trash cans and doors.

Luna (ringtail) was rescued in 2011 and brought to the zoo. He is omnivorous, but seems to prefer meat—from mice to birds to insects, though he will indulge in eggs, fruits, and vegetation. Ringtails were kept as pets by miners in Big Bear during the gold rush era, and are excellent climbers who can maneuver cliffs and ledges by ricocheting off the walls. These nocturnal animals are sometimes called ringtail cats, but that is a misnomer, for they are part of the raccoon family, and sport long, beautifully "ringed" tails.



Our snow leopard sisters, Asha and Shanti, came to BBAZ in 2014 at two years of age. They were born into the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, **Species Survival Program**. Because they were born with a congenital eye anomaly, their right eyes were removed to prevent infection and further complications. This specie is uber-alpine, living from 11,000 to 20,000 feet in the Himalayas.











The County Appreciates FOBBAZ!

The County of San Bernardino Special Districts Department, as stewards of the Big Bear Recreation and Park District, is pleased to continue our partnership with the Friends of Big Bear Alpine Zoo. Over the last nine months, I have noticed true collaboration between the County and the Friends in restructuring our processes and uniting our goals. Friends and Zoo staff continue to work together to inspire thousands of visitors annually through their education and outreach programs. My hat goes off to those dedicated to furthering the Zoo's mission to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned wildlife. Keep up the great work and here's to another great year!

Submitted by
Trevor Leja
Deputy Director
Special Districts

www.SBCounty.gov

Do You Want To...

-  have fun?
-  make friends?
-  help animals?
-  promote conservation?
-  make a positive difference in our world?
-  foster stewardship of our mountain and its wildlife?

Our docents enjoy all of the above experiences as they support the zoo.

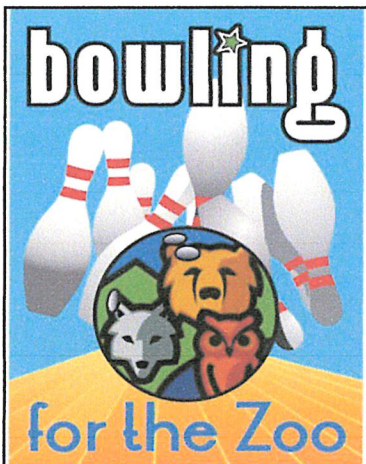
Please consider becoming a docent with FOBBAZ.



You may visit our website for an on-line application
at fobbaz@fobbaz.org



Our Next Big Fundraiser!



We LOVE to bowl! We LOVE to help the zoo!

This year's proceeds from FOBBAZ's fundraiser will purchase a much-needed portable ultrasound machine. Ultrasound imaging provides vital diagnostic information when determining the health status of our many geriatric animals. It offers a less invasive means of diagnosis and will further enhance the zoo's overall commitment to evidence-based animal care. This machine costs \$25,000 at a minimum, so in advance, we appreciate all the support you can give us.

Sunday, June 7th, at the Bowling Barn in Big Bear Lake, CA

Go to the FOBBAZ website (fobbaz@fobbaz.org) for further information.

Curator's Page, Winter 2020

ANIMAL CARE

Motown the grey fox:

We are still monitoring blood work and urine, checking his glucose and ketone levels. He is currently on a restricted diet and we are training him for urine collection.

Pippin has a small, benign mass in his ear, which is causing chronic ear infections. During Dr. Loudis's next visit, he will be debriding the mass (the full removal is too invasive).

Our Nomad handheld dental X-ray unit and ScanX processor, are up and running. Both machines were donations. We plan to get dental rads on Pippin at the next exam.

FACILITIES

We have a new maintenance person who started last week. Please say hello to Robert Maloney, the next time you visit the zoo. Robert is a local with a plethora of construction and maintenance experience.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

Since Big Bear Lake Bottled Water Company is no longer operating, we have moved on to boxed water. This allows us to practice what we preach—the fourth R in our “reduce, reuse, recycle” bit- REFUSE. Boxed water is a sustainable company that uses a compostable and recyclable alternative to plastic bottles. Their product is 100% recyclable and breaks down within 3-4 weeks instead of 200 years. Boxedwater.com also contributes to the planting of trees (already 600,000 trees planted).

REHAB

After a couple of months in rehab with a wing injury, we successfully released a merlin back into the wild.

☛ Please be on the lookout for an extensive Curator's Report, which will be sent in a separate e-mail.

This is the House Zoo

that Jack YOU Built!

The Zoo relocation project has been a long-time collaborative effort of the County Board of Supervisors, Special Districts Department, Park District Administration, Zoo Administration, and Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo. The approved location will enhance the facility in hundreds of ways, and most specifically improve size and quality of inhabitant enclosures, health and welfare of each animal, rehabilitation and release capability, facility awareness, education, and overall visitorship. We hope you'll join us by supporting this exciting endeavor.

(from—<https://bigbearzoo.org/building-of-new-park/>)

It's nearing completion—and we can hardly contain ourselves! After many years of hard work, creative thinking, donations, and dedication, the new site is almost ready to receive the animals. The county officially broke ground at this location in May of 2016, and work has continued apace, in between upside-down dump trucks, supply delays due to hurricanes, heavy snows, and assorted other unforeseen issues!



Big Bear Alpine Zoo new site: administration, ticket, gift shop building (looking southwest).



Big Bear Alpine Zoo new site: Black Bear enclosure (looking south). Note viewing window on right.

Strategic Plan Completed

The Friends have hired 36-year resident and former City Manager Michael Perry to complete a Strategic Plan. The Plan includes Vision and Mission Statements, Core Values, Priorities for the Future and an Implementation Plan. Michael and his wife Tanya interviewed all 9 Board members, 7 docents, the Curator and 2 lead Zoo Keepers before drafting the Plan. The Board met with Michael and Tanya in a workshop setting on January 22 to review and give their input on the Draft Plan. The Final Plan will be presented to the Board in March.

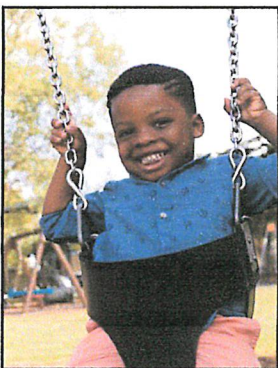
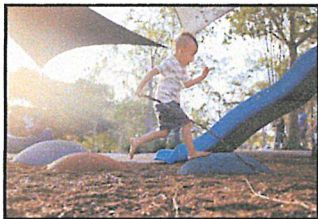
Submitted by

Michael Perry

California Collaborative Solutions

Post Office Box 706

Big Bear City, CA 92314



We're Not Just Playing Around!

Your Membership money has been, and continues to be, put to great use! FOBBAZ has paid close to \$95,000 for the playground being built at the new site, complete with our own signage, three picnic tables (one specifically for disabled persons' use) on cement pads, and some trash and recycle bins. What a wondrous place to let the kids work off their energy while Mom and Dad (Grandma and Grandpa?) take a breather!

Warm in the Winter. . .

The Tuff Shed project is complete at the new zoo site. Two sheds were built. One to house the Reptile collection and one as the Nocturnal exhibit. FOBBAZ was asked to "finish" the interiors, with insulation, heating, cooling, water, etc., at \$32,300. A portion of those funds came from a private donor and the remainder was funded by FOBBAZ.



Mars, our Red Tegu monitor lizard



We sadly say good-
bye to two of our
beautiful wolves—
brothers in life and
beyond.

Truck

Lucien



The Circle of Life

Almost 11 years ago, we had 9 little wolf puppies take their first breaths in Big Bear. The Vet at VCA Lakeside, Dr. Noelle Thomas, delivered the puppies by caesarian section since momma Wolf was too old for natural puppy-birth. Interestingly, the first puppy out, a girly-wolf, Noelle, was named after Dr. Thomas. There was also an unusual number of “9s” on that “birth” day... it was April 9, 2009, Wakiza (momma Wolf) was 9 years old, and there were 9 puppies. And to add to the mystic, it was also a full moon.

Out of the original 5 boys and 4 girls, today we have 5 adult wolves left. The sole remaining male, Blair, has all 4 of his sisters to contend with. And now Noelle and Logan have been reunited with the remaining pack in the same enclosure... but Spirit is by herself at the very bottom of the zoo... she still doesn't play well with the others.

The brothers Lucien and Truck have crossed over the rainbow bridge recently.

The average lifespan of timber (gray) wolves in Yellowstone is only 3.5 years. In Yellowstone, wild wolves have to fight for territory and food and mates, and in some cases they have to dodge the rancher's bullets... it is a very tough life. Fortunately, our zoo has been able to triple our wolves' “Yellowstone” life span thru love, good diet, and proper medical care. The puppy's parents, Wakiza and Navarre, were 15+ years old before they succumbed to nature.



1. A _____ is a big kitty with a very short tail,
and that's how he got his name.
2. An ____ can *almost* turn his head all the way
around—270 degrees!
3. A _____ bear has little round ears and a
hump on his shoulders.
4. _____ don't have wings,
they have flaps of skin to allow them to glide.
5. The _____ eagle is the United States'
national bird and is no longer “endangered.”
6. A _____ wears a “mask” and is VERY
smart—equal to a 3 or 4-year-old human!



Kids' Korner

Hi there! Can you write the
correct animal specie in the
correct sentence?

Have a “bear-y” good time!

flyng squires, bald, owl, bobcat, raccoon, grizzly