

# Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine  
Zoo

(a nonprofit organization /EIN: 33-0350180)

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.



## *A HUGE THANK YOU!*

So many of you wrote or called in to thank us for starting *Paw Prints* again, and your kind and caring words made us feel up-lifted and proud to be a charity of your choosing! Your suggestions for future articles have been noted, and you can expect to see them down the road. ALL input is welcome.

We are small, but we are mighty,

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](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)**

**E-newsletters arrive promptly and allow FOBBAZ to use more of our funds for the zoo!**

It is with deep sorrow that we must say good-bye to one of our beloved docents: Donna Blatherwick fought the good fight with cancer, but passed away on April 20, 2020. She joined FOBBAZ in 2006, and gave of her time and energy unendingly. A few years later she joined the Board of Directors so she could “stir things up!” Those of you who remember Donna will recognize the truth in that. Though she had seen many animals come and go at the zoo, her always-favorite remained Duchess, the wild burro—feisty, adorable and Donna’s kindred spirit! Per her wishes, there will be no funeral or memorial, so we’ll just keep the lady we loved in our memories and hearts.



These three deer are just part of the herd Donna donated to the FOBBAZ office. Clever, creative, and a forever reminder of the winning personality of the lady who made them!



Noelle (gray wolf) was born at the zoo in 2009, and because her mother was not able to care for her, she required assisted care by the zoo staff. Timber (gray) wolves are pack animals who live in Alaska, Canada, the Pacific Northwest, north Midwest, and northern Europe and Russia. They are carnivores, whose preferred prey are large hoof-stock, such as deer, elk, and moose, and will roam 30 to 50 miles a day in search of food. There are currently only a handful of wild wolves in northern California—they’re starting to make a come-back after being wiped out statewide by 1924.



## President’s Message



Hope all of you and your loved ones are staying safe in these very unusual times. Three items for your consideration: (1) For those who participate in Facebook you can see BBAZ videos on either the Zoo Facebook page or the FOBBAZ Facebook page; for those who do not participate in Facebook, we are working on providing pictures and videos in another platform; you will be notified when there is success; (2) FOBBAZ was able to purchase three items for the Zoo: a cordless scale for weighing the wolves, a cordless scale for weighing the grizzlies, and a set of feedpods for the grizzlies; all this equipment will make the work of the Zoo staff easier; (3) due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the FOBBAZ office will remain closed until the all-clear is given; however, our work continues, and we can be contacted either via voicemail, 909-878-4200, or e-mail, [fobbaz@fobbaz.org](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org); messages left will receive a response. Please, everyone, take care. Thank you.

John Sweeney, President

FOBBAZ Board of Directors

## Considering an Adoption?

Many of you have written or called about the specifics of “adopting” one of our zoo ambassadors. We thought that having the various levels here, in *Paw Prints*, many questions might be answered and therefore make your decisions easier.

### ADOPTION LEVELS

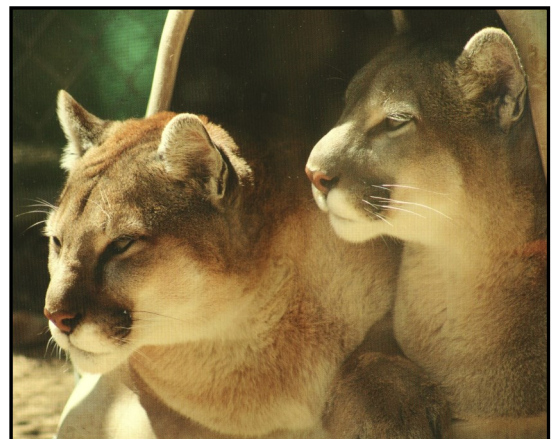
- Copper (\$25)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling
- Bronze (\$50)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling, BBAZ Beanie OR Small Plush Animal
- Silver (\$100)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling, BBAZ Beanie OR Medium Plush Animal
- Gold (\$250)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling, BBAZ Beanie, Fabric Messenger Bag OR Large Plush Animal
- Platinum (\$500)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling, BBAZ Beanie, 10 x 14 Canvas Photo of Your Animal
- Titanium (\$1000)—Photo Certificate, Fact Sheet, Window Cling, BBAZ Beanie, 10 x 14 Canvas Photo of Your Animal, Private Docent-led Zoo Tour (arranged through FOBBAZ)

You may adopt an animal for yourself, or as a gift/acknowledgement to someone special. The form offers you those choices. Please go to our website ([fobbaz@fobbaz.org](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)) to view the request [Home page>Support the Zoo>Adopt/Sponsor an Animal].

\*During this COVID-19 pandemic, the office is closed. Our Office Manager is working from home; our phone lines have been transferred for her to be able to receive them at home. Further, she opens the FOBBAZ email every day and responds as she can. So, if you wish to adopt/sponsor an animal, it's entirely possible right now. You may pay through our website [PayPal] or mail us a check. She will send you a *pdf* of your certificate, **but**, the actual certificate and pertaining swag will be sent to you when we are able to re-open the office.

We appreciate your patience and understanding, and THANK YOU for your continued support!

We sisters are Cascade and Canyon, the zoo's mountain lions, and though you can't take us home with you (we need lots of space) we'd love to have you adopt us. We're obligate carnivores, though, and must eat meat in order to thrive and can consume up to 10 pounds of meat every day (in human terms: 40 regular-sized hamburgers). That's why adopting/sponsoring us is so vital: We need our food, our medicine (we're kind of elderly), and the behavioral enrichment the zoo keepers provide. Won't you think about it, please? And MANY thanks!



## Progress at the New Zoo

There are happenings at the new zoo site, and they're wonderful! This winter has seen much work being done inside—water, heating, insulation, finishing, etc. Though we don't see it from the outside, they've made great progress. Also, some walkways have been laid with asphalt, netting has gone up over enclosures, rocks and tree roots have been placed for the animals to climb on and among. Great stuff ;) As we enter spring and better weather, landscaping should begin on all 5 1/2 acres, from trees to ground cover to shrubs. Also, we hope to begin to see signage go up—so we know we're looking at bears, not eagles! Still no final date, but the county assures us



Front guest building (north end of zoo) on Moonridge, which will house ticket purchasing, gift shop, conference room, and FOBBAZ kiosk. There are also external-entry restrooms on the south side of this building. Please note the OLD tree—the only one already on the property—which was very gently taken care of so as to maintain its health and beauty!

Good job, gentlemen!

Believe it or not, this IS an important picture—it's where the parking lot will be! Given the nature of zoo parking in Big Bear (especially during the winter) this is a pretty special feature! It's east of the zoo proper, on Moonridge. You can see the black plastic along Rathbun Creek, willows delineating the creek, and the zoo behind. Those pines are not on zoo grounds.

Never thought asphalt could be so exciting ;)



This is one of the smaller-animal enclosures. They call it a lean-to, but notice the animals have the ability to lie completely in the sun or scamper back inside should the weather turn surly. The zoo adheres to The 5 Opportunities to Thrive, one of which is choice. There are several of these lean-tos around the zoo. BTW, that's Bear Mountain in the background.

Obviously, this one is for non-climbing critters!

# FOBBAZ Calendar of Events



*Bask in their Beauty at*

**Bear Awareness Day—TBD\***



*Help purchase an Ultrasound Machine at*

**Bowling for the Zoo—TBD\***



*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](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)) and check on the first page for information prior to the event.

## Do You ❤️ To Shop AMAZON?

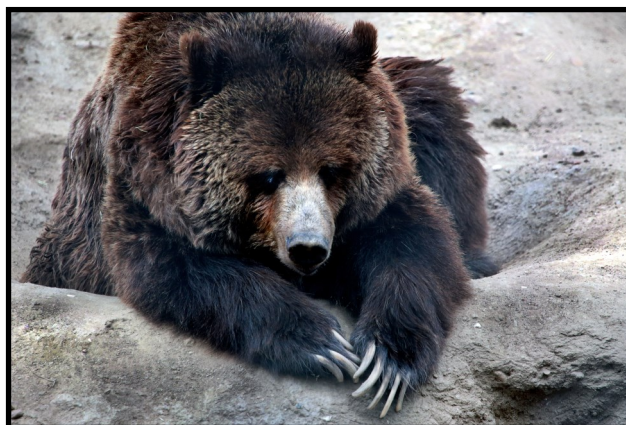
Please consider shopping with

### AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

By designating Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo when you sign on, you will add to our funds and know that you are helping the animal ambassadors at the zoo!

**It's FREE, it's EASY,  
it's GREAT to GIVE!**



**Harley will give you a BEAR hug!**

\*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of our scheduled events have had to be postponed. At this time, and until we have a clearer time-frame, we have designated the next two events TO BE DETERMINED. Please call the FOBBAZ Office for further details (909.878.4200). Thank you!

## ⇒ ZOO NEWS! ⇐

With many and mixed emotions, we said farewell to Bob Cisneros, Curator at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo for the past five years. He has joined Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bob was responsible for so much progress and goodness at our Big Bear zoo: better diets, weight management, enclosure habitat improvements, behavioral enrichment, medical oversight, and so much more. We miss him, but we know he is moving on to a bright future with his colleagues in Utah!

### *County—Mission, but NOT Impossible!*

An exhaustive search is underway for a Zoo Curator. We have completed interviews with a number of very qualified candidates and plan to bring the top candidates in for a second interview. Finding the right fit is our top priority. The right fit means someone who has experience managing a collection similar to ours, someone who will meld well with staff, and someone who will become part of the community.

Submitted by Trevor Leja

Deputy Director, Special Districts

[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)

### FACE It . . .

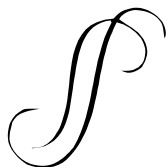
Our FOBBAZ Facebook and Instagram pages are up and running! To keep up with all things FOBBAZ, please go to both pages, and follow at "Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo"... and thanks for your interest and support!

Also, MEGA thanks to Christy and Summer (both Lead Keepers) for providing all those terrific animals pix for our page—they're our only data source now that the zoo is closed to the public.



#### *A Real Sweetheart!*

Lotus Blossom (American badger) was rescued from the roadside in 2005 at about 1 year of age. Badgers are found mainly in the western regions of the North American countries. They are superior diggers, finding most of their food underground: pocket gophers, ground squirrels, moles, even poisonous snakes. Their front claws are so sharp, badgers can dig through 2 inches of concrete (we have steel mesh under ours!), and are so aggressive that bears have been known to back down from them!





## Kids' Korner

Hello! You'll be looking for the words printed at the bottom. Some may be backwards, on a diagonal, or upside down! Whew!

M	P	D	A	L	F	L	S
H	V	E	K	X	T	A	Q
W	B	A	D	G	E	R	N
I	O	G	H	U	Y	T	Y
U	B	L	N	A	Z	S	J
V	C	E	F	R	O	E	A
J	A	N	Q	C	S	K	D
P	T	B	K	H	X	M	T
O	Y	L	Z	Z	I	R	G

**BADGER** · An animal with claws sharp enough to dig through 2" of concrete.

**KESTRAL** · The smallest of the birds of prey. Found all over the U.S.

**GRIZZLY** · A member of the Brown Bear Family. Though it's on the California State Flag, there are none in the wild in our state.

**EAGLE** · A large bird of prey, one kind of which is the United States' national symbol.

**BOBCAT** · A smallish kind of wild cat that has big white "eyes" on the back of his ears.

**WOLF** · A big dog-like animal that howls and lives in packs. They are just now returning to northern California in very small numbers.



# The Good Earth



## What Can YOU Do To Help Wildlife?

All of us who live on Planet Earth need to pitch in to take care of her! She's a mighty special place—HOME to people, animals, oceans, mountains, deserts! Here are some

ways you can help:



You can save around six gallons of water a day by shutting the faucet off while you scrub your hands with soap before washing.



While you are brushing your teeth, turn the water off. On again for rinsing.



Go paperless: bank accounts, bills, and so on. It's why this newsletter is sent via email—saves paper, ink, envelopes.



Speaking of paperless—try out e-books and audio books. With audio books, you can even "read" while you drive!



Make your yard a welcoming place for local wildlife by installing bird feeders and/or bird baths. It'll make you feel more harmonious with nature.



Those plastic bags we get from many shopping experiences can't be recycled. Take your own reusable bags everywhere to help reduce plastic in the oceans.



Ditch the harmful ingredients found in store-bought cleaning products and just make your own. It's amazing what some vinegar and baking soda can do!