

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXX SUMMER 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.



One for All!

In the midst of the angst, worry, and concern for the welfare of ourselves and those around us during these difficult times, FOBBAZ wants you to know we're thinking of you and yours every day. You are continuing to support us in the form of donations, well wishes, and heartfelt concern for the animals at our zoo. We are immensely grateful and humbled by your generosity. The phrase "we're in this together" takes on a whole new level of meaning because of the outpouring of love and caring we receive daily from our members!

FOBBAZ thanks each and every one of you ♥

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

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

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—TBD*



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.

President's Message



This will probably rank as a summer like no other.

But, thanks to you we are still able to continue our support of our fantastic, one-of-a-kind, special Big Bear Alpine Zoo. Regardless of covid-19, the animals still need consistent care and we owe a huge thank you to all of the extremely dedicated zookeepers who have made that happen. They haven't missed a beat and all of the animals are doing just fine.

You have shown us that you care about the zoo and its future. We hope you will soon be able to visit the brand new zoo and experience how important your support has always been.

Kathy Greenwood, President

FOBBAZ Board of Directors

Speaking of our fabulous zookeepers, here's a picture of the ingenious way they're keeping the zoo open to visitors! Rolling tables with the computers on them, long extension cords safely out of the way, and even gift shop items on sale. WOW! You *rock!*



***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 had to postpone three events and designate them TO BE DETERMINED. Please call the FOBBAZ Office for further details (909.878.4200).**

Thank you!

Share the FRIENDS' Fun!

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 Facebook page!



A NOTE FROM OUR JANE OF ALL TRADES!

Hello Members!

I have been assisting the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo Board of Directors and the membership as the Office Manager since November 2016. Normally based in our office on Park Avenue in Big Bear Lake, I have been working at home since March, due to the pandemic. This has been a learning curve for sure! Thank you to all our members who have been so patient, cooperative, and understanding! I am here for all of you...to do whatever I can to make your experience with FOBBAZ and the zoo a good experience.

This past year, FOBBAZ "signed on" with a database company...NEON. Our existing database solution was no longer meeting our needs or the needs of our membership base. Now, NEON makes it very easy to update member information, send emails with links to newsletters, and update memberships or donations, automatically sending an acknowledgement or membership card to your email address!

Having membership cards sent as an image via email is beneficial to our members. You can screen capture the image of the card that is sent via email, then save it in your phone's photo gallery. It can also be printed using your web browser's printing function, adjusting as necessary for your browser and printer. You will not have to worry about "forgetting" your membership card ever again! It is also convenient to renew membership at www.fobbaz.org/membership. NEON allows FOBBAZ to process your membership or donation quickly and efficiently.

I would like to send "mini" info-messages to our members via NEON to acquaint you with the various functions of our new database so you can change your address, contact information, etc. via your NEON account. Please "stay tuned" for future emails from me.

Best regards,
Nancy Sargent
Office Manager

Don't Blink—You Might Miss the Opening of the New Zoo!

Yes, it's actually going to happen, though no date has been set yet. Remember, the animals must all be carefully, safely moved and become acclimated to their new digs. They're the ones in charge!

But lookee here . . .



(L) This is the first building you'll enter, which will house the ticket office and the gift shop. And yes, there WILL be sidewalks! (R) Another view, showing color-coded flags where all sorts of lovely greenery will be planted in the shade of the 100-year-old tree!



We're pretty proud of this \$99,659 FOBBAZ playground! It is a result of all our extraordinary members, giving from their hearts and pocketbooks for several years. **This would not exist without your unstinting generosity!** (L) The signage that just pops our buttons! (R) Centered here is the playground, a portion of the grizzly enclosure on the right, and the hospital building up the slope on the left. Please notice the newly planted sponsored trees (again, profound thanks)—they are already giving shade!



*A HUGE round of APPLAUSE
to all our Members!*

Can Do!

The donation cans are doing well! The last deposit was \$932.50! (We hear that one of the reasons the cans are doing well is that no one wants to carry change, so folks are dumping change into the donation cans. Works for FOBBAZ!)

The cans are distributed to businesses around the valley, from Sugarloaf to Fawnskin to the Village on Pine Knott and Village Drive. The monies we collect from them go to rehabilitation costs for animals the zoo takes in. These costs include medical services, food, medications, etc. But know—the zoo is able to rehab and release about 90% of the animals that come in, so it's money very well-spent!



New Docent Training

After almost coming to a standstill, FOBBAZ is just now able to resume Docent Training. We have many wonderful candidates waiting patiently in the wings, and we're so excited to get back to business!

We will be setting up screening interviews in August, one-on-one and outside. After the trainees have been selected, we will start our training sessions via Zoom—something new and different for us all! There will, of course, be a “zoo day” toward the end, and we know that's always the highlight to training. Can't wait to get boots on the ground again!

Welcome to the New FOBBAZ

Board of Directors!

We had our elections in June, and will install the new board members in September. The 2020-21 members are: Kitty Backus, Vicki Cummings, Laurey Haviland, Sharon Johnson, Susie Kirkpatrick, Ariel Kuepper, Cassidy Martinez, Julie Morrison, and Bill Young.

We know this will be a TERRIFIC board, ready to take on whatever is in FOBBAZ'S future!





Kids' Korner

Hello! With the Fourth of July celebrations just past, we're thinking about Bald Eagles! Here are a few trivia questions for you to ponder, whose answers you can share with your friends!

1. In what year did the bald eagle become the National Emblem of the United States? Why?
A. 1776 B. 1782 C. 1876
2. What is the wingspan of a bald eagle?
A. 4-5 feet B. 5-6 feet C. 6-7.5 feet
3. The beak of a bald eagle is almost as long as its head.
True False
4. How many feathers does a bald eagle have?
A. 2000 B. 5000 C. 7000 D. Over 9000
5. Bald eagles are born with white heads, just like their parents.
True False
6. A bald eagle can see its prey (dinner) from ___ away.
A. 0.5 mile B. 1 mile C. 2 miles
7. Eagles are *diurnal* hunters. What does this mean?
A. They hunt during the day.
B. They hunt at night.
C. They hunt anytime—night or day.
8. How many talons does an eagle have on each foot?
A. 3 B. 4 C. 5
9. What is an eagle's favorite food?
A. rabbits B. rodents C. fish
10. It is illegal to pick up and take home an eagle feather.
True False
11. Bald eagles usually use the same nest year after year. How heavy was the largest nest ever found?
A. 500 pounds B. 2,000 pounds C. 4,000 pounds



Our National Emblem

...the

American Bald Eagle

The bald eagle—genus *Haliaeetus*—is a bird of prey found in North America. Technically a sea eagle, it has a range that includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the contiguous United States, and northern Mexico.

Bergmann's Rule states that birds of prey generally grow larger the farther their home territory is from the Equator, which is evident in the U.S.'s northernmost state! Also in birds of prey, the female is usually about 25% larger than the male.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the wild turkey—*Meleagris gallopavo*—to represent the new nation, as he thought the bald eagle to be “a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly... [he] is too lazy to fish for himself.”



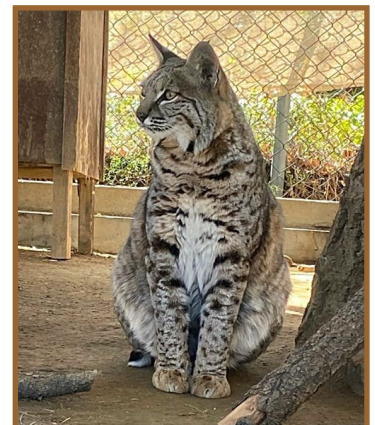
Answers and explanations on the next page.

Bald Eagle Trivia Answers

1. B—The bald eagle was chosen in 1782 because it is a native North American specie.
2. C—A bald eagle’s wingspan is as wide or wider than a tall human is, and he would be able to “social distance” with ease!
3. True—The curved beak is to help them tear up their prey into more easily swallowed chunks.
4. C—This number includes the wing feathers as well as the contour and down feathers that cover the head.
5. False—Eaglets are all speckled brown, and won’t grow white head and tail feathers until the age of 4-5 years.
6. B—Eagles have a very high concentration of cones on their retinas, giving them superior sight.
7. A—Bald eagles hunt during the day, and can see fish swimming several inches underwater.
8. B—They have 3 talons on the front of their feet, and 1 in the back. This enables them to have a better grip on their sometimes slippery prey.
9. C—Eagles always nest close to water, since their MOST favorite food is fish.
10. True—It is a national law: Eagle feathers may NOT be kept by just anyone. Pre-qualified Native American tribes may possess them for ceremonial purposes. Members of the special U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division (the Screaming Eagles) may also have one. If, however, you’re like the rest of us, and you find an eagle feather on the ground, you may pick it up, but must take it directly to a federal authority such as National Park services, Fish and Wildlife, or even to the police department.
11. C—Eagles add to their nests each year, making repairs and renovations. The largest nest found in the United States is in Ohio, and weighs a whopping 4,000 pounds (2 tons), and is about 20 feet deep and 13 feet around! That must be a *huge* tree it’s in!



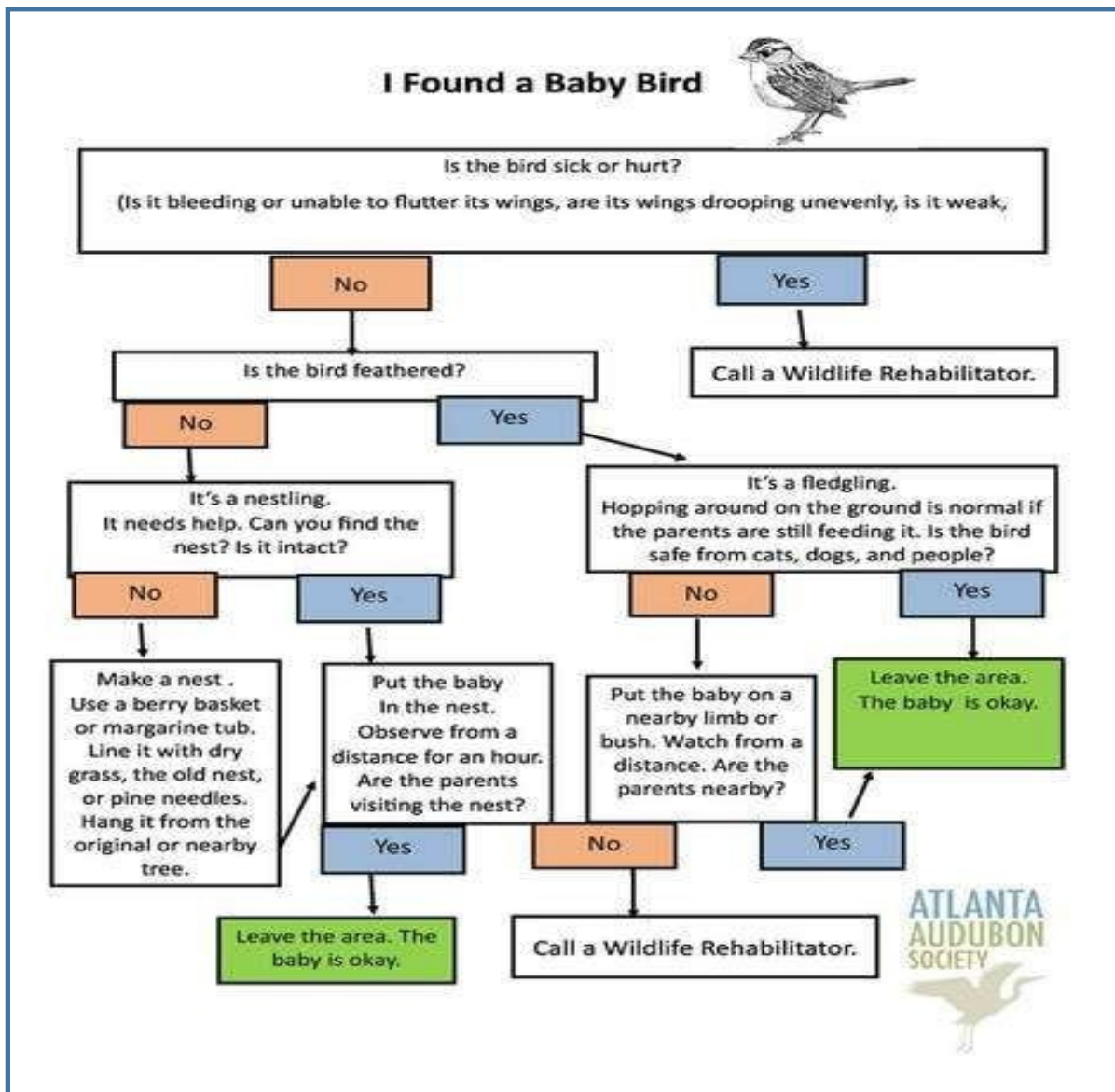
Shakespeare, a male bobcat, was born in 2012. He was rescued as a tiny baby whose eyes weren’t even open yet from two dogs who had trapped him in their yard. Fish and Wildlife believe he was accidentally “left behind” as Mama was moving her kittens to a different location. (Bobcats do that frequently to keep their babies safe from predators.) He required assisted rearing by zoo staff, and they certainly did a great job—just look at that majestic creature!





So many people call FOBBAZ or the zoo saying they have found a baby bird on the ground—oh dear! All of us love and cherish the animals of our world, and hate to see any suffer or die. But Mother Nature has plans of her own, so check out the “what do I do chart” below. You might even want to print it and hang it somewhere handy!

Many thanks to BBAZ for sharing this chart from the Audubon Society with our members.



⇒ A quick reminder: After your purchase of a membership at the zoo, **SAVE YOUR RECEIPT.**

FOBBAZ will **EMAIL** your card to you within 5-6 days.