

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXXII

WINTER 2021

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.



It's a Glorious Day in our Neighborhood!

On November 5th, 2020, amid all kinds of world-wide chaos and tragedy, our little corner of the world was able to shine! After a week of VIP activities (including our FOBBAZ donors and members), the Big Bear Alpine Zoo opened its doors with speeches and ribbon-cutting, sincere thanks offered to many people, and much merriment, awe and feelings of overwhelming joy that our spectacular new zoo was, indeed, HERE! All the animals were on their best behavior—greeting people “up close and personal,” so thrilled to see and interact with their beloved friends from the old site.

FOBBAZ thanks each and every one of you who helped make this happen ♥

Many and profound thanks to the Board of Directors, Docents, our Office Manager, and Zoo Staff 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!

President's Message



Welcome to the New Year 2021!

I hope the New Year finds you all happy and healthy. Even with our new zoo opening and then having to close again due to COVID, we had a significant number of visitors enjoy the zoo for a few weeks. This resulted in a large number of new memberships, adoptions and donations that we're diligently working our way through! But this is a plus for FOBBAZ (and the zoo): In the last few months we have been able to purchase Christmas lights and decorations for the zoo; we have ordered three new benches to go around the firepit; we also have ordered, and received, two new utility carts for the zoo. They are electric and will allow the keepers to move animals, food and people around the zoo much more easily. The plaque for the tree donations has arrived from the County and is installed. We have moved into our new office and it is great!

Bill Hoffman, our new curator, has some exciting new things planned for FOBBAZ to help with in the coming months. We happily anticipate being useful and busy!

We send our thoughts and prayers to those who have encountered health issues due to COVID and other health concerns. Please stay safe and well until we can see each other again. I hear our animal friends miss us greatly!

Sharon Johnson
FOBBAZ President

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has become a great concern to everyone world-wide, we must tell you that the Big Bear Alpine Zoo continues to be closed to the public. We had a few weeks of incredible numbers of visitors and their wonderful feedback before the shut-down. Our Keepers are on the job daily taking care of the animals of course, but they (the critters) do miss the interaction with visitors—no one new to talk to! We will put the word out as soon as we know the re-opening particulars.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!

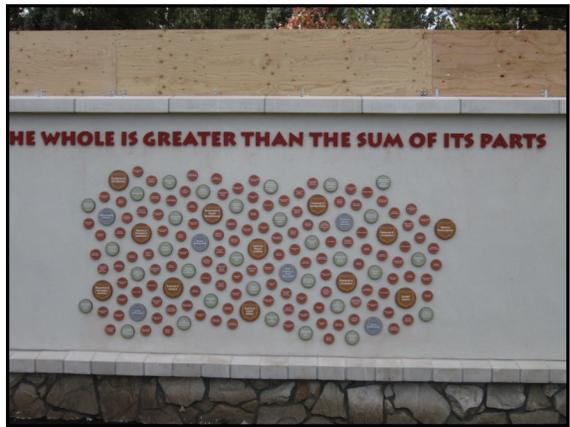
*Please don't forget to "keep up with FOBBAZ" on our
Facebook and Instagram pages!*

Donor Wall Unveiling



Pictured L to R: Kathy Greenwood, Laury Haviland, Sharon Johnson

On a bright Sunday morning in November 2020, people who donated \$1,000 or more to the FOBBAZ Relocation effort attended the unveiling of a special wall at the zoo honoring them. It was grand to see so many old (and new) friends there, and to help them find their individual plaques on the wall. Guests were able to tour the zoo to see exactly how their generous and heart-felt donations were used. It was a *lovely* day in the neighborhood!



Notice each plaque size has an animal head on it: (T to B) bear, wolf, raccoon, owl. Pretty special!

Here's Bill

(Hoffman, that is!)

**Our New
Curator**



I have been in the zoological industry for just over 37 years. I hold a BA in Psychology and a Master's degree in Human Behavior and Management. I have found that connecting people with animals, in a way that inspires action toward conservation to be incredibly rewarding. I couldn't believe my good fortune when the Curator position opened up at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo. Not only could I be a part of an animal-focused organization, but all of the animals have been given a second chance at life.

Since I started here in early October, I have been introduced to an incredible team of zoological professionals who truly love the animals that they serve.

What I didn't anticipate was how supportive the community is. From the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, the City of Big Bear, to the Chamber of Commerce and the San Bernardino county team, they all have been exceedingly supportive.

My wife and I feel very welcomed and look forward to exploring our new home, neighborhood and community. I am humbled and appreciative for this incredible opportunity.

I can't wait to re-open soon and share this treasure!

Stop by and say, "Howdy, neighbor!"



Thomas Edison—you ROCK!

Well, your invention does, at least ;) Here are the two electric carts your generous memberships and donations allowed FOBBAZ to purchase for the zoo. The specially ordered carts were hauled up to BB by the dealer for the privilege of a private tour of the zoo—we were

MORE than happy to oblige! On the left is the cart with a stationary bed of 6 ft. The side rails (on both carts) are drop-down. There are windows back and front in the cabs, but no doors. (The keepers are always hopping out to do something!) The cart on the right has a convertible “back seat” (see below, L) in order to hold two more people. Both carts have lights, horns, windshield wipers, sideview mirrors, cart-wide rearview mirrors, and all-weather tires. They just need to be plugged in each night!

As many of you know, at the old site, the keepers hauled food and water to the various enclosures via wheelbarrow. When the barrow tipped over going up or down those steep hills, well, so did the contents! So, as the zoo grounds enlarged by more than twice (2.5 acres to 5.5!), easier transportation seemed a top priority. These carts will be used to move food (water is supplied in each enclosure now), medicines, tools, animals, and (hopefully never!) injured or ill visitors.

They are still awaiting their signage and paw stickers, but everyone is incredibly pleased with the new vehicles, and they’ve already been put to great use!



Their long-awaited arrival.



Christy McGiveron (lead keeper) taking Sharon & Laurey for a first spin around the zoo.

FOBBAZ's New Digs
42718 Moonridge Road

BBL, CA 92315

**Reminder: Mail continues to go to our
PO Box 1988, BBL, CA 92315**

Also, our phone number remains the same:

909.878.4200



See those flagpoles in the distance on the right? That's the zoo: about 100 yards SE and across the street (aye, there's the rub!). The zoo's parking lot is a little bit farther east on the right—same side as the zoo itself.



Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

This is our way to phrase the passing of one of our beloved animals. We believe it offers a bit of hope, as a bridge always goes *somewhere*! Unfortunately, we must tell you of the loss of three of our glorious creatures; many of you will remember them, we're sure.



Bella (chinchilla) was donated to the zoo after her "kids" went off to college. She was a sweet, calm little girl, probably a little over 10 years old.

Noelle (gray wolf) was one of nine pups born here at the zoo in April of 2009. She has been preceded by all but one of her brothers, though several of her sisters remain.



Lyric (coyote) was raised as a pet up here in the valley. One day he "escaped" and, having no fear of people, was approaching them asking for food. He was brought to the zoo in 2005 in order to make everyone safe—both him AND people. He was about 15 years old.



Kids' Korner

What's in a Name?

When our animals come to live at the zoo, they generally DON'T have names, so it's up to staff members to select something that "fits" the animal or his background. For example, when the grizzly family arrived, the cost of their enclosure had been sponsored by hundreds of people—residents of Big Bear, FOBBAZ members, the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Club in San Bernardino, among others. This is why our big male grizzly is named Harley!

Can you guess the names of some of our other residents? Draw a line from the animal to its name—

Arctic Fox

Pooh

Steller's Jay

Vincent

Kit Fox

Aurora Borealis

Black Bear

Kit Kat

Mule Deer

Indigo

Raccoon

Malibu

Their stories:

This bear raided an apiary (a place where bees and honey are kept) that cost the farmer MANY dollars to repair!

This raccoon is missing part of his left ear.

This fox lives way up in the northern climes, where there's lots of snow and ice, and beautiful nighttime sky colors.

This bird is completely blue except for his head and crest.

This little guy is named for a candy bar—mmmm!

This ungulate (hoofed animal) was illegally taken as a baby and raised in a very ritzy city on the California coast.

Arctic Fox—Aurora Borealis; Steller's Jay—Indigo; Kit Fox—kit kat; Black Bear—Pooh; Mule Deer—Malibu; Raccoon—Vincent

Answers