

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXXIII

SPRING 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.



Welcome Long-Timers and New Members!

Big Bear Alpine Zoo re-opened a few months ago, hopefully for good! Since then, we have been welcoming hundreds of wonderful, awe-struck visitors to our campus. They have shared nothing but positive and up-lifting comments about our grounds, especially those who remember our site on Goldmine! We are 5 1/2 acres of spacious, attractive enclosures for our beloved ambassadors now, PLUS our very own parking lot!! We've also been thrilled to welcome new members to our organization, and hope they will come to enjoy the various benefits we offer, all of which help to continue support for our zoo.

FOBBAZ thanks each and every one of you who stops by to say hello ♥

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!

It's back!!
FOBBAZ
Calendar of
Events



Bask in their Beauty at
Bear Awareness Day—
Saturday, May 29, 2021



Five Fabulous Flavors at
Ice Cream Safari—July 31, 2021



Have a Howling Good Time at
Wolf Awareness Day



Come in Costume for
Boo at the Zoo

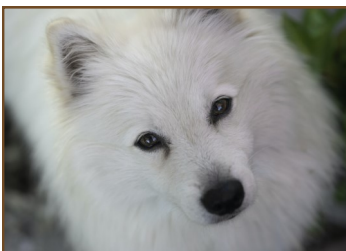


NOTE: The first two events are set. Dates for the other two events have not yet been established. Please continue to check for further information on our web page:

fobbaz.org

THANK YOU for being so patient and understanding throughout this past year!

Our little Arctic fox (Aurora Borealis) is beginning to change her winter white coat to spring and summer brown.



*Springtime in our mountains—
a time of peace, beauty and wonder!*

President's Message



We have had an absolutely amazing response to our new zoo! Memberships and Adoptions have risen, visitors are excited and animals are happy! Since the zoo has opened, FOBBAZ has been busy helping: bought the zoo two utility carts, supplied Christmas lights (approximately 2600 lights for the big tree in the front), purchased one storage shed and have ordered another. Also, we have yet another shed coming, two gazebos for the picnic area, and a darling cedar shed with a porch for our bio-facts and educational items. FOBBAZ has also purchased some much-needed medical equipment for our hospital. Of course, don't forget our Donor Wall.

We have some steadfast Docents who have been working regularly as gatekeepers, kitchen aides, and roamers, and seven new docents who are very excited, hard workers, and ready to take on commitments. We can always use more help as the Nocturnal and Reptile houses get ready to open.

Special thanks to Bill, the new Curator, and our Zoo Keepers for all the great work they have done to make this little zoo so unique and wonderful!

Sharon Johnson
FOBBAZ President



Earth Day

April 22, 2021

Big Bear Alpine Zoo and Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo combined to sponsor an Earth Day Clean-up around our beautiful lake. Vicki Cummings, one of our FOBBAZ board members, planned and coordinated the entire adventure, and it was a *glorious* day in our mountains! She worked closely with Big Bear Municipal Water District to make the day a resounding success. (Just for your information: last year the MWD picked up more than 60,000 pounds of trash from around the lake. That's simply horrific!) Our group consisted of BBAZ zoo keepers, curator Bill Hoffman and his wife, many FOBBAZ members, and people from the community who had seen the notices. We all met at the lake's west boat-launch platform and were given gloves, pick-up pincers, bags, and a thumbs-up! Two groups set off, one to the left, one to the right. We worked for about 2 hours, a mile in each direction, and came back with a dizzying assortment of trash: empty beer cans, dirty diapers, liquor bottles, trash bags with plates and food in them, tooth-flossing aids and toothbrushes, plastic milk containers filled with you-don't-want-to-know! Some of the more exotic items were a lawn chair, *unopened* beer cans, metal stakes, a beautiful fly for fishing (which Bill hung from his jacket zipper), chunks of metal with hinges, and the winner of the day—a leopard-print brassiere!



Curator Bill (red jacket in front), Vicki (on Bill's right; I'm the short one behind Vicki), Sharon, our FOBBAZ president, standing 3rd from the left, FOBBAZ secretary Kitty on Sharon's right, zookeeper Alex on Bill's left, our vice-president Julie in the red jacket behind Bill, our President Emeritus Kathy to Julie's left. Zookeeper Dar was taking the picture.

Trust me—we *were* all smiling!

Please Meet

**Christy McGiveron—
BBAZ Lead Zookeeper
for 30 Years!**



I moved here from Alpine, CA, in 1991 just for the job at the zoo (Moonridge Animal Park).

I had always wanted to work with animals and had taken on anything animal-related I could do: duck team with Project Wildlife, kennel help for a ridgeback show/breeder, courses with ROP for vet assistant and dog grooming, worked at the Humane society (very dangerous when you have a dog addiction)!

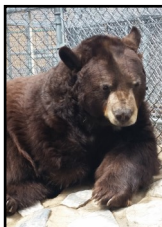
I came to the zoo with no formal training or back ground, just a good work ethic and desire to be around animals. Thank you to Terry for taking a chance on me. We had a very small staff in which I was promoted to the Lead position early on. And here I am going on my 30th year and wouldn't change it for anything. (Except for the snow....still not a fan of the cold!)

Along the way, besides caring for all kinds of animals, some that had to stay at the zoo and some that were released back to the wild, I managed to raise 3 of my own (non-furred) babies. The first two, my sons, were raised at the zoo with me, and I have fond memories of them helping with tours, or in the playpen outside of bears while I cleaned, and doing a bird show with my kid on my back in a pack. (Oh, how the days were different back then; could not get away with that these days!) They are both grown and have left the nest. My daughter didn't get to be raised here, but did get countless animal experiences at home and now volunteers here. All three of my kids were literally raised with wolves--not sure how many people can say they had an eight-foot wolf pen in their living room! My husband is awesome, too, as he has built me so many holding enclosures over the years in our little 620 square-foot house (the most exciting/challenging was for the 3-legged baby Black bear "Huckleberry"), and then he made our house even bigger to accommodate all our kids, dogs and zoo critters. I greatly appreciated the hardwood floors, as carpet and wildlife don't mix!

I have watched this little zoo struggle and grow and become what it is today, and I am very proud to be a part of it and to work with all the amazing staff we have here (paid and volunteers), as we couldn't do it without everyone's passion and commitment!

Well, Christy, we couldn't do without YOU!

Here's lookin' at you, kid ♡

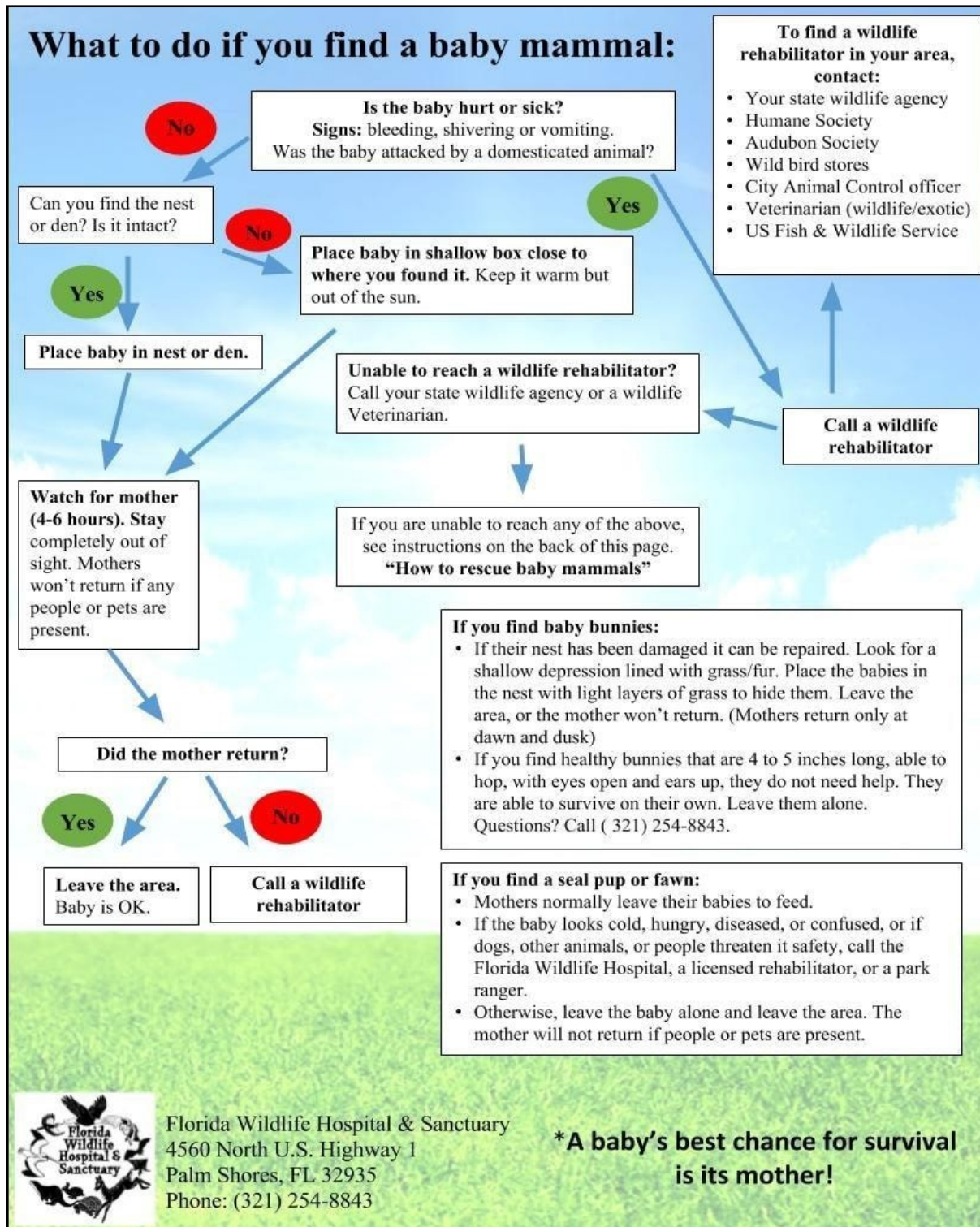


This is Huckleberry, the three-legged Black bear Christy cared for (just one of the many critters to share her home over the years)! He's been with us since 2002, and because of Christy and all the keepers at the zoo, he's happy and as healthy as a ~~horse~~ Black Bear!

IT'S *THAT* TIME OF YEAR!

Babies of many different species are being born and raised on our mountain! If you encounter a baby who seems to be alone, the chances are very great that that is not the case, and that mom will return shortly. We have included a flowchart to give you some actions to take should you find a little critter.

Many thanks to the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary!



PLEASE NOTE: This article has been shortened and copied from another source: the *Mount Shasta Herald*.

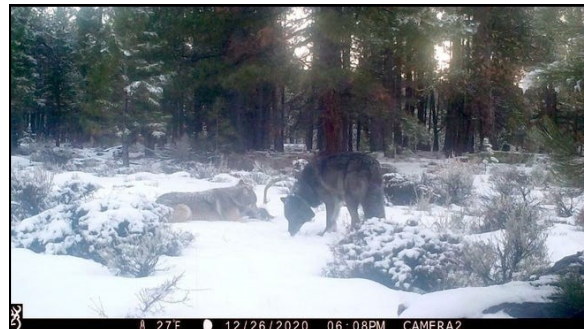
We felt it was fascinating information for you to have.

Wolves in California: Siskiyou is home to a new pair

By Skye Kinkade *Mount Shasta Herald*



In June of 2017, this trail camera captured a female wolf with two of her three pups in Lassen County.



This is believed to be a female (gray, L) and male wolf OR-85 (black, green tracking collar) taken in late December of 2020 in Siskiyou County.

After making his way to Siskiyou in November of 2020, the Oregon wolf known as OR-85 has connected with another wolf that biologists believe is most likely a female.

To determine the mystery wolf's sex and possibly which pack she descended from, biologists are hard at work collecting samples of the wolf's feces, urine and fur to be genetically tested. This unglamorous job lands in the lap of Kent Laudon, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's wolf specialist. He's an expert in the state's small population of wolves, which are making a slow comeback to a state they once called home. He works to bridge the concerns of wildlife conservationists with those of ranchers who worry wolves will endanger their livelihoods.

Keeping ranchers informed with accurate information is of paramount importance, as conflicts may arise between wolves and ranchers who want to protect their way of life.

To learn more about the unknown wolf, and where she may have come from, a geneticist will look at the genes and compare them to those in their extensive library to determine if she is from the Lassen Pack, a pack in Oregon or elsewhere.

It's not the poop itself that tells an animal's genetic story, Laudon explained, but instead the epithelial cells from inside the wolf that are sloughed off when it defecates. These bits of genetic material can then be studied to determine sex and enough genetics to tell where the wolf may have originated.

Urine, Laudon said, can be collected from snow. He currently has what he hopes to be wolf urine in his freezer, which will be sent to the lab, concentrated and filtered before being processed.

Fur is another way of learning more about an animal. Laudon said samples can be collected from fences that wolves may sneak under.

This article continues, and is both educational and pertinent to our state's wildlife situation. The full article is available at

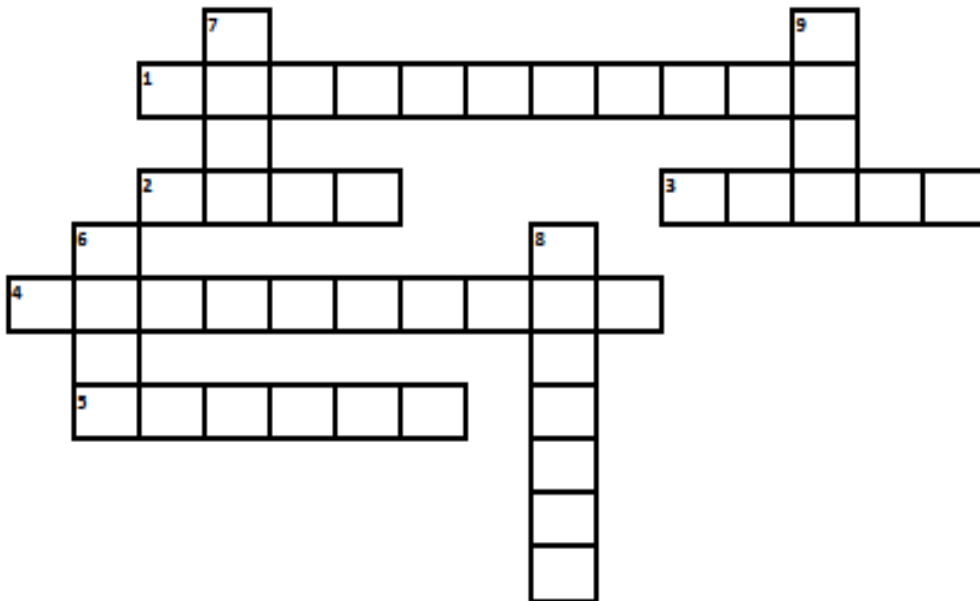
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Kids' Korner

BEAR AWARENESS DAY IS COMING!

Will you be ready to say *Hi* to all seven of our bears? Yep—7! We have four Black bears and three Grizzlies. And they all have very special names. Here's a crossword puzzle for you to work on using their names and species. Have a BEAR-Y good time ;)



ACROSS

- 1—our 3-legged bear
- 2—he was found in a watermelon patch
- 3—the kind of bears we have in Big Bear
- 4—our only female Black bear
- 5—the HUGE Grizzly boy we have

DOWN

- 6—the one who likes honey (a lot!)
- 7—our only Mama bear
- 8—the kind of bear on our State Flag
- 9—the sister of Grizzly boy

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| 9—Ayla | 6—Pooh | 3—Black |
| 8—Grizzly | 5—Harley | 2—Zuni |
| 7—Tutu | 4—Hollyberry | 1—Huckleberry |
- ANSWERS

