

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXXIV

SUMMER 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.



Everything New is Even NEWER!

Although we've been open for almost 9 months, we're experiencing "growing pains!" The animals made the move beautifully, from riding in the back of a horse trailer to enjoying their new enclosures. Hallelujah! It's the PEOPLE who are working hard at making this site one of beauty and comfort for everyone who comes on campus. Shade (for both animals and humans) is virtually non-existent and that's been our biggest priority lately. FOBBAZ has agreed to dedicate the annual Christmas Card Fundraiser donations to support efforts to provide shade in many areas of the zoo. Recently, we have also purchased gazebos for the picnic tables, and storage sheds for zoo equipment.

FOBBAZ thanks each and every one who has supported us over the years. ♥

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!

FOBBAZ

Calendar of Events



Grab Your Flashlight and a Jacket for

October Flashlight Safari



Have a Howling Good Time at

Wolf Awareness Day



Come in Costume for

Boo at the Zoo



Come Meet THE MAN Himself!

Santa Claws



NOTE: Dates for these four events have not yet been finalized. Please continue to check for further information on our web page:

fobbaz.org

See you at the zoo!

Generally found in woodlands, groves, and cliffs, the Barn Owl is a nocturnal raptor with a piercing shriek and a heart-shaped face. It is a good omen for farmers who find it in their barns, for it preys chiefly on mice and rats.



BBAZ is proud to be a
REHAB & RELEASE zoo.

Here is a list of some of our recent releases:

- ◆ Great horned owl
- ◆ Barn owl
- ◆ Red shoulder hawk
- ◆ 7 skunks
- ◆ 4 ravens
- ◆ Several various song birds

These animals are kept separately from the zoo's collection, and the keepers make sure they're not overly exposed to humans as a preventive measure to ensure they don't become dependent on people—they stay "wild" and can therefore be released to thrive on their own. Further, every effort is made to release these animals in their NATIVE habitats.

President's Message



Come see our beautiful zoo! Thanks to DIY and Marge, we have pots and baskets of blooming flowers. New trees are planted; even the animals have new trees and plants in their enclosures! Our new Education Station should be up and running soon, in which we will house our biofacts realia for viewing. If you have a suggestion for a name for the cabin, let us know. Bingo at the Senior Center on Thursdays is going well as one of our new fundraisers. Proceeds go to help fund zoo needs. If you're local (or visit frequently), please pass the word. Check out the newly opened Nocturnal House and the Bird Mews. I even saw the ringtail and the flying squirrels the other day, both of which species are sometimes very well-hidden or camouflaged in their environments!

Sharon Johnson
FOBBAZ President



FYI—DIY is TOOL (Tops on our List!)

About a month ago, FOBBAZ received a donation (worth over \$700) from our local DIY—many plants they deemed unsellable in their store, but are gloriously perfect for decorating the zoo. Such delightful colors and kinds; it was a dream come true for us. Furthermore, they told us they'll continue the donations, knowing the plants are “going to a good home!” Marge, one of our treasured docents, has an exceedingly green thumb and leapt at the chance to bring color and warmth to what has been termed (by visitors) as a somewhat sterile environment. (Think of those 200-year-old trees we had to leave behind.)

FOBBAZ wishes to thank

DIY, Big Bear Lake

for their generosity and community spirit!



Our Thanks to Many Others, as well!



Mr. Philipson and his staff have been kind and caring when FOBBAZ has questions of all sorts—from taking pictures at events to signing contracts to bequests. Mr. Philipson's wife was a FOBBAZ docent some years back, and he now generously works with us when situations arise for which we need advice. He's a gem!



Remember those two electric carts FOBBAZ bought for the zoo last winter? It turns out they've come in handy for numerous situations—hauling food, animals, tools, people. Just as planned. However, the ever-thinking crew at the zoo found one more use: hauling the wood chipper around as they fix the planting areas and plant new trees. The chipper was given to BBAZ by Rudy Guerrero at the road department of San Bernardino County! What a kind, perfect gift! It's been doing its job already, and a good job it is!

Weeders Needed!

Well, not at this time ;) A group of students and counselors from the Canyon Crest Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Riverside, who were in Big Bear for summer camp, worked diligently and efficiently at taking down the weeds and overgrowth around the zoo. Both BBAZ and FOBBAZ wish to thank them heartily!

Great work, everyone!



"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions..." Amelia Earhart

FOBBAZ wishes to thank the following people
for all their kindnesses!

Dr. and Mrs. Ehmscke, who have generously donated to the zoo over the years, and who gave extra funds specifically to help "tree the zoo."

Mr. Shyam Perashar at Moonridge Nursery for his expertise, assistance, and support. The aspens are simply glorious!



For the BEST and KINDEST service
anywhere in the valley:

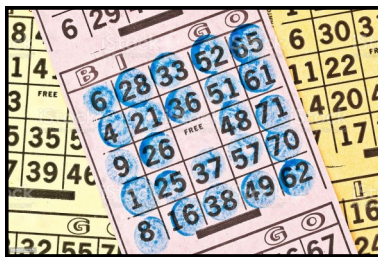
42252 Moonridge Rd., BBL



Trevor, one of our
newest Docents, has
become an expert tree
planter!



Spirit and her new shade tree.



Love *BINGO*? Well, It's BACK!

Thanks to Scott and Priscilla Anderson, BINGO is now in the hands of FOBBAZ! During the shut-down, the Andersons decided to retire and so donated all of the BINGO equipment to us. We opened up again on June 24th, and have been running the game every week since.

Where: **BB Senior Center**

When: **Every Thursday at 12 pm**

If you are an aficionado, or have friends who are, please pass the word that FUN is back on the table!

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 friends.



Blair was the last of our male wolves born at the zoo in 2009. He leaves three of his sisters—Bayou, Logan, and Spirit—to continue to represent the litter of nine pups. He was a fine, stately fellow, and will be missed greatly by all.

Though not native to the higher altitudes of Big Bear, orphaned Macha was brought here to live life free from harm. Skunks are nocturnal creatures, so seeing him was sometimes a challenge during the day.



Pumpkin, an Eastern Screech Owl who hitched a ride on a westbound truck, became one of our Nocturnal House denizens. As she was not native to this area, she was not able to be released, and so graced our zoo for many years.



...and on a *much* happier note!

Please meet Siren, our newest coyote here at BBAZ. She was abandoned by her mother, and brought to us when her eyes were still closed. Because she was so young, imprinting was unavoidable, thus she'll stay with us forever. She's a delightful little creature, loves to be held and coddled, though still, with those huge ears and sweet face, she's ALL coyote!



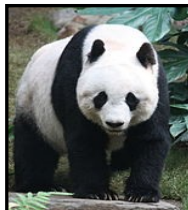
Kids' Korner

SUMMER at the Zoo can be bear-y warm,
but it's REALLY COOL!

Did you know that bears live on four of the seven continents around the world? Africa, Antarctica and Australia are the bear-less places (and no, Koalas aren't bears, even though that's what we call them). There are actually eight species of bears worldwide, and some even have sub-species. Whew, that's a lot of bears! Many thanks to JASON M. (age 8) for asking questions I had no answers to! I have since learned a great deal. Here you go, my friend ;)



Here is a Spectacled Bear (sometimes called an Andean Bear). Just look at his "eye glasses!" He is the only species of bear that lives in South America.



Yes, that's a Giant Panda! For years they were not considered bears, but modern science has put the word out—on a molecular level, they are, indeed, bears! In fact, they are sometimes called Living Fossils because they've been on Planet Earth so long!



Take a look at the Asiatic Bear's big round ears and light-colored markings. Can you see why he's sometimes called a Moon Bear? These bears live in several Asian countries.



This fuzzy-looking bear and her babies are Sloth Bears. They live in India, Sri Lanka and southern Nepal. Mom may look cute, but they are one of the most aggressive bears. They can hang upside down to gather fruit from a tree.

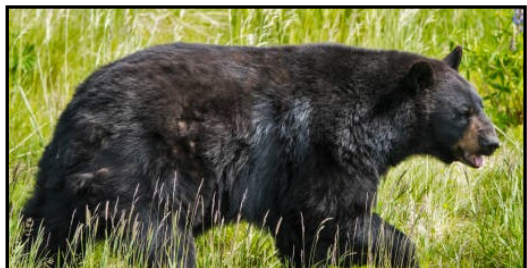


Polar bears live way up on the planet in the north polar—read COLD—regions! They are the largest bears on earth and eat meat regularly.



What a tongue this Malayan Sun Bear has! He uses it to extract termites, beetle and bee larvae, and some types of fruit. They live in Southeast Asian tropical forests, and are a very endangered species.

The Two Species at our Zoo...



The American Black Bear is indigenous to North America, and is the most populous. They are medium-sized bears who climb trees in the blink of an eye, thanks to their curved claws and bowed legs. They eat mostly plant-based foods, but will sometimes eat meat. Black may be their name, but they come in ALL colors, from mahogany red to brown to black, even to cream!



The Grizzly is actually a sub-species of American Brown Bears. Notice the round little ears, the "dish" (concave) face, and the hump on the shoulders. They have very long claws and are expert diggers, though they can climb a tree if they wish. Their diet, too, is filled with plant-based foods, but they can also bring down an elk or a moose if they are extra hungry!