

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

(a nonprofit organization /EIN: 33-0350180)

VOLUME XXXV

FALL 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.



A VERY BUSY SEASON!

October was the busiest month of our year: new and improved Twilight Safaris (they replaced Flashlight, because the zoo has nighttime lighting), Wolf Awareness Day, and Boo at the Zoo. Every single weekend sported an event that kept us and the zoo staff hopping. But, boy, WHAT FUN! Yes, Fall and Winter up here are chilly, but if you come prepared (in terms of clothing and car chains), the animals are bustling about most of the time. After all, this is an alpine zoo with (mostly) alpine animals!

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!

BBAZ is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE zoo!

Here is a list of some of *some* of our recent releases:

Red Shouldered hawk	Red Tail hawk	Cooper's hawk
2 Barn owls	Saw-whet owl	Several ducks
4 Opossums	2 Raccoons	Jays
Gray squirrels & Chipmunks	Flickers & Acorn Woodpeckers	Several rabbits including a Jack

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.



FOBBAZ Calendar of Events



Come Meet THE MAN Himself!

Santa Claws

Saturdays,

December 11th & 18th

10 am to 2 pm



See you at the zoo!

President's Message



My, how fast this year has flown!

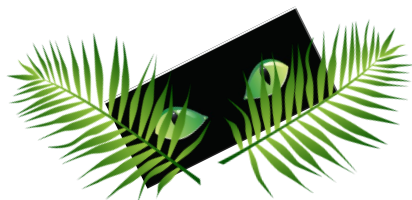
First, I want to thank our wonderful Keepers and Docents for all their help in making our Twilight Safari a great success. Then the very next weekend we had a fun and educational time wandering the zoo at Wolf Awareness Day, learning all about these superb canids. On the weekend following WAD, we all came in costume for Boo at the Zoo—a trick-or-treat event for everyone. Whew—October was a busy month!

Good news! Out restrooms/concession building has been approved by the county. The order has been sent in, and plans are to have it up and running by next spring.

I urge you to stop by our new zoo to enjoy the great variety of animals we have in our collection. You're bound to fall in love with at least *one* of them!

Sharon Johnson

FOBBAZ President



Twilight Safari!

This year, our annual October Flashlight Safari morphed into a Twilight Safari because the new zoo site is lighted at night! Still pockets of darkness, but very different from the old site. It was COLD (as October always becomes at night), but lots of FUN! We had four tours on Friday and Saturday evenings each for two weekends. Tickets were sold online only, which meant no long lines getting into the zoo. Halfway through the tour, we offered hot chocolate, cookies, and space heaters—all great ideas—at the picnic tables by the playground! Christy, one of our Lead Keepers, introduced Hootie (a Great-Horned Owl) to everyone, complete with picture options. He was so happy to meet people he never stopped talking, to the delight of all!



Christy, decorated for Halloween, and Hootie with his mouth open, chatting with the guests!



We wish to whole-heartedly thank the entire Zoo Staff for their tireless work to make the evenings' tours flow beautifully and professionally! Our organization is *always* impressed with their dedication to the zoo and its collection. Thanks, also, go to the FOBBAZ docents who volunteered their time those four evenings by being able and willing to do whatever was necessary. You're the best ;)



Just a Note & a Warm Wish

FOBBAZ has dedicated the funds received from our Holiday Cards to "Shade the Zoo" this year. If you wish to help us, please visit us on our website—fobbaz.org—for more information.

We wish you and yours all the best of the season and a grand new year. Here's to a happy, healthy 2022!

Wolf Awareness Day!

This is an annual event as part of the National Wolf Awareness Week, in which we learn that wolves are not scary or evil animals, but rather a huge and necessary asset to our world's ecosystem and food chain. We also learn about their remarkable physical abilities and their vibrant social system.

Our beautiful girl, **Spirit**, was enjoying being the “it girl” of the day! She and her two sisters are the last of a litter of nine, but look



darn fine for ladies “of some years!” In fact, in human age, these three *femme fatales* would be close to 80 years old!



Kassidy is reading *We Are Wolves*, a venerable and informative book, to a group of children. She must have read it at least 15 times, and has become the FOBBAZ wolf expert!



Ryan, a Zoo employee, talks to a family about various wolf pelts, claws, and teeth. It's pretty impressive to be able to hold a wolf tooth in your hand, and come away with the hand intact!



Peggy and Julieann are sharing their artistic skills by helping the kids make wolf puppets. Beautiful day for such endeavors!



Trevor is displaying wolf skulls, leg bones, and so forth. Though wolves are cousins of your family dog, their skeletons display remarkable adaptations for their part in the ecosystem.

Please Meet
Paula Burns
BBAZ Zookeeper



Hello. I'm Paula. It's a pleasure to be an Animal Keeper here at Big Bear Alpine Zoo. I discovered my passion for wildlife while volunteering my time at Wolf Mountain Sanctuary in nearby Lucerne Valley. Volunteering my time led me to animal keeping here at the zoo.

I love helping animals. I also love helping people understand the very special and specific roles that animals play in our environment. Since 2014, I have gained so much experience and have had the pleasure of working with our entire animal collection.

Educating visitors about our animal collection and wildlife in our local and surrounding areas is one of my favorite things to do. It gives me the opportunity to share how important wildlife still is even in our modern times. It gives me the opportunity to explain animal behavior and their ability to adapt in these changing times.

As an Animal Keeper, there is a lot of hard work and dedication that goes into being a steward for our animals. Their comfort, health, and well-being are very important, and it is my pleasure to be a part of caring for them.

Celebrated Halloween, Too!

And we had a GREAT time!

BBV Senior Center

12 pm to 4 pm

Every Thursday





BOO at the Zoo!

A splendid time was had by all—our interested animals, kids, and adults! Such fun and creative costumes, games, goodie bags, and, of course, buckets filled with luscious candies.

Trick-or-Treating around the zoo was the way to BOOGie!



Sharon (President) and Laurey (COO) greeting visitors.



Goodie Bags filled with toys happily awaiting their “jobs” the next day.



Ryan and other zoo staff spent oodles of time and effort to get the zoo ready for the big day!



“Sheriff” Kathy sets up a game in front of FOBBAZ’s Donor Wall.



Julieann helps a young man with the Witches’ Hat Toss.

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.



Lotus Blossom (American badger) was rescued from the roadside in 2005 at about 1 year of age and was about 16 when she simply went to sleep one night. Though badgers can be so aggressive that bears have been known to back down from them, our little girl would climb her chain-link fence with her tummy smashed up against it, asking for tummy rubs and tickles. Boy, was that hard to resist!

Bonzai, a coyote, was brought to the zoo in 2010 as a confiscation (illegal pet), and was thus imprinted on humans and not eligible for release. This stunning guy had a “split personality” from his years of being chained to a tree, for one minute he’d be all doggie wags and wiggles with a big grin on his face, then would immediately turn into a ferocious coyote, curling his lips, growling, and lunging at everything. He, too, just went to sleep one evening.



Pippen, a Red fox, came to us with his brother in 2007. They were tiny babies and born into captivity. Being imprinted and left without a mother to teach them HOW to be red foxes in the wild, they were unable to be released. Over the years he had several enclosure-mates and was friendly to them all, as well as human visitors to the zoo.

Please welcome our charming brown-eyed **Eleanor**, a fairly young female Black bear. She came to us from another sanctuary, and is now ensconced in Pooh's enclosure. She's fulfilled her 30-day required quarantine, and has ventured out into her new yard—solo, at this point—and hasn't seemed to find it wanting. Gradually, carefully, cautiously, she and Pooh will be introduced to one another. She's a fairly mellow young lady, so Zoo staff sees no reason the meetings shouldn't go well. She also seems to enjoy standing on her hind legs (no support necessary) which startled her keepers one morning, yet they loved it!





Kids' Korner

**Brr...it's getting
cold outside!**

What do *you* do when you have to go out in the cold? Put a jacket or hat or mittens or boots on, of course!

But what do animals do who live in the wild? They find special ways to stay warm, and here are pictures of some of them we have here at the zoo. Can you name the animal species?



This beautifully colored species does what your dogs at home (as well as *many* other species) do: they grow extra long, extra thick fur coats to survive the cold.

Many species of this kind of animal migrate, which means they fly from their summer habitats (which can become very cold) to warmer places to spend the winter.



As these kinds of species are cold-blooded, they cannot live through icy weather, so they find warm places in which to hibernate during the winter months, such as hay bales in a barn, or under nicely warmed buildings.

This special animal is the only one of its kind that has fur on the bottoms of its feet, because it lives where it's very, very cold with lots of ice and snow during the winter.



These species of big critters actually use dens to sleep the winter through. They eat and eat over the summer and fall just to have enough body mass to lie around doing nothing but snoozing during the winter. They do not hibernate; rather, they go into a state of torpor from which they can awaken to defend themselves or their babies.

Answers: Gray Fox, Canada Goose, California King Snake, Arctic Fox, American Black Bear