

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo
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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.



LET IT SNOW!

Big Bear has already experienced some great snowy weather, and BBAZ is welcoming "snowmen" of all ages and types! Haul out the hats, mittens, and snow-proof coats—the zoo is open every day from 10 am to 4 pm. The only delay MIGHT be if zoo-staff has to clear the walkways for visitors (and that's usually only an hour or two). Otherwise, our beloved animals—being alpine critters and all—think nothing of the snow. It's such a delight to see them cavorting in the white stuff!

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:

2 Gray Squirrels

2 Great-Horned Owls

Mallard Duck

Cottontail Rabbit

Robin

Several other ducks

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.

Unfortunately, most of the animals brought to the zoo for medical assistance have been hit by cars and left injured on the road. Some are other animal attacks, and some are unresponsive animals. We ask you to continue to be aware that this mountain is home to many, many species of wild animals.



FOBBAZ Calendar of Events



**Our WINTER calendar has begun
hibernating for a few months.**



BEAR AWARENESS DAY

**is our first big SPRING
event, so save the day—**

May 21st, 2022



See you at the zoo!



President's Message



Hello to all!

The zoo has been doing a steady business, and FOBBAZ memberships are coming in at a regular rate. It is so nice to have so many people care about our animals! We continue to receive some great Docent applications, and so far this year we have trained six new people!

There are still 2022 zoo calendars for sale—\$15 for 13 of the cutest ambassadors to greet you every month. Please contact us if you are interested.

The restrooms/concession building for the south end of the zoo is ordered and being built as we speak! The foundation will be put in as soon as weather permits.

Hope you and yours stay well.

Sharon Johnson
FOBBAZ President



The Beloved Betty White

Betty Marion White Ludden (January 17, 1922 – December 31, 2021) was a pioneer in American radio and television. She is fondly remembered in so many positive ways, and FOBBAZ is benefitting from her extraordinary love of animals. We have received donations in her name, and have created a “Betty White Memorial Fund,” which monies are restricted to animal care. Each time we donate these funds to our zoo ambassadors, we will remember this exceptional lady with joy and thankfulness in our hearts.



December Doings...



On two Saturdays last December, kids of all ages enjoyed conversations with Santa Claws. He was able to catch some rays on the front porch of the zoo’s new Education Station (days are non-existent during winter at the North Pole, remember), and his two C.O.E.s (Chief Operating Elves) were there to help greet everyone and hand out Goodie Bags. They even managed to take some family photos, and Santa received requests for many divers items, from video games to bicycles to new pets. Notice the Good/Bad booklet in Santa’s hand—amazingly, no one was on the Bad list!!

Obviously, only *great* people visit the zoo!

Please Meet
Dar Larizadeh
BBAZ Zookeeper



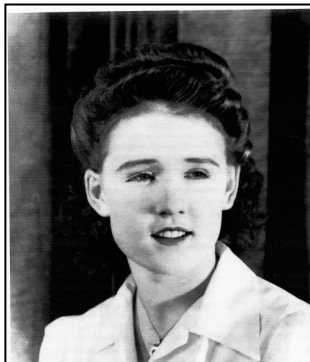
Dar Larizadeh moved to Big Bear in 2015 with no plan on staying beyond that winter season...7 years later he still calls Big Bear his home and couldn't be happier. He became a docent that year with FOBBAZ and began spending a lot of his time volunteering at the zoo. A year later he was hired as a part-time animal keeper. He became a full-time keeper in 2018. That same year he presented a paper at the American Association of Animal Keepers in Denver on the different feeding strategies made available to our aging mountain lion sisters, Canyon and Cascade.

2020 was a pivotal year for the zoo; the relocation was now within sight. Preparing the new facility was an important task that Dar was heavily involved with—working overtime and on his days off, and he became one of the key players in the big move that occurred in September of that year. He has also taken on the role of Social Media coordinator—managing the zoo's Facebook and Instagram pages. Recently he's been tasked with website maintenance as well—updating and editing content.

When he's not doing “zoo stuff,” he enjoys performing musically. He's been playing the drums and percussion for 40 years. He's played all over the world professionally with his former band, The Deep Eynde. He currently plays every Saturday in the Village At Barrel 33 with his cover band, Bearly Famous, from 4-8 pm.

He lives with his beautiful girlfriend Lyndsy and their 2 dogs and 3 cats. Other hobbies include board games, cribbage, off-roading, hiking, cooking, and *eating*, of course!!

FOBBAZ and BBAZ are truly lucky and honored to work with Dar—a delightful man of many talents! He even makes an *awesome* Santa ;)



In Memory of LaVonne Contreras

Sadly, we had to say farewell to a dedicated and well-loved member of our FOBBAZ family. LaVonne spent 94 years in this world, and was a truly delightful and giving woman. Countless people and zoo animals benefitted from her generous nature.

She will be missed greatly.



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 six of our friends.



Ben, a Steller's Jay (Get it? We have some *fiend-ishly* creative minds here at the zoo!), has been with us since 2020. His injured eye did not allow him to be released, as he was not able to thrive in the wild.



Mars, a Red Tegu (a type of monitor lizard), was brought to us by a collector in 2009. He was about 9 years old. No teasing about those jowls, please, as they cause female tegus to swoon with passion!

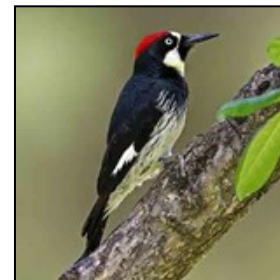


Merriam Webster, a Chilean Rose Tarantula, was donated to the zoo by a collector who was no longer able to care for her.

Robin Hood, a Red Fox, came to us in 2018 as an injured youngster. Since Red Foxes are not considered an indigenous species here, we were not able to release him.



Motown, a Gray Fox, was found by Redlands Animal Control in 2009 as a baby and brought to us to raise. Because he was orphaned and didn't have a mama to teach him *how* to be a Gray Fox in the wild, he therefore became imprinted and unreleasable.



Narwhal, an Acorn Woodpecker, has been with us since 2017, when he was found injured and had to have his left wing amputated, thereby making him flightless.

Yes, We CAN!

Throughout the valley, FOBBAZ places Donation Cans in caring and sharing businesses. The money given by visitors to those businesses is reserved *strictly for medical care* for the animals at the zoo, and has just recently paid for surgery for one of our Red Foxes and keeps Huckleberry, our three-legged Black Bear, in Metamucil!

A huge THANK YOU to these businesses. . .

76 Gas Station	Chevron Gas Station	Queen Bee Honey
Advanced Auto BB	Community Market East	Red Baron Pizza Sports Bar
Alpine Country Café	Del Lagos	Shay Meadow Ranch Feed
Alpine Liquor	DIY	Smoke Club XXI
Alpine Slide	Dominos	Stupidiotic
Barrel 33	Find Stuff Thrift Store	Sunshine Trading Post
Bear Skins	Fireside Lodge	Sweet Basil Bistro
Bianca & Pierre's	Get Boards	Taqueria 909
Big Bear Coffee	Get the Burger	Teddy Bears
Big Bear Sporting	Golden Bear Cottage	Thelma's Restaurant
Big Bear Super Store	Grind and Grill	Triangle Market
Blauers Ski	Hacienda Grill	UPS Store
Bosco's Bait & Tackle	House of Jerky	US Bank
Boulder Bay Market	Lakeview Market	Village Faire
Bowling Barn	Leather Depot	Village Music
Broadway Café	OJ's Donuts	Village Pizza
Brown Bear Gifts	Our Town Liquor	

When you're out and about in the BB Valley and see one of these cans on a store counter, please add a little something. All of the funds go directly toward medical care (surgery, medicine, special foods, equipment, etc.) for our wonderful zoo animals.

**You CAN and DO make a
difference in the lives of our
Animal Ambassadors!**





Kids' Korner

Who's New at the Zoo?

As a zoo which takes in orphaned, injured, or confiscated illegal pets, we are always thrilled to show off our newest friends from the animal world! Here are four brand new family members we want to share with you, but you'll have to do a little work to name each one, as we have mixed up their species names! Have fun ;)

This fellow's name is Millennium Merlin. He's a bird-of-prey, which means he hunts for small animals for his dinner. He had to have a part of his wing amputated due to injuries and cannot fly any more.

This hunter is a NOCLAF: _____



Meet Nigel. He is a water bird who loves to fish. He, too, had an injury to his wing, a partial amputation, and cannot fly any longer. He is living with his friends Niles and Daphne in the marshland enclosure.

This giant bird is a NALIPEC: _____

Hansel and Gretel love to climb up and down trees and chase each other around. They are a little bit larger than the gray critters in our front yards, and are named after a kind of red dog-like animal (which we also have at the zoo).

This little guy is a OXF RIQUSLER: _____



Hope is a young lady who was orphaned. She is living with three other friends here at BBAZ and absolutely loves her keepers, following them around asking for scratches and sticking her nose in their pockets for possible treats!

This beauty is a EMUL EDER: _____