

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XXXIX

FALL 2022

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.



FALLING INTO WINTER

Roadwork Season on Moonridge seems to be, for the most part, over! There are plants and trees going in now, but there's always a lane open in the new round-about. We've been busy with our Fall events (Twilight Safari, Wolf Awareness and Boo at the Zoo), and are looking forward to colder weather settling in on us soon. All the animals are growing their winter coats; don't forget to bring YOURS along with you when you visit!

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 listing of *a few* of our recent releases:

1-pigeon-orphaned

2-grey squirrels-one orphaned and one juvenile from Crestline who was having some troubles

1-ground squirrel-young and orphaned

5-baby raccoons who were found in a trash container whose contents were slated to be crushed, and 1 baby who was found in cement at a construction site

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 other injuries are 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, all of whom are vital to the environment.**



FOBBAZ Calendar of Events



MEET *THE MAN!*

SANTA CLAWS AT THE ZOO!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

11 am to 3 pm

at the EDUCATION STATION

ON ZOO GROUNDS

**● ZOO TICKET PURCHASE
REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE**



See you at the zoo!

President's Message



This quarter has been an incredibly busy time. Our October events have been well-attended; even our donation jar is stuffed—about \$600 from Twilight Safari and Boo at the Zoo. So appreciated!

Our Concession Stand is finally starting to shape up. We now have a freezer, refrigerator, and soon the shelves, racks and (fingers crossed) a sink. It has been a long struggle, but it should be great when it's all put together. Next, we will need Docents to staff the shifts. Please keep this in mind: if we don't have workers, we won't have a concession stand. We're planning on being open just on the weekends for a while.

The new Board of Directors had their first meeting, and we're already reviewing and updating our Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Holiday Cards are in process—the campaign this year is a larger Rehabilitation Center for the zoo.

Enjoy your Holidays and stay healthy!

Sharon Johnson

FOBBAZ President

Please Meet

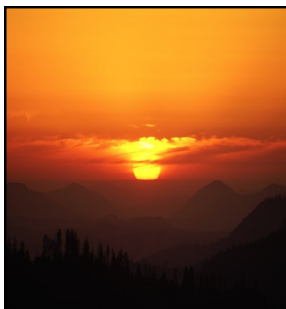
Irma McLeod

BBAZ Zookeeper



After a 15 year stint in the music business, I decided to pursue my childhood dream of becoming an animal keeper. While going back to school to work on my bachelor's degree, I became an animal keeper volunteer at LA Zoo and was hired 6 months later. I began my keeper career working with elephants, rhinos, tigers, snow leopards, hippos, giraffes, great apes and eventually worked with all the animals in the collection, with my last 5 years there being part of the nursery team. I left LA Zoo after 15 years, planning on semi-retiring to Big Bear Lake. In 2018, after inquiring about volunteering at Big Bear Alpine Zoo, I was talked into working part time and haven't looked back since. I really respect and enjoy the entire crew here and the animals have all captured my heart. I can't think of a better way to cruise into permanently retiring than being part of this wonderful zoo!

And we can't think of a better person to stay *forever*♥



Twilight Safari

October, 2022

See the ZOO in a Whole New Light!

In October, four after-hours tours were offered on three Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations and payment were available online only. Each tour was limited to 25 people, which allowed everyone to hear and see and ask questions. BBAZ sits at 7,000 ft. ASL, and most people were well-prepared for the chilly, rainy weather. What fun we had!

This year, Dar was there with his beloved Black Bears, and Christy had Hootie Owl talking to everyone. Also, this year the FOBBAZ Concession Stand made its maiden voyage (and did NOT sink): hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and cookies were perfect to help keep our visitors warm.

☛We can't thank you enough for the donations—absolutely, outstandingly GENEROUS!☛



The New FOBBAZ Calendar Is Available NOW!

Our 2023 calendar is out and available for sale. The cost is \$15, which includes shipping and handling. It's filled with a dozen pictures of zoo ambassadors, including Luna (a Ringtail) on the cover. If you wish to purchase a calendar, please go to our website—fobbaz.org—to place your order. Thank you!

☞ January • February • March • April • May • June • July • August • September • October • November • December ☛

Wolf Awareness Day was a *HOWLING* Success!



As part of the yearly National Wolf Awareness Week, BBAZ and FOBBAZ get together to shine a light on these gorgeous and *critically necessary* animals. If they are eliminated, a highly essential component of the natural biological chain goes missing. It is this chain which keeps life on Earth running smoothly!



Biofacts (skulls, teeth, pelts, claws) are a fascinating way to learn about various animal species—in this case, canids.



The Scavenger Hunt sent people around the zoo looking for answers to the written questions. This fact is an example of who is most important to the pack.



Learning what the impact of the loss of a species has on the flora and fauna of a region can be a huge eye-opening experience.



BOO at the Zoo!

A day at the zoo is *the* way to have a frighteningly great time! Games, treats, and the most creative costumes on the mountain! What a fun day for everyone, including the animals!



Our greeter and
official Witch Wilba
was at the
front gate to
welcome all who
DARED
to
ENTER!



Games and treats were enjoyed by everyone!

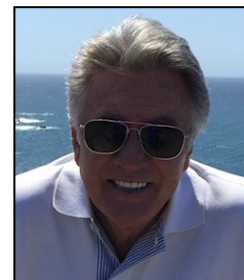


The Ed Shed was tragically overwhelmed by all
kinds of creepy-crawlies!

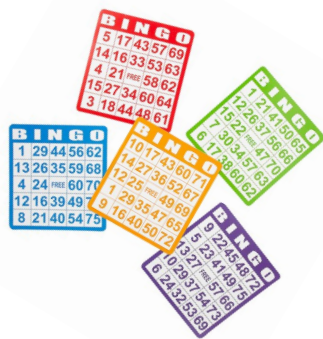


Even the new concession stand joined the fun by
handing out spiced cider!

"In Memory of Patrick Andrew McGivern who passed this September 2022, a local Big Bear resident for 15 years who loved living in the mountains and enjoyed the lake, the wildlife and the serenity of his log cabin in the woods. His family and friends have honored his legacy by donating to FOBBAZ. We say thank you for providing an important service to our Big Bear community and beyond."



BaddaBING-O



*We celebrated
Halloween with
Grace and Style
(and a few others
as well)!*



Meet the 2022-23 FOBBAZ

Board of Directors!

We're quite excited about some of the new projects and ideas for the zoo, which will better help the animals in its care. Keep checking in with us to see what's in the works!

Back: Erin, Kassidy, Vicki, Anita

Front: Meg, Kimi, Sharon, Laurey, Melinda, Liza, and (of course!) Simba



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.



Abbey had been with us since 2012. It is unknown if she was orphaned or not, but came to us with eyes still closed and had to be hand-raised. Because she depended on humans for food, she couldn't be released into the wild. She lived here with her other girlfriends, and ruled the roost with spunk and determination.

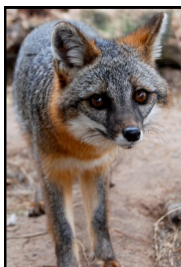
Malibu came to us near the end of 2011. He was being raised in a home in Malibu, but was taken to a rehabilitator after seven months: a Mule Deer is *no* kind of house pet! Unfortunately, the damage to his hooves had been done and he was heavily imprinted. He called BBAZ home for about 11 years.



Jack Sparrow, a Kestrel, came to the zoo in 2010 from a rehabilitator—he had an injured eye that could not be healed, and therefore could not be released. These birds are the smallest raptors in North America, incredibly strong, and are frequently called Sparrow Hawks (hence his name) or Windhovers. He graciously shared his digs with a Burrowing Owl, which worked fabulously: Jack at the top of the trees, Ichabod in the ground-level door of his burrow.



New Friends to Meet at BBAZ



Grey Fox "**Mr. Twitch**" came to us last month with neurological issues. He's still a bit wobbly though getting better. He's by himself just now, but as his strength improves, he may join Michael J. and Mozart.



An American Kestrel male (no name as of yet) came in missing the tip of a wing so he's unable to fly any distance. He should be making his grand entrance in November.



Kids' Korner

My Very Own WOLF!

Wolves (part of the *Canidae* family, and related to your puppy at home) used to roam all over California. They went away about a 100 years ago, but now, it seems, they're starting to come back into our state's wild areas. As the United States hosts National Wolf Awareness during the month of October, we thought you might like to create your OWN wolf! So grab the colored pencils, crayons, or paintbox, and have a colorful time creating your very own new friend!



My wolf's name is _____.