

# Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME **XL**

SPRING 2023

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.



## SPRING IS HERE!

*Spring has finally sprung and we're enjoying it immensely! Still a few dirty snowbanks here and there, but the roads, hiking trails and picnic areas are open again and our trees and flowers are starting to bud. We're giddy with joy! This seems a good time to invite you up to our mountain community to enjoy the zoo and all its ambassadors. We'd love to see you!*

*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](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)**

**E-newsletters arrive promptly and allow FOBBAZ to use more of our funds for the zoo!**

## President's Message



Springtime is a beehive of activity at our zoo and saw us hosting several events: hunting for Leprechauns, sharing fun facts about our zoo animals, enjoying an Easter Egg hunt, learning about the trees in our forest and planting a tree on Arbor Day. Finally, it's all about our beloved bears with our annual Bear Awareness Day (May 20th)—we learn about the foods they eat, where they live, their habits, and their great sense of smell. Also, school tours are almost daily, so ask your school to make arrangements. For the more mature crowd, Barrel 33 sponsored a "Roar and Pour" wine walk at the zoo—great food, wine, and company! Meanwhile, there has been a lot of upgrading around the zoo in order to provide better views of and safety for the animals.

As we come to the end of the season, we are ready to jump into summer! We eagerly await Ice Cream Safari on June 24th—what a delicious way to explore our zoo and see our animals, both old and new!

Our photography contest is now open! Registrations are due by July 17th, so please visit our website for more information: [www.friendsofthebigbearalpinezoo.org](http://www.friendsofthebigbearalpinezoo.org).

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this season's events huge successes!

Sharon Johnson

FOBBAZ President



# Earth Day

## April 2023



A very cool April 16th found many Friends and BBAZ staffers at the west end of Big Bear Lake picking up trash. Bags and bags were collected, thanks to the Municipal Water District. They manage Lake usage, and are always supportive and generous with their time and efforts. They supply us with gloves, long pincers, and bags, then pick up what we've gathered. It's a win/win for everyone!

## FOBBAZ

### Calendar of Events



#### Bear Awareness Day

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**



#### Ice Cream Safari

**Saturday, June 24, 2023**

**(a \$5 donation for 5 scoops  
not included in admission cost)**



**See You at the Zoo!**

... and to give you a heads-up for future plans:

Our ever-popular **Twilight Safaris** begin on September 29th and 30th, and continue for the first two weekends in October.

Online reservations and entry fees are required prior to the event.

Bring a jacket, as we get cool in the Fall evenings!



### **BBAZ is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE zoo!**

Here is a listing of *a few* of our recent releases:

- 1-chipmunk—head trauma, unknown source
- 1-Cotton Tail—attacked by a housecat
- 1-Grey Squirrel—very bad case of mange
- 1-Red-tailed Hawk, flew into a window
- 1-House Finch—conjunctivitis (eye swollen shut)

The remainder of animals who've recently come in to rehab will be released when they've healed or remain with us at the zoo, and will be on exhibit ultimately.

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.**



Alayna (co-owner of Barrel 33), Meg, Julie, Laurey, Erin, & Peggy enjoyed all the festivities!

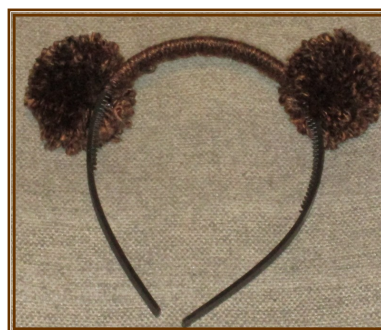
On Sunday, April 16th, **Barrel 33** hosted a ROAR & POUR wine walk at the zoo—exceedingly organized and great fun! Barrel 33 has proudly been a Big Bear Lake staple since 2017, offering regional wine, beer, and cider tastings with products sourced as close to home as possible. There is also a curated retail shop, a delicious food menu, and a welcoming atmosphere. Further, one of our BBAZ zookeepers provides *wonderful* musical entertainment there (when he’s not feeding the bears, of course)!

WE HEARTILY THANK THEM FOR THEIR  
COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT!



## Bear-Ear Pointers

- ✓ **Fun to wear!**
- ✓ **Unique!**
- ✓ **Conversation Starter!**



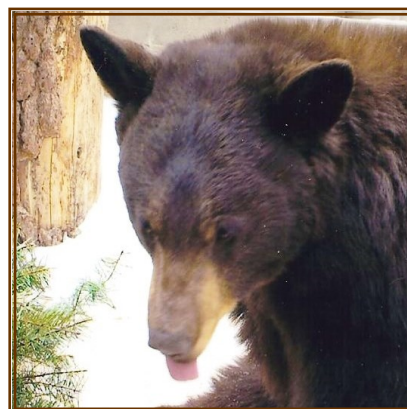
## Purchase a Set

at

## Bear Awareness Day at BBAZ



⇐ Hucklebeary  
and  
Hollybeary ⇒  
both say  
“YAY”





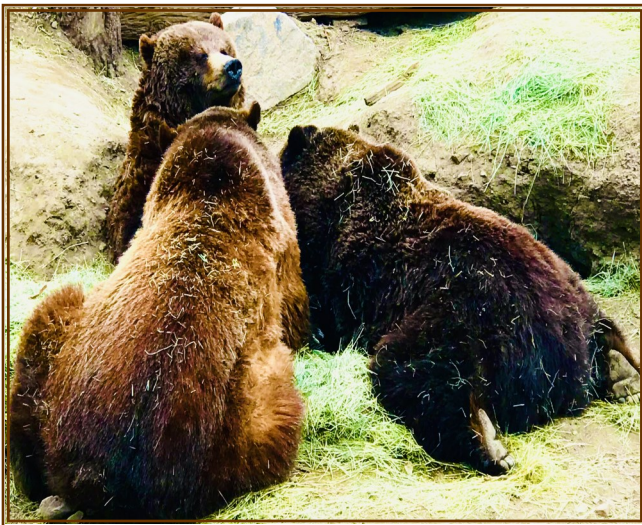


...to a Great Mom we all  
know and love...

Mama Tutu!

Since 1996, Big Bear Alpine Zoo and FOBBAZ have been in love with our wonderful mama grizzly bear and her two babies. Mama had a rough beginning, trying to stay alive after a 1984 wild fire ravaged much of the Wyoming wilderness in which she lived. Being a smart cookie, she rapidly learned that frequenting campgrounds where two-legged animals (*i.e.* people) *always* had food, but that got her into trouble with the law: Bear #163 was tagged and moved out of the area. As her original area was so “fruitful,” she kept returning, thus being moved farther and farther away each time they caught her bluff-charging folks, etc. But when she came back a third time with two babies and continued to teach *them* her naughty (and very dangerous) methods for obtaining food, word was put out that there was a mother grizzly and her cubs who needed a permanent *not wild* home. Money to fly them here and to build their habitat came from across Big Bear Valley, the Inland Empire Chapter of Harley Davidson, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, people from all over the world, and even the National Guards’ Battalion 163. Those troops actually came up and helped with the excavation and building of the new habitat! Mama and her cubs arrived in California via airplane, and have called it home since. Mama (at approximately 38 years old) still watches over her two cubs, though they’re now approximately 27 years old!

*Bless you Mama Tutu ♥*



Front: Harley (L), Ayla (R)      Back: Mama Tutu

Because they never separated from each other as they would have done in the wild, the “babies” still nurse! Mama succumbs after some wheedling and whining (think toddlers), and this photo shows the result. Oh yes, regular food is eaten daily by all three; the “babies” (each much larger than Ma-ma—in fact, Harley weighs twice as much as Ma-ma) just get a nutritional *snack* now and then!

MOMS NEVER STOP BEING MOMS!

# Arbor Day at the Zoo~~ April 28th & 29th



What an inspiring two days we had, welcoming everyone to an Arbor Day Festival. Kids of all ages were able to learn about and value the Earth's trees. We even had a "planting station" where youngsters were helped in the planting of Colorado Blue Spruces to take home! Samples of our indigenous Big Bear mountain tree branches and pinecones were available to see and touch—pinecones truly amazing in size and texture differences, from the huge and terribly prickly ten-pound Coulter Pines (aka *widow-makers*) to the small and dainty Incense Pines.



Valuable information we all need to keep in mind!



Front greeters & information/samples table.



Marty (from nativescapes here in Big Bear) donated his valuable time and expertise to help the kids plant their trees.



Issy and her mom made sure the roots were straight down in the soil and thus able to grow!



Planting soil mixed with nutrients was at the ready!



It was a dirty job, but someone had to do it!

Celebrate Trees!



# 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 two of our friends.



**Ichabod**, a Burrowing Owl, came to us in 2014 and we had to amputate his right wing due to an injury. He was a friendly little guy, and got along with all his enclosure-mates. We miss his smiling owly-face looking out at the world!



**Crowseph** came to BBAZ in 2018. He was an illegal pet discovered here in Big Bear. Because he was imprinted, he remained with us. Unfortunately, he succumbed to his growingly severe heart issues.



## “Extra, Extra, Historical News is Being Made!”

You may have seen the article in our *Big Bear Grizzly* newspaper that new Mountain Lion cubs have arrived safely at the zoo! As our former sisters (Canyon & Cascade) passed a little while ago, people are ecstatic over these new little girls. They are from the California west-central Santa Cruz Mountains, and were found (separately—they are not sisters) by members of the Santa Cruz Bobcat & Mountain Lion group of citizens. They were sent to the Oakland Zoo for hospital care and rehabilitation. The orphans are not quite the same age, but both were way too small to have been on their own. They are currently in quarantine, but you may visit them beginning in early June!

Please meet the new girls in town:

**Hazel**



**Holly**





## Kids' Korner

## Can You Find the Tree's Name?

To honor and keep the “tree-appreciation” spirit going strong, here’s a word-search for types of trees across the United States and around the world. You will see that trees come in all shapes, sizes, and colors!. Hope you can sit in the shade of a lovely tree while completing this page!



Bald Cypress  
(Southeastern US)



Dragon's Blood  
(Yemen)

C	R	U	S	P	K	X	A	M	S	O	Q	D	P	L
Z	O	W	Q	W	N	J	B	L	T	D	C	R	E	I
J	G	U	R	H	U	P	A	X	S	K	T	A	N	Z
A	W	H	L	I	L	C	L	R	U	P	U	G	A	L
C	D	M	Y	T	O	S	D	H	G	E	I	O	Z	A
A	B	U	Q	E	E	M	C	C	A	N	R	N	V	J
R	A	C	J	O	Z	R	Y	K	R	D	E	S	U	O
A	M	E	B	A	S	U	P	J	P	W	Z	B	K	S
N	O	Q	N	K	L	Y	R	I	I	P	U	L	E	H
D	V	U	H	Z	K	W	E	R	N	M	C	O	B	U
A	S	P	E	N	J	R	S	X	E	E	P	O	U	A
E	N	D	P	Q	B	G	S	E	I	U	C	D	N	T
C	T	V	O	S	N	Q	I	A	U	N	M	O	T	R
F	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	E	L	M	L	N	E
W	Q	C	V	U	S	Z	T	O	D	N	R	P	G	E



Sugar Pine (Cascade  
Range, US)



Coulter Pinecone  
(California)



American Elm (US)



Joshua Tree (California)



Jacaranda (Africa)



Aspen (Utah)



White Oak (California)

NOTE: The areas listed in parentheses are where the photo was taken as an indication of climates and soils necessary for the tree to flourish. Many of these species may/will be found in other locations.