

Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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VOLUME XLIII

FALL 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.



FALL INTO BEAUTY!

The most colorful and glorious season of our year is shining brightly. Cool temperatures, bright blue skies, and beautiful colors surround us. All our ambassadors come out to enjoy the lovely days and cool evenings. It's a great time for a family look-see at our environs and our beautiful critters here at the zoo. Plan a fun and educational weekend before we face snow season!

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!

President's Message

As most of you know by now, a new FOBBAZ board of directors was voted into place and installed in late September of this year. The board is very excited about new plans, ideas and projects. We are also very dedicated to continuing the long-established mission of FOBBAZ which is public education and supporting the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

Our new fiscal year started October 1st and we have had a very busy kick-off.

Twilight Safari took place end of September and a few Saturdays in October. This year, we increased the number of tours per day and decided to try the tours just on one day each weekend. Overall, the feedback received from our visitors this year was very positive and we are now contemplating some twilight activities at various times for the upcoming year. Thanks again to our neighborhood alliance—Moonridge Coffee and Dank Donuts for assistance during these Twilight Events.

Wolf Awareness Day was October 21st and we had a blast introducing our new wolf “pack” to everyone.

Sharon Johnson did a fantastic job organizing the day. The focus was on education and fun! The day included enrichment boxes for our wolves that the kids (and parents) stuffed with treats and surprises for the Wolves. The little “pack” had a lot of fun ripping boxes apart to get to the treats. There were also stations with Bio-facts related to Wolves as well as the debut of the “quiz board.”

Boo at the Zoo was another huge success. Lots of happy kids and adults cruising the zoo on the 28th to visit the various stations. Erin Whittle (our new COO) did a super job at organizing this year. There were several new action stations to see. Activity stops included a graveyard of “extinct” animals; the bone yard; the quiz board with Creatures of the Night; lessons on palm oil; a craft station and of course...lots of candy.

As we step back and prepare for 2024, we need to tap into the incredible resources that we have- long term volunteers with very long memories and our Big Bear neighborhood supporters. As the year progresses, we will be reaching out to all of you for ideas and plans to support the FOBBAZ mission which is to support the zoo through education, volunteer support and fundraising.

Megann Robertson

FOBBAZ President 2023/24



FOBBAZ Board Members 2023/24

Rachel Taylor, Kathy Greenwood, Meg Robertson, Vicki Cummings

Kimi Bechtol, Melinda Garcia, Laurey Haviland, Julie Morrison, Erin Whittle

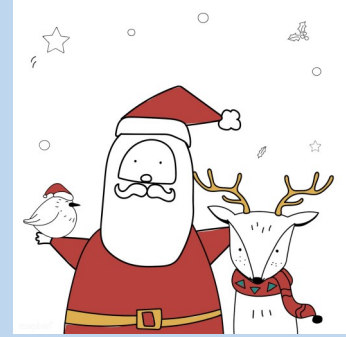
FOBBAZ

Calendar of Events



Santa Claws

December 2, 9, 16th **10:30 to 3:00



BBAZ is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE zoo!

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

- Young Steller's Jay found in a street
- Screech Owl who came in with a wing fracture
- 3 Grey Squirrels, eyes closed and had fallen from their nest
- Ground Squirrel, orphaned but able to be released
- Pigeon who had flown into a window
- Chickadee who had been attacked by a cat

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 our environment.



Meet our New Keepers

My name is Greg Lowe. I come from a background in animal care of large hoof stock working at the Oakland Zoo and the Blair Drummond Safari park.

I have degrees in Animal Biology and Conservation Management from the University of Stirling,

I am excited to be part of the team here at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo and to help create fulfilling futures for all animals in need.



Hello, I'm Niki Petrik. I'm originally from Maryland but moved to Lake Arrowhead a few years ago. I worked at a local animal hospital.

My postgraduate degree is in Wildlife Conservation and Management.

This is why I ended up at the zoo and I'm hoping to make an impact on local conservation.



What is a DOCENT ?

Visitors at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo might see a few people walking around with the distinctive blue shirt that says..."Ask me, I'm a Docent."

So...who or what is a Docent?

The word Docent is derived from the Latin word *docere*, meaning "to teach." In many European Universities the term Docent refers to a specific academic appointment—typically below the full professor rank—equal to an associate professor.

In the USA, the term is more widely used to refer to a person who is knowledgeable and may conduct tours through a museum or zoo.

A Zoo Docent is capable of delivering information and answering questions that visitors may have. Docents are able to explain the zoo mission as well as promote respect for wildlife.



There are many ways to volunteer and support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo—being a Docent is one opportunity.

Our Volunteer training is undergoing a "reconstruction" so that we can offer you some options for your valuable volunteer hours.

If you are already a FOBBAZ volunteer—THANKS... from the bottom of our hearts !

If you are not currently part of FOBBAZ and you think this might be a rewarding assignment for you— please give us a call or look us up on our web site for more information!

Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo 909-878-4200 or www.fobbaz.org



We all “Cried WOLF” that day!

What a fun day, meeting our new wolf pack. Bodhi is the older wolf, but the other 3 “babies” are more than thrilled to meet him and join his pack!



People could fill boxes with “wolf food”: peanut butter, fruits, vegetables, toys with special “scents” and even a knotted up old sheet. It certainly didn’t take long for Bodhi, Ivar, Loki and Nymeria to figure out how to open the boxes and delve right in for all the goodies!



Yes, We CAN!

Throughout the Valley, 'Friends of Big Bear Alpine Zoo' (FOBBAZ) has donation cans with many local businesses. We are grateful that all these businesses are willing to share their counter space with us. Many cashiers go beyond the call of duty explaining how these funds are strictly used for medical care for the animals.

For example, in the past year these donations paid for surgeries for our Foxes, Coyotes and Owls.. Since starting this program in 2019, we have paid out over \$18,000 for Medical care. Clearly, we appreciate every donation, no matter how big or small. And, to all the owners, managers, and cashiers, thank you for your continued support!



(Village and Big Bear Blvd —Boulder Bay to Moonridge)

76 Gas Station, Alpine Country Café, Alpine Liquor , Alpine Slide , Barrel 33 , Bear Skins , Bianca & Pierre's , Big Bear Bar and Grill, Big Bear Coffee, Big Bear Outfitter, Big Bear Sporting Goods, Big Bear Super Store , Blauers Ski, Board and Brush, Boulder Bay Market, Bowling Barn, Brown Bear Gifts, Chevron Gas Station, Christmas Store and More, Del Lagos, El Rincon, Get Boards, House of Jerk , Lakeview Market, Leather Depot, Moonridge Coffee Shop, Mountain Gifts, Oliver's Emporium, Our Town Liquor, Queen Bee Honey, Stupidotic, Sunrise Trading Post, Taqueria 909, Teddy Bears , Triangle Market, Village Faire, Village Music, Village Pizza, Yosemite Axe Throwing.

(Northshore and East End)

Broadway Cafe, DIY, Fawnskin Market, Find Stuff-Thrift Store, Get the Burger, Hacienda Grill, Lodge Podge, Mountain Munchies, OJ's Donuts, Phils Automotive, Red Baron Pizza/Sports Bar, Shay Meadow Ranch Feed, Smoke Club XXI, Sweet Basil Bistro, Thelma's Restaurant, VCA, WorldMark Big Bear

When you are out and about in Big Bear and see one of our cans, please add a little something. All the funds go directly toward medical care (surgery, medicine, special foods, and equipment) for our wonderful zoo



Some FUN at BOO at the ZOO !



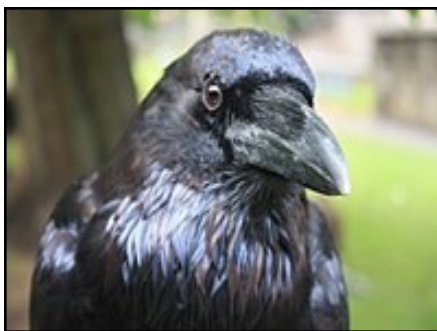
Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

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.



Red Fox **Friar Tuck** joined Maid Marion a few years ago, coming to us from the San Diego area with leg injuries. He was a delight to watch cavorting about on all four good legs.

Rose, a Chilean Rose-haired Tarantula, was a donated pet many years ago. Friendly and interested in all things, she was well-loved by zoo keepers and zoo visitors.



Bubba, a Common Raven, was also a donated pet. He was the clown of the zoo, saying his name to all who'd listen (and how could you *HELP* but hear him!). Very smart and talented, he conversed with everyone, could solve puzzles for food, and loved to untie peoples' shoelaces.





Kids' Korner

What About Wolves



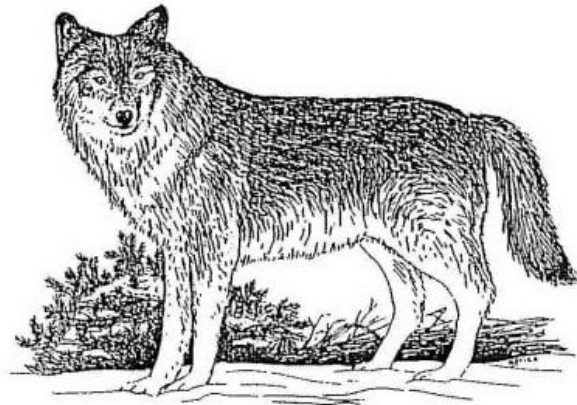
How many wolves can you find In this picture?

Wolf Word Search

Look up, down, right and left.

Circle each word you find from the list.

- beaver
- carnivore
- deer
- den
- diet
- endangered
- habitat
- herbivore
- howl
- moose
- pack
- predator
- prey
- pup
- range
- territory
- Timber Wolf
- wild



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

We've been told that there are 17 wolves in the picture !