



PAW PRINTS

Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo Newsletter

In this issue:

- Ice cream Safari
- Upcoming Events
- Southwest Gas Volunteer Day!
- Shade Structure Update
- New Zoo Staff
- Rehab Update
- Down Memory Lane

FOBBAZ

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.



SOUTHWEST GAS

On June 29th, the Big Bear Alpine Zoo had a small invasion...

the best kind of invasion !

A volunteer group from Southwest Gas started to trickle in at 8:00 am. By 9:00 there were over 85 willing participants for a day of clean up, painting, weeding, fence construction and shoveling.

It was amazing what was accomplished by this group in a few short hours.

Besides all the physical help, Southwest Gas presented us with a check for \$10,000 to assist in our shade and tree project.



Many..Many Thanks to all the Southwest Gas Volunteers

who helped out that day !





Big Bear Alpine Zoo is proud to be a REHAB & RELEASE center!

Its been a busy "baby" season...and our rehabilitation area was overwhelmed with intensive care and release...

Many types of birds and mammals are brought to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo- some are injured and some are orphaned. The Animal Support area will treat what we can and our main goal is to release these critters back to the wild. Unfortunately some of the injuries are so devastating that the animal will not be able to survive in the wild. In those cases, we will try to provide a forever home at our facility. If they are not capable to hunt for food or protect themselves then it becomes unethical or even cruel to release them.

Please make sure when "rescuing" an animal that it truly needs assistance and remember that they are wild.

Below are some of our friends over the last couple of months that made a full recovery and were able to go back out into the wild where they came from :

G H Owl baby (orphan) Released

Black bird (tree cut down) Released

Turkey Vulture (Hit by Car) Released

G H Owl (tangled in fishing line) Released

Coopers Hawk baby (found on ground) released

Flicker(found on ground) Released

Morning Dove (hit a window) Released

Robin fledgling (on ground) Re-united with parents



Barn owl baby (fell from stadium light post) still under treatment

Barn swallow (found in lake) released

Barn swallow (found on ground) released

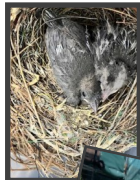
Red shoulder Hawk (head trauma) still under treatment

Robin fledgling-still under treatment

Chipmunk baby (woodpecker attacking it) still under treatment

Fawn (hit by car) transferred to a Deer Rehab facility for further treatment

3 separate ground squirrel babies -

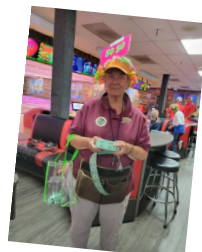


We ask you to continue to be aware that this mountain is home to many, many species of wild animals, all of whom are vital to our environment.



Bowling for the ZOO took place on Sunday, April 28th at the Bowling Barn in Big Bear Village. Many thanks to the entire crew for all their assistance during the event. There were 16 lanes packed with energy and laughs as teams competed for a variety of prizes and bragging rights. There was a silent auction as well as several raffle items. Many Thanks go out to our wonderful supporters from all over the Big Bear Valley. This event was a great success that exceeded our initial goal...we raised over \$13,000 .

Thanks everyone and see you all again next year !



Many Thanks to Our Local Supporters...

Moonridge Coffee Company

Just a short walk up Moonridge Road from both the Big Bear Alpine Zoo and the FOBBAZ office is the Moonridge Coffee Company. Since their purchase of Moonridge Coffee Company in 2023, Rob and Michelle McCoy have been energizing Moonridge and beyond through their fantastic drinks and social contributions. The Friends of the Big Bear Zoo and the Big Bear Alpine Zoo is delighted to be able to collaborate with this invigorating coffee shop as they serve the Moonridge Corridor not only espresso, but music, philanthropy, and community.



During last year's Twilight Safari, Moonridge Coffee and their expert barista teams donated coffee and time to support our annual moonlit event. Their beverages provided a much-needed warmth, as did their outgoing attitudes and community spirit.

Though they may prefer to start their day with a handful of meatballs than an Americano, our mountain lions Hazel and Holly were incredibly flattered to have been the inspiration for a specialty latte, and even more grateful that proceeds from a purchase of the beverage supported the zoo and their continued care.

The Moonridge Coffee Company helped our staff show that the Zoo has more to offer musically than coyote calls and wolf howls when our lead keeper Dar performed with his group Bearly Famous at the café's Summer Nights at Moonridge.

We cannot thank the McCoy's and Moonridge Coffee Co. enough for pouring their hearts and Matcha's into making the Moonridge Corridor a stronger and sweeter community, one cup at a time.



A trip down "memory lane"....



Meet Valentine...

Visitors to the Big Bear Alpine Zoo winged enclosures and will see a variety of birds including Owls, Red Tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles. One of our special residents is Valentine- a Bald Eagle. Valentine is one of the zoo's oldest residents at approximately 34 years of age!

In February of 2004, The Moonridge Animal Park (now- the Big Bear Alpine Zoo) was notified by California Fish and Game that wardens near Lake Skinner had located and rescued an adult Bald Eagle who was found emaciated and barely alive. The poor bird was just lying there, too weak to even avoid the poking and prodding of curious onlookers who were touching her wings and head. Unauthorized contact of a downed eagle is a federal offense but also a dangerous thing to do. An eagle's long and powerful talons could do extensive damage if she had reacted to all this unwanted attention.

Valentine arrived at the Moonridge Animal Park on Valentines Day, 2004 and was found to have a severe heart murmur and a cataract in one eye. It was suspected that not only did Valentine have difficulty locating food with her reduced vision- but there was a good possibility that what food she had found was tainted with pesticide poison. Pesticide poisoning of her food source was most likely due to chemical run off into the lake that then affected her food source- fish.

Valentine was taken to a veterinary eye specialist who delivered the bad news. Valentine could not see at all out of her right eye and the left one was developing another cataract as well. The determination was made that Valentine would not be able to return to the wild and was given a permanent home at the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

Valentine is currently "rooming" with Ares, a Golden Eagle who is approximately 27 and also blind in the right eye.





The Ice Cream Safari took place on June 15th ! What a fun day !

Ice Cream was available at 5 different stations at various locations around the zoo. Five flavors were represented with Chocolate, Vanilla, Chocolate Chip Mint, Oreo Chunk and of course-Birthday Cake. Participants in the chilly feast purchased a punch card and made their way around to zoo to sample each flavor.

We even had a small weather-related wind devil pass right through the zoo which whisked up a few nearly empty ice cream cups over the fence and into the Grizzly enclosure.



Harley had a wonderful time cleaning up the cups for a special treat.

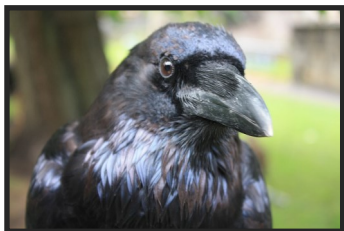


All in all...a tasty day for all!

Special thanks to Adolfo Gonzalez and the staff of the North Pole Fudge and Ice Cream Company on Pine Knot in Big Bear Lake for once again donating ALL the delicious Ice Cream for this event.



Crossing the Rainbow Bridge...



We had to say goodbye to Gracie the Raven in August. She had a pin in one of her wings that had become exposed and she had also acquired a fungal lung infection. Gracie came to live with us in 2017 when she sustained an injury to her wing. The Raven area will be a little quieter now without Gracie's "song" to entertain us .



UPDATE:

The Southwest Gas Trees have arrived !

12 beautiful trees arrived the week of August 19th and were hauled into the various animal enclosures by crane.



The trees in the wolf area were fenced to help deter busy wolf "pup" activity !





The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is coming up on its 4th anniversary of the epic move from the old zoo site to our wonderful new location. As with any move, we have realized that some additional projects need to be drafted to ensure the comfort and health of our residents.

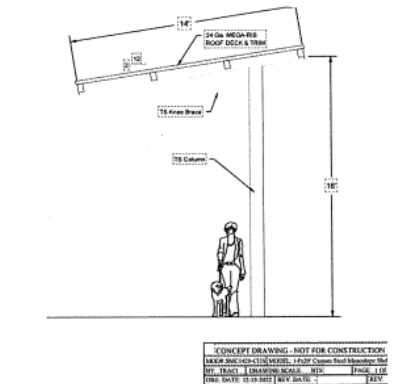
One of those projects is **SHADE**.

San Bernardino County and the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo have stepped up to the plate to start the design and procurement of permanent shade structures. FOBBAZ has dedicated \$250,000 for this project. We have been working on this specific rendition of the shade project for over a year and we felt that an update was necessary.

UPDATE:

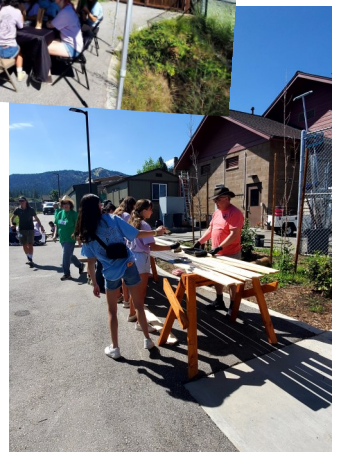
- The material will match the existing structures except that there will be a “metal” support structure for each shade (red metal roofing and dark brown supports).
- Each structure will have two support columns.
- First focus areas are the Great Horned Owls, Eagles, Hawks, Cranes and then on to Foxes, Mountain Lions, Bobcats and Snow Leopards.
- Design and Funding has been approved.
- The required bidding process will begin soon.
- We hope to have a formal building plan and schedule once the contract is awarded.
- Construction to begin in the Spring due to Winter weather constraints.

We will keep you posted...



The Big Bear Alpine Zoo hosted a few other Volunteer groups during the summer.

Painting...Planting and Learning about our Animals.....



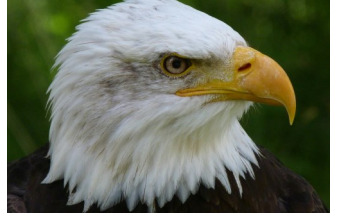
COMING UP....

“Lake Shore Clean-up- September 11

Twilight Safari’s-September 21, 28 and October 5th and 12th

Wolf Awareness Day/Boo at the Zoo– October 26th

Kids Corner



Bald Eagle Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



- AERIES
- BALD EAGLE
- BROWN FEATHERS
- CONSERVATION
- DDT
- DIURNAL
- EAGLET
- EMBLEM
- EYESIGHT
- FISH
- HUGE NEST
- MATES FOR LIFE
- NATIONAL SYMBOL
- NO PREDATORS
- NORTH AMERICA
- PLUMAGE
- PRESIDENTIAL SEAL
- PROTECTED
- RAPTOR
- SOAR

- TALONS
- UNITED STATES
- WETLANDS
- WHITE HEAD
- WHITE TAIL
- WINGSPAN
- YELLOW BEAK

DID YOU KNOW?

The bald eagle is the national bird and symbol of the United States of America. They can fly up to 10,000 feet in the air and reach speeds of up to 40 miles per hour.



ZOO Trivia....

Wood Bison Moonridge Animal Park 1992-2013

In 1992 two female Wood Bison arrived at the Zoo. Both were pregnant from the same bull and it was agreed that our Zoo would keep the calves once they were weaned. Once the babies were on their own, the mother's were transported to a breeding program in the Midwest.

The calves, a female and a male , were named Kiowa and Taz (aka Stormin' Norman) and lived to be 19 and 21, respectively. At the time that they were here, they were the only Wood Bison in captivity in the country.

Wood Bison are a subspecies of the American Bison and were thought to be extinct in 1940, however a, small herd was discovered deep in the Canadian backcountry in 1957. Since then conservation measures have been put in place to protect them and their numbers have increased. Even with all these efforts, they are still considered threatened.

