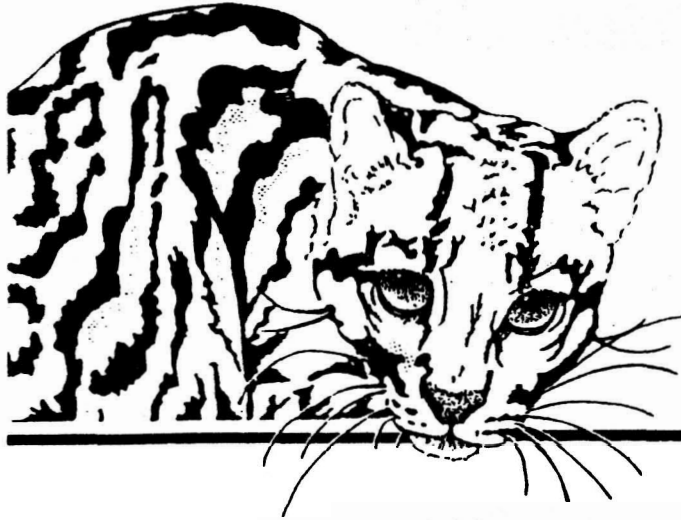


**L.I.O.C. Endangered Species Conservation Federation Incorporated.**



## **Newsletter**

4101 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15224  
Sept./Oct. 1988, Volume 32, Number 5



**Bee Jay Lester and Gemini. Gemini, a clouded leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*), was six months old at the time this picture was taken (November 1987). Gemini was born at the Rare Feline Breeding Center in Florida and bottle raised from the age of one week.**

## **Information about LIOC ESCF Inc. and this Newsletter.**

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This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation Incorporated. We are a non-profit, non-commercial organization, international in membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of the newsletter is to present information about exotic-feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members, and to allow our members to publish their points of views on these topics. The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and, in many cases, reflects the point of view of the person whose name appears on the article, rather than the point of view of the organization. The organization's statement of intent is contained in our by-laws; a copy can be requested from the Secretary/Treasurer. *Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without written permission of the authors and/or the copyright owner LIOC.*

Since the newsletter consists of articles, photos, and artwork contributed by members, we depend on you for our material. We can only publish what you send us. Articles of all types concerning exotic felines are gladly accepted. We also have a reader's write section for letters or responses to articles. Please send materials for contribution to the newsletter editor.

Newsletter Editor: Wendie Wulff, 4101 Penn Ave. #6, Pittsburgh PA 15224

## **LIOC ESCF Officers, Directors, Branches and Affiliates.**

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### **Founder**

Catherine Cisin, Amangasett NY 11930, (516) 267-3852

### **Officers**

President: Fred Boyajian, 483 Armour Circle, Atlanta GA 30324, (800) 251-5800, (404) 873-6000, (404) 351-0519

Vice President: ---

Secy/Treas: Suzi Mutascio, 6 E. Lake Circle Dr., Medford NJ 08055, (609) 983-6671

### **Life Directors**

Ken Hatfield, 1991 S.W. 136 Ave., Davie FL 33325, (305) 472-7276

Ethel Hauser, 14622 N.E. 99th St., Vancouver WA 98622, (206) 892-9994

Dr. John Perry, 6684 Central Ave., N.Fridley MN 55432, (612) 571-7918, (612) 481-2763

Shirley Wagner, Rt. 4, Box 377, Mobile AL 36619, (205) 661-1342

### **Term Directors**

Member Services: Shirley Wagner, Rt. 4, Box 377, Mobile AL 36619, (205) 661-1342

Education and Conservation: Carin Carmichael, 7006 Willoughby, Hollywood CA 90038, (213) 874-9817, (213) 874-9791

Legal Affairs: Karen Jusseaume, 168 Taffrail Rd, Quincy MA 02169, (617) 472-8899

Advertising and Publicity: J.B. Anderson, Lake Rd. 54-37, Orange Beach MO 65065, (314) 348-5092

### **Branches**

Florida: Danny Treanor, 1898 Twin Lakes Dr., Winter Garden FL 32787, (407) 887-6336

New England: Al Porges, 6 Westview Dr. Stoughton MA 02072, (617) 344-4943

### **Affiliates**

World Pet Society: Jan Giacinto, Box 343 Tarzana CA 91356, (818) 345-5140

Animal Finder's Guide: Pat Hoctor, Box 99, Prarie Creek IN 47969, (812) 898 2678

This is the convention issue of the newsletter. All of you who were able to make it to convention will find that this issue brings back memories of the terrific time we had in Tacoma. For those of you who did not attend, all I can do is encourage you to think about next years' convention.

One of the changes that happened at convention was that the Board elected me to be editor of the Newsletter. Before I introduce myself to those of you who don't know me, I'd like to take a moment to say something about the previous editor, Shirley Wagner.

Shirley has been the driving force behind this newsletter for many many years; almost as many years as the club is old. Her devotion to the newsletter has been only one example of her dedication to LIOC ESCF and to all the organization represents. Shirley's contributions to LIOC ESCF have been recognized by her recent election to a permanent Life Directorship. Although Shirley will no longer be serving as editor, her new position will allow her to continue to influence the growth of LIOC ESCF. From our conversations, I know that Shirley has many specific plans for her continued involvement in LIOC ESCF. One such plan is the coordination of a series of information booklets on exotic feline management. Members have asked for booklets of this type for years, and, with all her experience, I'm sure Shirley will do a great job at pulling them together. I'd like to end by personally thanking Shirley for all the help she's given me over the last year and by saying that I hope I can do as good a job as she did -- I've got big paw-prints to fill.

A bit about me . . . I've been in LIOC ESCF for about four years, I have some experience with small exotic felines, and I have a great interest in exotic felines of all kinds. I'm also more generally interested in animals, and in conservation and environmental issues. I'm currently a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University here in Pittsburgh. I'm getting a doctoral degree in document design (a combination of writing and graphic design). I also work a consulting writer/designer, and I suppose that has a lot to do with why I'm editing the Newsletter. With both work and school I have a full schedule, but I hope to be able to do a good job on the Newsletter.

## I'd like to put out a Request for help . . .

Before I came on board the Newsletter was edited, written, and assembled by a large group of people distributed all over the country. Now, as far as I can tell, there's just me and whatever friends happen to be lucky enough to be at my house when I'm stuffing envelopes. This is a big job for one person, and until I get some help, the production schedule is going to be way off. Anybody in the Pittsburgh area out there? Please consider helping with production and mailing; send me a card and I'll call you. I could also use help getting things typed. If you're willing to type a few articles a month, according to a format I'll provide; send me a card and I'll send you the materials you'll need. Finally, contribute, contribute, contribute. I don't make this stuff up, people send it to me. You're depending on me to get the newsletters out -- I'm depending on you to fill them up. If we work together, we'll get great publications.

On to the convention report!

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

CONVENTION AFTERMATH: FIRST GEAR FOR LIOC

Many of you are wondering for months about the results from the letter and poll I sent you. Over 95% of you responded for Hamburger "A" to have LIOC continue its reforms and get its act together as an effective non-factional animal organization. At convention, I put your unedited answers in a notebook and handed it to the LIOC Executive Board for their review where most sloughed it off as too biased to even consider, and challenged my audacity to communicate directly with you in the first place. I have no regrets, and fortunately some reason prevailed. All was not lost.

In fact, in precipitating this "crisis", more probably got accomplished in terms of establishing a firmer policy foundation than in many years. Last year we spent convention trying to redesign LIOC's engine with a strengthened set of by-laws. This year a very watered down revision of them was passed in an effort to gain a greater consensus. Although the revised by-law retains some of the basic principles I have advocated, and is better than our patchwork original, its lack of executive function, detail, and compelling language renders it, in my opinion, mediocre. The success of this format will depend more heavily on the character of each individual and their qualifications than any allegiance to leadership or administration policy or job requirements.

This may sound too esoteric, for a feline organization but the Executive Board must do more than just sit around at Convention and sooth us with the collective wisdom of their experience and urge "cooperation". They are our leaders, the doers who must set the example, by actively managing our daily affairs and motivating others to help educate our new members on acquiring and maintaining their animals. They interface LIOC with other animal groups, tell stories of our successes to detractors, help mold meaningful legislation that guarantees our rights and animal welfare, and dare to challenge of the onslaught of restrictive legislation. We deal in a very precious and dwindling commodity: exotic felines, and in my dreams of excellence our leadership must bring out the best in us for our animals.

In order to address some of these questions, the Board in addition to establishing a workable budget, voted to enable the National Legal Fund to which we have been contributing for years, to now be used by the President or other designate to offset basic expenses incurred in dealing with the USDA, USDI, or meeting any other agency on affairs concerning exotic animals that affect us on a National basis.

The interest from this National Legal Fund, however may be used to defray expenses on State or local matters if it is determined that an action would affect many members in a given area. Since more legislative actions occur on the State Level, the Board further voted to establish a State Legal Fund which I urge you all to contribute to as generously as possible. I wish to commend the Board for addressing this most serious issue as we only have to look at what is happening in California to realize that it is better to plan a defense in advance than try to reverse a legislative steamroller.

We also have a new Editor, Wendie Wulff, who with her publishing background should be a big plus for the Newsletter in terms of its new look and method of electronic publishing. But she like her predecessor, will need your help. The newsletter mirrors our association will only be as good as the contributions you make. Its not hard, there are plenty of articles on exotics, their habitat/environment, new organizations and facilities proposed legal changes in all the newspapers and magazines. Clip them (with proper source reference) and send them in. First hand experience is important too, so if you have observed an unusual event, behavior pattern, new type of cage, whatever, write down and sent it in to share with us.

The four respective Term Directors also now have limited funds for activities, so if the Newsletter is not your thing and you still want to help call one of these Directors and offer your services. No one can do it all by themselves.

Lastly I would like to thank Gwen & Steve Oberlin in Member Services for the work they are doing in maintaining our membership roster on the their computer. Their volunteerism was sponsored by their employer the Cray Research Foundation, whose generosity donated \$500.00 to LIOC. We really appreciate it and wish there were more businesses that would follow their initiative.

Perhaps now that there is general agreement on what is do be done and how it is to be paid for, there will be some movement towards the creation of timely goods and services. If our membership is well served, hopefully the benefits will trickle down to our cats.



Fred Boyajian,  
LIOC President

At convention, the Board approved a new set of By-laws. We are printing these to keep the general membership updated on the operating procedures of LIOC ESCF. Comments may be addressed to Readers Write, care of the Newsletter, or to Shirley Wagner, primary author of these revised By-laws.

## REVISED BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I - The Executive Board

- 1.1 All officers and directors are elected at the same time and serve concurrently. Each officer and director serves for two (2) years beginning on January 1st of the year following the election.
- 1.2 A Life Director may also serve concurrently as an officer. However in this case, they would have only one vote.
- 1.3 The Executive Board is to be responsive to the wishes of the general membership and may not unreasonably withhold their approval of any matter, providing it does not conflict with the purpose or goals of the organization.
- 1.4 The Executive Board may claim "executive session", excluding from the meeting any persons not on the Board. Minutes shall be recorded but not published in the Newsletter.
- 1.5 The executive Board shall convene annually at convention and shall meet with the general membership annually, also at convention.
- 1.6 The Executive Board may also conduct meetings by mail or telcon providing that at least two weeks written notice is provided. Written votes should only be taken on matters of business that cannot be held until the annual meeting.
- 1.7 Special meetings may be called by any officer or by any two (2) directors.
- 1.8 A written agenda, the time, date and place of any board meeting must be provided no less than two weeks prior to the meeting. Except in the case of a written vote, any Board member may make a motion during a properly convened meeting for a vote at that time.
- 1.9 A call for agenda must be given the membership prior to the annual meeting to allow those not being able to attend the opportunity to place items on the agenda for discussion at the General Membership Meeting.
- 1.10 A quorum of <sup>a</sup>the majority of the Board is required to convene a Board meeting.
- 1.11 Fees, dues or any other charges to the members shall be set by the Executive Board.
- 1.12 Upon consideration of current income and expenses, the Executive board may establish discretionary funds for the use of officers, directors or appointees in the performance of their duties. Before such funds may be replenished, full accounting must be made to the Secretary/Treasurer in the form of receipts and statements.
- 1.14 When the Board adjourns, the responsibility to implement its wishes and programs shifts to the President.
- 1.15 As nominating committee, The Executive Board shall not accept for nomination to the position of Life Director ~~or President~~ any person who has not previously served at least one term on the Board in another capacity.

ARTICLE 2 - The President

2.1 The President is the organization's spokesman, however he is only to speak within the framework set by the Board and does not set policy.

2.2 The President presides at the annual meeting in accordance with the format set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

2.3 When possible, with funding specifically allocated by the Board, the President should attempt to visit each Branch yearly. Branches should be encouraged to help defray the expenses of these visits whenever possible.

2.4 Prior to convention each year, the President shall poll the Term Directors for their plans for projects for the following year. These shall be presented to the Executive Board along with their expected funding costs for a vote at the annual meeting. A brief description of these projects shall be included in the agenda provided to the Board at least two weeks prior to the Executive Board Meeting.

Article 3 - The Vice President

3.1 In the President's absence the Vice President presides at all meetings.

3.2 Should the President be unable to fulfill his term of office the Vice President would assume his duties.

3.3 The Vice President will assist the President as the need arises with organizing and the completion of the projects approved by the Board at the annual meeting, as well as acting as Branch Co-ordinator.

Article 4. The Secretary/Treasurer

4.1 The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain written minutes of any meeting of the Board, special or general, or any general membership meeting and provide these for publication in the Newsletter.

4.2 The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain copies of all the organizations documents in good order.

4.3 The Secretary/Treasurer assist the President in compiling the formal agendas for any business meeting.

4.4 The Secretary Treasurer is responsible for overseeing all LIOC funds and notifying the board immediately of any discrepancies after asking for and failing to receive satisfactory replies. They must implement and maintain a sound accounting system acceptable to the Board and provide the Board with quarterly statements.

4.3 A full statement of the past year's income and expenditures must be provided each year at the convention meeting. **Further, a proposed budget** encompassing requests from Term Directors for the upcoming years projects, costs and anticipated income will be provided at that meeting.

4.4 No expenditure may be made in excess of \$500.00 without prior Board approval after the acquisition of no less than 3 bids.

4.5 The Legal Fund shall be kept separate from other monies in an interest bearing account as directed by the Board.,

4/6 Disbursements from the Legal Fund shall be made only with specific board approval and shall require the signatures of at least two officers.

4.7 The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection o- all monies owed LIOC on a current cash basis, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

4/8 Personal and LIOC funds are never to be co-mingled. Further all discretionary accounts shall also carry the signature of the Secretary/ Treasurer. Statements for discretionary accounts shall be forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer as they are received and reconciled.

4/9 Should any budgeted item, including discretionary funds, be expected to exceed the budgeted amount by more than 10%, the Secretary/Treasurer will notify the Board for its approval before disbursing further funds.

4.10 Should any allegation of financial mismanagement occur, it should be brought immediately to the attention of the Life Directors who are empowered to direct immediate action to protect LIOC's funds until the matter can be resolved.

#### ARTICLE 5 - Term Directors

5.1 There are four Term Directors who are elected to chair permanent, standing committees as Directors of:

- a. Member Services
- b. Education and Conservation
- c. Legal Affairs
- d. Advertising, Publicity & Fundraising

5.2 Each Term Director may appoint others to help with the duties of their office. All duties are at the discretion of the Board, and are not limited to the broad outlines listed below.

5.3 Member Services - Maintains the membership lists in such an order as to provide information as requested by the Board, Answers inquiries, and forwards to the nearest branch for followup. Provides the Newsletter with renewal notices; compiles membership reports on a timely basis to the Board members and Branches.

5.4 Education and Conservation, coordinates the developement of educational materials, contacts other organizations who might have compatible programs and advises the membership of these programs.

5.5 Legal Affairs - keeps current on legislation affecting the membership notifying the Newsletter Editor as needed of pending legislation. Maintain a list of departments responsible for applicable legislation and assists members in their applicaton for permits where possible.



5.6 ADVERTISING, PUBLICITY & FUNDRAISING, solicits display advertising, contacts other publications for promotion of LIOC and explores ways to fund LIOC projects.

5.7 All term directors will submit the upcoming years projects along with their anticipated costs at least 60 days prior to convention to the President and Secretary/Treasurer & Vice President for inclusion in the budget and agenda.

#### Article 6 - Life Directors

6.1 There are 4 life directors who are elected for life or until their resignation.

6.2 Life Directors provide guidance and a line of continuity for the organization. They oversee adherence to LIOC's purpose and assist in special projects where needed.

#### Article 7 - Miscellaneous

7.1 The Executive Board <sup>may</sup> fill any vacancies arising in the board of officers and Term directors until the next regularly scheduled election

7.2 Any elected or appointed LIOC member serves at their own time and expense on a voluntary basis without any anticipation of compensation other than that allocated by the Board.

7.3 Each Board member is <sup>which may be</sup> expected to attend the annual convention meeting. After two consecutive year's absence, the Board, as nominating committee, may disallow any nomination of that person to office.

7.4 The Board may terminate any appointment at their discretion.

7.5 The By-laws of LIOC may be amended at any meeting of the Executive Board by a majority vote.

7.6 Whatever notes, records, lists, articles, computer disks or other property is produced, whole or in part, with LIOC funds, as an LIOC officer director, or any appointee in the performance of their duties, is considered the property of LIOC and must be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer at the end of their duties.

7.7 Neither LIOC nor its Officers or Directors may endorse, sponsor or guarantee a private transaction between LIOC members.

#### Article 8 - Disputes

8.1 The Executive Board decides matters concerning LIOC By-Law violations by members or Branches.

8.2 All other disputes may be settled by arbitration, both dissenting sides agreeing. Such a Board of Arbitration shall be held at the annual convention unless the expenses will be covered by the dissenting parties. The arbitration board will consist of three persons, one selected by each dissenting person and the third by the Life Directors. The decision of such a board of arbitration shall be final and nonappealable. Such Boards may levy damages (monetary) to be paid. No Board may find in such a way that is contrary to LIOC's best interests as determined by the Board of Directors.

8.3 No LIOC member, officer, or director, may sit on any arbitration board in judgement of any matter in which they or their family may have a personal interest, is an applicant, or beneficiary of any action the board of arbitration may take. Any such conflict of interest should be made known at the onset and the arbitrator appointed by the Life Directors as Chairperson of that Board will make the determination. Should the conflict involve the Chairperson, the remaining Life Directors will be called upon to make the final determination.

8.4 After all other due process has been exhausted, upon written request of five (5) LIOC members that for By-law violations, extreme cases of neglected animal management practices, or the recommendation of a Board of Arbitration, a member may be expelled or suspended. After considering the reason for the request, the Board may advise the member of the action being considered against them, providing them at that time with a copy of the complaint. The member shall then have thirty (30) days to file a rebuttal. The Board shall then consider the matter and by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of its members, may notify the member of their expulsion or suspension. In lieu of expulsion or suspension, the Board may recommend corrective action to be taken within a specified by the offending member. Upon completion of said corrective action, the member would be reinstated to good standing.

8.5 Grievances between a member and their branch may be submitted to a board of arbitration as well. However, no member of the Branch may sit on the Board of Arbitration. Such grievances should first be submitted to the Board of Directors who will determine whether the Branch has violated any LIOC by-law or policy.

8.6 Members may register their felines with Member Services to establish bloodlines and ownership. All fees pertaining to registration are set by the Board.

#### Article 9 - Memberships

9.1 A membership consists of either a man and wife, or a single person. Both persons in a married couple have complete and independent voting privileges.

9.2 An Affiliate is an organization with similar goals and purposes whose support and cooperation would further LIOC's purposes. The Board of Directors makes the determination as to Affiliate status upon receiving such a request. If applicable, newsletters are exchanged with reprint permission upon proper credit being given.

#### Article 10 - Branches

10.1 A group of a minimum 6 memberships may apply for branch status by completing an application for Branch Status which may be acquired from the Vice President.

10.2 Branches must file their By-laws and any rules and regulations with the Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President annually, along with their current membership roster.

10.3 Minutes of any Branch meeting will be submitted to the Newsletter for publication.

- 10.4 Branches shall hold at least three (3) meetings per year.
- 10.5 All Branch officers and Directors must be LIOC members in good standing.
- 10.6 At least 50% of any branches' members must also be LIOC members.
- 10.7 Branches must adhere to all LIOC by-laws pertaining to Branches and may not make any policy or take any action contrary to the principles policies, or any rules or regulations of LIOC.
- 10.8 A Branch may not have as an active member any person expelled or suspended from LIOC.
- 10.9 A LIOC member in good standing may belong to as many branches as he or she wishes.
- 10.10 The Executive Board has sole determination as to Branches, and may set a yearly fee to cover the expense involved in providing services to the Branches.
- 10.11 Branches are encouraged to have a person to coordinate with each of the Term Directors in the same capacity.
- 10.12 No Branch may make any by-law or regulation which by-passes the democratic principle in the election of their officers.
- 10.13 Although branch territory is the sole determination of the Executive Board, a proposed territory should be stated on the Branch application and once a certain territory is assigned to a Branch, no other Branch activities will be allowed within that geographic area except through special exceptions made by the Board Of Directors.
- 10.14 Special exceptions would be made when it could be shown that an existing Branch does not meet the need of a large segment of available members, & that the proposed branch would serve to meet these needs. In such a case, neither branch sharing geographic areas could actively solicit members of the other.
- 10.15 Branches may send as a representative one Branch member to represent them at the Executive Meeting of the Board. Branch representatives have input at this meeting (except when Executive session is claimed) but no vote.

Article 11 - The Newsletter

- 11.1 The Board appoints the Newsletter Editor at the first board meeting following an election. The Editor serves for 2 years or until the Board terminates the appointment.
- 11.2 The budget allotted for the production of the Newsletter shall not exceed 75% of the annual budget.
- 11.3 The Editor is charged with following LIOC policy as set forth by the Board.
- 11.4 Advertising policy and related charges are set by the Board, however all advertising for felines must carry the name of the owner, or broker, the state and phone number.

Article 12 - Convention

12.1 A convention is held at intervals determined by the Board of Directors with the Board determining the site of the convention.

12.2 A general membership meeting shall be held at each convention during which the members may voice their concerns and wishes to the Board of Directors.

12.2 Any individual may offer to host the convention. The host determines the dates and general convention schedule allowing for the annual meetings.

Article 13 - The Lottie

13.1 The lottie is presented at convention, usually annually, and signifies unusual devotion and service to the organization, its members and the exotic feline.

13.2 Those recipients of past lotties are polled for nominations and then vote on the upcoming recipient.

13.4 Honors or other considerations may be conferred to Lottie recipients at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 14 - Sanctuaries (as is)

An LIOC Sanctuary is a designated and approved facility that will accept certain classes of felines for safe harbor when their regular LIOC owner is in distress, or for other reasons, which causes the owner to place his or her animal.

Any LIOC member in good standing may have their facility approved as a LIOC Sanctuary by complying with the following:

- A. A facility must have all licenses and/or permits as required by their respective city, county or state. A copy of these must be filed with the Sanctuary application.
- B. A license must be obtained from the United States Department of the Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 and the USDI as required.
- C. The Sanctuary must be approved for each class of feline they are capable of housing.
- D. The feline classes shall be as follows:
  - Class I - Average adult weight up to 24 lbs.
  - Class II - Average adult weight 25 to 45 lbs.
  - Class III - Average adult weight 46 to 85 lbs.
  - Class IV - Average adult weight 86 to 185 lbs.
  - Class V - Average adult weight over 186 lbs.

Sanctuary approval or disapproval shall be made by the Executive Board. The Board shall have the power to waive any of the requirements and or specifications for just cause.

A Sanctuary owner must agree to abide by all restrictions imposed by the LIOC both present and future.

A Sanctuary owner may not relocate a placed cat (except to another LIOC Sanctuary) without the owner's or the owner's agent's consent unless a signed agreement between owner and Sanctuary operator has been executed. All such written agreements, including the care, breeding and disposition of progeny, are strictly between the cat's owner and the

Sanctuary owner who may arbitrate any differences. LIOC may not be a party to any sanctuary agreement.

The Sanctuary owner has the right to refuse any animal he feels he can not accommodate at any time and still retain his Sanctuary standing.

The Executive Board may at any time revoke Sanctuary status or amend the requirements as needed.

No fees will be charged those placing animals in a LIOC Sanctuary unless through mutual, written agreement between Sanctuary operator and owner.

The previous version of the by-laws was published in the Sept./Oct. 1987 issue of the Newsletter.

The by-laws can be amended at board meetings. If there is an issue you would like the board to discuss, mail a letter to the board members, and they will consider it at the next meeting.

The speaker at the Convention '88 Saturday night banquet was Helen Freeman, from the Snow Leopard Trust. She gave a wonderful presentation about Snow Leopards, which included some fascinating slides. We weren't able to get any reprints of slides, but we did get a reprint of Helen's talk.

One of the most fascinating aspects of any cat is that it is such a creature of contrast. Usually we see them relaxed or snoozing, but when they move, and it can be a lightening fast action, we get an entirely different glimpse into their make-up.

How can a creature of seemingly infinite languor be transformed instantly into a most efficient predator? Some people believe there are several beings in one cat -- and it is this sense of mystery which can get you hooked. I know that the more I learn, the more I realize how much is concealed.

But one fact about cats is all too clear: of all the major groups of land mammals, felids are the most threatened. Of the 37 species, about one-third are considered threatened and endangered. Of the rest, most are rare or vulnerable. If wild cats are to live into another century, comprehensive plans to save them must be taken now.

Snow leopards are among the most critically endangered. Found only in the high mountains of Central Asia, their numbers probably never were high. It is just too difficult to make a living in this rugged region, whether you are a cat or a wild sheep.

In the captive situation, the picture is a little brighter. In 1980 the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums introduced the Species Survival Plan (SSP) concept. This was a noteworthy step in the zoo profession's shift toward species conservation as a priority. It represents a significant point at which rhetoric about conservation became instead a tangible, linear plan of action.

The goal of the plan is to maintain a demographically and genetically stable captive population of snow leopards for up to 200 years. This is being accomplished by managing the North American zoo population of snow leopards as one breeding group, thus giving a genetic base of approximately 220 individuals. The role of the species coordinator and the propagation group is to work toward the stated goal by providing animal, institution by institution recommendations to nearly 50 participating zoos.

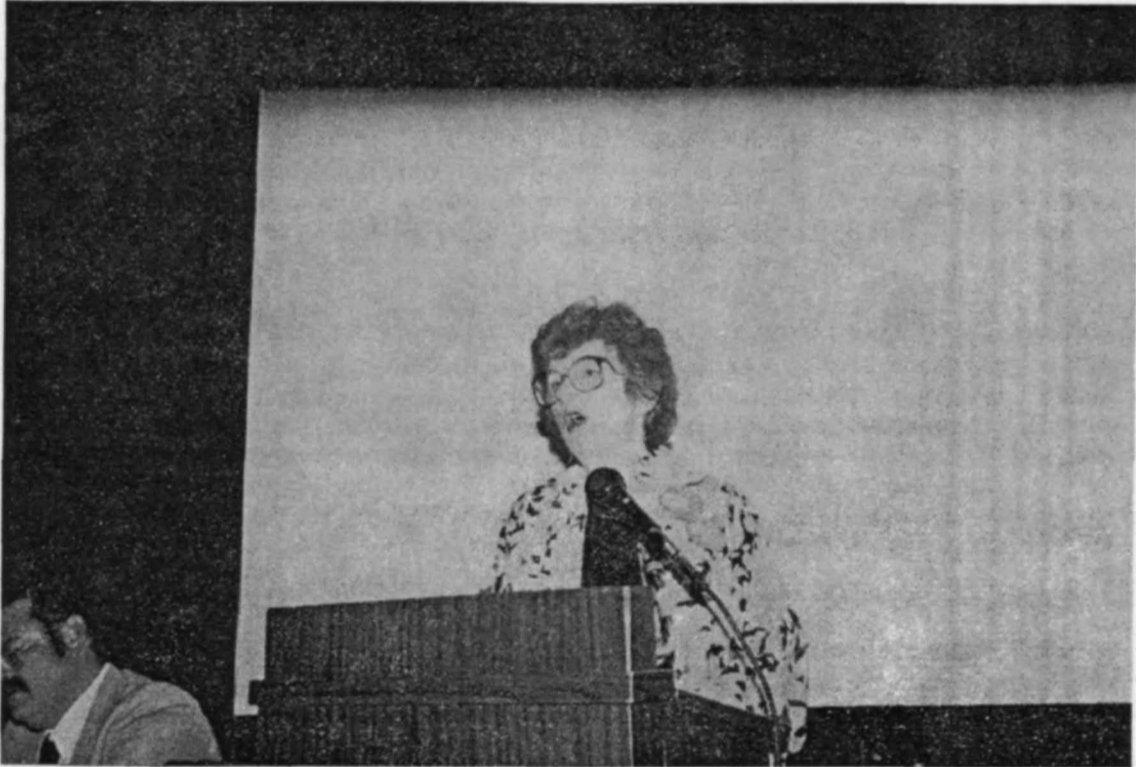
In order for this to work, a large amount of voluntary cooperation by the zoos is essential, and I am happy to say that the SSP plan for snow leopards is receiving this cooperation.

But in the wild the problem is much more formidable. For one thing, the snow leopard is found on the sensitive border areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, the Soviet Union, Nepal, Bhutan and China. If you think it is a hard job getting zoos together, try getting some of these countries to meet to discuss cooperative plans for wildlife. I vowed once, after an all day international meeting in northern Kashmir, that in my next life I would switch and study the house sparrow.

The International Snow Leopard Trust is a small non-profit foundation whose main purpose is to save the snow leopard and its mountain habitat. Even though we are small, we have ~~some~~ very dedicated members and have been able to make some significant inroads. By helping to initiate and support field studies in Nepal, India and the Soviet Union, new information has emerged on what is critical for this species to survive. Every three years we hold an international symposium, and the one in northern India resulted in a very broad snow leopard conservation plan. It will take a long time for the new reserves named to be functioning, but the Trust will stay involved and help to see that the plan keeps moving. Right now we are working on holding the next symposium in China, a country that badly needs ~~some~~ incentives in the area of wildlife conservation.

To date the Trust has not conducted a full scale membership drive -- we purposely wanted to stay lean with low overhead so that most of the funding can go directly into projects, and small so that we can know the members and respond to them as individuals. Sometimes I think we have done too good a job at staying behind the scenes, though, because this week a letter came from somebody who said, "I've spent six months trying to find you people!" However, I realize I'm talking here to some people with long-term commitments to felid conservation, and that is the type of person we'd like to have join us. So I have brought some membership blanks with me tonight and will leave them on the table in case anyone is interested.

The snow leopard, like the International Snow Leopard Trust, is an elusive, shy creature. Researchers have spent hundreds of hours trying to study it in the wild and been rewarded only with fleeting views. It is to the credit of this beautiful cat that these same individuals have emphatically stated that even the short glimpse made it all worthwhile. Now I would like to share with you some of those glimpses.



**Above: Helen Freeman giving her presentation at the 1988 Convention Banquet.**

**Those interested in joining the Snow Leopard Trust, may write them at: International Snow Leopard Trust, 16463 SE 35th St., Bellevue, WA 98008 U.S.A.**

**Below: View from the Top, an oil painting of Snow Leopards by Louise Lopina.**



The Tacoma Convention was to have been hosted by Bill Boyle, our former Vice-President, who died unexpectedly in April. Although Bill was not present at convention, he was present in the memories of those who knew and missed him.

The job of hosting convention was taken over by Barb Wilton and Ethel Hauser, with assistance from Mary Parker and Pat Parker. They did a terrific job of carrying on, and all those who were involved in making Convention '88 happen deserve a big round of applause.

The convention activities included a trip to the Tacoma zoo, which was disappointing to some because there were not many cats on display. The zoo trip also included a presentation on feline nutrition by a zoo vet. The vet led a discussion on the merits of commercial versus non-commercial diets, using supplements versus not using supplements, and the different nutritional requirements of the various breeds.

Another convention highlight was a boat cruise to Blake Island where we lunched on smoked salmon and watched Native American festivities. The salmon were local, grilled in a traditional fashion, and the native dances were spectacular. The cruise to and from the island took several hours and we spent a few hours on the island walking through the forests and touring the Native American structures. Everyone agreed that we had been given an interesting glimpse of native northwest history.

The annual banquet and auction were a success. Some items in the auction were donated by Gertrude Freeman; these were items her husband Arthur had accumulated during his long association with LIOC ESCF. Most notable were a set of cat-patterned serving dishes, which were raffled, and several photographs, which were auctioned. Other auction highlights: the items handmade by Ethel's hundred-year-old friend, and the auctioneer, J.B. Anderson, and his assistant, Jeff Bellingham, in their attempts to model various cat-patterned ladies garments. We also had a presentation by Helen Freeman, which is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

This year's Lottie was awarded to Liz Ghent. Liz, a long time member, has built a reputation for helping exotic felines in any way within her means or power. Everyone felt that this year's Lottie was well-placed.

As usual, there was a general membership meeting and there were several board meetings. The issues raised in the general membership meeting were about choosing the direction of the organization, and recovering from the recent difficulties in distributing the Newsletter and maintaining the membership list. The results of the board meetings are addressed, in part, in the President's Perspective in this Newsletter. For a quick summary: a new Newsletter editor was elected, a new set of by-laws was approved, a state legal fund was set up, upcoming elections were discussed and nominations for offices were made, and the budget was reviewed. The change in editorship was addressed earlier, the new by-laws are printed in this issue, and election and nominations information will be printed in the next issue. The state legal fund: interest from the national legal fund, the money earned through the '88 convention auction, plus donations, will be used to make up the state legal fund. The fund will be used, at the President's discretion, in service of state legal issues. As for the budget, I think we have enough to keep printing newsletters, but when you get your renewal notice, PLEASE SEND A CHECK.

Finally, Convention is about people meeting each other and talking about cats. The hospitality room is where most of that happened, so that's where we'll begin with the photos.



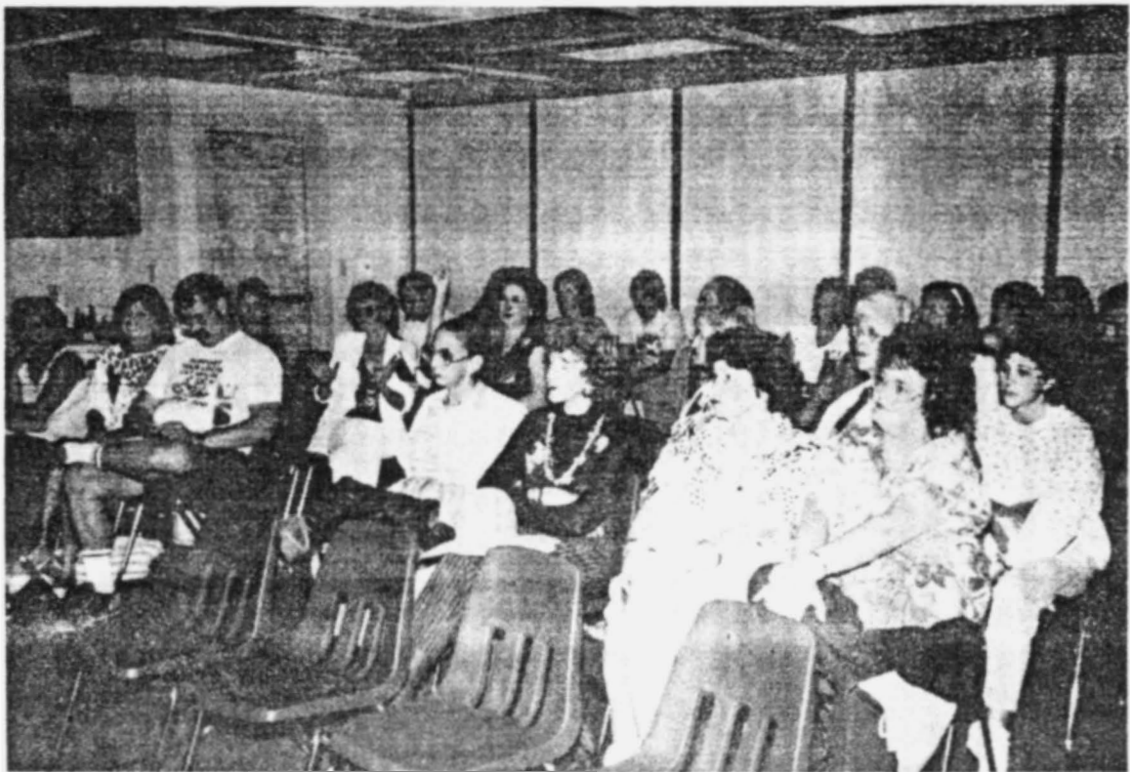
Socializing in the hospitality room . . .



A day at the zoo . . .



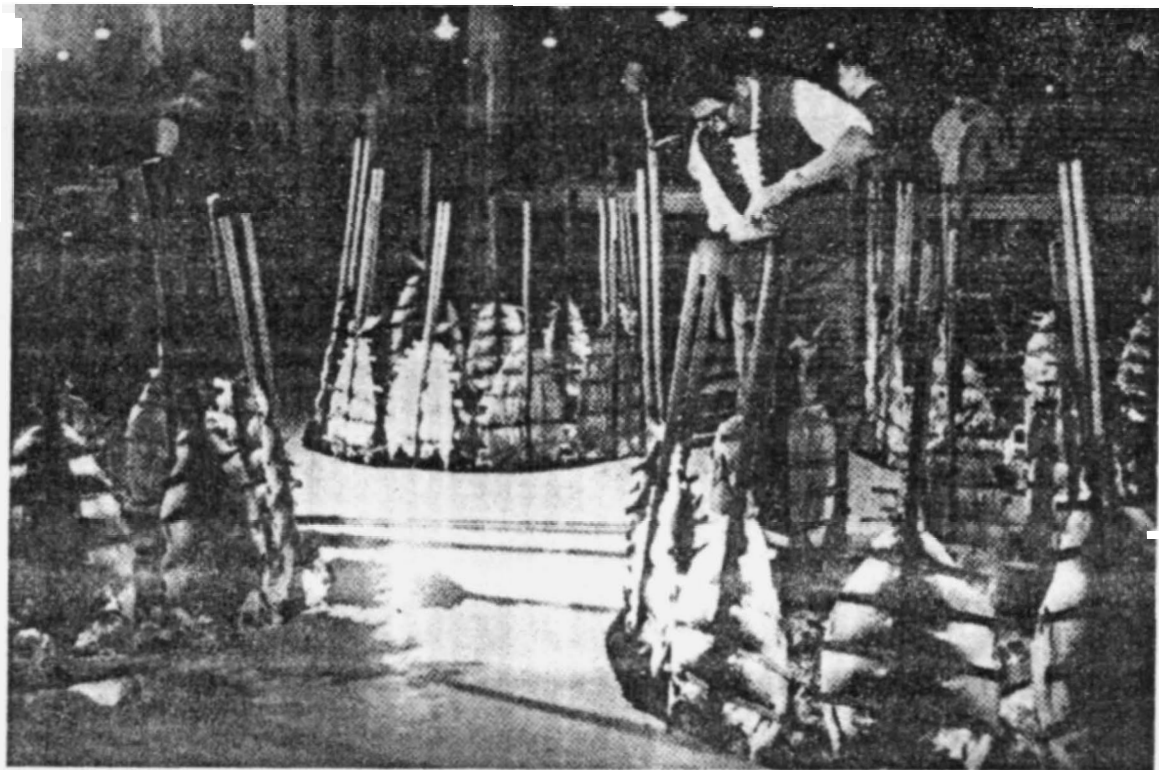
LIOC ESCF members discussing feline nutrition at the Tacoma Zoo . . .



Our visit to Blake Island . . .



More from Blake Island . . .



At the banquet . . .



Bill Boyle



Arthur Freeman



From the Freemans

by Shirley Wagner

Our deepest thanks to Gertrude Freeman for sending the breathtaking serving dishes in the spotted motif, rimmed in gold, with ocelots in the center, along with so much other memorabilia from Art's long association with LIOC. Though Art is no longer with us, we have a wealth of memories of times shared throughout the years, especially at Convention.

An envelope by nationally-known illustrator and artist Mary Lynn Skirvin Johnson. Ms. Johnson has offered to produce artwork for the Newsletter in exchange for photographs of felines and, if we can arrange it, face-to-face encounters with exotic cats. Ms. Johnson has a special interest in snow leopards, and is working on projects with the International Snow Leopard Trust. If you would like to see her illustration of your cat(s) appear in the future issues of the Newsletter, please send non-returnable photos to Mary Lynn Skirvin Johnson, 901 Lorlyn Dr. #3B, West Chicago Il. 60185.

