

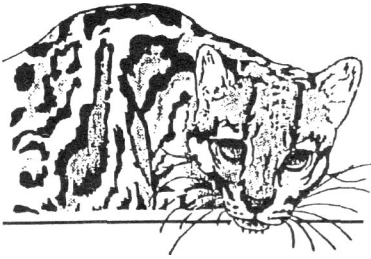
# NEWSLETTER

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Frank and Ellen Weed today with five bottle raised cougar babies. See story page 3.



# L. I. O. C.

## *Endangered Species Conservation Federation Inc.*

This Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal I.D. 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members.

The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. LIOC ESCF, Inc.'s statement of intent is contained in our by-laws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner LIOC.

Persons interested in joining LIOC should contact the Term Director in charge of Member Services.

Since the Newsletter consists primarily of articles, studies, photographs and artwork contributed by our members, we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible. Articles concerning exotic felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Please submit all newsletter material to the Managing Editor.

<b>Founder</b>	Catherine Cisin	Amagansett NY 11930
<b>Editor</b>	Shirley Wagner	3730 Belle Isle Lane Mobile AL 36619 (205) 661-1342
<b>Officers</b>		
President	Katie Knight-Monteiro	Rt 3 Box 410 Alvin TX 77511 (713) 331-2742
Vice President	Gayle Schaecher	10715 SE Orient Dr Boring OR 97009 (503) 663-4673
Secretary/Treasurer	Loreon Vigne	20889 Geyserville Ave Geyserville CA 95441 (707) 857-3524
<b>Life Directors</b>		
	J.B. Anderson	Rt 4 Box 2190 Lake Rd 54-37 Osage Beach MO 65065 (314) 348-5092
	Carin Carmichael	2960 Bay St Gulf Breeze FL 32561 (904) 932-6383
	Dr. John Perry	6684 Central Ave NE Fridley MN 55432 (612) 571-7918/481-2673
	Shirley Wagner	3730 Belle Isle Lane Mobile AL 36619 (205) 661-1342
<b>Term Directors</b>		
Member Services	Barbara Wilton	LIOC ESCF INC PO Box 66040 Portland OR 97290 (503) 774-1657
Education & Conservation	Ed Strickland	12717 Bullick Hollow Rd Austin TX 78726 (512) 258-8998
Legal Affairs	Sharon Roe	10702 SE 15th St Vancouver WA 98664 (206) 896-8208
Advertising & Publicity	Ron Eldridge	2 Spring St Providence RI 02904 (401) 728-7438
<b>Branches</b>		
Exotic Feline Educational Society	Larry Torland	10809 N.E. 232nd Ave Vancouver WA 98682
Pacific Northwest Exotics	Jerry Boyle	PO Box 205 Gresham OR 97030 (503) 663-4673 (Gayle Schaecher)
Sunshine State Exotics	David Cassalia	PO Box 7113 Hollywood FL 33081-1113 (305) 966-0406
<b>Regional Contacts</b>		
Northeast	George Stowers	8 Meadowhill Dr Armingdale ME 04344 (207) 622-9201
Southeast	Jean Hatfield	1991 Southwest 136 Ave Davie FL 33325 (305) 472-727 6
Central	J.B. Anderson	Rt 4 Box 2190 Lake Rd 54-37 Osage Beach MO 65065 (314) 348-5092
Northwest	See Branches	
Southwest	Loreon Vigne	20889 Geyserville Ave Geyserville CA 95441 (707) 857-3524
Canada	Scarlett Bellingham	PO Box 722 Niverville Manitoba Canada ROA1EO (204) 388-4845
<b>Affiliates</b>		
World Pet Society	Jan Giacinto	Box 570343 Tarzana CA 91357 (818) 345-5140
Animal Finder's Guide	Pat Hocter	Box 99 Prairie Creek IN 47969 (812) 898-2701/2678

## Fifty-Eight Years of Raising Cougars and Kids

Alan W. Rigerman  
for the Sunshine State Exotic Animal Club

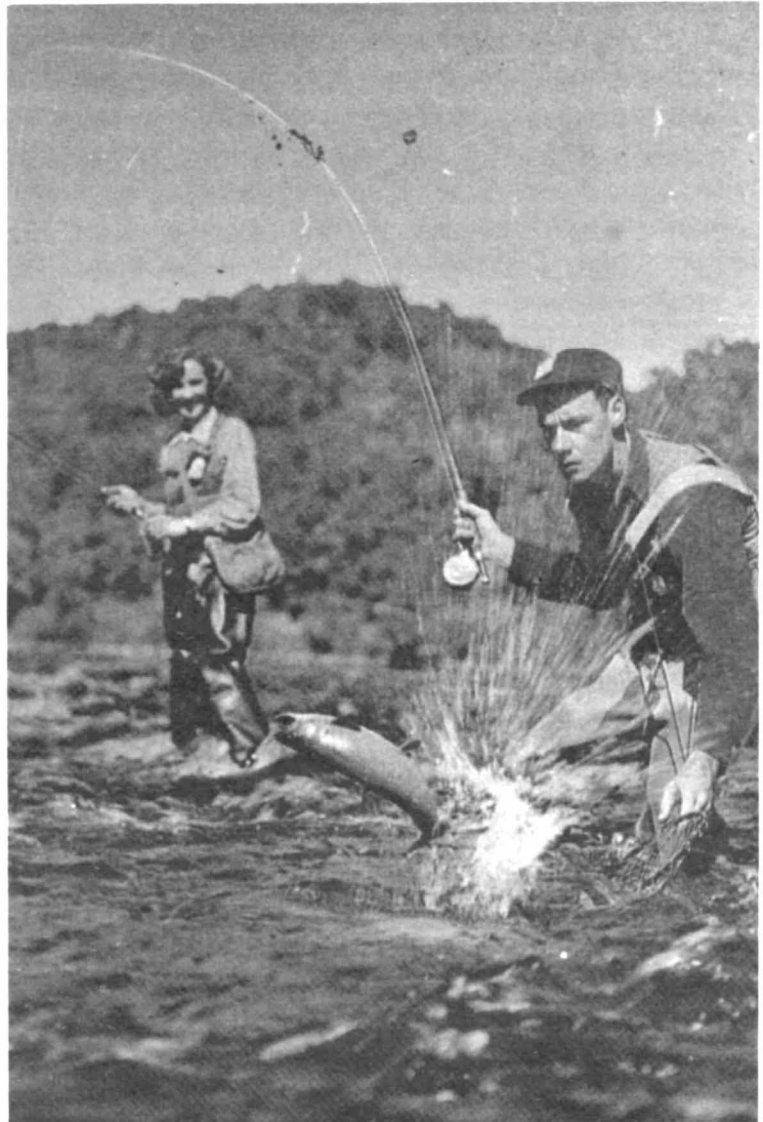
Frank and Ellen Weed recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. During that time, they have bred and raised over 300 cougars, a variety of wildlife including other cat species, 3 children ---> 9 grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

They moved to south Florida in the mid-50's where they starred in the television show, *The Tumbleweed Ranch*, while living in Miami. Continuing development forced them to move to Miami's western fringes and later, north and west to Broward County.

In 1976, they found "Paradise" in the farm of five acres with a lake in the middle of the Big Cypress Swamp. Here, they raised their animals and conducted their business in absolute peace and tranquility -- yet easily reached from southeast and southwest cities.

About ten years ago, the government decided it wanted their land. Suddenly their Big Cypress Compound was in the middle of the "Panther Preserve."

At an age when most people have been retired for years, Frank and Ellen still raise their animals, conduct their business, and deal with a government agency that wants to take their home.



Fishing in Connecticut's Housatonic River. Frank and Ellen (1945) taking a break from their work at their Housatonic Game Farm where they raised and trained sporting dogs, cougars, and other wildlife



Ellen with a young visitor to her home.



Heather Heffernan with Marge, raised at Alan Rigerman's home under Frank and Alan's guidance. Heather is working with the Weed's in order to qualify for her state permit.



Alan Rigerman with one of Frank and Ellen's cats in a filming area.

## NOMINATIONS REPORT

To: The Membership of LIOC ESCF

From: John Perry

Serving as Nominations Committee Chair, I received the nominations below. I have also received several notifications that incumbants will not be running for their present positions. These are also noted.

For President:

Ken Hatfield

**Note:** Katie Knight-Monteiro declines renomination

For Vice President:

Gayle Schaecher

Barbara Wilton

For Secretary/Treasurer:

Sharon Roe

**Note:** Loreon Vigne declines renomination

For Member Services Director:

Jackie Vanderwall

Kelly Jean Buckley

**Note:** Barbara Wilton declines renomination

For Advertising and Publicity Director:

Jerry Boyle

Jean Hamil

**Note:** Ron Eldridge declines renomination

For Education and Conservation Director:

Ed Strickland

Scarlett Bellingham

For Legal Affairs Director:

**Note:** Sharon Roe declines renomination

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### ALABAMA

An amendment to the Livestock Definition Act has effectively banned ownership of wild or exotic species of canidae and felidae in Alabama.

Legislation was passed by both the House and Senate which was intended to modify the definition of livestock to include raptures (ostriches and emus). Wording of the House and Senate versions varied slightly so the legislation was sent to a committee of both houses to work out the differences. It was in this committee that Senator Danny Corbett added Section 8. Senator Corbett had been unsuccessful in the last two sessions in getting a ban on exotic ownership passed.

Section 8 reads: "Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, it shall be illegal to own, maintain, sell, or trade any canidae or felidae for which there is no USDA licensed rabies vaccine. Anyone currently owning or maintaining such animal may keep the animal for the length of the animal's life providing the animal is spayed or neutered and is registered with the Department of Agriculture and Industries. This section does not apply to any zoological parks, circuses, colleges, and universities, animal refuges approved by the Department of Agriculture and Industries, county or municipal humane shelters, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or veterinary clinics."

The House immediately called for an opinion from the Attorney General on the legality of this being added in committee. We have not yet received this opinion.

Legislation was immediately introduced to rescind Section 8, but we were stalled by it's author until the session ended.

In committee hearings on the rescission effort, we were advised to "carry on business as usual." There is considerable doubt that the manner in which this was added is legal. Further, Alabama has a provision known as "coat-tailing" which requires that any item contained in a law must be related to the title of that law.

Section 8 carries no penalties, fines or other enforcing language. It is against the law, but breaking the law carries no penalties.

An effort will again be made in the next special session, scheduled for the end of July, to rescind Section 8. Barring that, legislation will be introduced in the next regular session to rescind this provision. At that time, a permit law governing the ownership of ALL exotic and wild species will be introduced. This law will set forth minimum cage sizes and care standards, but will permit the ownership of any exotic if these standards are met.

Senator Corbett's effort the past two years have been supported by the Humane Society of the United States, whose avowed agenda is to ban ownership of exotics. It was interesting to note that when this law became known, the domestic cat fanciers contacted us with an offer of help. It seems they have realized that such law is a "foot in the door" and then they'd be on to the next item on their agenda, a proposed breeding ban on domestic pets.

Senator Corbett was not successful in his recent bid for re-election.

Concerned persons are encouraged to join the Alabama Wolf-Hybrid and Exotic Animal Alliance who are working actively to protect the rights of individuals to own exotic animals through reasonable laws. They can be contacted at



AWHEAA  
P.O.Box 487  
Helena, AL 35080

Dues are \$15 per year for individuals and \$25 per family.

## OREGON

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has begun work on new rules and regulations for all species of exotic animals. They say their concerns are: genetic, habitat, disease, predation and competition with native species.

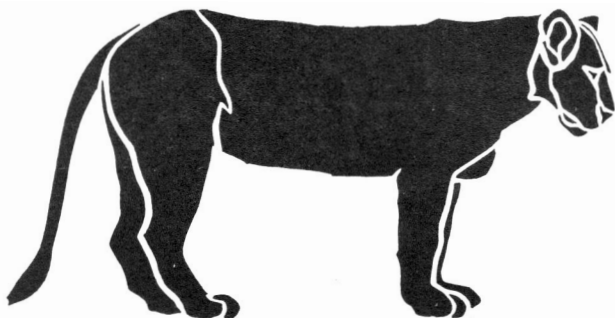
They are looking into organizing animal-related activities into three categories: prohibited, controlled, and uncontrolled. This would affect the following activities: Import (into the state), collection, ownership, holding, sale, transfer and propagation.

Our Vice President, Gayle Schaecher, was appointed to the task force that will be working on the new regulations and will keep us informed, as well as coordinating with the Director of Legal Affairs and the Northwest Exotics branch.

Input from the public is encouraged. Concerned Oregonians can keep themselves updated by asking to be put on the ODF&W mailing list. Write

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
P. O. Box 59  
Portland, OR 97207

It is hoped a final draft will be ready for Commission approval by January of 1995.



# DISTEMPER KILLING LIONS

The epidemic was first detected at the end of January. Lions on the Serengeti Plain in East Africa began to twitch and convulse. Some walked in endless circles; some could not stand at all. Many died. Now scientists have concluded that the big cats are suffering from a dog's disease - distemper.

Craig Packer, a University of Minnesota behavioral ecologist who has been studying several groups of lions in Tanzania since 1978, estimates that between 40 and 70 of his 250 subjects have died. The virus may have come from dogs owned by local tribesmen. Vaccines are impractical for wild animals; researchers hope the epidemic will taper off, leaving survivors with natural immunity. The 3,000 lions on the Serengeti appear to be in no danger of extinction. Well protected and beloved by tourists, the population of big cats has been increasing steadily since the mid-60's.

Reprinted from *Newsweek*



## MEMBERSHIP/GUEST MEETING April 17, 1994



### EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

The officers hosted this function at the Washougal Wildlife League Pavillion located on Lackamas Lake in Vancouver, Washington. Larry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking them to introduce themselves and share with us what cats they have.

Sharon introduced and welcomed *our newest member Roi Miranda*.

Barbara Wilton gave a brief history of L.I.O.C. and our affiliation with this organization. She provided newsletters and encouraged the guests to help themselves to a copy.

The scheduled speaker from the Dept. of Wildlife was unable to attend, however, this presentation has been re-scheduled for a future member/business meeting. Larry encouraged everyone's participation at that meeting, as we need to communicate with the department in a positive way.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Project Update - Adopt A Highway.** At last our permit has been accepted for this program in Oregon. Watch for future notices regarding safety meetings and actual litter pick up dates. ***Applications are still being taken if interested in participating. If you are interested in participating, applications are still being accepted.***
- **Change of appointee position.** Marilee Carrol resigned as our group photographer due to other commitments. Colette Griffiths has accepted the position as of the April meeting. Marilee will continue to coordinate bulletin board displays.
- **Catch Poles.** The officers want to know who is interested in acquiring a catch pole. This is a valuable piece of safety equipment everyone should own. Please advise Larry or Sharon for details.

### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

***Featured speakers were members Alisha Hendricks and Paul Hendricks:***

- **Alisha gave a talk on the small species of wild cats.** She touched on the lack of awareness by the general public of how endangered the small species are becoming. "I hope I can help educate the public about the beauty of the wild cats not only in our state but also worldwide. These beautiful, wonderful animals need to be protected, and the time to act is now."



- **Paul gave a talk on Bobcats.** He talked about their characteristics, habitat, and behavior. "Sadly, trapping is legal in most states."

These presentations actually were their 8th grade science projects which they received an "A" grade on. The written and oral report was accompanied by a picture board which displayed various photographs with captions.

- *Ethel Hauser gave a talk on Feline Leukemia. This subject matter was well received by those in attendance because this pertains to domestics as well as exotic cats. Furthermore, since most members have more than one cat, this subject had significant meaning since this disease is highly contagious. Flyers were available that provided detailed information.*
- *Sharon Roe gave a brief summary of the ABC's Of CPR. \*Ron Eldridge provided his published report on "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - CPR for the Smaller Species of the Family Felidae" to Sharon to share with the membership of EFES. Her presentation included CPR objectives, a description of the signs to look for, and what action and techniques to use. Everyone was encouraged to read the handout and practice on a toy stuffed animal. "Your cat's life may depend on your know-how, so know HOW!"*
- *Sharon Roe talked about attending the monthly Clark County Animal Control Advisory Board committee meeting. These meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in downtown Vancouver. These meetings are open to the public. At the first meeting the issue of "wild" cats and private ownership was briefly touched upon. A question was raised as to "Why" people own these cats. As a key member of the advisory board was not present, this topic was tabled until a future meeting. Sharon encourages all members who live in Clark County to attend some of these meetings and for members in other counties to attend similar meetings in their area to keep apprised of on-going animal control activities.*

\*Ron Eldridge, BVSc, CVT, Wildlife Biometrics, Inc., Providence, Rhode Island

### **PHOTO CONTEST**

*The photo contest was held and participants submitted photos capturing their felines in various poses. The winners were:*

*Sharon Roe with her picture of her Serval, Oyo, singing for his supper.*

*Jean Torland with her picture of their Bobcat, Impulse, taking a nap on Larry's chest.*

*Only six members submitted photos, and there were great prizes!! We need your participation, so plan on entering your favorite cat photo at our next membership/guest meeting.*

### **BOOK REVIEW**

*Judtih Hendricks gave a book review on "Wild Cats, Lynx, Bobcat, and Cougar" by Candace Savage. A detailed book with large, beautiful color photographs of these three species.*

### **\*\*\* GOOD GUY AWARD \*\*\***

**April Good Guy Award was presented to:**

***Sharon Roe & Jean Torland***

**for doing a private fund-raiser by selling calendars and donating the proceeds to EFES and NOAH'S, INC., in Rathdrum, ID (a private rescue facility for exotic felines).**



Our April meeting was held at the home of Pam & Brian Riley on the 23rd. We had a fantastic turnout, even though it was a rainy day. We had 30 people, one monkey and three cats besides Pam's kitty's - Magnum cougar and two baby servals. Debbie & Tom Misotti's capuchin attended and stole hearts. He was very well behaved. Jeff & Scarlett Bellingham, from Canada, were in town and attended our meeting with two of their friends.

There was loads of cat talk before and after the meeting with lots of good food all day long. After the meeting we had a birthday party for Brian Riley - how old are you now, Brian ?

We spoke of having our own club newsletter, advertising our club in publications, a \$3.00 per person charge for food - payable to the host at the time of meeting and begged people to please RSVP for future meetings. We now have 29 paid memberships, which amounts to quite a few people and it is hard to plan for food when you don't know if 10 or 50 people will show. Also, we put Nanette McGann in charge of birth announcements and helping me get articles for our newsletter. By the way, Nanette, Magnum absolutely loves his new toys and sends you a big Thank You kiss !

With so many people to talk to the day really went by fast. People started arriving at noon and we didn't leave until 9:00 p.m. Gayle Schaecher from National Club called the following day to congratulate us all for doing so well with the club. It really is amazing we have so many members, and many more to join I am sure, in just five months. David & I will be working the Miami Pet Show in May and are planning on putting up a poster for our club and handing out applications.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Debbie & Tom Misotti, in Fort Lauderdale.

Your secretary,

Sandra



## MAY MEETING REPORT

The May meeting was held in the home of Gayle & Clem Schaecher in Boring.

We were overrun by 38 members and guests. Visiting animals were a 7 week old Coati, Rachel; Fritz with her beautiful 3 daughters are Bengals and a serval kitten.

Steve Belknap announced Babs, jungle cat had given birth to 3 kittens the day before.

Gayle gave a report as to the new organization, Oregon Animal Owners Association. Steve reported on their 2nd meeting, held in Eugene along with the Exotic Animal Show and Auction. Their next meeting will be in Salem on June 5th. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

Steve reported on red meat he has been feeding and Jackie reported she had found another turkey source. Meat has been a spendy problem since Norbest in Salem went out of business. Hopefully, there are a couple of solutions to our food problems.

Gayle gave an update on Oregon Fish & Wildlife. She is on the Integrity Task Force and attended a two day symposium in Corvallis, earlier this month. The Task Force will start working on the new rules

and regulations in June. Everyone was encouraged to get on O.F.W. mailing list in order to keep informed. Gayle will also keep the membership up to date along with Sharon Roe, LIOC's Legal Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the Northwest Exotic Felines. She had told Sharon about the symposium so she could attend and keep her folks informed.

She announced she would be getting in touch with Ken Hatfield, asking his advice on making new rules since he has done it before.

John Van Stry asked if we would be interested in hosting Convention '95. He will be putting together a proposal to take to Convention this year.

We talked about the upcoming Convention, including donations, etc. Since it was getting late we decided to adjourn and play with the babies in attendance. The next meeting will be held at Jackie S.' in Beaverton.

Respectfully submitted

Gayle Schaecher  
Sec/Treas

## Arabian Leopards Shot

Hunters shot and killed a rare Arabian leopard (*Panthera Pardus nimr*) in May near Ras Al Khaimah on the coast of the Perso-Arabian Gulf in the United Arab Emirates. They pursued its wounded mate but lost it.

The killing was reported in the Khaleej Times of Dubai, which quoted local wildlife specialist as saying that apart from one captured in 1991, the last report of leopards in the UAE dated from 1986.

Reprinted from IUCN Cat News

## ***REPORT ON "BOBCATS"***

***By Paul Hendricks, Age 14***

*The Bobcat is a wild cat that lives only in North America. It has long legs, a short tail, and pointed ears tipped with short hairs. The fur color varies from tan to reddish brown and has small black spots. They have long hairs on the side of their face that resembles sideburns. Bobcats are about 30 to 45 inches long. Males weigh about 25 to 50 pounds, and females weigh about 16 to 40 pounds.*

*Their habitat varies, as they live in swamps, mountains, and heavily wooded areas. They can swim and are great climbers. Active mainly at night, the Bobcat uses its keen eyesight and hearing to hunt. They feed mainly on rabbits, birds, and small rodents.*

*The Bobcat mates in late winter, and 65 days later the kittens are born. They stay with their mother until late summer.*

*Bobcat hybrids have appeared in the wild, which is a result of a Bobcat breeding with a domestic farm cat. The kittens are very wild looking,*

*Surprisingly enough, Bobcat trapping is legal in most states.*

*\*Paul presented this report to his 8th grade class and received an "A"*



## **REPORT ON "EXOTIC CATS"**

*By Alisha Hendricks, Age 15*

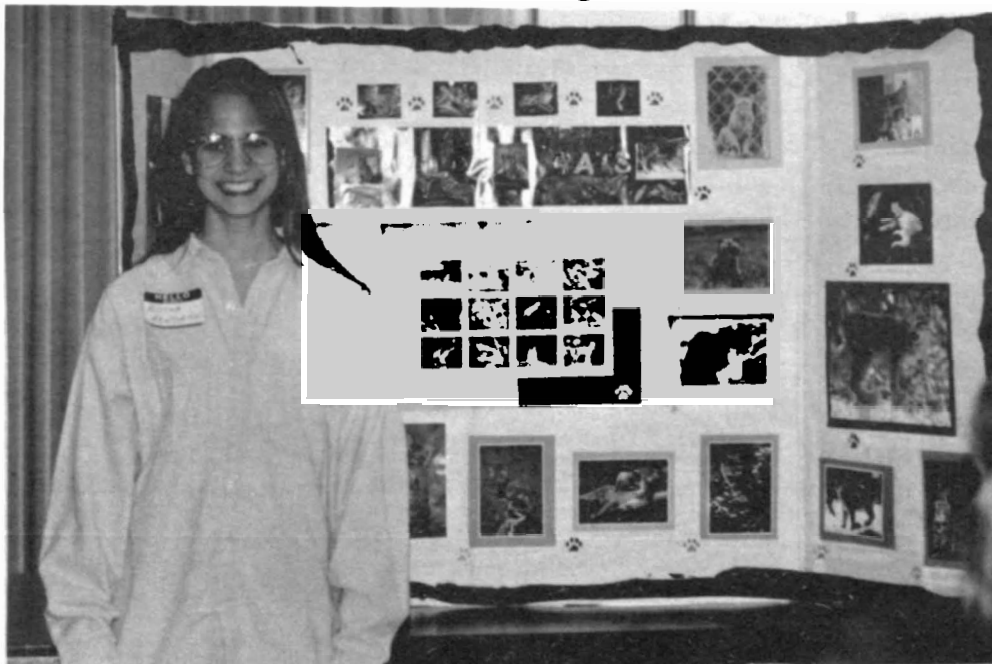
*All the information and pictures about exotic cats you see on my board are categorized in the "small cat" family. Yes, as hard as this may sound, even the cougar is in the "small cat" family. Cougars are the largest of all the small cats in the world.*

*The Ocelot shown on my board is on the endangered species list. It is one of many endangered exotic cats from other countries. They have become endangered due to over trapping, hunting, and loss of their natural habitat. Our own Pacific Northwest Bobcat and Lynx will possibly be on the endangered species list if government laws are not adopted soon to protect our native wild cats.*

*There are a few small exotic cats like the Asian Leopard cat, and the Geoffrey cat that are being bred with domestic cats to produce hybrids. These cats have the look of the exotic, but can be gentle, loving house pets. Some people have been lucky and have gotten kittens from a wild bobcat that bred a domestic farm cat. This not only gives people a chance to participate and interact with the exotics, it also encourages their interest and education of the exotic cats.*

*Until my family and I discovered the hybrids, we really knew nothing about the true wild exotic cats. We knew nothing about the possibilities of their extinction or of some becoming endangered. Now that we know more about these cats, I hope I can help educate the public about the beauty of the wild cats, not only in our states, but also worldwide. These beautiful, wonderful animals need to be protected, and the time to act is now.*

*\*Alisha presented this report to her 8th grade class and received an "A"*



Alisha, Paul & proud mom Judith would love to hear from anyone who has hybrids. You may write them at The Sasquatch Cats 3100 Falk Rd P86 Vancouver, WA 98661

206-693-5950

# THE CLOUDED LEOPARD - PART III

## Man and the Clouded Leopard

By Ron Eldridge, BVS

Man is responsible for the decline in population of the clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*). This cat is protected by international law. A law called the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The clouded leopard is known as an Appendix 1 species, which means all commercial trade of this species is banned. Unfortunately, as the "big cats" became rare and trade slowed down in the 1960's and '70's, fur traders hunted and killed the smaller cats for fur, to include the beautiful, silky pelt of the clouded leopard. The meat of this leopard is considered a delicacy in Southeast Asia, adding to the demise of this feline.

The clouded leopard's geographic location puts it in "harms way". Southeast Asia is the center for illegal trade in animals. Cats and other animals are big business here. Used as "folk medicine", fur, food and the pet trade, the clouded leopard is forced deeper and deeper into its shrinking habitat.

Being an inhabitant of the primary forest, the cats' numbers are fast declining as the forest is continuously cleared by man. These primary forests were once inaccessible by man. No longer inaccessible, these forests have been cleared to such a degree that the greatest threat to the leopard is no longer the poacher, but man's greed for more land and money at any cost.

These cats have been forced into much smaller areas of dense, isolated inaccessible forest. You would think that maybe this is not so bad? If these smaller patches of isolated forests can't be violated by man, the cat will be safe. Unfortunately, these islands of rain forests have created yet another problem.

The isolation of small pockets of forests are presenting new problems for the genetic researcher. The safe havens in the isolated patches of land surrounded by roads, villages and farms, have created a more insidious threat to the clouded leopard's existence. The population of cats living in these small patches of forest become isolated from other breeding groups. This has led to inbreeding and eventually, to loss of genetic diversity.

Genetic diversity is needed for the long term survival of any species. These patches or land islands are leading to reduced reproduction, higher infant mortality, and increased susceptibility to disease for the clouded leopard.

What can we do to help? Learn all you can about the clouded leopard and other small cats. Share what you learn with anyone who will listen. Take an active part in the Zoo education programs. Be concerned: it's contagious - Try it.

Part IV will discuss "Food and Feeding Habits.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Letter to the Membership

As an exotic owner and breeder for many years I would like to share some of my strong concerns as to what has been going on.

With all the government agencies seemingly working against the legal ownership and propagation of many exotic species of animals, we, as owners, need to put all our personal feelings aside and combine our energies, our concerns, our efforts and our expertise, to work together as a body of one for the protection and survival of these species.

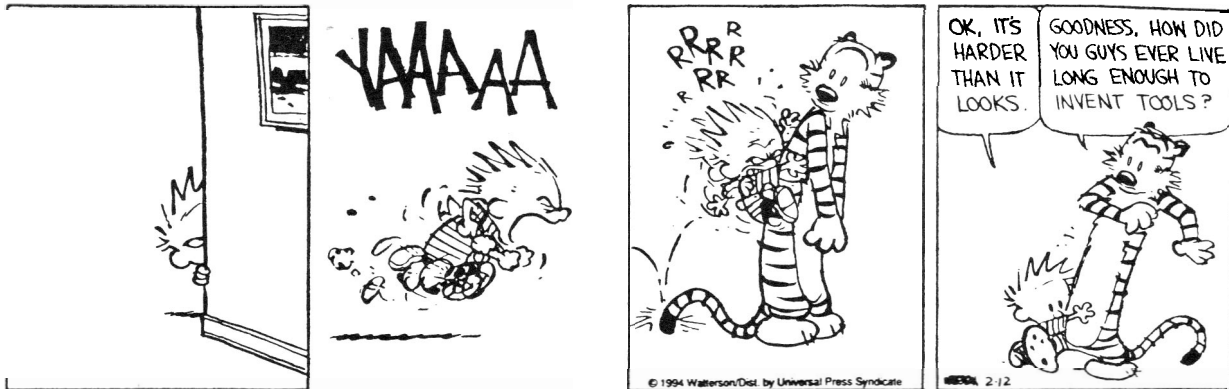
For if we do not work together in unison, our beloved animals are the ones that will suffer the most in the end.

Sincerely your Vice President  
Gayle Schaecher

## Mystery Cat Sighted in Florida

Lately, in the Florida swamps there have been reports of a dark, low-slung, long-tailed creature. Much bigger than a housecat, it darts across paths and disappears into the brush. In the Northwest, they'd pass such sightings off as one of Big Foot's pets, but amateur naturalists and seasoned biologists believe it's the jaguarundi. The rare secretive 15-pound cat used to frequent brushlands of south Texas. One Florida biologist thinks the jaguarundis are escapees from exotic pet keepers and roadside zoos. Another biologist remains skeptical: "We've had alligators and otters mistaken for panthers."

### CALVIN and HOBBS





# 1994 L.I.O.C. Endangered Species Conservation Federation 24th Annual Conference - August 11-14

## AGENDA

### Thursday, August 11

- 9:00am General Membership Meeting
- 10:30am Video - *Out of Africa*  
*Dean and Bobbi Harrison* - Speakers
- 12:00 Lunch (On your own)
- 1:30pm *Dr. Miller DVM* - Speaker
- 2:30pm *Jim Heffelfinger, AZ Game and Fish* - Speaker  
*Historical Occurrence of Neotropical Cats in Arizona*
- 3:30pm *Sean Stoddard* - Speaker  
A thru Z Consulting - Custom Cage Manufacturing
- 6:30pm Cocktail Reception - On outdoor Palm Terrace with  
10:00pm connecting room, overlooking  
the pool area.



### Friday, August 12

- 8:00am Leave Resort on the Bus - Travel to:  
*Arizona Sonora Desert Museum* (10:30am Speaker at Museum)
- 11:30am Return to the Bus - Travel to:  
*Saguaro National Monument*
- 12:15pm Return to the Bus - Travel to: (Lunch will be provided)  
*Colossal Cave* (Tour)
- 2:15pm Return to the Bus - Travel to the Resort Hotel
- 6:30pm Dinner (On your own)

### Saturday, August 13

- Morning - Free time on your own
- 1:30pm General Membership meeting  
*Candidates Speak*

- 6:00pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Banquet Dinner/Auction

### Sunday, August 14

- 8:30am Farewell Breakfast