

NEWSLETTER

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Wimpy - so named because he started life sickly and abandoned by his mom - is now robust and healthy at 30 pounds. He and companion Missy Woo recently moved into new quarters. His story is on page seven.



LIOC

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 feline are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subject will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Deadline for the next issue is the 1st of odd-numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor.

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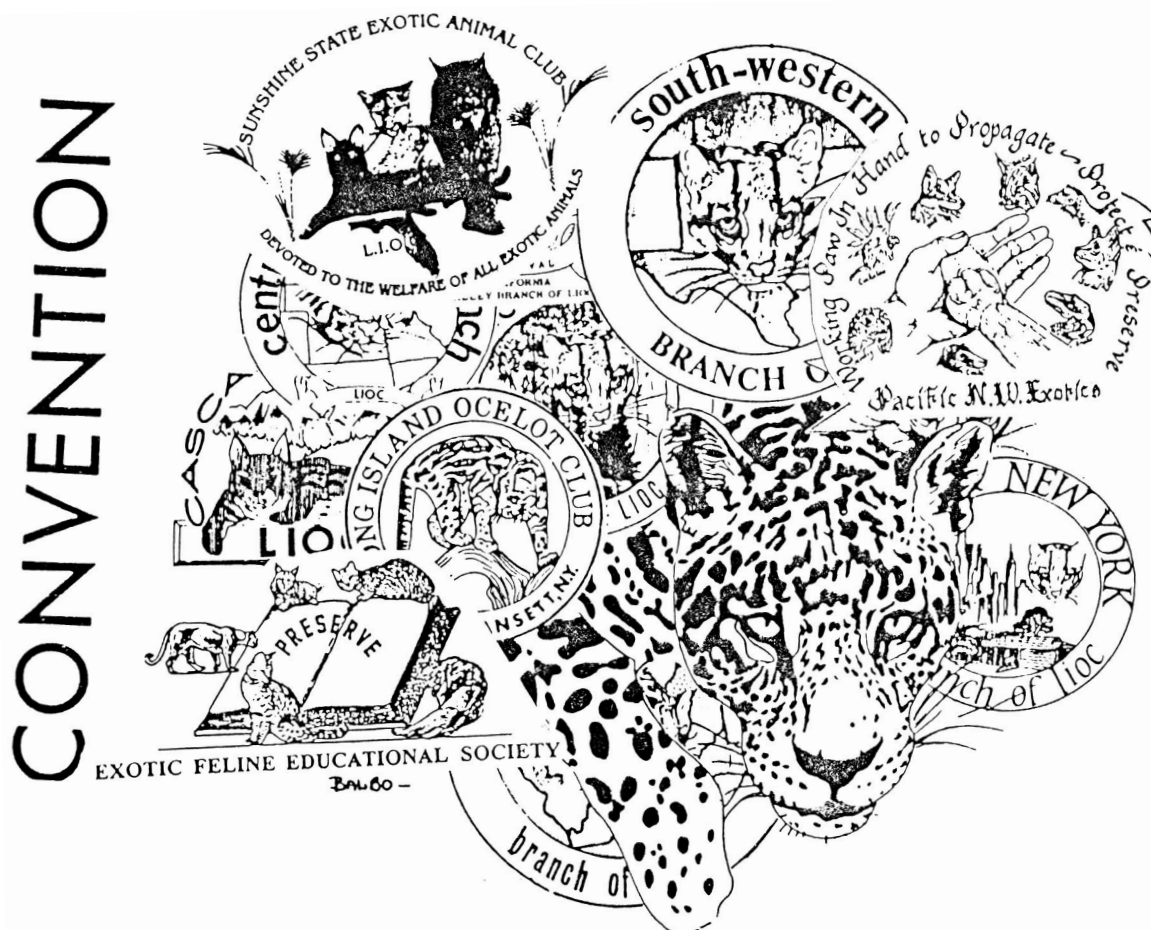
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LIOC needs YOU!



1996 L.I.O.C.

**Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.
26th Annual Conference - August 8-11
The Parkwood Inn - Brunswick Maine**

On Thursday, August 8, we kicked-off the convention with a late afternoon general membership meeting followed by a delicious buffet dinner. The evening's entertainment was provided by Bill Schoppmeyer, a remarkable magician! (He's a nuclear chemist by day)

Friday morning we started our day with a trip to Casco Bay Lines and enjoyed a 2-hour ferry cruise to Bailey's Island. We cruised past many smaller islands and lighthouses. For lunch we stopped at the famous restaurant, Cook's Lobster House, and enjoyed a traditional lobster bake. The food and service were excellent. Following lunch, we traveled to the Land's End Gift Shop at the tip of Bailey's Island. We thought that this would be a quick stop, because it would probably be "just another tourist shop." The shop included a second floor Christmas shop. Well...we all re-boarded the bus with a bag full of purchases!

Saturday's agenda included guest speakers. Our first speaker was Craig McLaughlin with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Craig made an interesting point that there are no wild Cougars (confirmed) in Maine. We always enjoy learning about the local area's animal/land management situations.

Our second and third speakers were Jim Finn with USDA, APHIS, REAC, Regulatory Enforcement and Dr. Ronald Zaidlicz with USDA, APHIS, REAC, Animal Care respectively. Following each presentation, a lengthy discussion ensued to gather information that would benefit LIOC's unique needs and interests. This information was very useful to our attendees.

The fourth speaker was Anna Barry with USDI, Exotic Species Permits. She explained in detail the requirements regarding USDI permitting and the import/export laws, as well as, crossing state lines with exotic animals. Anna explained the proper forms used for USDI permits.

Our fifth speaker was Dawn Simas with Wild About Cats and an LIOC member. She presented the "Suitcase for survival" program, which represents illegal wildlife products made from animals that United States and the world's consumers use. The United States is the #1 consumer of illegal wildlife products and Japan is the #2 consumer. Documentation is falsified before entering the country and these products end up in our major department stores. Dawn's presentation showed how the illegal trade situation is progressing and helped us to understand what not to purchase.

The sixth and final speaker was Ron Eldridge, BVSc, a veterinary student, and an LIOC member. He presented a workshop of Emergency/Critical Care Medicine and CPR for the smaller species of the Felidae. Ron also, showed JB Anderson how to do CPR on his Jaguar, named Pepe Le'Pew. Remember the ABC's, A = establishing an Airway, B = Breathing support, and C = Circulation support! It was great to have a hands-on workshop. Ron left the convention on his way to Africa to spend three weeks on the Cheetah Conservation Fund Program. He also hopes to photograph some wild African Servals.

The cats were welcome and we spent the remaining afternoon with two ten week old female cougars, named Kyla and Katahdin, a baby Geoffroy named Skeeter and a two year old serval, named Max. Bob Ervin stopped by with his ten year old cougar named Charlie. Charlie preferred the comfort of the station wagon. We also had two domestic cats named Katrina and Tiger that attended the convention with their owners. The younger cats enjoyed playing with the toys and Max sat around watching all of the commotion.

Following Saturday's Banquet dinner, awards were presented. Ethel Hauser won the Newsletter Photo Contest by submitting a photo of Scarlett Bellingham holding her Siberian Lynx named Tuk. Kelly Jean Buckley was the recipient of the 1996 Lotty award for outstanding service to the cats and LIOC. John Perry, Reva

Anderson, Kelly Jean Buckley, and Peggy Wheeler won the table decoration raffle prize of a ceramic cougar. These cats were made and donated by Ethel Hauser. Nancy Wilson won the raffle prize of reimbursement for her convention fee donated by the EFES branch.

To start the auction, LIOC's official auctioneer, JB Anderson entered the room in a white tux and tails. George Stowers, as this year's convention host, filled in for Vanna, aka Jeff Bellingham. Jeff and Scarlett were unable to attend this year's convention due to a job promotion. (Congratulations Jeff!) George was a good sport and entered the room in very large cat bedroom slippers. Both JB and George posed for many photos, then the bidding began!!! "Georgette" modeled all of the garments and presented the auction items while JB gathered the bids. Jean Hamil brought a miniature pink flamingo to replace Priscilla the large stuffed bird. Of course, Sharon Roe won the highest bid so that she could bring mini-Priscilla home for John.

During Sunday morning's final convention banquet meeting, we reviewed the LIOC Board Meeting notes and projects. It was nice to meet so many new LIOC members at this year's national convention! The 1997 LIOC convention will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida! See you there!

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley
LIOC Convention Committee Member

LOTTY RECIPIENT

Thank you! It's such an honor to be selected as the 30th recipient of the Lotty. Receiving the Lotty left me speechless, and I've never been speechless in my life. Thank you to the previous Lotty recipients for your vote, support and confidence. Volunteering for LIOC's membership has been my pleasure.

Our membership is increasing rapidly and the annual conventions have been fun-filled and informative over the past years. LIOC has a board ready and able to move LIOC into the future. The Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship will make a difference to veterinary students and ultimately to exotic cat owners.

Thank you. Kelly Jean Buckley



President's Perspective



Why does time fly so fast when you are having fun? I can't believe the Convention is over. It was so good to meet with ole friends and it was really great to meet new members - especially the first-timers who joined "on the spot".

A big thank you to George and Kathy Stowers for the good job they did. The rooms were great, the food was good, and the entertainment Thursday night really took us by surprise (a magician!). Kelly Jean Buckley assisted with what she could do over the phone, but the footwork was done by George and Kathy. We had a great time and wish you all could have been there.

Next year will be hosted by Sunshine State Exotics in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Start making plans now to attend.

Thanks to all of you who filled out the convention questionnaire. The Convention Committee is studying them and will do our best to come up with an agreeable program to increase Convention attendance. You know, we can't be in your backyard every year. We would love to meet in Canada, but the exchange rate makes it prohibitive.

The most important accomplishment of the Board was the decision to transfer the "legal fund" account to the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund. Life Directors John Perry and J.B. Anderson are working together on the technical parts.

The balanced budget amendment passed by a vote of 38-21 and we did pass a balanced budget.

This has been a good year for LIOC - thanks to you.

Barbara Wilton
President

1996 Lotty Presented to Kelly Jean Buckley

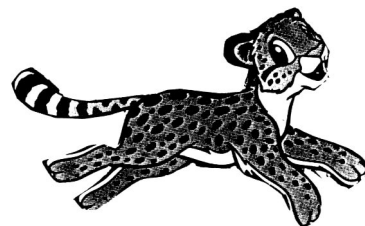
The Lotty is a sculpted bust of an ocelot. It was created by Brenda DuPrey in 1966. Zapata, her ocelot, was the model and Gene Brill, LIOC's first secretary was the honoree.

This year's Lotty is special as it is the thirtieth one presented. There have been years when no Lotty was presented. It is given in recognition for service to LIOC and/or the cats in hopes the two are one.

Catherine Cisin, our founder, always stressed that the Lotty was not won.....to imply there is a "winner" implies there was a loser and those nominated for this honor, regardless of whether they received it or not, all winners. Those who receive the Lotty do so because they act not to win anything, but rather out of devotion to the feline we choose to care for and the Club that strives to serve those efforts and thus the cats themselves.

Only Lotty recipients have input into choosing the current recipient. They are polled for their nominations and then are asked to vote on this year's recipient.

Kelly Jean Buckley was so honored this year for her untiring work for LIOC as Term Director of Member Services. She has been a member since 1984. Kelly Jean has also served as main coordinator for our annual Convention for the past 3 years. She is truly a ray of sunshine with her enthusiasm and can do attitude. Congratulations Kelly Jean!



The Feel of Grass Between Their Toes

Sunday morning was to be the beginning of a new life for Wimpy and Missy, our mischievous yearling bobcats, raised completely indoors from miniscule bottle babies.

They had never been outside before, never felt luxuriant grass under their feet, never known that electric tingle of alertness that came from such raw exposure. Of course, a wire enclosure still surrounded them.

They were excruciatingly alert, hair sticking up, mutton chops flaring, but they were loving it. I had filled a kitty pool with water and their favorite toys bobbed and undulated on the surface. Within seconds they had discovered this childhood trove and for hours on end they skittered and dipped and darted in playful abandon. Very briefly they explored the cedar tree tower, but then returned to the pool.

Wimpy was smelling everything, occasionally tasting the grass. My husband, Bart, had built a wooden chute connecting to the porch window and Wimpy and Missy climbed the ladder to this wooden passageway and re-entered the porch for moment. Then they darted back to their green wonderland.

That's where they've stayed ever since. In the last three days they've spent probably no



more than five minutes on the porch. They want to be outside. They clearly want to smell the air and feel the breeze, their senses alive and invigorated. Of course, this enclosure - their cage if you want to think of it as that - is a small place, about 600 square feet. Life in captivity always carries its compromises.

We've not yet completed the enclosure. We're having logs out front sawed into planks and we'll erect all sorts of catwalks so our bobbies can get off the ground more and use the

Grass Between Their Toes....continued
height of the cage to its full potential.

It look silly now. The center is fourteen feet tall and the animals inside no more than eighteen inches tall. The catwalks will change those dimensions, both literally and figuratively.

We almost didn't have a use for the enclosure. Shortly before it was ready to move into, I discovered what almost became a catastrophe. I had given Missy and Wimpy a plastic toy that Bart had misgivings about. He advised me to take it away from them because it was too dangerous.

When I came upon it, I found three of the pink plastic protrusions missing. They were nowhere in sight. This is the kind of thing that kills exotic cats in captivity.

I began loading up both cats with Metamucil, hoping to coat the objects and assist their passing through the intestines. A week went by with me wondering every day whether I'd wake to find two dead, irreplaceable animals.

Then, one morning, I came across a pool of saliva and vomit, with a pink plastic object floating in the middle. I was never so glad to see up-chuck. Later I found another pile, and another pink plastic doo-dad. Two down, one to go.

I brought in wads of grass for them to chew, hoping to precipitate more vomit. Distracted, I left for work. The next morning I found the third offending pink object, protruding gratifyingly from poop. The crisis was over.

Now that Missy Woo and Wimpy have moved to the mesmerizing world of Nature, they seem distant and aloof. They're less cuddly, less interested in us....or our home.

I hope this passes when the new wears off for them. Judging from their reaction to the great outdoors, I think we will have to install double doors on the porch now. After this taste of the real world, they may just be planning a great escape.

Lynn Culver



Missy Woo jumps for a lamb's tail.

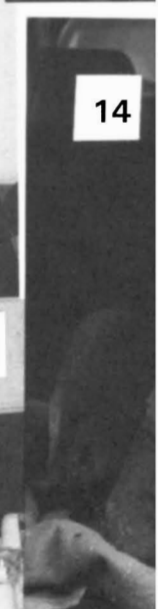
Play time is pool time.
Wimpy & Missy Woo go
fishing for cat toys. We've
also brought up minnows &
various small fish caught
by a trap we sent in our
creek. They love to catch
fish, but so far haven't
dined on any.

UPDATE: It is now six
weeks since I wrote this
story. The "new" has worn
off the outdoor enclosure.
Wimpy and Missy are back
inside our home regularly,
visiting, napping and eating.
They reserve their rough-
and-tumble behaviors entirely
for the outside enclosure.
They have stopped using the
litter boxes on the porch.
(I used to change three
boxes daily!) Instead they
poop and pee in their outside
pool. The water has to be
changed daily, but I don't
mind. I feel this expansion
of their world has worked
out wonderfully. Our sweet,
affectionate bobbies are
happier than ever and so are we.



*"No heaven will not ever
Heaven be
Unless my cats are there
to welcome me"*

Epitaph in a pet cemetery



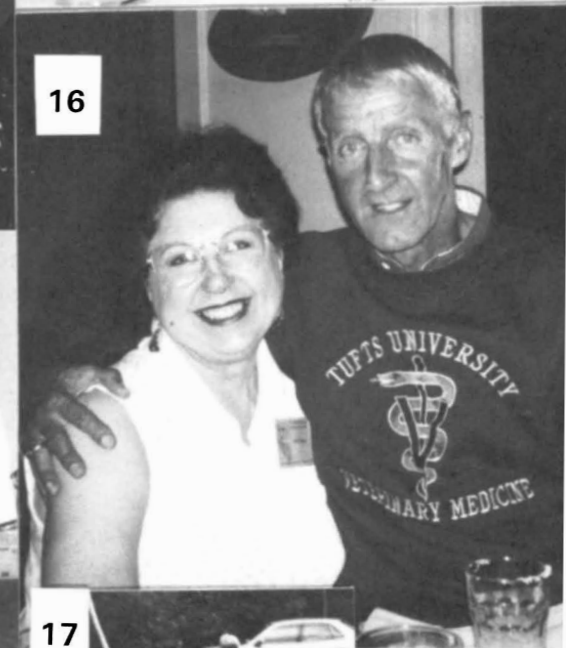


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PAGE 19

Clan of the Wild Cats

"We feel about the big cats in a way that we feel about no other wild animal...."

From the Introduction by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas.

Certain animals seem to embody the power, grace and mystery of the natural world. These Mythic Animals are portrayed in a series of extraordinary illustrated books from the Nature Company, inaugurated by the bestselling *Wolf: Spirit of the Wild*. Now, *Clan of the Wild Cats* explores through word and image the worldwide family of felines - and how people through the ages have seen them.

Wild cats are surpassingly beautiful, celebrated in painting and poetry, yet sacrificed for their sensually elegant pelts. The lion has been the King of Beasts since Biblical times...the tiger, is poet William Blake's metaphor for spiritual fire...the jaguar was a mighty deity in the Maya pantheon. Puma,lynx, bobcat - nearly all cats have legendary dimensions. We humans have a special bond with felines through our beloved domestic cats, who keep the wild spirit of their kin and generate their own legends.

Many "cat tales" from myth and folklore are collected here, along with literary selections from medieval bestiaries to contemporary poems and stories. Vivid firsthand observations of wild cats come from such authorities as George Schaller, Joy Adamson, Hope Reyden, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, Desmond Morris, and Gerald Durrell. All 36 species are identified and profiled, and we discover how alike they are - from the huge Siberian tiger to the smallest housecat.

A glorious gallery of illustrations includes spectacular images by great wildlife photographers, as well as vibrant depictions of



cats in fine and folk art. A map locates all the feline species worldwide; details of anatomy and behavior are rendered in original color art.

From these diverse sources emerge a powerful portrait of the cats, and an understanding of their place in the web of life. *Clan of the Wild Cats* is a definitive look at the lives and legends of these splendid creatures.

Published by the Nature Company, 192 pages, over 200 illustrations, 11 1/2" x 10 1/2" \$39.95. to order call (800) 277-1114

Convention Videos Available

Videos of the 1996 Convention are available at the price of \$10. apiece or 3 for \$20.

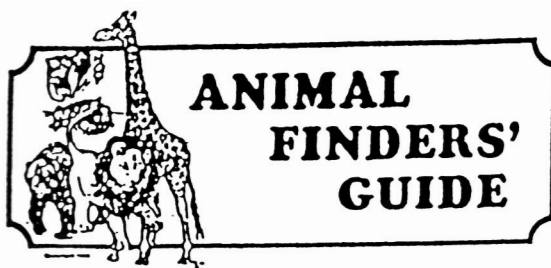
- 1 - Membership Meeting & Candidates' Talk
- 2 - Speakers (5)
- 3 - Banquet & Auction
- 4 - Boat cruise and lobster lunch
- 5 - Dinner with the Magician

Indicate which video you wish and send check or money made payable in U.S. funds to

Jean Hamil
31307 Debbie
Magnolia, Tx 77355

The Classifieds

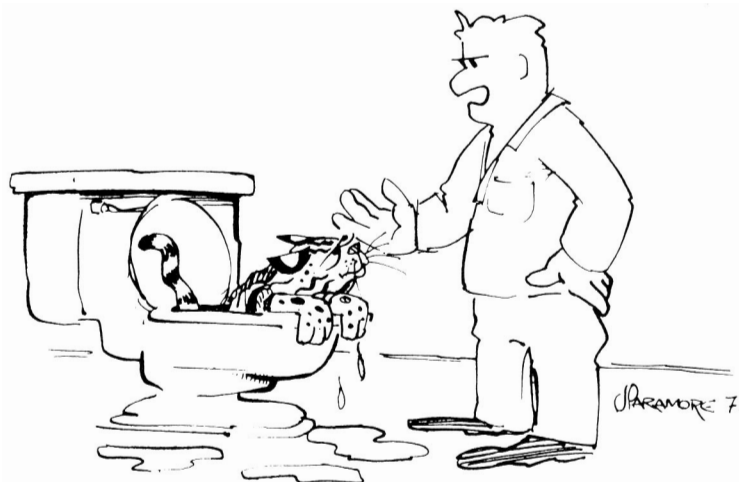
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18 Issues a year. Informative articles on exotic animal husbandry. Exotic animals, auctions, products & services advertised. \$25 a year. P.O. Box 99, Prairie Creek, Indiana 47869



WHETHER YOU LIKE TO WALK ON THE *WILD* SIDE, OR WANT TO JUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE ON EASY STREET, THIS BIG CAT SANCTUARY IS THE PLACE FOR YOU! YOU CAN VISIT US ON VIDEO BY ORDERING "BIG CAT COMPANIONS" FOR \$28.00 OR YOU CAN READ ABOUT HOW WE RAISE OUR CATS IN "EXOTIC CATS AS HOUSEPETS" FOR \$35.00 OR YOU CAN VISIT US IN PERSON FOR \$75.00 @ NIGHT AND STAY IN A RUSTIC CABIN ON 40 ACRES OF TROPICAL PARADISE. GET TO KNOW & PHOTOGRAPH OVER 100 TAME WILD CATS OF 13 SPECIES.



"ARE YOU FINISHED NOW, OR MUST I SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT?"



Well, we've had some responses as to why folks aren't attending convention. Some are very predictable and even understandable: "don't know anyone", (read The Newcomer at Convention on page 15), "too far away/costs too much", (we move around, and those who attend aren't rich, we just save and make it a priority). But far and away the favorite excuse is "I don't have anyone to care for my cats."

That is a very troubling one. Some of those who attend only have one or two cats - some have large compounds, all make arrangements to have their cats cared for in their absence. What is most disturbing to me personally, is that those who use this excuse have potentially severely neglected their animals, or worst themselves or their families. Life, being uncertain, presents us with unexpected challenges at the most inopportune moments. Sickness or accidents strike with little warning.

When this happens is *not* the time to try and find someone to care for your cats! You may not, having just experienced a serious illness or accident, be in any condition to train and screen potential caretakers. What would happen to your cats then? In a family emergency or death that demands your presence NOW, you should not have to say "Wait until I find and train an alternative caretaker."

For your families' emotional well being, time should be made to be with them....even for short vacations, or in case of those unexpected emergencies.

Just as it is important to look ahead and anticipate the worse (your death and subsequent placement/care of your animals), so it is

important to have someone who can provide *minimum* care to your cats in an emergency. This is accomplished by asking a friend, or friend's older teenager to care for them in your absence for minimal pay. How about one of your Vet's helpers? Or even a commercial critter sitter service....a short weekend away would serve as a trial run. And remember, at Convention, you are always available by phone.

Also, if your enclosures are not constructed in such a manner that allows someone to feed your animals without entering the cage, they should be. All cages should have double, safety entrances. And in the case of big cats, should be constructed so that the cat can be confined while cages are cleaned or repaired.

Folks, this is basic. In today's chaotic world, as the saying goes, stuff happens. We are not in total control of our lives, however fervently we wish. Preparations must be in place for every contingency. If they are not, you are allowing for potential neglect of your animal.

Please take the time to familiarize *someone* with the basic care of your animal family. Imagine the worst case scenario and prepare for it. Have written instructions on hand in a conspicuous place; include what and how much is fed when and to whom, where the spare keys to any locks are kept, your vet's name (along with a letter authorizing treatment in your absence), alternate caregiver's name and phone number, and make sure someone close to you knows such instructions exist in case of a severe accident or your demise. I also leave a small amount of cash to purchase food if necessary and try *never* to have the freezer empty. True it requires a little forethought, but this is one of the most important obligations you have.

Having taken care of this very primary necessity, you will have peace of mind knowing your felines are taken care of in any unforeseen event. You then can enjoy a few days away with your family, and perhaps even attend convention if you care to. But please, resolve now to remedy the "I don't have anyone to care for my cats" problem. If you don't, who will?

A New-Comer's View of Convention

I was excited and eagerly anticipating attending my first LIOC Convention. None I met there disappointed me! As I was greeted and warmly welcomed into the group attending, I felt that I had already known many of you for years. I guess that it's the common bond that we share - the concern for the welfare of the cats and the desire to produce and preserve each species. I came home with the feeling that everyone I met was there to help and support me as I start down the path to raise and breed my precious servals. The time and money spent for the trip was well worth it because now that I have met you personally, I would feel very comfortable in calling or writing with any questions. Additionally, now that I have faces to go with the names, reading the newsletter will be that much more enjoyable.

The Saturday night banquet and auction was exceptional! It has been a long time since I had so much fun! Also, the lobster lunch tasted that much better for sitting out on the water (memorable and delicious).

I felt the General Membership Meeting was open to any and all opinions, statements or views. Fortunately or unfortunately, I didn't bring very many with me, but lookout, I'll see you again next year.

I especially want to thank Jean Hamil. She had mailed me videos and lots of information on nutrition and other topics before convention, not to mention the several long talks over the phone. Also talking "cats" with me in our shared room at convention until the wee hours of the morning. I know she was worn out by the time she got home, but what a sweet, patient friend she has become for me, sharing her vast knowledge and experience so unselfishly.

I left the Convention knowing that LIOC is truly remarkable and a tribute to all those who have worked unceasingly over the years for the betterment and welfare of our cats. It takes

dedication, stamina and hard work year after year to maintain a successful organization like LIOC. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

I want all of you to know that I consider myself fortunate to be a member and hope that I will become a useful member as LIOC grows in the coming years.

God bless & love
Amy Rasmussen
Nixon, Texas



This is Lightning, my male serval, at 9 months. He's calling his birds (see the feeder in back). So far he's not be able to entice any birds close enough. His run is 23x40.





February Meeting

Our February meeting was held in the home of Brain and Pam Riley. The Rileys recently moved to their new home in The Acreage of West Palm Beach. We had a lovely barbecue for lunch. There were fourteen members and three guests in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Jean Hatfield, as our President could not make it. Since Lt. Charlie Dennis of Florida Fish & Game joined us, our meeting time was spent asking questions of Lt Dennis; who also discussed the changes he would like to see to Florida's licensing laws.

Judy Green and Jean Hatfield shared photos of the young female ocelot that will soon share Judy's home on a permanent basis.

The rest of the afternoon we spent visiting Pam & Brian's feline menagerie.

May Meeting

Our president, Bob Merkel hosted our May 18th meeting.

The turnout for this meeting was *very* small.... only seven people. Because of this we did not actually have a formal meeting. We spent our time chatting and listening to and laughing at Bob's stories of Amanda cougar's absolute lack of manners. Amanda watched us all from the confines of her cage. Our next meeting will be in July - let's hope we have a better turnout.

July Meeting

Our July meeting was held at the Southern Florida Rehabilitation Center. Barbara & Dick Neugebohrn care for approximately twenty confiscated big cats---mostly cougars. The stories of how these cats came to live with Barbara & Dick are extremely sad and almost unbelievable. Imagine hitting a cougar on the foot with a hammer - so it won't run away....or beating a 17 year old African lion with a two-by-four for who only knows what reason...It is amazing to me how these cats actually seem to forgive humans for their atrocious treatment.

All of us should be concerned about the future of Sunshine State Exotics. Bob Merkel and I were the only attendees from our Club. Needless to say there was no meeting. We visited with the animals and stayed for the Cajun meal.

I would hope everyone will make a special effort to attend our September meeting. We will be electing new officers in November. If any of you have any suggestions, please let Bob or I know.

Respectfully Submitted
Nanette McGann



Helpful Hint - Isoflorane is the agent of choice to anesthetize our cats. Small to medium sized felines should be left in their travel crates and the crate placed in a large plastic bag (if a garbage bag isn't sufficiently large, try a Christmas tree removal bag). The isoflurane gas is then piped in with a minimum of stress to your animal.



EXOTIC FELINE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Meeting Report - April 19, 1996 Portland, Oregon

President Ethel Hauser called the meeting to order. There was no reading of the minutes as these were previously distributed by mail. Barbara Wilton gave the Treasurer's report.

Vice President Sandy Hammersley gave a report on our highway clean-up project. These will start in the fall. Dates will be announced later.

We decided to give a convention registration refund to one lucky winner in a drawing at Convention. We also elected to donate \$50. towards the registration fee for Ron Eldridge, a veterinary student at Tufts University who has written many articles for the Newsletter. Ron will also be a guest speaker at convention. The day after convention he is leaving for Namibia, Africa to study at the Cheetah Conservation Compound under Laurie Marker-Kraus. EFES has two video tapes of the compound and the work in Namibia. We will loan these to any club member if they pay the postage.

Ethel reported that the new Washington state Director of Fish and Wildlife will be Bernard Shanks, a Portland, Oregon biologist with a lengthy resume' of out-doors related jobs. Shanks previously was Director of the Office of the Environment, Health and Safety for the University of California at Davis and Director of the Center for California Studies in Sacramento.

He is an avid fisherman, hunter and outdoor survival expert. He has hands-on experience in

the field as a wildlife enforcement officer and park ranger. We are very pleased to welcome a Director with such an extensive background.

We devoted the next two hours to clarification of our By-laws so the could be submitted to the Board at Convention.

Lunch was served and we got down to the fun stuff.....cats!

Submitted by Ethel Hauser



Don & Carol Scholes visit with young Hauser Safari at the EFES meeting held at Pat Parker's home in April

Meeting Report, June 23, 1995 Donna Amos' Compound, Roseburg, Ore.

Donna lives near the Winston Wildlife Safari in Roseburg, three hours south of Portland. It was another hot day and Donna had picnic tables and a barbeque set up in a beautiful grove of trees. Cars began arriving early from Ashland, Grant's Pass, Salem and Portland. We had our meeting at 1:30 with fifteen members present. Some members had to leave early and about the time we were finishing lunch, more members arrived from Seattle, Washington....six hours away! This afforded the opportunity for a good group picture. After the early arrivers left

EFES - continued

we had another meeting so everyone was included in all the reports, handouts, etc. Then we lucky few got to have a second lunch! A highlight of the lunch was a potato-salad contest judged by Donna Amos. The winner was Bob Armstrong. We gals sure got our comeuppance! The prize was note paper designed by Shirley Malar and a terra cotta planter.

Educational handouts were: 1) Vomiting and Diarrhea....a lot of members have problems distinguishing causes of these maladies. 2) Keeping animals safe in the Garden, 3) Urinating outside the litterbox may mean illness, 4) Cats & strokes, 5) What to do when your cat breaks a bone. These articles have been sent to the Newsletter Editor for her use.

Many thanks to the members who sent pictures to update the photo albums. We may have to get another album soon. These will be available at the next meeting.

Ethel has contacted several area veterinarians and none of them here are using micro-chips as there are so many companies making different variations. Consensus is that until there is a standard chip, vet's cannot afford the many readers needed to identify them all.



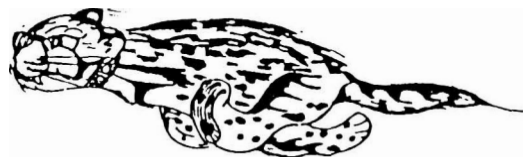
Pat de Muth with one of Donna's servals

Another tour was made of Donna's great compound. Everyone enjoyed playing with the clouded leopard, Rajah; but her beautiful tiger won everyone over. Other cats presents were: young servals, jungle cats, cougar, ocelot, Geoffroy's, bengals, snow leopards and bobcats.

We had a great raffle with lots of contributions. Our next meeting will be in Seattle, Washington at the home of Gary Carder.

Submitted by Ethel Hauser.

Moving?



*Don't miss any issues
Notify Member Services Promptly
(See Page 2 for address)*

The Plight of America's Biggest Cat

In an age of "awareness" and "causes" that reflect a nation's heritage, why have the American people not raised its largest cat to protected status? Probably because of two main reasons.

First, due to the shy and reclusive nature of the cougar, there have been many false myths created about its behavior by our culture. However, these falsehoods about their savage nature towards man can be easily dismissed through education.

Secondly, irreparable damage to wildlife habitat usually happens over an extended period of time and is often not noticed until it's too late. For example, the Florida Panther, which is a subspecies of cougar, has lost so much habitat due to human encroachment that probably no amount of money can now save it from extinction later.

The cougar is the fourth largest feline in the world and faces the same obstacles that every other large carnivore faces yet it is the only one not protected. Although it has already become extinct in the eastern U.S., there is still time (for once) to protect a native species before it's too late.

Hunting, which is done by dogs chasing the cat up a tree and then shooting it, takes a heavy toll on the survival of the cougar. Interestingly enough, British Columbia, which has the most hunting of cougars, has the highest number of cougar attacks on people. Even our nation's 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, the one-time biggest hunter of mountain lions, later realized the importance and need of this large carnivore in the balance of nature. It should also be noted that dogs and even snakes kill more people in one year than cougars have in the last 100 years.

It seems terribly ironic that a country that takes such pride in freedom, and admires the cougars' qualities so much that sports teams and automobiles are named after them, may well be the same country that allows North America's largest cat to one day be seen only in a cage.

Mark Jenkins, Director
Cooper's Rock Mountain Lion Research Center
(304) 328-5703

Convention Photos

Centerfold: (All are L-R) 1) Jay and Sue Doak Perry 2) Sharon Roe, Kelly Jean and Tom Buckley 3) Nannette McGann & Karen Jusseum. 4) Nancy Wilson with Skeeter. 5) Sue and John Perry. 6) Georgette- AKA George Stowers & Reva Anderson. 7) Jenny & Anne Amadon with their cougar cubs. 8) Auctioneers J.B. Anderston & George Stowers. 9) Thaddeus & Patricia Vickers. 10) Tim & Jenny Amadon. 11) Jenny Amadon assists magician Bill Schoppmeyer. 12) George, Max & Kathy Stowers. 13) Amy Rasmussen & Jean Hamil. 14) Bill Ervin and Charlie cougar. 15) Tom Buckley visits with Katrina. 16) Ethel Hauser and Ron Eldridge. 17) Al Porges takes Ron Eldridge for a ride.

Back cover: 1) Lisa Padula & Paul Richardson. 2) Mary Hamilton, Carin Sousa, Karen Jusseum, Kelly Jean Buckley, Ethel Hauser & Barbara Wilton. 3) Lisa Padula assists Ron Eldridge in demonstrating CPR. 4) Jean Hamil, Peggy Walker and Al Porges enjoy a lobster lunch. 5) Ron Eldridge, Dawn Simas, Kelly Jean Buckley, Al Porges, Lisa Padula, Peggy Walker & Shirley Wagner. 6) John Perry naps while we shop. 7) Ceramic cougar table decorations made by Ethel Hauser. 8) Skeeter (Geoffroy's) Hauser gets a snack.



Photo Key
Is On
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