

# LIOE

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



**Volume 42, Issue 5 - September/October 1998**



***1998 Lotty Winner Loreon Vigne  
with Paul Ramses as  
Reba and J.B. Anderson congratulate her  
(See page 19)***



**LIOC**

**Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc.**

This Newsletter is published bimonthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a nonprofit (Federal I.D. 59-2048618) noncommercial 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 bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this newsletter

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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. Deadline for the next issue is the 1st of even-numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor.

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

Founder: Catherine Cisin  
Amagansett, NY 11930  
Editor: Marge Maxwell  
PO Box 101  
Bowling Green, KY 42102  
502-846-1991  
Email: liontriumphant@mindspring.com

**Officers:**

President: Barbara Wilton  
7800 SE Luther Rd.  
Portland, OR 97206  
503-774-1657

Vice President: Scarlett Bellingham  
PO Box 722  
Niverville, Manitoba, ROA IEO,  
Canada

104-388-4845 home and fax  
Secretary/ Treasurer: Sharon Roe  
29641 NE Timmen Rd.  
Ridgefield, WA 98642  
360-887-8563  
Email: shoo@pacifier.com

**TERM DIRECTORS:**

Advertising & Publicity: Jean Hamil  
31307 Debbi  
Magnolia, TX 77355  
281-356-2076

Education/Conservation: George Stowers

PO Box 80  
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080  
315-342-4997  
Email: gstowers@aiusa.com  
Legal Affairs: Nannett McGann  
10100 SW 21 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33165  
305-553-8192  
Email: denofnm@aol.com

Member Services: Kelly Jean Buckley  
PO Box 22085  
Phoenix, AZ 85028  
602-996-5935

**LIFE DIRECTORS:**

J. B. Anderson  
1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.  
Ashland, MO 65010  
573-348-5092

John Perry  
6684 Central Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
612-571-7918  
Email: johntperry@uswest.net

Carin C. Sousa  
2960 Bay St.  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561  
850-932-6383

Shirley Wagner  
3730 Belle Isle Ln.  
Mobile, AL 36619  
Phone/fax: 334-661-1342  
Email: ocelots@compuserve.com

**BRANCHES:**

Alliance for the Conservation of  
Exotic Felines - Cascade Branch of  
LIOC: Marc Watkins  
2122 8th Ave., N., #402  
Seattle, WA 98109  
206-285-3507

Exotic Feline Educational Society:  
Ethel Hauser  
14622 NE 99th St.  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
360-892-9994

Midwest Exotic Feline Educational  
Society: Bob Turner  
1345 Dayhuff Rd.  
Mooreville, IN 46158  
317-831-0817

Pacific Northwest Exotics: Dwayne  
Kaptur  
PO Box 205  
Gresham, OR 97030  
Gayle Schaecher (503-663-4137)  
Sunshine State Exotics: David  
Cassalia  
PO Box 7113  
Hollywood, FL 33081  
954-966-0406

**REGIONAL CONTACTS:**

Canada: Scarlett Bellingham  
PO Box 722  
Niverville, Manitoba, ROA IEO,  
Canada,  
104-388-4845 home and fax  
Central: J. B. Anderson  
1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.  
Ashland, MO 65010  
573-348-5092

Northeast: George Stowers  
PO Box 80  
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080  
315-342-4997  
Email: gstowers@aiusa.com

Northwest: See Branches  
Southeast: Jean Hatfield  
1991 SW 136th Ave.  
Davie, FL 33325  
954-472-7276

Southwest: Loreon Vigne  
20889 Geyserville Ave.  
Geyserville, CA 95441  
707-857-3524



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## President's Perspective



What a great Convention we had this year. If you were unable to attend, make plans now to join us in Grand Rapids, South Dakota next August. One of the highlights this year was welcoming our new branch to LIOC ESCF. The Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society includes Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky. If interested in joining them, see page two. They would love to hear from you. If you would like to start a branch in your state or area, contact Kelly Jean Buckley in Member Services. She would love to help you.

Some other important topics on our agenda for the Board of Directors to consider was to establish and maintain a private sector feline database to facilitate cooperation and coordination between AZA and private sector captive conservation and husbandry efforts. Should LIOC ESCF adopt a policy that encourages private owners to register their cats with ISIS or the private sector feline database and applicable studbooks? Both of these motions passed so the Board of Directors appointed George Stowers to act as a representative for the individual owners of wild felines on the AZA Felid TAG Private Sector Liaison Committee that is to be formed. We are also encouraging private owners to provide permanent identification of their cats by tattoo or transponder chip.

All in all, we've had a busy year and a great convention. Hope to see you ALL next August.

### IMPORTANT:

### Your HELP Needed!

Time and again the LIOC-ESCF is asked to provide information concerning the level of risk private ownership of wild felines presents to the owner, the owner's family or employees, and the general public. Public safety concerns are often used as justification by state and local regulatory agencies for severely limiting or banning private ownership. Unfortunately at this point there is NO HARD DATA AVAILABLE! This makes it virtually impossible to for the LIOC to effectively respond to public safety concerns. There is a solution! PLEASE!!!! respond to a survey included with this issue of your newsletter as honestly and completely as you can. ACCURATE INFORMATION regarding the actual risk associated with private captive husbandry of wild felines is vital to preserving the privilege of private ownership. **Thank You!!**

George Stowers,  
Director, Conservation & Education

Barbara Wilton, President



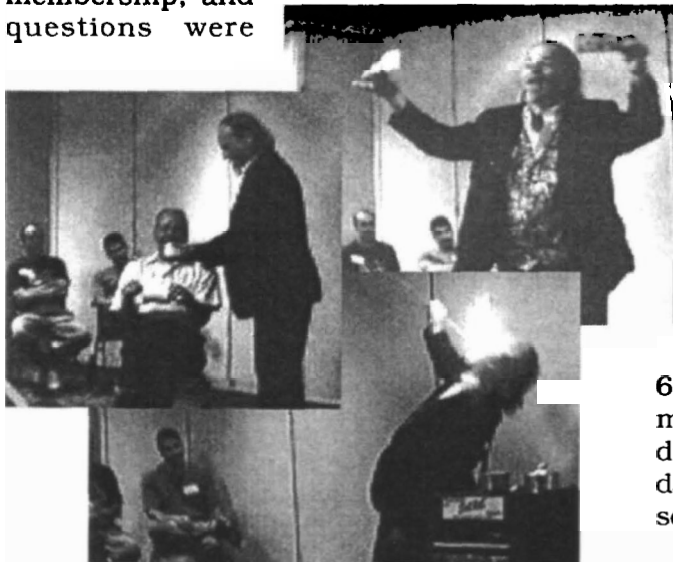
## 1998 LIOC

### Endangered Species Conservation Federation 28th Annual Conference - August 6-8

On Thursday, August 6, the General Membership Meeting officially started the 1998 LIOC Convention. First time attendees were introduced. The LIOC Board of Directors presented their reports to the membership, and then ideas and discussions were open from the membership, and questions were

answered. Following the meeting we enjoyed a reception dinner with entertainment from our friend and LIOC member Herald (Max) Maxwell. He has achieved magic mastery using the magic words, kibbles and bits! We still want to know how he put the dollar bill inside the lemon...

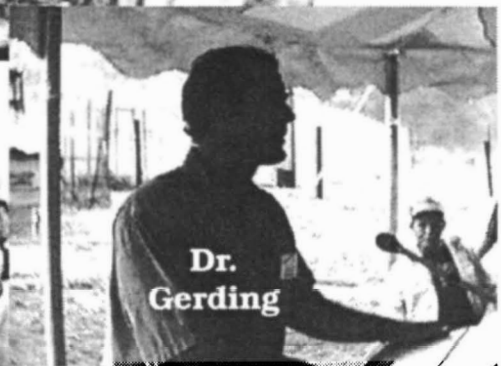
Friday morning we boarded two buses and headed for the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. It was a rainy day, and lucky for us, we had a large outdoor tent for shelter at the center. Due to the rain, our tour was shortened as many members didn't want to get wet. Of course, the magnificent lions and tigers weren't bothered by the rain, but they were very interested in our umbrellas. We were all impressed with the stories of the individual cats. The scope of energy and effort necessary to take care of more than 60 lions and tigers was inspirational. One member's opinion was that Joe must feel a great deal of satisfaction at the completion of a hard day's work, as each evening closes with peaceful serenity . . .(and the cats roaring at the moon).



We gathered under the tent and started our meeting with a thank you to Joe Taft for welcoming LIOC members to the center. We listened to the candidates who are running for office in the next election speak about their platforms. Our guest speaker was Dr. Gerding. During lunch time, some members who didn't mind a lot of mud on their clothes, went to play with the five baby tigers. We had a delicious



lunch and then returned to the hotel. It was still raining and only a few attendees wanted to visit the zoo. Those who went saw the dolphin show and many good exhibits.



Friday night was free time for all attendees. The LIOC Directors met for their annual board meeting (report to follow in an upcoming newsletter), and the new Midwest branch of LIOC had a planning meeting. All others spent the evening in the hospitality room with the cats.

### **Guest Speakers' Presentations Saturday, August 8**

#### **Dr. Paul Gerding, Jr., DVM MS, Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists; Diagnosis and Treatment of Ocular Disorders of Exotic Felines**

Dr. Gerding spoke to our group during our visit to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. He started with background information about the college and then asked the group for questions. There are a number of different causes that

result in problems with vision. A common problem is cataracts. Not all visual problems come from cataracts, although cataract removal is the most common surgery, mostly in older cats, but some are born with them. The same instrument is used in surgery for cats and humans. Lenses of full-grown lions are more difficult to remove because their eye is so much larger. When diabetes is present, it may result in cataracts. If diabetes is caught and regulated early, cataracts may not develop. A member with an older cat with diabetes and cataracts, asked if the cat is too old for surgery. Dr. Gerding stated age is not a disease, and if the overall health checks out, then the cat would be a good candidate for surgery. Cataracts can't grow back once they are removed.

It may be hard to determine that a cat has a vision problem when they are in their own environment. Hazy vision in the eye is one symptom. With an aging animal the haziness occurs normally, which doesn't necessarily cause vision problems. Retinas can detach, not only at birth, but quite often in trauma. A retina

can't be repaired if the problem is discovered too long after its onset. Eye problems are usually discovered when an animal is moved to new surroundings. In some cats the problem with Taurine deficiency is the inability to process it. There is a certain type of lesion that is in the back of the eye that indicates a taurine deficiency. Taurine deficiency has been found in cats with a good diet, therefore, it's determined that those cats are unable to metabolize the Taurine and can't use it properly. Fortunately, not all go on to blindness even with the deficiency.

Problems to look for in cats are a chronic discharge, and the white outer part of the eye can become red and inflamed. This can be caused from trauma or laceration from a cat fight. Cats can also have seasonal allergies. Be careful when using anti-inflammatory treatment for allergies, because it can be the exact wrong treatment if the problem is really an infection and can make the infection worse. There are limitations as to what can be done from the time of discovering the eye problem and getting to the veterinarian, because one drug that treats one problem is the opposite treatment for another problem and it can be made seriously worse. Separate the animal from others, use a protective collar if you have one, and NEVER put any medication or eye wash in cats' eyes until you have professional diagnosis of the problem.

Dr. Gerding examined Jean and Sherry Blanchette's lynx to determine if there was any vision problem, and found that the eyes were physically correct, therefore, he suspected a neurological problem that could be part of the vision reflexes that weren't functioning properly.

### **David Mallory, Cougar Haven; Experiences with Rescued Lions and Tigers**

David gave a slide presentation of some of the cats at Cougar Haven, a sanctuary for exotic cats, in Mississippi. He and his wife Sherryl have been rescuing large exotic cats, mostly cats that have been abused, starved, misunderstood, and neglected. His perspective from when they opened their facility has changed greatly, as it seems that there is no end to the needs of the cats. The number of large cats needing a good home is as-tounding. They have been very



successful in helping the rescued cats to trust them and feel secure in their safe sanctuary.

### **George Stowers, Director Education and Conservation, LIOC-ESCF, Inc.; Beyond 2000, The Future of Private Ownership**

George displayed the LIOC-ESCF, Inc. feline census status comparing this year to last year's participation. He reported that the LIOC will be establishing and maintaining a private sector feline database to facilitate cooperation and coordination between AZA and private sector captive conservation and husbandry efforts. LIOC has adopted a policy of encouraging private owners to register their cats, either directly with ISIS or the private sector feline database, and applicable studbooks and has also adopted a policy of encouraging private owners to provide permanent identification of their cats by tattoo or transponder chip. George also reported that he has been appointed to act as the representative for individual owners of wild felines on the AZA Felid TAG Private Sector Liaison Committee that is to be formed as a result of the Felid TAG meeting held last April in Oklahoma City.





**Dr. Thomas J. Burke, DVM MS,  
College of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Illinois  
General Health Care and  
Preventive Medicine,  
A Veterinarian's Perspective.**

Dr. Burke conveyed the following to us: Education needs to start in grade school. Can we save every life? Should we save every life? Cats are born with defects. Will genetic defects be passed on? We don't have all the answers. Learn to say you don't know and pick up the phone to find the answers from those who do and do your best to find a correct answer. Learn to recognize when surgery should or should not be done. These decisions are emotional and for the cats sake, learn to recognize when the animal is asking for help. Understand your cat's

behavior. First rule of medicine - Do no harm. Don't leave the animal in worse shape than when you started. There has been a lot of well intentioned treatment with catastrophic results. Protect yourself, your visitors, and above all protect your patient. Basic recommendations include if possible your veterinarian wants your cat secured in a squeeze cage. There are times when long distance drug delivery is required, i.e., dart guns and pole syringes (Zoolu Arms, Omaha, NE 402-397-4983), and blow pipes. Don't count on hand syringing, sometimes you can't. Raccoons carry a round worm, the larva of which can infect cats, humans, birds and all mammals causing severe brain, heart and liver disease that is often fatal. Control the vectors. Raccoons should not be where your cats are. Control stray cats, as they can carry diseases without showing clinical signs.

Reproduction - A lot of cats do not fit into a Species Survival Program (SSP), Tag group, or registration with ISIS. Those who do, please get them there, those who don't please keep the cats separated. What can we do to control the overpopulation? Encourage to spay or neuter cats that do not fit into SSP or Tag programs. Find out for sure first before taking that final step. Spayed and neutered cats live twice as long as those who aren't.

Pediatrics - If a neonate is rejected by its mother, find a foster mother if possible. Weak cats need immediate attention, and need twice the water of an adult cat. Weigh babies every

day on a good quality scale. The first sign of a sick cat is failure to gain weight. Neonates can absorb colostrum milk for only the first 12 hours of life. 97% of their early protection against disease comes from colostrum milk. If they don't get this, give them some serum, hopefully from their mother or at least the same species. This is called passive protection. If you do nothing else, keep the belly button disinfected until its dry with tincture (alcoholic) of iodine (not Betaine). It initially stings a little. Use 2-3 times per day until it's dry. Do not use antidiarrheal medication. Take blood with each vet visit and have the serum stored for emergency use or diagnostic testing in the future.

**Dr. Jenni Spencer,  
College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Auburn University  
Immunological Virological Studies  
of the Lion and Cheetah in  
Southern Africa**

Dr. Spencer showed us slides of southern Africa and presented the following:

1. A serosurvey at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), Namibia, of the cheetahs that are moving through CCF, found to have antibodies of all the viruses present. Cheetahs don't seem to get disease from the viruses, however they are susceptible to Feline Leukemia virus, which can cause death.
2. The study on the lions in the Etosha National Park found antibodies to feline herpes and 3% have antibodies to corona virus. There is a lot of dust around the watering holes during the dry season and this dust gets kicked up by elephants. Anthrax spores are found in this dust which can infect other animals. This park lost all its cheetahs due to this bacterium.
3. When catching lions, a caravan trailer is positioned, a few days prior, in the area where you plan to catch the animals. The animals get used to seeing you there. A prey animal bait is set and a loud tape recording of hyenas at a kill is played to draw the lions to the site.
4. Results of the animals from the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa showed that 100% of the lions sampled were positive for antibodies to panleukopenia and herpes viruses and a high percentage were positive for corona virus (41%). What this means as far as effects on the population aren't known. This population has

been declining over the years, but it hasn't been determined if this is due to disease or other factors. It is a very highly inbred population.

5. Corona virus is always present to a certain extent in non-captive cheetahs. Captive breeding populations are free of this virus. FIP is a stress related disease which is caused by corona virus. The De Wildt Population is free of corona viruses and this has important management implications.

6. Killed vaccines are not available in southern Africa. All the animals are vaccinated with modified live vaccines. There has never been a problem as a result of this. At 12 weeks of age, cubs show the strongest response to vaccinations.

7. The biggest strongholds of cheetahs today are in Eastern Africa, in the Masaai Mara-Serengeti area and also in Southern Africa. Namibia has the largest population of free ranging cheetahs. Cheetahs are endangered due to high habitat loss and competition with farmers. They were taken into captive breeding programs and the most successful is at the De Wildt Research Center. Initially people were having no success worldwide. Studies proved the cheetahs were highly inbred and this was thought to be the cause of the infertility. In 1975 they had a breakthrough at De Wildt and by reducing the fat in their diets the cheetahs were able to start producing rapidly. In 1981 the first King Cheetah was born at De Wildt. It was thought that the King Cheetah was a different sub species and it had become extinct. They worked out the genetics and found that it's a recessive gene and they know which cats are carrying the gene, so you can breed two parents with recessive genes and produce King Cheetahs. De Wildt is the only place that is successfully breeding King Cheetahs and supplying them to other facilities.

**Dr. Jenni Spencer,  
College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Auburn University  
Serosurvey of certain parasites in  
North American Wild Felids**

Dr. Spencer is now working in parasitology. Whenever you anesthetize your animals, she would like a small serum sample to see if parasites are present. The first parasite checked causes Neosporosis. Neospora and Toxoplasma

are very similar in life cycles and with various clinical signs. The structure of each determines which is which. The organisms are able to be cultured in the lab. Dyes are used to see organisms more clearly in order to be able to identify which organism is present. Another test is an immuno-florescent antibody test. Neospora is widely spread throughout the world. Mostly dogs and cattle are affected. The reservoir host harboring this organism hasn't been determined. There is much speculation as to whom the alternate host is. Neospora has been found in the cheetah and lion in Africa. Samples are now being tested in North America. They are looking for Toxoplasma at the same time as testing for Neospora.

The next parasite checked is Cryptosporidium. This causes a severe problem in AIDS patients. In immunocompetent humans it causes severe diarrhea, and also in calves and birds. It is a waterborne agent when drinking water systems fail. Another parasite is Sarcocystis. This disease affects the central nervous systems of horses. This disease can't be detected early, and there has been a tremendous loss of animals in Kentucky. It also depresses the immune system in infected animals. The work of developing a vaccine against these parasites is in progress.

When sending a serum sample, please send a brief history of the animal, what food it's eating, where it came from, and what other animals live in close proximity. For information, Dr. Spencer can be reached at Auburn University at 334-844-2701.



**Michele Katz  
Winner of \$100 PNWE Raffle**



## Banquet and Awards

Saturday Evening began with the Banquet awards dinner and was followed by the annual auction. The table centerpieces, made by Jean Herrberg, were raffled. The PNWE branch raffled a \$100.00 bill, and the winner was Michelle Katz. Mark and Sheila Jenkins won the annual newsletter photo contest. A special thank you was given to Joe Taft and Jean Herrberg for hosting this year's LIOC convention. Kate Connor was presented a clock in thanks for hosting the LIOC web site. A certificate was given to Bob Turner, President of the new branch of LIOC, Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society. The Engler/Douglas Breeders Award was presented to Ethel Hauser and the newsletter Reporter of the Year Award to Kelly Jean Buckley. Loreon Vigne was this year's Lotty recipient. With white tails and his top hat, JB Anderson served as our Auctioneer. Max was JB's assistant having the difficult job of collecting the bids. The room was long and narrow and with 87 people, we kept Max running. He did a super job.



Jean Herrberg and Joe Taft



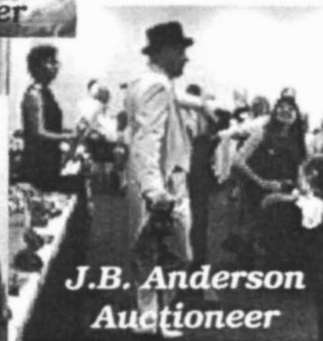
Kelly Jean Buckley  
Reporter of the Year



Steve and Cheryl  
Hahn



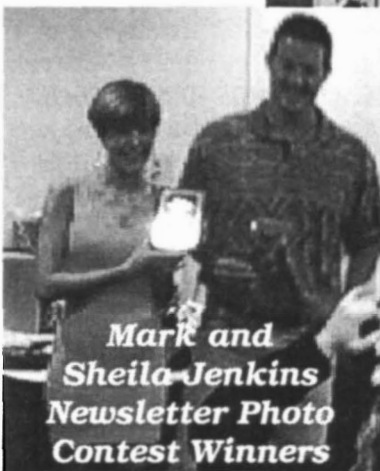
Bob Turner receives  
certificate for new branch  
from Shirley Wagner



J.B. Anderson  
Auctioneer



Max as  
"Vanna"



Mark and  
Sheila Jenkins  
Newsletter Photo  
Contest Winners

The convention ended Sunday morning with a short breakfast meeting. The next LIOC convention was announced to be held in Rapid City, SD, August 4-8, 1999. See you there!  
Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley

## **Nominees and Platforms**

The following are the nominees for the 1999-2000 Board of Directors. The election platforms are presented (unedited as written by each nominee). A ballot is included in this issue. Nominees are presented in alphabetical order within each office.

### **President:**

Andy Turudic  
Barbara Wilton

### **Vice President:**

George Stowers  
John Van Stry

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Sharon Row

### **TERM DIRECTORS**

#### **Member Services:**

Kelly Jean Buckley

#### **Legal Affairs:**

Mark Jenkins  
Andy Turudic

#### **Advertising/Publicity:**

Jana Londre

#### **Education/Conservation:**

Sherry Blanchette



### **Nominees for President**

#### **Into a New Millenium**

My name is Andy Turudic and I am your nominee for President and for the Director of Legal Affairs. I have chosen to run for two positions in the LIOC Executive this year because I believe the LIOC needs a strong, proactive leader, a strategic thinker, a private noncommercial feline owner, and someone who can creatively and passionately protect our ownership interests in our animals in a coordinated manner. I hold the opinion that this election should run on issues, with a clear mandate being sent to the Term & Life Directors by the membership with regard to the direction LIOC should take as we transition into a new Millenium. Please cast your ballot for me if you believe I can best take the LIOC where you want it to go.

My experience for the position of President includes two years as Branch President of the Pacific Northwest Exotics Branch (PNWE), where I was instrumental in contributing to the growth of the Branch, as well as in working with the State in creating reasonable laws regarding the confinement and keeping of cougars. As a result, our Oregon members can now keep kittens up to six months of age in the home to bond with their owners and caging has been updated to more reasonable materials and sizing requirements. I initiated a "membership with a kitten program", a voluntary program in which our breeders contribute a free 1 year membership to the Branch with every kitten sold. This program has been a significant factor



in growing our membership and we think that the number of animal abandonments and abuse and the problems we are all familiar with that are encountered by neophyte exotic owners can be significantly mitigated. I have spoken publicly on behalf of the Branch in front of our Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as in front of County Officials and have prepared presentations for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. As your President, I can represent the Board and LIOC effectively and coordinate projects to ensure the continued enjoyment in keeping felines in the private sector, as well as continue programs to educate the community and membership. Vote for me as your new president and I will pledge not to sit idly as our rights as owners crumble nationwide due to the concerted and activist efforts of USHS, AZA, ANIMAL PEOPLE, and PETA to ban the private ownership, breeding, and exchange of exotic animals.

My experience for the position of Director of Legal Affairs comes from having done around thousand hours of legal research and self-education for a court case that I now have in front of the Oregon Court of Appeals. Part of the precedent we seek in this private battle is a determination that the keeping of cougars (we have two) as pets constitutes a residential use of property. There is no law anywhere in the country where the keeping of a feline has been determined to be a residential use. Precedent is the best protection from arbitrary laws and local court rulings. My efforts in PNWE and my acquired knowledge have resulted in my appointment to a new executive office in PNWE, Legal Affairs.

The election mandate I seek from you, the LIOC membership, is to strategically position LIOC as an organization that is legally equivalent to the AZA in the eyes of State and possibly federal Constitutions. I'd also like to take a mandate from you, the membership to restructure the LIOC Board to one that listens to its membership. I propose to hold a referendum to eliminate the Life Director positions and to replace those seats on the Board with the Presidents of each Branch. I also propose to reduce the cost of the LIOC newsletter, currently representing a significant portion of the budget and to use the money to protect your ownership interests.

Please vote for me and for the issues I have presented here.



The election of officers for LIOC is the responsibility of the membership. Who you elect to act as the president should be a person who is capable of carrying out your wishes. The last four years as president of the LIOC ESCF have taught me alot. We, the board of directors, have established the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship fund to encourage veterinary students to study exotic animal medicine. George Stowers has been appointed to act as representative for individual owners of wild felines on the AZA Feild TAG private sector liason committee. Our branches have increased from 2 to 4 and our convention in Indianapolis welcomed 90 members.

Husband Herb and I have been members of LIOC since 1969. Before hearing about lioc we lost a margay at 8 months and two ocelots because we didnt know what they needed for diet, medications, security, etc. Our last ocelot lived for 20 years. We knew what to feed and how to protect her from diseases. The veterinarians along the way learned with us. Our first puma was a rescue whose human parents were killed in an avalanche in the yukon. Zonya was very special. Through th years we have rescued 8 cougars and 1 bobcat. We still have the bobcat and 2 cougars.

As a member of the exotic feline educational society, I have been lecturing for 25 years in an effort to educate the younger generation to the necessity of preserving the endangered species. It is going to take all of us working together to get our message out. I hope I have the opportunity to continue with you.

Thankyou.  
Barbara Wilton

## Nominees for Vice President



Dear Member of the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation.

Over the last few years it has been my privilege to serve you first as Director, Legal Affairs and more recently as Director, Conservation & Education. Those of you who know me know that I am a strong advocate for responsible private captive husbandry in all its varied forms. I firmly believe that responsible private sector husbandry by individual owners, rescue/rehab facilities, wildlife educators/exhibitors, and breeders large and small can all make an important contribution wild feline conservation efforts. Unfortunately, the actions a few irresponsible owners fuels public concern about private ownership primarily due to animal abuse and safety issues, resulting in ever increasing levels of regulation which in some areas are effectively ban private captive husbandry. The only tools we have to combat this trend is to practice and promote the highest practical level of responsible husbandry, contribute wherever possible to main stream conservation/husbandry research projects, and lobby for enactment of reasonable ownership/permit requirements that ensure that those who own wild felines are responsible care givers committed to sound husbandry standards. For the last two years I have worked hard for you towards these ends with some success. The Code of Conduct that I recommended to the

Board of Directors and which was as adopted as official LIOC policy is an important tool for communicating the basics of responsible captive husbandry and resulted in a significant improvement in relations between the LIOC and the American Zoological Association North American Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). If elected as your Vice President I intend to continue to work to towards a future where responsible private captive husbandry of wild felines is recognized as beneficial, desirable and plays an important role in overall conservation efforts.

Respectfully,  
George N. Stowers,  
Director Conservation & Education, LIOC-ESCF.

Hello, this is for those of you who don't know anything about me, and the reasons for which I am running for the position of Vice-President.

I've been a member for over ten years, and have held positions in the mid-atlantic states branch back when I lived in NY. I've raised several Cougars, Chaus,

Chaus hybrids, and one Lion.

I presently own several Cougars, and one Leopard (asian/black). I have in the past worked with several other species of leopard (Snow and Clouded) and several smaller species (Chaus, Serval, and a few others). I do have some experience with African Lions and Siberian Tigers, but it's not as extensive as the others.

I have spent a good deal of my personal time and money in lobbying and fighting for the rights of people (both members and non-members) to own exotics. I think that the LIOC needs to be more then a social club. If you want the LIOC to remain a social club, then please DON'T vote for me. If you think the LIOC should try to grow, and become more active in dealing with the government at the federal, state, and local levels, if you think that the LIOC should become involved in the fights it thinks it can win, then maybe you should.

John Van Stry

## Secretary/Treasurer



Sharon L. Roe (nickname - SHOO)

I had not intended on running for this position to enable a new LIOC member to take on the responsibilities of this position. As no LIOC member stepped forward, I felt compelled to continue as your representative to maintain the impeccable record-keeping that is necessary for our non-profit organization.

My candidacy for the position of Secretary/Treasurer is well supported by my office skills, work experience, and interest in felines. I have been a member of LIOC since 1991, a past secretary for the LIOC branch, Exotic Feline Educational Society, and Director of Legal Affairs for the 1995/1996 term.

I have raised Servals and Caracals since the fall of 1991, but since developing our home business, I recently had to make the difficult decision to place my male Caracal, Boxxe, and my female Serval, Keko, with dear friends. They both now have mates and caretakers who can give them the attention I wasn't able to provide. I already miss my loves, but even though I know longer have them here with me, I will continue to support and promote responsible private ownership of exotic felines.

During my past term of Secretary/Treasurer, I set up the LIOC treasury records on a software program called QuickBooks. This software enabled me to provide quarterly and annual reports to the board members, helping our board members to have an awareness of on-going financial activities. For each annual meeting a summary of the previous years activities was submitted along with a proposed budget for the

coming year..

We all have common goals with our exotic felines, be it only to enjoy their being, to make connections with those who have the same interest, to promote responsible private ownership, or to share our knowledge. My contribution in participating in this organization is one of the ways I can assist all of you.

## TERM DIRECTORS

### Member Services



The Director of Member Services maintains the membership records in such an order to provide information as requested by the LIOC Board, answers inquiries, provides renewal notices and compiles membership reports. Although it's not required for this position, included has been the stuffing and mailing of the newsletters. During the past four years serving as your Director of Member Services, I've had the opportunity to work with the membership and to help find permanent, safe homes for 11 exotic cats. Good record keeping has enabled LIOC to know where the exotic cats, veterinarians, breeders, educators, rescue centers, rehabilitation/release programs, and conservation programs are located.

Our members are not just numbers, they're people who need information such as, where to get a cat, where to place a cat, how to choose a species that would be best for their lifestyle and means to support it responsibly, and changes to phone and address so they don't miss their newsletters. Memberships, renewals, and T-Shirt orders need to be processed promptly. People send their dues in good faith that their

funds will be deposited and their memberships processed.

I'm committed to serving as your Director of Member Services for this next term. With education as our main focus, we will be best able to teach people how to properly feed, house, licence and enrich their exotic cats. We will also be able to grow in our conservation efforts. Thank you for your vote. Kelly Jean Buckley - Director Member Services, LIOC ESCF, Inc.

Kelly Jean Buckley

## Legal Affairs



I'm a 1988 graduate of WVU with a degree in Finance. In 1992 I began volunteering at a large Animal Park in SC. I gained valuable experience working with the many exotic cats while working there. In 1997 we started Coopers Rock Mtn. Lion Sanctuary to rescue abused and neglected cougars.

I have 3 main objectives for LIOC,ESCF:

1. To continue to improve and expand the newsletter because of its importance in helping our members care for their cats.
2. To encourage RESPONSIBLE private ownership of exotic felines through education.
3. To find a way to repress the irresponsible breeding of large cats for profit.

Thank you.

Mark Jenkins

Coopers Rock Mountain Lion Sanctuary

Andy Turudic's platform for this office is included in his platform for the office of President.

## Advertising/Publicity

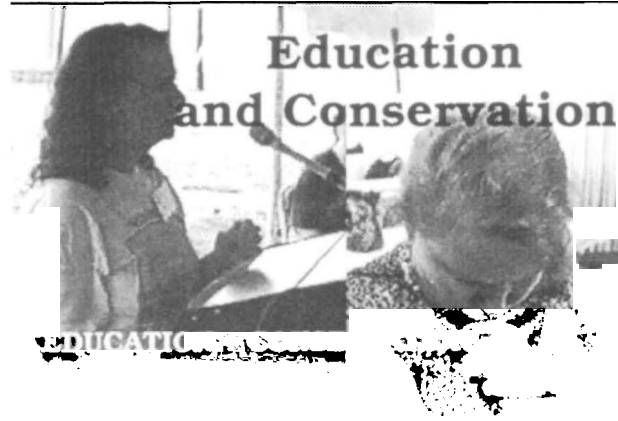


I am Jana Londre, and am running for Director of Advertising & Publicity. My husband Craig and I have been LIOC members for 2 years and with our 2 daughters have enjoyed the friendships and knowledge obtained from the wonderful people we have met through LIOC. We currently have a 2 year old female serval & a 17 mo. old male caracal/serval hybrid that share our home, along with 4 domestic cats. Most of the time everyone gets along okay, there are off days for everyone & thats okay.

My cats, as your cats are to you, are invaluable members of your family. We all work together & with this position as Advertising & Publicity Director I will work with all of you and your cats as we are all working in the same direction. Please let me know of your ideas, comments and suggestions for my position. Call me, E-mail me & we can talk about anything you want. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Thanks.

Jana Londre



When Catherine Cisin founded LIOC - ESCF Inc. some thirty years ago, it was her sincere desire to see that private owners of exotic felines had available to them accurate information and knowledge in sound husbandry and management practices for the conservation and preservation of the species.

Today the 37 species of the worlds wild felids face a grim future. As human populations expand worldwide, natural habitats are destroyed at an alarming rate. Hunting, trapping and pouching of wild cats in many areas is still a viable big business. In our lifetime we are witnessing the extinction of many subspecies of wildcats, 3 subspecies of tigers since 1940's.

Without Education and Conservation there will be no Preservation. Our great grandchildren will live in a world where wildcats will take their place beside the Saber Tooth Tiger in history. Fossils of pug marks and a few taxidermed specimens will be all that remains.

I believe that responsible private ownership is an integral key to the conservation and preservation of the worlds wild cats. Private owners play an important roll in maintaining diverse gene pools and records, that often can not be maintained in larger facilities. Private owners offer sanctuary to displaced wildcats that often can not be taken in by zoos, thus saving the life of the animal. Private owners are able to offer to the scientific community important information for research studies that aid in a better knowledge and preservation of the various species. Private owners have a lot to offer in the way of education, conservation and preservation.

I believe that educational programs that focus on developing, training and skills in the areas of sound management and husbandry of captive raised wild cats are essential to

responsible private ownership. I fear without these educational tools that will have the ability to certify private owners in the care and management of wild felids, private ownership will become a thing of the past.

Many states are passing legislation against the private ownership of wild felines. We can fight legislation, lobby, fight kicking and screaming, but unless we can prove that we are knowledgeable, educated, trained and certified in the care, handling and management of these animals, the battle is lost before it has begun. The time has come for private owners to present themselves as educated and professional. We must be willing to lay aside our differences and join forces with other organizations who share the same goals of education, conservation, and preservation. The viability of the worlds 37 species of wildcats depend on it.

As Director of Education and Conservation I plan on continuing to build on the firm foundation that has already been laid by the current Director of Education and Conservation, George Stowers. I will work diligently to develop educational programs that will help members of LIOC- ESCF to become trained and certified in husbandry and management. I will work diligently at developing continuing educational programs. I will work to establish a broader research and network base for the conservation and preservation of wild felids in the private sector. I will work to strengthen and maintain LIOC- ESCF strong commitment to education, conservation and preservation on all levels.

**Vita:** Sherry Blanchette, 42, is an educator and exhibitor of Native American wildcats. She and her husband Jean share their lives and sanctuary with several Cougars, Bobcats, Canadian Lynx, South American Geoffroy and an African Jungle Cat. They are dedicated to education for the conservation and preservation of the worlds wild cats. She is author of the manual COUGARS FROM KNOWS TO TALE. A manual for responsible husbandry of captive bred cougars. She is a researcher for the Eastern Cougar Research Center and published free lance writer. Founder and Director of NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS INC. a non profit organization for homeless women and their children. Ms. Blanchette has also worked with farmers and their families in third world countries in developing comprehensive animal management programs.

## Conservation & Education

by George N. Stowers

Director, Conservation and Education

As many of you are aware for the last two years I have been working to improve cooperation and coordination between the AZA North American Felid Taxon Advisory Group (Felid TAG), the LIOC-ESCF and private sector owners of non-domestic cats. The following extract from the Felid TAG 1998 Mid Year meeting report highlights the progress that has been made and presents a plan for future action.

### Working Group Report on Private Sector Institutions (From Executive Summary)

It is realized that private sector holders of wild felids are a valuable source of space and expertise to supplement and support overall management programs. The group further refined the definition and priorities for private sector holders of wild felids and identified needs from the TAG, including completion of husbandry manuals and the provision of husbandry protocols. Most importantly, this group recommended the formulation of a private sector liaison committee that will form in 1998 to integrate with the TAG.

### Report of the Working Group on a Liaison between the Private Sector Holding Non-domestic Felids and the Felid TAG

There is substantial interest by the private sector in North America in holding and breeding wild felids. These facilities can be a source of both space and expertise to supplement and support the management and conservation of wild felids.

Communication between the private sector and AZA accredited institutions has often been difficult, resulting in significant frustration within the private sector. The general consensus of this working group is that the private sector views the AZA as exclusionary. At the same time, AZA and its institutions appreciate that the private sector is a valuable source of information and has a number of common goals and values. During the past year, significant progress has been made in improving communications between the private sector and the Felid TAG. This report reflects the general recommendation of this working group to further develop a working partnership between the private sector, the Felid TAG, and AZA in general.

### **Concerns and Needs:**

1. The definition of the private sector with non-domestic felids needs to be refined further. At last year's Felid TAG meeting the definition for private cat facilities was "privately-owned institutions that maintain collections of non-domestic felids and are non-AZA institutional members or are accredited as AZA-related organizations. The focus of these institutions may include breeding, exhibition and/or rescue/rehabilitation." The working group acknowledges that the private sector includes not only institutions focused on breeding, display/exhibition and rescue/rehabilitation, but also conservation/education, entertainment and individual animal ownership. Within the private sector, there are philosophical disagreements about non-domestic felids perceived as pets. However, there was general agreement that the question is not so much whether



non-domestic felids make good pets, but whether an individual is a responsible caregiver committed to sound husbandry practices.

2. There is a need for continued improved communication between the private sector and the Felid TAG. The private sector would like to obtain information readily from the Felid TAG about husbandry, breeding and health-related issues. Completion of the AZA Small Felid Husbandry Manual will help satisfy a portion of this need. The Felid TAG can also provide information on AZA processes, regulations, management plans and husbandry protocols for all felid species.
3. More definition needs to be provided on the expected roles of the private sector in relation to the Feud TAG. The Felid TAG has indicated that the private sector is a valuable resource for cage space. This could help facilitate breeding of genetically important animals in AZA accredited institutions by freeing space. However, before this could be implemented on a large scale, more information needs to be provided, especially on species and number of spaces required. And, there is a need to determine the number of private institutions that would want to participate.

**Recommendations:**

1. This working group is charged with identifying individuals within the private sector that represent the interests of breeding, display/exhibition, rescue/rehabilitation, conservation/education, entertainment and individual animal ownership to form a liaison group that will interact with the Feud TAG.

These individuals will serve as a vehicle for transferring information between these special interest groups and the Feud TAG.

**Action:** The members of the working group will work together to form a liaison committee by Annual AZA conference to be held in Tulsa in 1998.

2. Strong encouragement is given to the private sector to register all non-domestic felids with ISIS. To facilitate this goal, a SPARKS database should be established for private sector felids that are not otherwise registered with ISIS.

**Action:** By September 1998, identify a method to establish and maintain a private sector SPARKS database.

3. Strong encouragement is given to the private sector with non-domestic felids to register animals in the appropriate Population Management Planning (PMP) studbook.

**Action:** The private sector liaison committee will address this issue in the near future.

4. Strong encouragement is given to the private sector to permanently identify all non-domestic felids.

**Action:** The private sector liaison committee will address this issue in the near future. I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors of the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation has voted to adopt these recommendations as official policies of the LIOC-ESCF. To further demonstrate support for these recommendations the Board of Directors have voted to fund establishment of a private sector SPARKS database and has designated me as the LIOC's Representative to the Felid TAG Liaison Committee.

## Cats in Physics

1. **Law of Cat Inertia**  
A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.
2. **Law of Cat Motion**  
A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.
3. **Law of Cat Magnetism**  
All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.
4. **Law of Cat Thermodynamics**  
Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.
5. **Law of Cat Stretching**  
A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.
6. **Law of Cat Sleeping**  
All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved as is possible for the cat.
7. **Law of Cat Elongation**  
A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.
8. **Law of Cat Acceleration**  
A cat will accelerate at a constant rate, until he gets good and ready to stop.
9. **Law of Dinner Table Attendance**  
Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.
10. **Law of Rug Configuration**  
No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.
11. **Law of Obedience Resistance**  
A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.
12. **First Law of Energy Conservation**  
Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, therefore, use as little energy as possible.
13. **Second Law of Energy Conservation**  
Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.
14. **Law of Refrigerator Observation**  
If a cat watches a refrigerator long enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.
15. **Law of Electric Blanket Attraction**  
Turn on an electric blanket and a cat will jump into bed at the speed of light.
16. **Law of Random Comfort Seeking**  
A cat will always seek, and usually take over the most comfortable spot in any given room.
17. **Law of Bag / Box Occupancy**  
All bags and boxes in a given room must contain a cat within the earliest possible nanosecond.
18. **Law of Cat Embarrassment**  
A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.
19. **Law of Milk Consumption**  
A cat will drink his weight in milk, squared, just to show you he can.
20. **Law of Furniture Replacement**  
A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.
21. **Law of Cat Landing**  
A cat will always land in the softest place possible.
22. **Law of Fluid Displacement**  
A cat immersed in milk will displace her own volume, minus the amount of milk consumed.
23. **Law of Cat Disinterest**  
A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest him.
24. **Law of Pill Rejection**  
Any pill given to a cat has the potential energy to reach escape velocity.
25. **Law of Cat Composition**  
A cat is composed of Matter + Anti-Matter + It Doesn't Matter.



### **1998 LOTTY PRESENTED TO LOREON VIGNE**

A member since 1962, Loreon has been an active member of LIOC. A founding member of the Northern California branch, she hosted the National Convention in 1977 and 1983. A long-time breeder of ocelots and servals, Loreon also served as LIOC's Secretary/Treasurer from 1993-94.

The Lotty is awarded for exceptional service to the cats and LIOC. The first Lotty was presented to Gene Brill, LIOC's first Secretary in 1966. Physically the Lotty is a sculpted bust of an ocelot's head. It was created by Brenda Duprey, a model of her ocelot Zapata. Loreon's Lotty is number 32.

Previous recipients nominate candidates for the current year's award and then vote on those nominated. If no candidate is judged exceptional, no award may be given as was the case in 1989.

Since only those previously honored participate in the process, the Lotty is a cherished award. To nominate and award it to someone less than worthy, it is felt, puts a tarnish on all

that have gone before. With the addition of 1998's Lotty, all shine a little brighter today.

Congratulations Loreon!

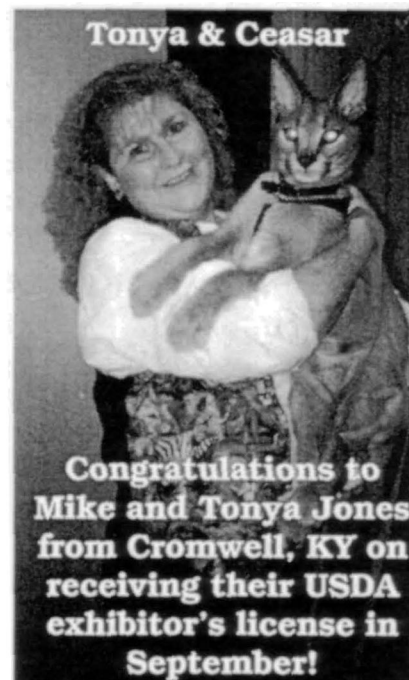
### **Nations of Animals**

We need another and perhaps a more mythical concept of animals. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they moved finished and complete gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

Henry Beston  
The Outermost House

The way back cannot be the same for all of us, but for those like myself it means a descent of the rungs until we stand again amid the other creatures of the earth and share to some small extent their vision of it.

Gavin Maxwell





# LIOC *Election History*

by Shirley Wagner

Prior to 1974 no elections were held. Officers were appointed and served at the will of our founder, Catherine Cisin. At the first convention a committee was formed to formulate LIOC's structure and elections were held thereafter.

Catherine and a secretary comprised the sole LIOC staff. Gene Brill and then Shirley (Treanor) Wagner acted in that capacity until Catherine's retirement as Editor in 1971. Robert Peraner was appointed by Catherine to take over editorial duties. He served in that capacity for two years (1972-1973), and appointed Pepper Perry as Vice President. Shirley Wagner took over editorship in 1974 and served through 1987 when rules were promulgated prohibiting the editor from serving on the board. Wendi Wulff served as editor in 1988. The prohibition of the editor serving on the Board of LIOC was removed and Shirley Wagner resumed editorship in 1989.

Only those having served on the Board of Directors previously are eligible for nomination to the position of Life Director. This is to ensure those elected have a knowledge of what they are taking on first hand and provide a historical and stabilizing influence.

Our rules mandate we use a "preferential ballot." This came about due to the fact that originally the four term directors ran at large with no assigned positions as they have now. It

also facilities matters if there are three or more persons running for one position.

A preferential ballot requires that you number your preferences in order of your choice: one, two, three, etc. The first choices are then counted. In the event one person gets 50% plus one vote, they are considered the winner. Should no candidate receive a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes is deleted and the second choice on those ballots are redistributed among the remaining candidates. This process continues until there is a winner.

In 1987 drastically enlarged bylaws were adopted and each Term Director was assigned specific duties: Legal Affairs, Member Services, Advertising and Publicity, and Conservation and Education. Candidates now declare for one of those four positions as Term Director.

Life Directors have no specifically assigned duties but may help wherever needed. Once elected a Life Director serves for life or until they choose to retire. Should it become apparent that a Life Director is no longer functioning in an active capacity and has missed or not participated in scheduled meetings, the Board may ask for their resignation. If a Life Director no longer chooses to take an active part in the organization, they should tender their resignation in writing to the President.



A list of those who have served on LIOC's Board of Directors is as follows: (\* deceased)

**Catherine Cisin** Life Director 1975-87  
**Robert Peraner** Editor 1972-73  
**Mike Balbo** Life Director 1974-84  
**Bill Engler\*** Life Director 1975-77  
**Ken Hatfield\*** President 1974-86  
President 1995-96  
Life Director 1974-92  
**Roger Harmon**  
Vice President 1974-77  
Life Director 1974-92  
**Pepper Perry**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1974-75  
**Shirley (Treanor) Wagner**  
Term Director 1974-87  
Life Director 1988-Present  
Editor 1974-87, 1989-96  
**Charles Douglas\***  
Term Director 1974-75  
**John Paramore**  
Term Director 1974-75  
**William Boyle\*** Term Director 1974-77  
Vice President 1987-88  
**Shelley Starnes**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1976-79  
**Ethel Houser** Term Director 1976-77  
Term Director 1981-84  
Vice President 1978-81  
Life Director 1985-91  
**Len Parker** Term Director 1978-79  
**Jean Townes** Term Director 1978-84  
**Jackie Vanderwall**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1980-84  
**Jon Dyer\*** Term Director 1980-81  
**Elmer Morgan** Term Director 1980-84  
**John Perry** Vice President 1981-86  
Life Director 1988-Present  
President 1989-92  
**Wendi Wulff** Editor 1988-89

**Suzi (Wood) Mutascio**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1985-88  
Life Director 1989-90  
**Carin Carmichael Sousa**  
Term Director 1985-88  
Life Director 1993-Present  
**Karen Jusseaume**  
Term Director 1985-88  
**Danny Treanor**  
Term Director 1985-86  
**J. B. Anderson**  
Term Director 1987-88  
Life Director 1993-Present  
**Fred Boyajian** President 1987-88  
**Connie Hatfield**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1989-90  
**Barbara Wilton**  
Term Director 1989-94  
Vice President 1995-96  
President 1997-Present  
**Al Porges** Term Director 1989-92  
**Mary Parker** Term Director 1989-91  
**Jeff Bellingham**  
Term Director 1989-90  
**Lynn Culver**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1991-92  
**Katie Knight**  
Term Director 1991-92  
**Gayle Schaecher**  
Vice President 1993-94  
**Loreon Vigne**  
Secretary/Treasurer 1993-94  
**Ed Strickland\*** Term Director 1993-\*  
**Ron Eldridge** Term Director 1993-94  
**Sharon Roe** Term Director 1993-94  
Secretary/Treasurer 1995-Present  
**George Stowers**  
Term Director 1995-Present  
**Scarlett Bellingham**  
Term Director 1995-96  
Vice President 1997-Present  
**Kelly Jean Buckley**  
Term Director 1995-Present  
**Nan McGann**  
Term Director 1997-Present



## Letter to the Editor

Marge,

I was at LIOC convention with you. I had the little serval kitten that I picked up at convention. I wanted to share my experience travelling home. I scheduled ahead to take the kitten with me on the plane, in the cabin. When I arrived at the airport, I was told by security to remove the animal from its carrier and put the carrier through the x-ray security. I was not aware this would happen but all went okay. After boarding the plane an airline person came up to me and asked if my kitten was a domestic. I was honest and said no. I was told that the kitten would have to travel as cargo as they could not allow a "potentially dangerous" animal on board with passengers (vicious 7 week old kitten). After discussion and assurance that my kitten would be okay, I reluctantly let him go as cargo. I had no choice, really. Upon arrival in Portland, Maine, I took him to the car and opened the carrier only to discover that someone had OPENED up the carrier and placed a styrofoam cup in there (presumably with water in it). To my horror, I noticed my kitten had eaten most of the cup. Why had anyone opened a carrier of a known exotic and "potentially dangerous" cat at all? And why had they put a styrofoam cup in there? Needless to say I called the airline and informed them of this. They were also very upset and did not argue when I told them they would be responsible for any veterinary expenses, etc. I called my vet, she felt it would pass fine. The kitten seems fine but will be watched closely for several weeks. I thought this might be a useful travelling story for others to learn from. I did have water and a dish with me,

but had planned on the kitten riding with me so there was none in carrier. I had forgotten to put it in when plans were abruptly changed.

God bless and thank-you,  
Anne Amadon

Thanks, Anne, for your contribution. We will all take note that we should tend to all details when travelling with exotic animals.

Marge Maxwell

## TREASURE DISCOVERED

At the /convention this year, Oregon member, Gayle Schaecher, announced the discovery of several copies of Epecially Ocelots, by LIOC's Founder, Catherine Cisin. The books, long out of print, were found in the basement of Jackie Vanderwall's home. Jackie lost her battle with heart disease last year, and her family contacted Gayle when they discovered the books.

Gayle has asked that the books be donated in Jackie's name and memory to raise funds for the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Epecially Ocelots was published in 1967 and contains basic information on the care of exotic felines. Although much of the medical information is of course outdated, it is a much sought after volume for the collector's bookshelf.

While they last, these volumes will be available for a price of \$35 each. Checks should be made payable to the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund and sent to: KHMSF, 3730 Belle Isle Lane, Mobile, AL 36619



All ads in this publication are void where prohibited by law. All transactions are between buyer and seller. All buyers and sellers must have proper licenses and permits for all animals offered for sale or sold. LIOC-ESCF Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. LIOC-ESCF Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription or ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only LIOC members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes and no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual. Ads must state whether the individual is a private owner or broker. Full current address with a phone number must be stated in the ad.

Ad Rates for submitted photo ready ads:  
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## CONVENTION TAPES AVAILABLE

- Tape 1** General Membership Meeting  
Reception Dinner & Max, The Magican  
Joe Taft's Rescue Center Visit  
Candidates' Speeches for LIOC Election
- Tape 2** Banquet Dinner, Fundraising Auction  
Ann Amadonis new Serval Kitten
- Tape 3** Speakers:  
Dr. Paul Gerding Jr., DVM MS  
David Mallory, Cougar Haven  
George Stowers, LIOC Dir. of Ed.  
Dr. Thomas J Burke, DVM MS  
Dr. Jenni Spencer, Auburn Univ.

Tapes are available now \$8.00 each or Set of all 3 for \$20.00 + \$3.00 Shipping & Handling on Each Order or Set of 3.

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Email: [debcat@ethergate.com](mailto:debcat@ethergate.com)  
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34 pages of practical tips and guidelines for proper caging and handling of exotic cats.

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3730 Belle Isle Lane  
Mobile, AL 36619

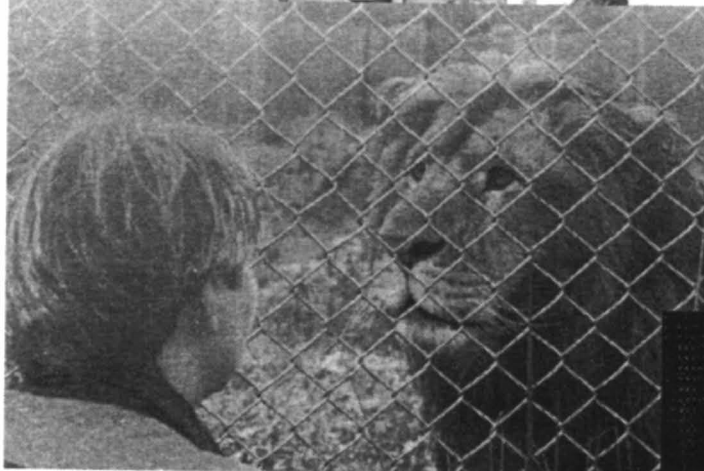
**Gary Dutcher and Dawn Simas**



**JB, I dare you  
to touch him!**

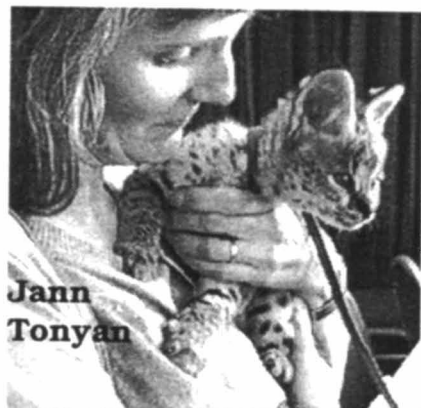


**Zack and  
tiger cub**



**Barbara Wilton, Ethel Hauser, Zack  
Michele, and Ron Eldridge**

*Meet the Convention Cats*



**Jann  
Tonyan**



**Jean  
Herrberg**



**David Busch**



**Max**



**Ginger  
Becken**