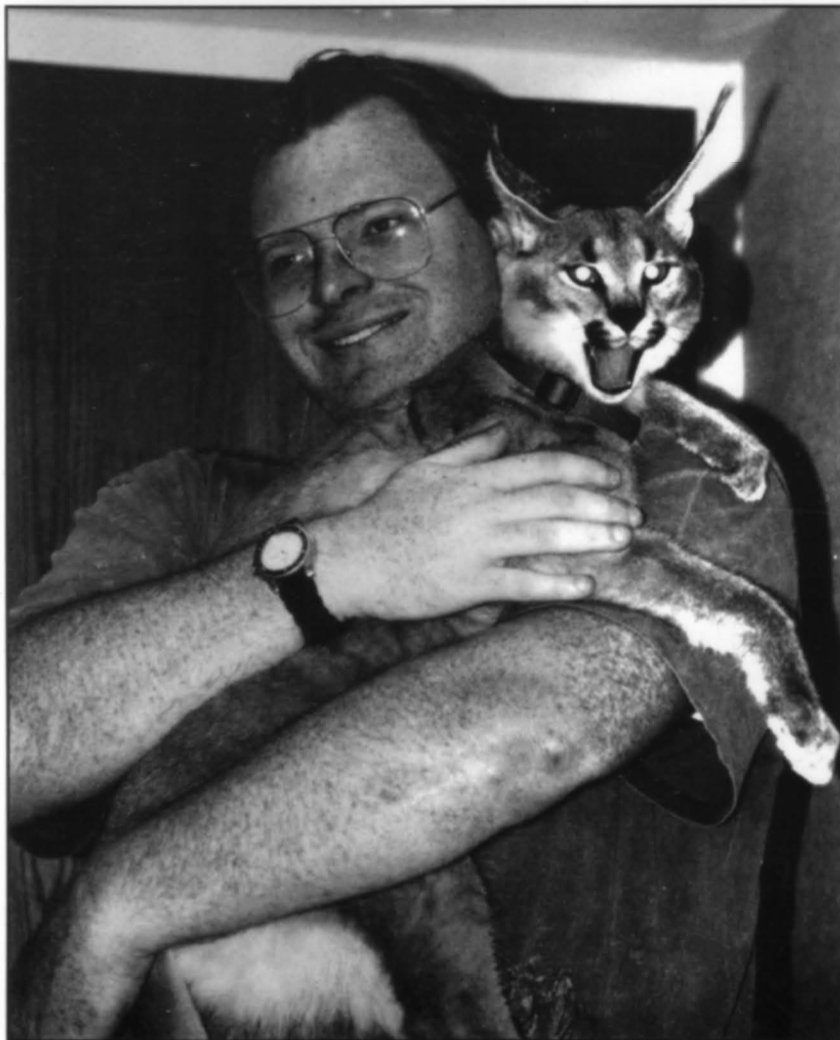


Volume 44, Issue 5
September/October 2000

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FEDERATION, INC.



**Steve Pierce and caracal
at LIOC Convention, 2000**



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 may not be made without

the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner LIOC. 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 first 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.

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A Special Thank You to

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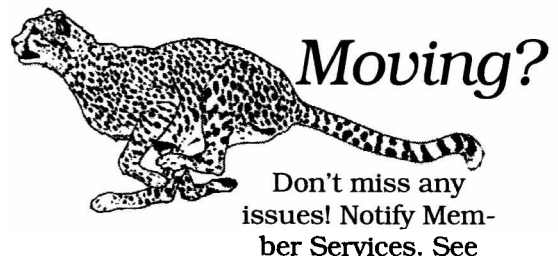
for contributions to this newsletter. This is YOUR newsletter. ALL contributions—new or old, long or short, technical or humorous, personal story, article, or advertisement—are welcome and needed. I'll be happy to assist with writing and/or editing. Calls, emails, or faxes are welcome.

Yet again I have had a computer crash. If you sent any article, text, or minutes prior to October 1, 2000, they were lost. Please resubmit for publication. I appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

Marge Maxwell, Editor

Visit Our Website!
<http://www.lioc.org>

Informational contributions may be sent to George Stowers, Vice President. Email: gstowers@twcnv.rr.com . Please send computer readable text files. (Email is great, will accept ASCII text files on disk. See page 2 for address.)



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A Purrr-fect English Excursion

by Herald Maxwell

Thursday, October 5:

As the plane taxied down Chicago's O'Hare runway, we realized that the trip wasn't just a dream. Becky McCain and I were on our way to London, England. The primary purpose of the trip was to attend the UK launch of "Save China's Tigers" (first charity specifically focused on tigers and other endangered cats in China) graciously hosted by Li Quan (a Chinese national) at the Chinese embassy on Monday, October 9. David Witts and Li Quan, both UK residents and promoters of the event, extended the invitation to Becky and me. I had learned of the upcoming event through Becky who was promoting it here in the US. I had never met her personally but we were "e-friends." I should have slept on the flight but we were busy talking about something we both love, cats. Becky is an instructor of Biology, Ecology, and Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Kentucky's Lexington

Community College. I, Herald Maxwell am founder and president of Project Noah, Inc. Our common concern is saving endangered species and their habitat.

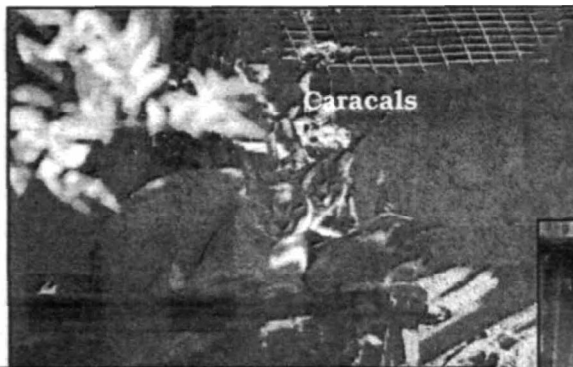
Friday, October 6:

We arrived at Heathrow Airport in London on Friday at 7am. David Witts, who was our host and guide during our stay, was there to meet us. It turns out that David knows about everybody who is anybody with cats. (He will humbly deny any such comment however) He has a massive library about cats with many rare, hard to find, out of print books.

We picked up a rental car and began our adventure toward Dr. Terry Moore's Cat Survival Trust in Welwyn. (See <http://hometown.aol.com/cattrust/>.) The drivers in London were very friendly blowing their horns and making hand



Siberian
Lynx



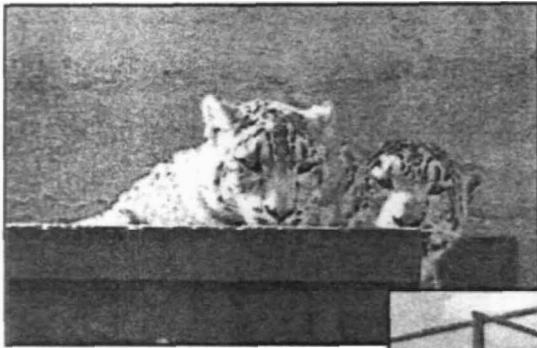
Caracals



Snow
leopard



Dr. Terry
Moore
and caracal



Above: Snow leopards
peeking from behind
den;
Right: Ron Martin in
THE boots beside a
nicely kept enclosure.



gestures as I learned to navigate around the "roundabouts" on the left side of the road. (I will not complain about Kentucky's narrow roads again.) After circling three times I was able to take the proper exit and continue in the direction David instructed. Becky, the brave co-pilot in the front seat with white knuckles and unusually high-pitched voice, would also chime in directions even though she had never been there before. Hummmm, I was beginning to understand why the travel guides did not recommend car rental.

Upon arrival at the Cat Survival Trust, we were greeted by Dr. Moore and given a tour by him and one of his assistants, Rob Martin. The place was compact, but very tidy, well landscaped and maintained. The cats appeared happy and healthy, as one would expect from such a fine facility. His affection for them was returned with purrs, rubs and licks. What a pleasure to witness gentle, loving "Snowies" in contrast to all the negative rhetoric I've heard saying you "can never trust a leopard species." One of the Caracals had given birth a couple days earlier. Becky and I were handed a caracal kitten to cuddle.

After a leisurely tour, we took off

for lunch in a nearby pub. Becky, David, and I followed Terry and Rob (who was still wearing his rubber boots with you know what on them.) Rob is one of the world's leading experts on 'cloudies.' I had the special, a delicious lamb dinner with fried "toe-mah-toes." (I told Marge I ate 'Mutton-Honey.') Over lunch Terry explained in detail his vision, passion, and goal coming true. I am impressed and encouraged by his success and meekness of spirit. If any of you missed reading his story about Cat Survival Trust in the last issue, go and read it now! It is my understanding that Kelly

Jean Buckley is planning a tour to the UK this coming year. If any of you can, GO! The sign up deadline is the last of March. It will inspire you to hear first hand what is happening and how you can be a part. I am going to go back, next time with Marge and Noel. If you want to ride in my car you need to book early, because seating is limited! :) We were unable to see Peter James' "Rare Leopard project" nearby. (See <http://members.aol.com/cattrust/santago.htm>.) Peter is one of the few private non-domestic cat owners left in the UK after law reforms in 1976 and 1981, and has actually "rescued" leopards from zoos which are unable to look after them.

We said our farewells and headed back to London. We checked into our hotel. My room was upstairs and Becky's downstairs. We took the luggage to hers first and she immediately wanted my room, no questions asked, sight unseen. Fine, no problem, I can live for a night in a room smaller than my mom's closet. Turns out hers-once-mine, was just as small, only she now had a curtain around the 24 inch square shower and I had glass doors. Shouldn't make a difference right? Well, oops, I dropped the soap, and I had

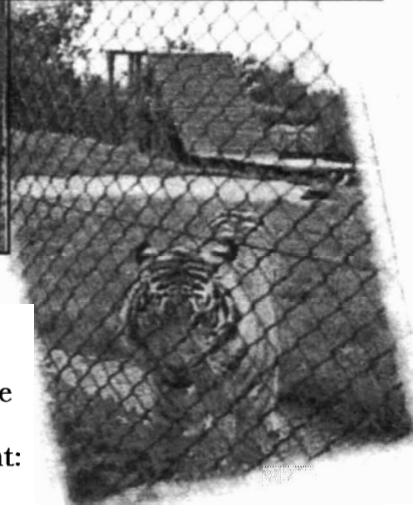
to open the doors so I could bend over and pick it up. (BTW, don't even bother packing your hairdryer, iron or any electrical appliance, just ask for one there, unless yours works off of D cell batteries).

I called Becky and had her meet me in the lobby for a surprise. David had purchased tickets to the show CATS for us and we had not told her of our little plan. We took a cab to the show, which if you have time, is a must see. (For those of you who already know you are going, get your tickets to the musical

Lion King now because they are sold out many months in advance. For CATS you can get tickets a few weeks in advance). Afterwards we went to a Welsh pub across the street where they were celebrating a Rugby match. The whole bar was singing together and everybody was buying everybody drinks. They were happy since their team had won and it was truly a social event unlike most bars here in the US. Midnight came quickly and this is London, not Ireland, so the bars close relatively early. That was OK with us; we were tired and had had a full and exciting first day.

Saturday, October 7:

Saturday morning, we packed our bags in the car and left for Kent, South East of London. The countryside was lovely but it was typical English weather, rain. We met with Steve Langley, a large carnivore keeper at Howletts and he gave us a personal guided tour of the facility, after prying us out of the gift shop. He is rather a quiet sort, with a gracious smile and a deep passion for the cats. He showed us the 'Cloudies,' and their interaction with him. They loved climbing



Top Right: Steve with clouded leopard on back; Middle Left: Steve and Becky; Bottom right: tiger and 25' ramp

on him (even on his back) and licking him. Again, now for the second day in a row, I have seen interaction of leopards and man like most of my friends here in the States handle servals and caracals. The tigers have ramps that look to be twenty-five feet high. When they would see Steve they would come running and chuffing, especially Balkash, the tiger who killed Trevor Smith back in 1994, which you may have heard about. The variety of flora and fauna may surprise you. Who would expect to see a Giant Sequoia in the UK? The Sequoia is located down the woodland walk near Shanti's enclosure, the snow leopardess from Kansas. They have a large collection of gorillas (about 50 I was told.) We got a glimpse of the Pallas cats (from Helsinki) peaking out of their box high in the spacious cage. During the tour we ran into Damian making his rounds twice, the son of the late John Aspinall, founder of

the facility. It was comforting to see that his son has such a personal interest in the animals. We stayed until dark and let ourselves out after it had closed that evening, thanking Steve for taking so much time with us, and making it so special.

We spent that night and the following in a B&B (King William IV) in Littlebourne, about half a mile down the road. Here the rooms were spacious, and very old. The house dated back over 250 years with a very interesting history. David knew the place well and had spent many nights there. That evening we ate at the Anchor, a restaurant and pub across the street from our B&B and mingled with some of the workers from Howletts. I did some magic and balloons for everyone. Becky and I feel fortunate to have met David, a wonderful guide and comrade for the cause of the cats, as well as a dear friend!

Sunday, October 8:

We slept late Sunday, and enjoyed an English breakfast. David and I ordered coffee, and got it... very strong coffee! I mixed two teaspoons in a cup and added hot water, only then was it OK. David took a sip and said "damn fine coffee." Becky ordered tea (a good lesson to be learned here.) Since we were staying at the same place again that night, we left our baggage and headed for Port Lympne (pronounced lim.) It had stopped raining and was a lovely cool day. The ivy covered stone houses and little flower gardens were everywhere, reminding us constantly of the rich history the area emanated. The narrow winding roads would occasionally give up a peek at the coastline off in the distance, beyond the green fields spotted with grazing sheep. The bite in the air assured one of colder days coming. We spent the remainder of the daylight at the private zoo at Port Lympne, mostly playing and chuffing with the tigers. (Port Lympne

has only 11 cat species but when you've got 18 fishing cats, the numbers mount up quickly.) They were David's favorite and it was evident. The buildings, gardens, animals and view cannot be captured in words. If you like spacious natural habitat enclosures, you'll love this place. What you will find different about these two places, Howletts and Port Lympne, compared to most American zoos is the animal handlers are encouraged to get physically involved with the animals. This is as a result of the private ownership history (see John Aspinall's book.) They go in and pet, feed, love, and brush the cats, wolves, gorillas, primates, etc. Any animal here that wants human contact will receive it. I witnessed some of the attendants (Adrian I believe, his photo is at <http://www.wildlink.org.uk/wlprbarcubs.htm>) entering into the lion's enclosure and feeding a whole pride of Barbary lions. The reaction by lions and tigers towards visitors then is to approach the fence and chuff or rub on the fence wanting you to pet them. While it is out of reach for the tourist to do so, you can see close up the beauty and size of the animals. You notice their gentleness and sweetness and how they want to be near people. Again we stayed until dusk, the park was

Max speaking with Chinese delegation. Li Quan is in the background. Max will write an article about the launch of Save China's Tigers in the next issue.



closed, the sun had set, so we let ourselves out, locking the gate behind us (try that in the States.) The excitement of the next day's event was intense and we were in much need of rest. After a wonderful dinner at The Anchor again, we returned to the B&B, discussed cats in China and planned strategy for the launch and retired early. This was to be our last night's sleep in a bed before we got back to the U.S. Thursday. Tomorrow is the big day!

Monday, October 9:

After having a good night sleep, I went down stairs and ordered a coffee! (yuep, I did it two days in a row.) Becky sat across from me enjoying her tea, and I could not believe I had not learned my lesson. We packed the car and drove North to London. We had wanted to go by and see the White Cliffs of Dover but we got away too late for that. We did stop and visit the first Roman fort built in AD43. It served as a base for the next 350 years of Roman occupation. There was a lot to see and do but we had to hurry and get to Li's place. The purpose of our coming was the Monday evening kickoff for "Save South China's Tigers" and we were very excited about attending. We arrived at Stuart and Li's apartment and had a pre-launch introduction with the delegation of Chinese officials from Beijing. Cory Meacham, author of How the Tiger Lost its Stripes as well as Terry Moore and Rob Martin from the Cat Survival Trust were there. After Dr. Moore finished speaking, Li introduced Becky and I and asked me to speak regarding private ownership and what, in my opinion, was the conception of Chinese endeavors regarding conservation in and among the American public. Li and Cory interpreted into Mandarin. Cory, to my surprise, is very fluent in the Mandarin dialect. I shared my story about Project Noah, and showed some pictures. They

ooed and ahhed at seeing lions and tigers being hugged and getting belly rubs, etc. Then I told them that in America, most of the public, even those who have and love tigers and other felines, are not aware of what China is now doing to support conservation. In the minds of most, it is believed that the Chinese are still killing tigers and are partially the cause for its demise. I offered to help in any way I could to address the issue and educate the Americans regarding the current position of the People's Republic of China Government and its conservation efforts.

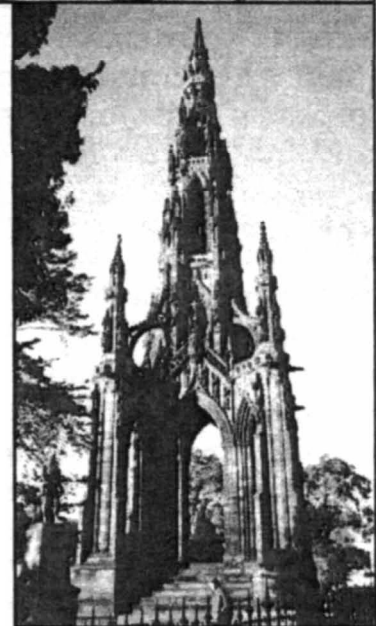
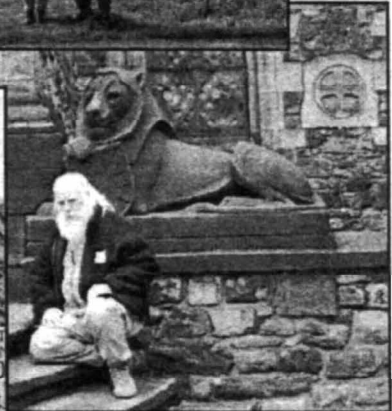
We then broke up for pictures, pictures and more pictures. There was a lot of bowing, smiling and exchanging of business cards, handshaking and of course, a few more pictures. It wasn't until I had taken my 49th picture on my 36-roll exposure that I realized I had a problem. Oops! My film never caught the forward winding wheel. It was too late, the meeting was over, and people were leaving by the time it was discovered. Thank goodness someone else was also snapping away.

The evening event was glamorous. A four-foot long tiger sculpture chiseled from ice welcomed guest to the sitting room. The black tie affair was hosted at the Chinese Embassy. Li Quan (Save China's Tigers Founder), Sarah Christie (European studbook holder for tiger and leopards and tiger Conservationist, London Zoo), Zhao Zhongxiang (Beijing TV anchor and host for "Man and Nature," the Chinese equivalent to David Attenborough), Guo Hongyan (State Forestry Administration of China), Dr. Henry Lee (head of Chinese Medicine dept. at Middlesex Univ.), and Cory Meacham spoke from different points of view in regards to the tiger and praised to the Chinese Government for making a large financial commitment to bring the South China Tiger back from the brink of extinction. There were over a hundred people packed into the rooms excited to

be a part of the official launch to Save China's Tigers. Peter Jackson was attending the IUCN World Congress meeting in Jordan at that time and, therefore, could not attend. He passed out the Save China's Tigers brochures to the attendees there, and informed the attendees of the launch in London. Next issue I'll write about the meeting and its purpose and goals. Their web site is still under construction but can be accessed at www.savechinastigers.org. and more information can be viewed on www.5tigers.org site. After the meeting we went back over to Li's place and talked and visited till the wee hours of the morning. There was no point in getting sleep because we had to be at the train station by 6 am.

Tuesday, October 10:

We boarded a train for Scotland, Edinburgh to be exact. It travels at speeds up to 150 mph and we were in Scotland by 11am. We slept en route. When we got there we had lunch in the train station, and did some shopping. David, who was born there and still speaks with a Scottish accent, showed us around. We climbed up into Sir Walter Scott's memorial and saw breathtaking views of the city, (if the climb up 287 steep steps hasn't taken your last breath already.) Becky and David went to the top, I used my bad knee as an excuse (while gasping for air, and not looking down for fear of heights) to remain as high as I cared to go. We then hiked up the hill, up to the castle, up to the stairs, then up the stairs. Up, up, up, it's all up. I think it is up both ways! No invading army would have any strength left to fight after getting up, up, up to the castle. However, it was worth every step! What a view! What a defense. At one o'clock each day a deep



Top: Becky and David near Kent; Left middle: cobblestone heart in pavement foreground; Right middle: Max in front of Scottish lion at base of ancient chapel in the castle; Bottom: Sir Walter Scott memorial.

boom is felt as the cannons are fired from atop the castle. This, backdropped with the drone of the bagpipes in the distance made it an unforgettable and enjoyable experience. Later, while walking around town we came into the old court square, which is surrounded on three sides with legislative buildings. Signs protesting nuclear weapons and other issues are prominently displayed. I noticed a heart shaped design in the cobblestone that the local people would spit on when they

(Continued on page 22.)

LIOC Convention 2000 Report

The 2000 LIOC convention started off with a very active registration desk. As attendees arrived they were handed materials regarding the proposed Shambala bill, and a draft copy of a set of model regulations for the possession of wild felids, to be reviewed and discussed during the General Membership meeting. The twelve page draft model regulations was produced by an LIOC committee, if approved by the board, to be used by members who wish to give a copy to their local state, city, or county offices, where there may be bans on exotic felines or no current regulations. Attendees were also given the convention agenda and donations were taken toward the LIOC auction, Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund, and LiFeline Belize project.

On the first day of convention a course in Wild Feline Husbandry was conducted. The lead instructor for the course was George Stowers who was assisted by Carol Siegley and Tracy Wilson. The course ran somewhat longer than the eight hours scheduled. However, the students thought the extra information that was provided, and the extended discussions were well worth the extra time. Attendees, who previously took the Wild Feline Husbandry Course, spent time in the hospitality room visiting with each other and the cats. The young felines in attendance were 4 Canada lynx, 1 caracal, 1 cougar, 1 NF cat, 1 ocelot, and an adult serval (Hush).

Thursday morning started with a class in feline Behavior Conditioning Using Operant Conditioning, presented by

George Stowers. A local veterinarian office brought over a number of domestic cats to allow the students to practice the clicker training. After a couple of hours of instruction learning theory, classical conditioning and operant conditioning, the cats were brought into the room for a practice session with the students. However, most had a mind of their own, and were not interested in the clickers and meat treats. It was noted, that by the end of the class many of the students were responding very well to the clicker.

In the afternoon the attendees gathered for the General Membership meeting. Results of the LIOC General Membership meeting and board meeting will be reported by the Secretary in an upcoming newsletter. Due to discussions on the Shambala bill and the Model Regulations an impromptu meeting was scheduled for Friday morning for the members to discuss and outline what direction and actions they wanted the LIOC board members to take. In the evening we enjoyed a buffet reception dinner and spent some time getting to know each other. We split the room with small and large cat owners to see how the attendance balanced. It was interesting that the room was almost evenly balanced.

On Friday, following a morning board meeting and member meeting, we traveled to the Carnivore Preservation Trust facility where we had lunch and then a tour. We saw many cats and some binturongs. We then went to the Museum of Life & Science and explored the butterfly house and museum artifacts.

Friday night was spent mostly in the hospitality room, watching videos, discussing recent issues, and spending time with the cats. That evening the members presented the Board of Directors with the desired action results of the morning meeting. These results were discussed in the Saturday morning board meeting.

Due to so many issues on the Saturday board meeting agenda, the meeting ran very long. George Stowers offered to forgo his presentation, which was first on the agenda, "Private Husbandry of Wild/Exotic Felines," so that the board meeting could continue in order to attend to the requests made to the board by the members. Following the board meeting, Kelly Jean Buckley gave a presentation on the Cat Survival Trust - England and Argentina. By the year's end there will be eco-tourist hotels open for tourists to visit wildlife preserves in Argentina, to support the local people and the natural environment. The felines within the Cat Survival Trust protected Argentina preserves are jaguarundi, ocelot, margay, tigrina, and puma.

After a lunch break, Ton Veldkamp, Director of the Wild Cat Foundation in Holland, presented information regarding the "Captive Wildcats in Holland" and the difficulty the Dutch government implements regarding wild animal ownership. The Wild Cat Foundation is fighting for private ownership of all exotics especially wild felines. They also are working towards larger cage size minimums, active in political work for keeping wild felines, and joining breeding programs with zoos and private owners.

Next on the agenda, Bill and Helen Peake, researchers at M.I.T. and the Mass. Eye & Ear infirmary in Boston, presented "Structural-Functional Variations Among

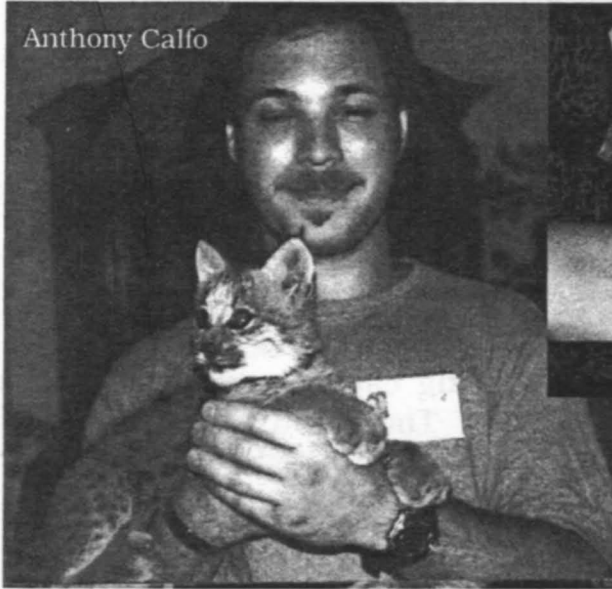
the Middle Ears of Felid Species." Using skeletal specimens in museums they have measured skull and ear dimensions for about 400 specimens of 34 exotic cat species of all sizes. They found unusual structural variations that seem to occur in species found in particular habitats; this result suggests that these specializations may have evolved to improve hearing capabilities in these surroundings. The speculations about ear function can be tested through acoustic measurements in post-mortem specimens of exotic species, which have been frozen to retard degeneration of the tissues. For information to contribute to research contact Bill Peak at 617-573-3376.

Next, Deborah Walding presented "In-Situ Conservation, Ridgeway Trust, LiFeline Project in Belize." Deborah showed video of the LiFeline project in Belize and described the program and facility goals for the local cats; i.e., margay, ocelot, tigrina, jaguarundi, and jaguar. We also shared some extra video of Rusty Spotted Cats from England.

The afternoon ended with a presentation from Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, DVM, PhD - Diplomate American College of Zoological Medicine. Suzanne presented the information on "Emerging Viral Infections in Non-Domestic Felids."

We started the evening with the banquet dinner, followed by award presentations. Bob Turner won the newsletter photo contest with his picture of Marvin Hierlmeier holding the 1999 Lotty. Tom Buckley received a plaque for #1 supporting role. Linda Covell received a paperweight for her work on the LIOC membership directory and implementing/operating the LIOC email-list. Barbara Wilton received a dozen long stemmed roses and a plaque as the departing LIOC
(Continued on page 23)

Anthony Calfo



baby ocelot



baby
Canadian
lynx



Barbara Wilton, Ethel Hauser, Kelly Jean Buckley



Marvin Hierlmeyer and Hus



Carin Sousa and Shirley Wagner



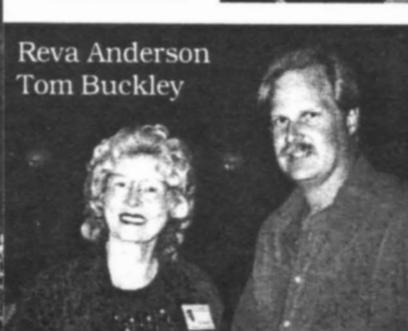
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Paul Richardson, and Lisa Padula



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Reva Anderson
Tom Buckley



Kelly Jean Buckley
and Tonya Jones

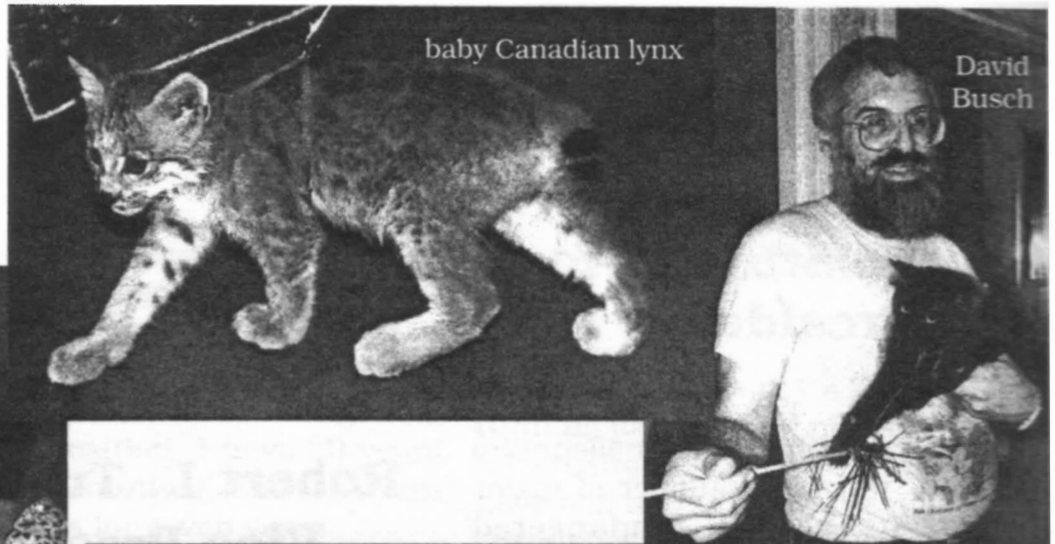


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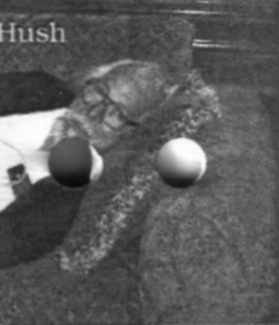


Ethel Hauser giving
Barbara Wilton roses



baby Canadian lynx

David
Busch



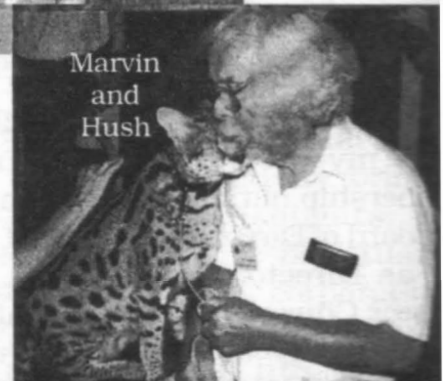
Hush



JB Anderson, Marvin Hierlmieir,
JoAnn Ellerlorock, Linda Covell



Paul Ramses
and
Loreon Vigne



Marvin
and
Hush



John Turner



John Perry, Linda Kaveh,
Carin Sousa, Steve Hahn



The One and Only
JB Anderson

Kate Connor

Shirley
Wagner

LIOC Candidates

George Stowers for President

Let there be no doubt, the new millennium has brought with it a number of major challenges to the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation, and all private owners of wild/exotic felines across the United States. On almost a monthly basis new threats to private captive husbandry are initiated at the local, state, or federal level. While the challenges are clear, I believe the new millennium also brings significant opportunities to promote responsibility in private captive husbandry and improve cooperation between the private sector and mainstream conservation efforts.

A member of the LIOC since 1991, it has been my privilege to serve the membership of the LIOC as a member of the Board of Directors for the last six years first as Director Legal Affairs, then as Director Conservation & Education, and most recently as your Vice President. During this time I have initiated or assisted in a number of efforts that have helped further the mission of the LIOC including the, LIOC Code of Conduct, Feline Husbandry Course, private sector SPARKS database, and numerous other initiatives/projects which are either complete or in progress.

If elected to serve as your President, I will continue to seek new ways to make the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation as strong and vital an organization as possible, and to preserve

and protect the rights and privileges of responsible private individuals committed to sound husbandry practices, to engage in captive husbandry of wild/exotic felines.

Robert L. Turner for Vice President

I ask for your vote as your next Vice President for the year 2001. I am the founder and the first president of Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society in the Midwestern states



and presently the LIOC Education/Conservation Director. Along with two other LIOC members, I have been assigned to help come up with a new LIOC husbandry manual. I have attended the past four LIOC National Conventions and have owned exotic cats since 1993.

My goals if elected Vice President:

- Increase the number of LIOC branches. Plan to add two more branches in year 2001.
- Increase the number of LIOC members by 25% in the year 2001.
- Assist the President in any duties so desired by the President.

There is no way, as your next Vice President, I can fill the shoes of George Stowers, but I will work hard for LIOC and what the LIOC represents.

Sincerely
Robert L. Turner

Tonya Jones for Secretary/Treasurer

My name is Tonya Jones and I'm running for the position of secretary/treasurer. I have held this position for the past year. I took over when Sharon Roe resigned. I feel that I'm just now getting the feel of the position. I have 20 years experience in accounting, and have run my own business for seven years.

My husband and I have had exotics for six years now. We started with a Serval as a pet and three years ago we started a sanctuary. At present we have three Servals, two Caracals, two Canadian Lynx, two South American Cougars, and a Siberian Lynx. We have just incorporated with two other sanctuaries and applied for our non-profit status. Our corporation is The Wild Feline Preservation Alliance, Inc. I have dedicated my life to my cats and helping to save others. I feel that at least in a small way I'm contributing even more by being secretary/treasurer of LIOC.

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Carol Siegley for Term Director of Advertising & Publicity

My name is Carol Siegley and I am running for the office of Term Director of Advertising, Publicity & Fund-raising. I have had non-domestic cats for almost 6 years now, and currently have 3 bobcats and a cougar. I have been involved with the LIOC-ESCF for 3 years and have attended the past three annual conventions. I have been honored to assist with the Wild Feline Husbandry Course given by the LIOC-ESCF. I am currently serving as President of the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society, or MEFES, a branch of the LIOC-ESCF.

In my spare time, I take care of 17 domestic cats, 2 dogs, 2 cockatiels and my wild cats. I have recently quit my full-time job to open a sanctuary primarily for bobcats, lynx and cougars. The Butternut Farm Wildcat Sanctuary is registered as a non-profit corporation in Ohio, and I am currently working on 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. Licensing with the USDA is pending. I am also working with my veterinarians part-time in order to educate myself about basic health care and emergency procedures.

I am interested in becoming the Term Director for Advertising, Publicity and Fund-raising because in my opinion, the best service we can perform for the wild and exotic cats is to educate the public and would-be owners about conservation, captive husbandry, routine care and maintenance, and nutrition and health care needs. I believe the LIOC-

ESCF is a very unique and a critical resource for educating the public, and for supporting those of us who have had cats for several years but who often face new situations. Getting the word out about the LIOC-ESCF and what we do allows us to gain membership which in turn helps the cats and makes us more credible when we face potential threats to private ownership.

Collette Griffiths for Term Director of Education/ Conservation

My husband Bob and I have been members of LIOC since 1995. We joined a local branch in 1993 when I seriously wanted to be an exotic felid owner. We spent several years learning about exotics and participating in various functions at the local level. After observing various felids, I was given the chance to see a Geoffroy Cat. That was it, I decided that the exotic for me was going to be Geoffroys.

It took some time to find a Geoffroy for sale, but we finally did. They were not kittens but we took them because they were Geoffroys (and they are still my favorite). We still have our first two Geoffroys and we have expanded to include several other Geoffroys that were in need of a home as well as a Jungle Cat and a Serval. I have been active at the local level assisting other exotic owners whenever help is needed. We have helped other members clean enclosures, bottle feed, make enclosures, perform fund

raisers, and assist with educational speakouts and the preparation of the materials for the speakouts. We believe that helping others is a good way to learn. Sharing is what I believe LIOC is about and why it was founded.

Learning about exotics is a continuing effort if we are to stay current with the needs of these precious animals. As we learn, we find we need to change our thinking. I have attended the small felid Workshop presented by SOS as well as traveled coast to coast to gain information from zoos and wildlife facilities. My main interests in felids have been their overall well being as well as nutrition and medical differences. Our personal library consists of books from the AZA guidelines for animals and their infant formula guidelines, to the Zoo Medicine, which is a college book for vet students, to the International Zoo Book, which contains research and documentation on various animals. Volume 35 of the International Zoo Book is two-thirds felids. Our library also contains the materials that were used for the research of the papers produced by AZA. I also belong to several online lists. These lists, as well as the LIOC newsletters, is a great place to learn and share.

If elected as Director of Education and Conservation, I plan to continue the work that has been started by those before me and build on the firm foundation that has been laid. I will work to help develop educational programs that will assist members and all exotic owners. I plan to work with other organizations that share the same goals of preserving these animals through responsible, educated, private ownership. Without Education and Conservation there will be no animals for your grandchildren and their children. I believe that responsible private

ownership is achieved through education. Education is gained by someone sharing information - LIOC is Sharing and Caring.

Thank you
Colette Griffiths
Vancouver, WA

Tracy Wilson for Term Director of Education/ Conservation

My name is Tracy Wilson, and I am running for the Director of Education and Conservation. I currently live in Arkansas with my husband Keith, our serval, two Canadian lynx, and two adult cougars who needed



a new home will be joining us soon! I started working with wild felines as a volunteer at a big cat facility here in my state several years ago. I worked with approximately 43 African Lions, 38 Tigers, 6 cougars, a few bobcats and lynxes, and many other numerous exotic animals. I was trained in all aspects of their care, including food preparation and nutrition, health care, cleaning enclosures, building/repairing enclosures, cub care and bottle feeding, and also training and handling techniques, etc. As my experience increased, I was allowed to be a animal handler at public events with usually lion and tiger cubs/adolescents. I did many educational programs and

fundraisers. I soon began to realize how little the general public knows about wild felines, especially the smaller species. I began a quest for knowledge about all wild felines, and wanted to share this information with everyone. I read every book I could find, searched relentlessly on the Internet, and visited as many cat facilities as possible. This is when I found LIOC on the Internet, which has been a wonderful organization to be involved in. Joining LIOC has been one of the most important steps I have taken in my growing career with wild felines. After a year of research, I decided to get a serval of my own, to do educational programs with. After using the information I learned during the LIOC husbandry course, I soon got my USDA exhibitors license with ease. I now do educational programs several times a month mainly for children at various events.

My husband and I have also planned for several years now to start a wild feline rescue facility. From my volunteer work, we had come to learn of all the unfortunate cats that need permanent homes, and we felt we could assist in this area. We believe we have the experience and dedication to do this successfully on a long term basis. After searching for over a year, we finally found the perfect place to move to and build our rescue. We just moved a few months ago, and we just started building our facility. We are also going to try a conservation breeding program with our Canadian lynx, to help reintroduce lynx into the wild. We have just recently started our paperwork to incorporate with several partners, and become a nonprofit wild feline rescue, educational, and conservation facility.

I really enjoy advising novices wanting to get their first cat. I always try to take the time to really let them know

what to expect about sharing their lives with a wild feline. I love to provide other sources of education and advice. I feel it is in all of our best interests as owners of wild felines, to educate as many people as possible, before they get a cat. I have been working to become a certified teacher of the LIOC Wild Feline Husbandry Course, so that I will be able to assist in teaching the course more frequently and in more locations around the United States. I think that education first is the key to successful and responsible wild feline husbandry. I would be very honored to be elected to Director of Education and Conservation, to serve as a vehicle for education and conservation for LIOC members. Thank you.

Lynn Culver for Term Director of Legal Affairs

Not a day goes by without cats on my mind. Cat survival in the wild, cats in our care, kittens in our home. I'm consumed by them. And I want to try to help insure that these wonderful animals and their care givers can continue to exist without fear of persecution.

But many days I do feel persecuted. In 15 years of owning exotic felines, I have observed a national trend to pass state and county legislation designed to forbid either entry-level private ownership (pets), or the more extreme version of ban laws, which forbid any type of captive husbandry.

And it seems to me that one answer to these threats is to face them head on with realistic guidelines and standards of our own. Attentive self-policing, organized information dissemination and willing

mentors to see that mistakes are not repeated. Turn captive husbandry of wild felines into a respected profession which does not threaten human life or native wildlife.

I am not an attorney - but I do care about legislation. I keep track of state laws, I wrote numerous letters on behalf of the Michigan residents this past year to try to inject a bit of sanity to counter the oppressive bill sponsored by the Michigan Humane Society. And this past summer I spent many hours alerting animal owners, and writing letters and making phone calls to the Arkansas Game and Fish about their proposed rule changes which banned all private ownership of all wildlife. Happily, I can report that the hard work of many Arkansans paid off - the proposal was removed.

Tippi Hedren's Shambala Wild Animal Protection Act - H.R. 5057 will require intensive monitoring. I have written my comments to committee members, and urge all LIOC members to do the same. We must stay abreast of legislative threats if we are to defeat the organizations that seek to end our activities.

Even though this bill died in committee without ever being addressed this legislative session, we must not ignore the threat it poses. It may be reintroduced again next year, and each of us must contact our representatives and let them know we don't want this bill.

I joined LIOC-ESCF in 1986, and have always felt that this organization has a tremendous potential to provide support for cats and their owners, but we must increase our membership total. There is safety in numbers. I am running for Legal Affairs Director, as I feel this is an extremely important duty, and one I am

keenly interested in. My husband and I operate N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center. N.O.A.H. functions as a breeding facility, a refuge for unwanted cats, a behavior research facility and a feline husbandry consultation service. We have 29 felines in our care - cougars, bobcats, servals, caracals and Canadian lynx. We are dedicated, knowledgeable, professional owners, providing quality captive habitat. We sell healthy, well adjusted kittens into suitable, stable environments.

Lynn Culver

Kelly Jean Buckley for Term Director of Member Services

This next two year term will be my 8th & 9th year as Director Member Services. I've been a LIOC member since 1984. Little did I know, when Ethel Hauser picked me out of a crowded branch meeting, that I'd be here today, more than 15 years later. Serving in the position of Membership Director has been one of the most rewarding achievements in my life. This position placed me in the position to really work for the private sector and be able to give first hand help to members with their cats. This position could be described as 'first contact'. Inquiries come in for membership, getting a cat, wanting a cat, help for a sick cat, branch information, and convention information.

Member Services job is to receive dues & produce the labels that are used to mail your newsletters. Labels are produced for members who have paid their dues. Records are updated constantly as people change addresses and information. There's so many

changes, that every other month a 2-3 page membership report goes to the board. I stuff and mail the newsletter too. This isn't part of the job description, but it's so much easier for this position to do the mailing because corrections can be caught at the last minute before mailing. Overall, there are many tasks within this position of Member services. I'm looking forward to serving the LIOC membership for another two year term. Thank you.

Writing Your Will?



**Remember the Ken Hatfield
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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:

1 column inch \$10.00

LIOC Booth at Local Event

submitted by: Tracy Wilson

On the weekend of August 25th through August 27th, several LIOC members and myself rented a booth space at a large event in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The event was a Hunter's Expo, full of all kinds of hunting/outdoors sporting goods, and all types of nature & outdoor related stuff. We decided to try this type of avenue to reach people, to see what kind of responses we could get about several issues. We had three issues to cover, which were: the current proposed ban laws for the state of Arkansas, Shambala, and then LIOC membership, in that order of priority. We had two petitions on hand for people to sign to oppose both the Arkansas regulations and Shambala. We also had materials to pass out for people to take home with them. These included a LIOC brochure, and Shambala brochure, and a flyer about the Arkansas regulations. I am USDA licensed, so I took my two 4 month old Canadian lynx kittens to attract attention to us at the booth.

I have not gotten an official answer on how many people attended, but I think it was around 20,000. There were people lined up way into the parking lot, an hour before it started, before we even had our booth set up! We were kind of at the back of the expo center, so we may not have had the best location to start with, but it was still very busy. It was so crowded, that most of the time, there were so many people crowded at

booths, including ours, that other people couldn't even see the booths, so they would just pass by.

We found that it is really hard to have 3 issues to cover all at once. You just can't keep people's attention that long to go over all of this. There are many booths to see, and the people want to keep moving. By the time you explain the Arkansas regulations, and got them to sign, then told them about Shambala, they were ready to go, even if they were extremely supportive of us. So, we were really only able to encourage the people that lingered around and really wanted to know about wild felines to join LIOC. Those are the people we really discussed the organization with. Only a handful of people offered up that they owned a wild feline or wild animal of some kind.

On Friday night, the first night, we pushed Arkansas and Shambala, and collected quite a few signatures on our petitions. We only handed LIOC brochures to people who expressed interest in the cats. So, we really didn't get many LIOC brochures into many people's hands that day. The second & third days, Saturday & Sunday, we started folding all of our info together into one packet. It included the LIOC brochure, a LIOC membership form, Shambala brochure, a flyer about the



Arkansas law, and a sheet with all of the Arkansas Game and Fish commissioners addresses on it. We decided to just start handing this to everyone we could, because so many people were not able to get up to the booth due to the large crowds, and we were missing a lot of them. So, we had my husband stand out in the walkway a bit, and he just handed the brochures to anyone he could that went by. By the end of the weekend, he had handed out close to 900 brochures. He really wasn't able to talk with any of these people, so we are hoping these people will read over the brochures when they get home, and look up the LIOC website. The people who did stop to ask him questions, he routed back to us at the table to talk more in-depth with them, and get them to sign the petitions.

Of course, a lot of people came right up to the table, and talked with us. The Canadian lynx kittens were a HUGE draw. I don't think people would have even stopped to talk to us if we didn't have some cats to get their attention. So, I would take the cats out one by one, off and on all day. When they were out, no one could even get past our booth, so many people jammed up the walkway in the front of our booth. Some of the people even approached our booth, and said they had heard on the other side of the expo center that there were some real lynx over here to see. Another guy that was working a different booth, said we were the talk of the town with those cats in our booth.

Quite a few people stood there and

talked to us for a very long time. Generally, most people signed the petitions right away, some were leery but signed, a few wanted to read over the information we gave them later at home, and only a handful walked away without signing or any information in their hand. We collected 532 signatures on the Arkansas regulations, and 518 on the Shambala petition in 2 and a half days.

NO ONE at this whole event, all weekend, had heard of Shambala, or for that matter the new regulations that



Arkansas is proposing. So, when you say that there were 20,000 people there, and we only got 500 signatures, that doesn't look like we did much. But I think that when you say that not a single person there had ever heard of Shambala, and you got 500 signatures supporting us, that is something worth doing. 500 people know about it now that did not before we talked to them. Maybe each of those people will mention it to just one other person they know, and then 1000 people will know about it. I think there is a good chance that people will tell other people, because they will tell them about the lynx they got to see and pet, and that will lead into a discussion about why we were there with the lynx.

I think this avenue is a very highly

effective and quick way of getting out to the people. But is hard work, and long, long hours. My recommendations would be to only cover one issue, such as Shambala, and promote membership. I am really disappointed that I did not collect a lot of membership dues. But under the circumstances, there were just more important things to get out there at the moment. I highly recommend that a few different cats are on hand in the booth. We had pictures and a big display board of pictures of cats, but they did not stop to look at pictures. They wanted to see live animals up close. It really attracted people to us. And since most of these events are long hours, with lots of noise and probably hot and stuffy, you really need several animals on hand, so not to overstress one out all day. You also need about 4 or 5 people to run the booth. One person to handle and take care of the cats, one to stand out in the walkway and "coldcall", handing brochures to everyone going by, and then 2 or 3 left in the booth to actually discuss issues at length with people and get them to sign the petition.

If anyone would be interested in doing a booth of this type, I would be glad to assist you and answer any questions you have about doing something like this. I do have some materials left over that I would be glad to give someone who could use them. I can be reached by email at wildcat@ipa.net, or daytime phone, 1-800-274-3439. I would like to thank those that worked so hard on this project: Kate Conner Kahn for all her help preparing the brochures and materials for the booth, Tonya Jones and her daughter Amber for driving all the way to Arkansas from Kentucky, Lynn Culver, & Keith Wilson. Thanks so much for all of your help, I really appreciate it! Also thanks to all the other LIOC members who really wanted to help, but were unable to be here, I really appreciate your effort and interest in this project.

**("A Purrrr-fect English Excursion"
Continued from page 9.)**

walked by. I asked about it and was informed it was the very spot where throughout history criminals were hung. I inquired if the spitting was a guesture against the death penalty and was told that, "no, it is to disrespect the graves of the crimanals, we are spitting on them!" We rode the double decker bus around and then caught a cab to the Edinbrough Zoo, but it was about to close so we spent a little time in the gift shop (or do I spell that shoppe?) before leaving. Where had the day gone? We boarded the last train of the day which would put us back in London after midnight. Our final hours together consisted of conversation of in situ vs ex situ, private ownership, cloning, DNA research, and other "cat talk." David surprised me with a generous gift of several rare cat books and then got off a few stops early, placing him closer to his home. Becky and I were now on our own, with map in hand, and a few hours before departure. We couldn't miss the flight, she would navagate and I'd drive.

Wednesday, October 11:

We got back to London between midnight and one. Many of the roads have roadblocks and detours, which of course doesn't show up on the map. It took us a few hours to get to the airport, but we did make it in plenty of time. I slept some on the flight back, knowing that when I arrived at Chicago O'Hare on Thursday, I would have another 9 hours of drive time just to be home again. What a great time, and what wonderful people!

Thursday, October 12:

Ahhh, back on the right side of the road.

Ahhh, bed, not since last Sunday night....zzzzzzzzzz

President. Ron Eldridge was the Lotty recipient for 2000. He has been a member since 1990 and served on the board as Term Director of Advertising & Publicity for 1993/94. Ron has shared his time at zoos, and spent a summer in Namibia working on Cheetah conservation. Max entertained us with magic tricks and made balloon animals for the kids and we ended the evening with the annual auction. JB Anderson was our auctioneer, with his assistant Keith Wilson (who did a very good job, and even answered to Vanna!)

Sunday morning, we enjoyed breakfast during our final meeting. Reports from the board meeting and the auction were given. It was announced that next year's LIOC convention would be held in Portland Oregon, hosted by the EFES branch.

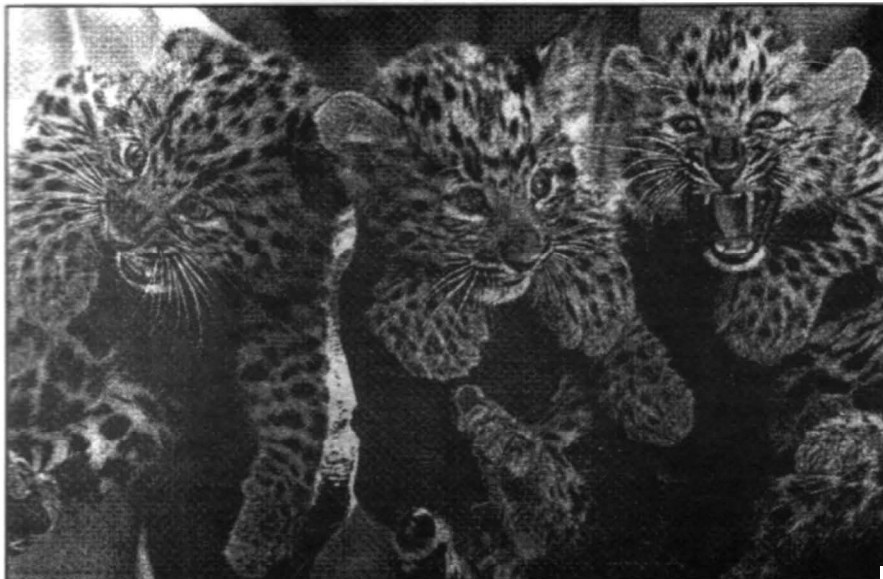
Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley



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Three Amur leopard cubs born July 15 at the Pittsburgh Zoo.
Photo by Keith Srakocic, September 5, 2000

Letter to the Editor

Bill Olson wrote a heartfelt letter to the editor concerning his small business:

"I had an ad placed in our directory and I am temporarily out of business. On October 3, 2000 at about 11pm a major storm blew through our area. It was either extremely high winds or a possible tornado but in the wake of this storm, the shop that I was sharing with my uncle was almost completely destroyed. Being a "pole barn" type structure, it did not survive and I lost some of my equipment to the debris falling on it. It will probably not be until next year before I will be ready for business again. I must also apologize to my potential customers and current customers for this delay.

Fortunately, my facility is located elsewhere and suffered no damage - Thank God! I am currently awaiting a USDA inspection for my license and have four tigers to come "home" when (and if) I get my license.

With the sustained damages around the area to homes and countless downed and damaged trees, I thank God the no one was hurt or killed.

It is almost surreal to stand and see the devastation that has occurred, knowing all the hard work that went into creating a dream and is now gone. All our struggle was wiped out in almost minutes. We will clean up the mess for now, wait for the insurance check, and rebuild next year.

Thanks for publishing a notice for me.

Bill Olson

"Wild Antics" Zoological Services, (Second Nature Exotic Cats Sanctuary)

And the Year 2000 Lotty Recipient IS...



Ron Eldridge

Presented the Lotty by son, Zack

An open letter to the LIOC Life Directors, Officers, Term Directors and the Membership...

I want to tell you all how honored I feel to be the LOTTY recipient for the year 2000. We all know this very special honor is reserved for a special member who will go the "extra mile" when NOT necessary.

For you all to include me in this very special class with the former honorable LOTTY recipients, humbles me and fills me with much gratitude. To be part of such a caring and dedicated group of individuals as the membership of LIOC is indeed heartwarming.

I will continue to do all I can for all animals, our feline companions and of course, LIOC. Thank you all again for this great honor. Michelle, Zachary and I look forward to seeing you all in Portland 2001.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Eldridge