

Volume 46, Issue 5

September/October 2002

Feline Conservation Federation





Feline Conservation Federation

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Feline Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 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. FCF, 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 FCF. 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 FCF should contact the Term Director in Charge of Member Services.

Founder: Catherine Cisin**Editor: Shirley Wagner**

3730 Belle Isle Ln.
Mobile, AL 36619
phone/fax 251-661-1342
e-mail: ocelots@compuserve.com

Production Editor: Mindy Stinner

PO Box 882
Mebane, NC 27302
336-421-0065, fax 336-421-0809
e-mail: mstinner@mindspring.com

OFFICERS:**President: George Stowers**

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
e-mail: gstowers@twcny.rr.com

Vice President: Bob Turner

4467 E. Dayhuff Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-831-0817
e-mail: robert.l.turner@gm.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Tonya Jones

PO Box 124
Cromwell, KY 42333
270-274-3072
e-mail: tjserval2@aol.com

TERM DIRECTORS:**Advertising and Publicity:****Carol SiegleyBohning**

PO Box 711
Johnstown, OH 43031
e-mail: lynxrufus@voyager.net

Education/Conservation:**Tracy Wilson**

PO Box 1382
Searcy, AR 72145
501-368-0399
e-mail: wildcat@ipa.net

Legal Director: Lynn Culver

141 Polk 664
Mena, AR 71953
479-394-5235
e-mail: culvers@voltage.net

Member Services: Leann Montgomery

PO Box 216
Pleasureville, KY 40057-0216
502-878-2567
e-mail: LM4WILDCATS@cs.com

LIFE DIRECTORS:**J.B. Anderson**

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

John Perry

6684 Central Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-7918
e-mail: johtperry@worldnet.att.net

Carin Sousa

2960 Bay St.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
850-932-6383
e-mail: carin6699@aol.com

Shirley Wagner

3730 Belle Isle Ln.
Mobile, AL 36619
phone/fax 251-661-1342
e-mail: ocelots@compuserve.com

BRANCHES:**ACEF: Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines-Cascade Branch****Jeanne Hall**

PO Box 103
Green Bank, WA 98253
360-269-1488
e-mail: acef@acef.orf
web site: www.acef.org

MEFES: Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society:

Harold Epperson
3310 Remington Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-889-3922

Pacific Northwest Exotics:

Steve Belknap
PO Box 205
Gresham, OR 97030
503-658-7376
e-mail: pnwe@effectnet.com

REGIONAL CONTACTS:**Central: J.B. Anderson**

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

Northeast: George Stowers

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
e-mail: gstowers@twcny.rr.com

Northwest: see Branches**Southeast: Jean Hatfield**

1991 SW 136th Ave.
Davie, FL 33325
954-472-7276
e-mail: jeanhatfield@email.msn.com

Southwest: Loreon Vigne

20889 Geyserville Ave.
Geyserville, CA 95411
707-857-4747
e-mail: isis@saber.net

In this issue...

Lotty Winner	4
President’s Perspective	5
Officer Candidate Platforms and Profiles	7
Report to the membership on Balloting Results	11
2002 Convention--Wild in Wichita	12
Thanks to Those Who Assisted with the Convention’s Success	16
Retirement of Convention Committee-New Help Needed	16
Ken Hatfield Scholarship Recipient Report	17
Daddy’s Home! Radar and Daddy Reunited	18
Upcoming Meetings and Conventions	19
BOD Meeting Minutes	20
Legislative Update on HR 5226	24



Classified

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. FCF, Inc. does not necessarily endorse or guarantee the honesty of any advertiser. FCF, Inc. reserves the right to edit or reject any subscription ad. No blind animal ads will be accepted. Only FCF members may place ads listing cats for sale. Adoption ads are free of charge for cats that need good homes where no money is involved in the transaction. All ads must contain the name of business or individual advertising. 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: 2 inches x 3.5 inches (business card size): \$10.00

DISCLAIMER:

We cannot guarantee the printed quality of digital photographs. Please submit actual photographs or check with the editor regarding standards for electronic submissions whenever possible.



WILD Trax Supply
Specialty Products for Wild Felines

Wild Feline Care & Specialty Products

Wild Feline Food & Supplements, Flea & Tick Products, Capture Equipment, Misc. Care Products, Toys for Cats, Wild Cat Themed Tee Shirts, & Other Gift Items.

MAZURI, OASIS, AND MORE!

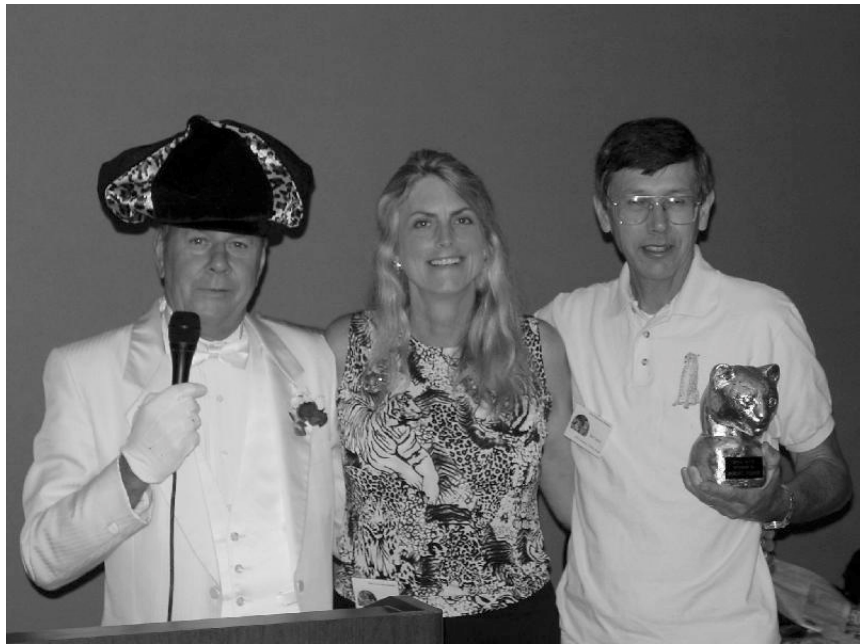
Visit our Website:

www.wildtraxsupply.com

TOLL FREE 1-866-WLD-TRAX or 1-866-953-8729

All profits support the feline residents of Wild Trax Feline Center.

2002 Lotty Recipient: Bob Turner



I want to thank the past Lotty Award recipients for voting for me to receive the 2002 Lotty. When Shirley Wagner announced my name as the one chosen to receive the Lotty for this year, I just about fell out of my chair. It was a total surprise to me as I thought there are others more deserving of the award. From talking to previous Lotty recipients, most felt that others deserved it over them when they received it, and they were totally surprised too.

I remember the first LIOC convention that I attended in 1997 and thought what an honor it was for that year's recipient of the Lotty, and what a person must have to do to earn the right to even be considered for the Lotty Award. I am very honored to have received the 2002 Lotty. I am so proud of it and have taken it to many places. To me, the Lotty is to the cat people what the Oscar is to the film industry.

Shirley warned me about wearing off the gold leaf off of the Lotty by taking it out and sharing it with others. Then she said not to worry, if I got too carried away and wore some of the gold leaf off, she could fix it.

Many Thanks,

Bob Turner

ABOUT THE LOTTOM...

The physical Lotty is a bust of an ocelot's head modeled after the sculptress's, Brenda Duprey's ocelot, Zapata. It is the Club's recognition of service above & beyond the call of duty to the cats and/or the organization.

The first Lotty was presented in 1966 to Gene Brill. This year's Lotty is number 36. If no worthy candidate is found, no Lotty is presented. Because the selection process is solely the decision of those previously awarded a Lotty, any less than worthy candidate tarnishes all previous Lottys. Catherine always admonished that a Lotty was never won - it was not a contest - it is recognition of outstanding contributions, there can be no winners as then there would be losers, and to even be considered was an honor.

Although any member can suggest nominees to a previous recipient, it is up to the previous Lotty recipients to nominate and vote on the Lotty. Because of the illustrious names associated with the Lotty, the years of dedication associated with those that went before, it is truly an honor to be chosen.

The President's Perspective

Following the announcement of the results of vote on the two Constitutional Amendments last summer a number of concerns were raised by various individuals regarding perceived voting irregularities. The following is intended to summarize these issues and the Board of Directors' response to them for the membership.

In 2002 a new tabulation process was adopted by the BOD and used for the first time in the vote on the constitutional amendments. In the past the votes were sent to a Life Director to be opened and counted with the assistance of another Life Director. It was clear from the start that the votes on the two proposed constitutional amendments were going to be very controversial no matter what the results were. In order to improve voter confidence in the results of this and all future membership votes the BOD established a policy that a CPA who is not involved in our organization (an independent auditor) would open and tally the ballots on issues presented to the membership for a vote. The BOD selected Life Director J.B. Anderson to receive the votes and asked that he obtain the services of a local CPA to open the votes in J.B.'s presence. J.B. would then compare the name(s) on each ballot to a list of members provided by our Director Membership Services Leann Montgomery. J.B. would then advise the CPA if the individual was a member and therefore qualified to vote. The CPA would then record the results of all valid votes and report the final results to the BOD.

After the results were reported, concerns were expressed by some individuals on three issues. Some couples with family memberships (providing two votes), although living in the same household, may not be legally married. Some individuals whose membership had recently expired may have been included on the list of members eligible to vote. Concern was also expressed regarding a statement made by J.B. Anderson that the CPA had destroyed the ballots after counting them, and as a result were not available to verify the results.

During the BOD meeting at Convention last August, Life Director Carin Sousa requested an executive session and then made a motion to set aside the vote on the constitutional amendments due to voting irregularities and call another vote. The BOD debated the merits of the issues raised by Carin at length, but in the end the majority of the members of the board voted in opposition to the motion. Some of the considerations expressed by board members which appear to have contributed to the defeat of the motion included the following:

- The Director Membership Services stated that to the best of her knowledge and belief that the list of members she provided to J.B. Anderson was valid and consistent with past practice. Robert's Rules gives the Membership Director final say in who is a member and who is not.
- The BOD has no way of verifying if any couple with a family membership is legally married.
- Even if there were a few individuals on the list provide to J.B. who should not have been, there is no reason to believe the proportion in which they supported/opposed the name change would have been any different that the rest of those who voted and therefore would have had no effect on the results.
- J.B. provided a logical reason for destroying the votes after the tally—to preserve voter confidentiality on these emotional Amendments.

On or about August 26, Life Director Carin Sousa sent a personal letter to the membership expressing her concerns regarding the vote on the constitutional amendments, alleging misconduct by the BOD, and speculating for the first time that an independent auditor (CPA) had not been involved in counting the ballots.

A written statement was subsequently provided to the BOD by an accountant, Mr. John Berry, stating the following: 1) He had counted the votes, assisted by J.B. Anderson, who verified voter eligibility using a membership list; 2) That he (Mr. Berry) is a business accountant but not a CPA; 3) That after the votes had been counted J.B. had sug-

gested he destroy the votes in order to preserve voter confidentiality, but that he (Mr. Berry) had decided, after J.B. left his office, to retain the ballots against possible future need. After this written statement was recieved by the board, Mr. Berry was instructed to send the ballots to our Secretary/Treasurer.

On September 9, Life Directors John Perry and Shirley Wagner requested a Special BOD meeting to consider a series of seven motions, the effect of which would be to require a new vote on the two constitutional amendments and establish a new voting policy. After careful consideration over a period of two weeks the BOD voted not to approve these motions on September 23. The minutes of the special meeting are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recently I have heard it alleged by a few individuals that the LIOC-ESCF has been “hijacked” by individuals who wish to back away from support of individual private ownership. I wish to state clearly and unequivocally, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, each and every member of the Board of Directors of the Feline Conservation Federation is committed to doing everything in their power to preserve responsible private captive husbandry, as defined in our Code of Conduct in **ALL** its varied forms.

George N. Stowers
President,
Feline Conservation Federation

Editor’s note: The results of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors are included on page 22-23 of this newsletter.

Don’t get dizzy going back and forth trying to decide whether or not to vote in the FCF general election.



Quit shaking your head no, and pick up that ballot and mail it off today.

Fact is, members are the “lynx” to the board. Without your input, they can’t represent you. **So take the time to vote** and contact the FCF board with your ideas, opinions and thoughts.

Now more then ever, this is a member driven organization, and **Bobby Bean is ready to serve the federation as FCF Director of Advertising and Publicity.**

Photo and ad are paid for by supporters of Bobby Bean for FCF Director of Advertising and Publicity.

Candidate Platforms

Position: President

Nominees: George Stowers (incumbent) and John Perry



George Stowers

I first joined the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation in 1991. Since that time it has been my privilege to serve the membership for the last eight years as Director, Legal Affairs, Director Conservation & Education, Vice President and most recently as your President. In each of these positions I have done my best to further the mission of our organization in a manner this is responsive to the will of the majority of our members.

Toward this end some of the important initiatives I sponsored or assisted with during the last eleven years include: adoption of a code of conduct, development of our feline husbandry course, implementation of a private sector SPARKS database, development of a set of Model Regulations, and numerous other initiatives/projects which are either complete or in progress.

Serving as your President for the last two years has been an interesting, challenging, occasionally frustrating, but always rewarding experience for me. It has been a time of significant challenges, some losses, and significant gains. Frankly we didn't accomplish as much as I had hoped during the last two years. But some progress has been made and I am excited about some of the projects various members of the Board have on the drawing boards for the next two years. A subcommittee of the Board is performing a long overdue comprehensive review of our by-laws and constitution, a new feline husbandry manual is in the works, another committee is reviewing our existing membership structure.

If you choose to re-elect me as President of the Feline Conservation Federation, I pledge to continue to my efforts to vigorously pursue the mission of our organization, to preserve and promote responsible private captive husbandry as defined in our Code of Conduct, in all its varied forms be it a single neutered cat in a loving home or a major private conservation breeding facility, and to continue to seek new ways to help our organization thrive and grow.

John Perry



To the Board of Directors and Members,

I am withdrawing my candidacy for President of the organization, based on the results of the Board of Directors consideration of whether to permit members to revote on the constitutional amendments. Seven of the Board Members felt that the questions about the process of casting the ballot did not merit a revote. To me, this casts the process of voting for officers into question, and I choose not to be a part of it, rather than ratify the process by continued participation in it.

I thank those who were supporting my candidacy and making efforts on my behalf.

Yours truly,
John T. Perry, Jr.

For equity purposes all candidates were offered the same amount of space to state their platforms.

Candidate Profiles

Position: Legal Affairs

Nominees: Lynn Culver, unopposed incumbent

Looking back on this past year, there is nothing more significant than the opportunity presented to the membership to cast their ballots concerning our organization's name. I see this event as the re-birth of LIOC into the Feline Conservation Federation. From the decade of the 60's when it was Catherine Cissin's Long Island Ocelot Club, to the years following the name change to the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation in the late 70's, to this present century as the Feline Conservation Federation, we are still this same organization. Our history and our legacy has not changed. But FCF has entered the new millennium. And times are different. We have evolved to adapt to these changes, because everyone knows that creatures that cannot adapt to change are doomed to extinction.



I am involved in this organization because I believe in what it stands for. I am pleased at the direction it has taken this past decade, adopting a Code of Conduct and formulating a Big Cat Policy. And nothing makes me prouder than to see the Exotic Feline Husbandry Course, developed by George Stowers, being attended by feline care givers and but also USDA personnel and Game and Fish officers across the nation. We *are* about responsible captive husbandry of wild felines. We *walk* the talk.

I plan to compose several informational articles on the Endangered Species Permitting process which regulates interstate commerce for breeding and exhibiting for our website. I will be watching and reporting on the developments of the newly proposed federal House Bill 5226.

Behind every idea I have, is a deep desire to see the membership of FCF more involved in our programs and services than ever before. We need to be a true federation of members. I hope to see this board reach out to USDA licensed facilities to join the conservation federation, so that we may speak for and represent responsible individual owners, privately run sanctuaries, feline breeders and educators.

I am available for help, so don't hesitate to contact me.
May the Feline Conservation Federation force be with us all.

Position: Education/Conservation

Nominees: Tracy Wilson, unopposed incumbent



I have been serving as the Director of Education and Conservation for the past term. One of the main goals of this position is promoting and holding the husbandry course throughout the year, which I have been working hard to do. I am also in the process of trying to put together some group trips for our members to actively participate in wild feline conservation projects by doing volunteer work. I am active throughout the year assisting felines that need placement into new homes. I currently run a private refuge for small to medium wild felines, of which I currently have 12. I have worked with big cats for several years as well. I hold a USDA Exhibitor's license, and I present educational programs for local children's groups. I have enjoyed serving in this office, and look forward to continuing to work for this organization in the future.



Position: Vice President
Nominee: Bob Turner, unopposed incumbent



Position: Member Services
Nominee: Leann Montgomery, unopposed incumbent

Candidate Platforms

Position: Advertising and Publicity

Nominees: Bobby Bean and Carol Siegley Bohning (incumbent)



Bobby Bean

My name is Robert Bean. Many of you know me as Bobby. I am running for the office of “Director of Advertising”. I’ve been a member of LIOC since 1988. I have been handling and caring for wild animals since I was 7 years old. I’ve been companion to and associated with non domestic felidae since 1986.

I am 48 years old. I hold an Academic, BA, in Psychology from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. I have been self-employed since 1974. Some of the businesses I currently operate and consult for include Family Entertainment Centers (FEC’s), Magic Spray Car Wash, Tennessee Nature Center and Consolidated Advertising Specialty Company (CASCO).

- My work in business has given me much experience in marketing and advertising. I hope to bring the knowledge that I have achieved in business to the FCF.

If elected, my goals as Director of Advertising will be to increase membership and revenues. I plan on achieving these goals by:

- working closely with the FCF webmaster to get the web site to the point where it is an effective tool to attract new members
- working to create appealing ads for exotic feline related periodicals to help dramatically increase membership
- working hard to bring in revenue through advertising sales for the newsletter and website
- listening to ideas and suggestions from the membership

If elected, I will work hard for the membership of the Feline Conservation Federation. I am running for “Director of Advertising” and would appreciate your vote.



Carol Siegley Bohning

My name is Carol Siegley Bohning and I am running for the office of Term Director of Advertising, Publicity & Fund-raising. I have had non-domestic cats for over 7 years now, and currently have 3 bobcats, a cougar, a Siberian lynx, with another bob on the way. I have been involved with the LIOC/FCF since 1998 and have attended all of the past annual conventions. I am honored to be an instructor for the Basic Captive Husbandry of Wild/ Exotic Felines course given by the FCF. I am currently a member and past President of the Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society or MEFES, a branch of the FCF.

In my spare time, I take care of 22 domestic cats, 1 dog, 7 birds and my wild cats. Craig and I opened a sanctuary primarily for bobcats, lynx and cougars in

2000. The Butternut Farm Wildcat Sanctuary is registered as a non-profit corporation in Ohio, and we have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. I am also working with my veterinarians part-time in order to educate myself about basic health care and emergency procedures and to help support my cat habit.

I am interested in remaining 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 FCF is a very unique and 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 FCF 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.

For equity purposes all candidates were offered the same amount of space to state their platforms.

Candidate Platforms

Position: Secretary/Treasurer

Nominees: Kevin Chambers and Harold Epperson (neither incumbent)



Kevin Chambers

I am running for Secretary/Treasurer for the FCF because I am very interested in helping this organization grow and improve the services it provides to the membership. I have extensive experience with this position I am running for, having served as secretary of the County 4-H Fair Board and treasurer of the County 4-H Council for a number of years. I also belong to a number of other animal related organizations and serve as an officer or on committees for several of them.

I am a breeder/importer/exporter/dealer by profession and I keep a variety of captive wildlife, but my favorite are the felines. I have been raising cats for 20 years and have had 21 species/subspecies; European wildcat, African wild cat, black-footed cat, serval, white-footed serval, caracal, Canadian lynx, Siberian lynx, Baikal lynx, European lynx, bobcat, Pallas cat, Asian leopard cat, Amur leopard cat, fishing

cat, Geoffroy's cat, cougar, snow leopard, tiger, African lion and white lion.

In my profession, I deal with pet owners, licensed breeders and exhibitors, private collectors, AZA zoos, and even international zoos. This makes me very familiar with all segments of wildcat ownership and both national and international laws pertaining to wildlife and the growing restrictive trend in these laws.

I recently served on the by-laws review committee and enjoyed helping this appointed volunteer group update these documents and formulate suggestions for the board's consideration. I attended the recent board meetings held at the Kansas Convention. I gained a lot of insight into the efforts that board members are making to propose ideas and update the services. If I am elected, I will make sure that minutes are presented in a timely manner for board approval, so that the newsletter keeps the members informed about the board's activities and decisions and the corporation's financial state.

I am willing and ready to donate my time and energy to help this organization grow. I look at FCF like a big house with several rooms. One with pet owners, one with breeders, one with people just interested in exotic cats, one for sanctuaries, etc., all co-existing peacefully under the same roof and working together on common interests and goals; each room contributing its fair share in the upkeep and helping to educate each other and those outside the organization for the betterment of wild cats.



Harold Epperson

It's really difficult for me to talk about myself but if I'm going to earn your votes for the Officer Position of Secretary/Treasurer, you'll need my qualifications. First of all, I joined MEFES and LIOC to help protect and preserve the exotic cats still in existence. And since I'm not an exotic cat owner (we own domestic cats only), my primary contribution is my ability and experience in the administrative area. In addition, I will be taking the Wild Feline Husbandry Course at the 2002 convention to help me be more supportive of our member cat owners. As for my experience, professionally I've been in customer service with wholesale distributors for 30 years and I was Company Clerk in the U.S. Army Reserve.

For MEFES, I have served as Secretary, Vice-President and I'm the current President. I've been instrumental in rewriting the MEFES By-Laws and we are formulating a husbandry manual containing care & feeding procedures used by our member owners. I'm proficient in mathematics and the English language and I'm detail-oriented. Also, I co-operate and communicate very well with others. I'm resourceful and I work equally well with others or on my own. My goal for LIOC is to work with the other Directors and the members to create a more member-friendly organization and hopefully increase our membership rank-in-file. Also, I want us to refocus our collective efforts and ideas to pursue the welfare of all exotic cats.

Editor's note: JB Anderson was selected by the Board of Directors to receive the amendment election ballots and deliver them to a CPA for official tallying. This is his report to the board and membership on the procedure implemented and the results of the vote.

Official Balloting Results

as would be published by the free press on every general Election in the U.S.

An official yellow ballot was mailed in LIOC newsletters to every current member. All ballots were mailed to the residence of the LIOC board appointed Polling Judge, J.B Anderson.

The sealed ballots were taken to the head of the accounting firm used by the Polling Judge. He opened them and called out the name of the voters to the Polling Judge who had the qualified voter list as provided by LIOC membership chairperson.

126 votes were received by the cut off date. 125 official ballots were qualified votes. One was not an official ballot and not a qualified vote and was discarded.

The Polling Judge listed who the qualified votes were. Only the accountants saw and counted the yes and no votes. Two accountants verified the count. The Polling results were e-mailed to the membership chair, who had provided the qualified voter list. On the e-mail the accounting firm's name and number was printed from the sender.

The results were as follows:

Amendment one: Name Change: 84 yes and 41 no, passed by more than 2/3.

(Note the one disqualified vote would not change the 2/3 results either yes or no.)

Amendment 2: Change timing interval on proposing constitutional amendments : Vote was 61 yes, 61 no.
It did not pass.

The above official results were accepted and approved by the Board of Directors at 2002 yearly meeting.

The above report should show how important each vote is. Please use your voting privilege in the upcoming election. I promise you your vote does count.

I would like everyone to know that the Accounting Firm used by the Polling Judge does many corporate books and taxes. His honesty and abilities is without question. The Accountant's folks have lived next door to J.B. Anderson for 25 years. John does the taxes and reports for the Polling Judge's several corporations and is a personal friend of the cats. Therefore he donated two hours of his firm's time to count and report the ballots.

The Polling Judge has a college degree and can also read English and count.

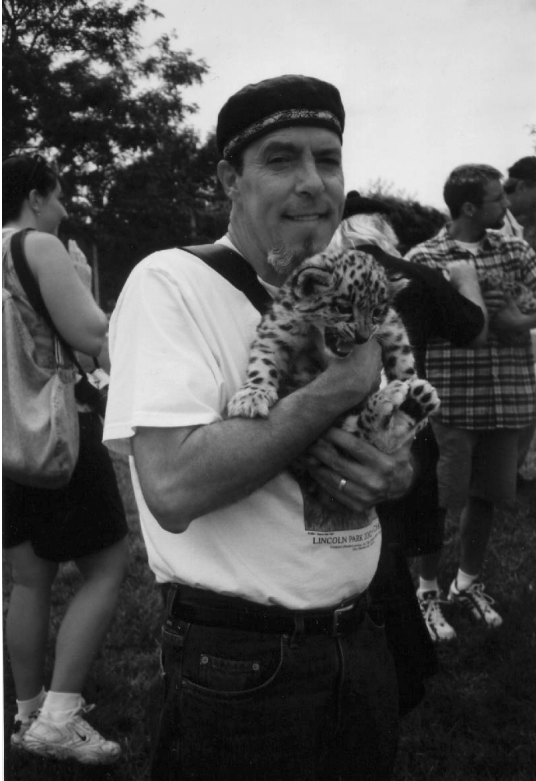
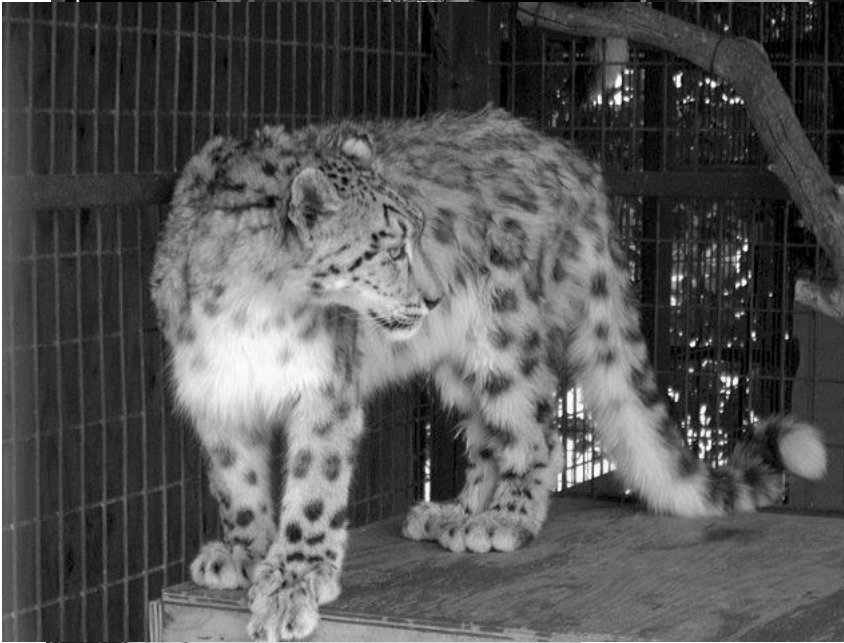
Any opinions or information that differs from the above facts is either misinformation or misquoted.

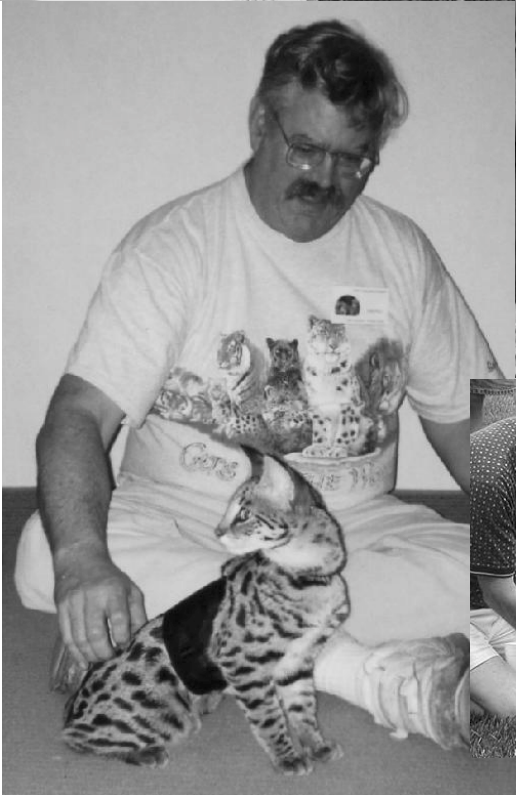
J.B. Anderson

2002 FCF Convention Videotapes

**Available now for
\$10.00 each** or both for \$20.00
There is a \$4 shipping and handling
charge on each order.

Please send payment
and shipping information to:
Deborah Walding
PO Box 1781
Beaverton, OR 97975
email: MagnoliaHomes@attbi.com





Feline Conservation Federation

2002 Conference Report

Submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley,
Chairman Conference Committee

This year's convention took place in Wicheta, Kansas. The conference started with a course in Wild Feline Husbandry. Attendees who previously took the Wild Feline Husbandry Course spent time in the hospitality room reviewing donated items and visiting with each other. Member Cory Byxbe brought her young Savannah cat for members to play with in the hospitality room. Thank you Cory!

Thursday afternoon the attendees gathered for the General Membership meeting. This is an election year, and each of the candidates for the FCF board presented their platforms for serving on the board. This information will be provided in this newsletter along with the ballots. Results of the general membership meeting and board meetings will be reported in a future newsletter. In the evening we enjoyed a welcome reception with light hors d'ouvers and spent some time talking with long time friends and getting to know new attendees.

On Friday, we traveled to the Tanganyika Wildlife Park where we had a wonderful lunch and then a tour. We saw snow and clouded leopards, white tigers, a variety of monkeys, giraffes, zebras, bongos, and kangaroos. It was fun to watch the snow leopard get a "bath" by way of a water hose down. He really loved the water. We also enjoyed the birds of prey at the facility, which included owls and a beautiful large eagle. As a group we participated as the owl flew silently between us to reach Ken's arm for his treat. Thank you to Jim and Sherri Fouts for opening their Wildlife Park to our group and for bringing the baby snow leopards for the attendees to see. Thank you to FCF members Ken and Susan Lockwood for hosting this year's meeting. They were very helpful in coordination of the meeting.

Saturday morning started with the guest speakers session. The schedule was in order as follows:

Bob Turner, Cheetah Preservation & Research Center, USA, *Rotary High Speed Cheetah Chaser*

Lynn Culver, *Species Enhancement Strategy*

Dr. William Swanson, Director of Animal Research, Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, *Addressing the Conservation Challenges of the World's Forgotten Felids – the Small Cats*

David Morris, President ZuPreem, *Zupreem Product*

Jim Fouts, Tanganyika Wildlife Park, *Development of Tanganyika Wildlife Park*

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D., Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International, *Camera Trapping, So what's out there anyway?*

We started the evening with the banquet dinner, followed by award presentations. Ethel Hauser conducted the raffle for the table centerpieces. They were hand-poured ceramic cougars standing on "cliffs". Each one was hand-painted and mounted on stands. Thank you to Ethel for creating and donating such beautiful cougars for us all. Gloria Johnson won the newsletter photo contest. Newsletter reporter of the year was awarded to Tim Stoffel for his report on Isis Oasis.

Previous pages: Left page clockwise from top left: JB and Rita Anderson with Leann Montgomery and Tracy Wilson at the banquet; Peggy Epperson with a baby snow leopard; Ken Lockwood vies with JB for Leann's attention, ringtail lemur style; Jeanne Hall knows how to keep a bay snow happy; the 3 Beans enjoy the snowy visit; Ken demonstrates the white tiger's height by standing him up behind 6'7" Brett Montgomery; Ray Beckley holds a baby snow leopard, an adult snow watches all the commotion with catty casualness.

Right page clockwise from top left: Bobby Bean with daughter, feeding giraffe; Debbie Walding cradles a baby snow leopard; Shirley Wagner kisses a baby snow; snow breeder and host Jim Fouts brings out the babies with help from JB; Harold Epperson plays in the grass with Leann and Tracy and the little snowballs; John Perry visits in the hospitality room with Zuri Savannah, Byxbe; the husbandry class graduating group with instructor George Stowers

Bob Turner was the Lotty recipient for 2002. Member participation was down about four years ago when Bob Turner came along. He jumped in and formed a midwestern branch that within a year had more than 100 members. He tirelessly recruits members to the organization and teaches the advantages of becoming members. He regularly recruits people to travel many miles to help members build feline enclosures and assists in design of feline facilities. He has been active in wild animal rehab for local wildlife, as well as cares for personal exotic felines. Bob Turner has designed a cheetah exercise system that will facilitate better conditions for captive cheetahs. He has served as Director of Education/Conservation and is currently the Vice President of FCF.

We ended the evening with the annual auction.



JB Anderson was our auctioneer, with his assistant Herald (Max) Maxwell (who was in full Scottish dress!)

Sunday morning, we enjoyed breakfast during our final meeting. Reports from the auction were given. It was announced that next year's LIOC convention would be held in Buffalo/Niagara Falls, New York.

Max and JB take bids on aplush lion, one of the highlights of the auction

Tapes for this meeting (and the entire conference) are available for \$26 (postage included), please contact Deborah Walding via e-mail at MagnoliaHomes@attbi.com or by regular mail at PO Box 1781, Beaverton, OR 97075 or call 503-579-0858.



Dr. Swanson brought Fishing Cat prints (\$60) and note cards (\$12) for sale to support the in situ research in Thailand program. If you were unable to fit the print in your luggage and want to purchase a print, or note cards, please contact Dr. Swanson at william.swanson@cincinnati-zoo.org or his secretary Lynn Blattman at 513-961-2739.

If you are interested in donating funds for the purchase camera-trap film for Jim Sanderson, he can be reached at gato_andino@yahoo.com or 202-912-1803.



Special Thanks to...

submitted by Kelly Jean Buckley

A big thank you to all the people who made the FCF 2002 Conference a success!

We'd like to thank Ken and Susan Lockwood for hosting the conference! They worked hard to help coordinate the events and provide a wonderful lunch. We appreciate Jim and Sherrie Fouts for opening their wildlife park to our group. In addition, the attendees are grateful to Jim and Sherrie for the snow leopard baby visit to the hotel! We are thankful to Jim Fouts for his presentation at the hotel on how the Tanganyika Wildlife Park was formed.

Thank you to Bob Turner and Lynn Culver for their presentations. We'd like to thank Dr. Bill Swanson, Cincinnati Zoo, and Jim Sanderson, Conservation International, for traveling such a distance and taking time out of their busy schedules to make presentations. Thank you to David Morris, the president of Zupreem, for driving three hours each direction to present his products to our group of attendees, and also for his generous donation to FCF!

Thank you to the committee members who coordinated the agenda and worked in the hospitality room. Thank you to Ethel Hauser for making and donating the handpainted table centerpieces for the banquet dinner. We'd like to thank JB Anderson and Herald (Max) Maxwell for operating the annual auction. Thank you to Tom Buckley for the audio visual services. Thank you to Deborah Walding for video taping the conference and making it available for sale to members. Thank you to Kent Mix, Airport Plaza Hotel Director, for his generous donation to the FCF auction. Thank you to Cori Byxbe for bringing Zuri, her beautiful cat. Thanks to Zuri we had fun in the hospitality room!



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES - NEEDED - NEW MEMORY MAKERS



submitted by Shirley Wagner

Each year many of us plan our summers around our annual Convention. We benefit from the knowledge of the varied spectrum of speakers presented. We sightsee, and oft times visit cat facilities and zoos in the area. We meet new friends, put names to faces and of course see old friends as well. We enjoy the banquet, awards and spend our money painlessly for the club.

What we don't do very often at least, is stop to think and acknowledge the long hours and hard work it takes to coordinate such an event and keep the cost so very low.

After 9 wonderful years, those serving on our Convention Committee have decided to bow out and give others the opportunity to contribute to this very important club function. So many memories to thank Ethel Hauser, Barbara Wilton, Carin Sousa and Kelly Jean Buckley for. Words just aren't enough, but a simple Thank you Ladies, will have to suffice. They assure us they aren't gone, but just need a deserved rest from these duties they have performed so well.

So, now we find ourselves in need of volunteer to jump in and do the job. If you'd like to be a part of this please Contact Member Services Director Leann Montgomery.

Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Recipient Update

submitted by Carin Sousa

Dear Carin and members of LIOC,

I wanted to thank you for your contribution to my registration fee for the veterinary medicine seminar that was offered by the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. This was a fantastic course! We had only 17 people in the course which made the seminar much more personal and made for time better spent. The course was geared to veterinarians who are in situations very similar to mine. Most of my practice is spent on companion animals; yet enough of my time is spent on zoo and exotic animals that hands-on education is very important. Yet many courses are so intense, large and/or hard-core to an extent that is impractical for my purposes. What made this course so wonderful, in addition to the size and to the veterinarians in charge (Dr. Ed Ramsay and Dr. Jurgen Schumacher), was the focus of the discussions. The course was structured to provide general health overviews for families of animals often seen in many collections. Specifically, we had sections on elephants, rhinos/horses/tapirs, New World and Old World Primates, great apes, reptiles, raptors, “specialty” avian groups (eg flamingos, toucans, etc.), marsupials, marine mammals, sea turtles (the only fairly impractical section but it was an optional one chosen by our group and it was interesting), general parasitology, general sedation and anesthetic procedures, darting methods, and, dare I forget to mention, exotic carnivores.

We had several wet labs. One involved a morning firing darting equipment--we aimed at a barn wall target and a deer decoy, neither of which were in as grave a danger as the trigger-happy members of our course. Another morning we met some African Elephants and discussed their health issues. One important point that was discussed was the newer trend to avoid “stupid pet tricks” with elephants and marine mammals. Almost all training now tries to make use of “normal” behaviors or behaviors that can assist the health staff in assessing a patient. As an example, sedating or immobilizing any giraffe has serious mortality rates; training these animals to handle versus using chemical immobilization is hugely important. As a negative example, elephants trained to go up on their hind limbs or walk with their feet on the back of another elephant do unbelievable arthritic damage to their skeletal structure and this trick has no natural component whatsoever. It is not all that surprising that every once in a while one of these magnificent creatures goes crazy out of the blue. Some experts feel avoidance of non-natural behaviors might lessen the chances of these unfortunate episodes with elephants, killer whales, etc.

Two other wet labs involved immobilizing and doing annual physicals on the baboon troop, and immobilizing and doing physicals on several members of your good friend *Acinonyx jubatus*, the cheetah. Having been fortunate enough to have worked on numerous exotic animals, I do have to say that the exotic felids are probably my favorite. Our zoo has Sumatran Tigers, Snow Leopards, Bobcats, and “Asian” Lions; we have had clients with Mountain Lions, Servals and Bobcats; and during my senior year in vet school, I did a stint at the Cincinnati Zoo which has one of the best, if not the best, exotic cat collection in the country.

I offer kudos to your organization not only for your interest in the inherent individual wonderment provided by these great animals, but also for your involved nature concerning their conservation. We just are not very good at leaving room for the other inhabitants of our world and we have to keep doing whatever we can to make sure these glorious creatures continue to have their own place called home.

Thank you again so very much for your consideration and contribution. Keep up the great work.

Matt Fraker, DVM

Writing Your Will?



**Remember the Ken Hatfield
Memorial Scholarship Fund!**

Daddy's Home!



submitted by Tracy Wilson with assistance from Radar Serval
I learned something first hand just a few weeks ago. You really don't have to bottle feed for a cat to bond with you. My serval boy Radar, he was a bottle baby for me from 5 weeks old, my husband never bottle fed him. My husband went overseas when Radar was about 5 months old. He was gone 10 months. A long time for a serval! We were both really worried that Radar would not remember him after all that time. Radar is very bonded to me, he is very sweet and affectionate, likes me to hold and cuddle him lots. He is my constant companion around the house. But, on the other hand, he is very shy of anyone outside of my family, despite our efforts at trying to socialize him. I have raised other servals and other cats and they have socialized well. At a certain point though, Radar just refused to be interested in being social outside our home and family. So I didn't force it on him any further. He just does not like new places, new company, or any loud people.

My husband tends to be a loud person, so I was really worried that Radar was going to have a hard time adjusting to Keith being at home all of a sudden again. But, Keith came home after not seeing Radar for nearly a year and laid down in the floor and was very quiet. Radar cautiously approached him, sniffing and looking, and finally after about 20 minutes of inspecting my husband, Radar did his little affectionate meow, and gave Keith a great big head butt! KONK! And then he really started loving all over Keith, slobbering in his hair, the whole bit. And Radar has been absolutely fine with Keith being home from that point on.

I was amazed. Radar really remembered him, and there was a bond there that lasted my husbands complete absence of 10 months, without my husband ever having bottle fed him. So, just goes to show how strong they will bond to you (and how long their memories are) if you just put in lots of time with them when they are young.



These felines are all ears, listening for the outcome of the Feline Conservation Federation general election results.

This organization needs to hear from you, so be sure to exercise your right to vote.

We thank you and the felines thank you too.

Photo and message are paid for by supporters of George Stowers for president of the Feline Conservation Federation.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

Submitted by Colette Griffiths

22nd Annual Conference of the Association of Veterinary Technicians
1 - 6 October 2002
Milwaukee
For further info please visit:
<http://www.azvt.org>

American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
6 - 10 October 2002
Milwaukee
For further info please visit:
<http://www.aazv.org>

2002 Joint National Conference of the American Association of Zoo Keepers and the Association of Zoological Horticulture
6 - 10 October 2002
Kansas City
For further info please visit:
<http://www.aazkazh20002.org>

Training & Conditioning Workshop
9 - 11 October 2002
Auckland Zoo
Registration and further conference details can be obtained from
Brooke Noonan, Auckland Zoo, Private Bag Grey Lynn, Auckland.
or email: sheeka1@xtra.co.nz

4th International Symposium on Physiology and Behaviour of Wild and Zoo Animals
9 - 12 October 2002
Berlin
For further info please visit:
<http://www.izw-berlin.de>

The Zoo Registrar Association 2002 Conference
10-12 Oct 2002
Wichita, Kansas, U.S.A.
(hosted by Sedgwick County Zoo)
For more information contact Conference Chairperson Aletha Kinser, Sedgwick County Zoo, registrar@scz.org (316) 942-2213 ext. 203,
Program Chair Paul Louderback, Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum, Plouderback@ci.tulsa.ok.us (918) 669-6225 or visit the ZRA website: <http://www.zra.homestead.com/> This is an excellent chance to meet and network with other zoo registrars.

International Colloquium on the Biology of the Soricidae II
14-18 October 2002
Powdermill Biological Station
Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Website and Registration:
<http://members.vienna.at/shrew/bash.html>

12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES
November 3-15 2002
Santiago, Chile
For further info please visit:
<http://www.cites.org/eng/notifs/2001/051.shtml>



A White Tiger at Tanganyika Wildlife Park



European lynx are rare in the United States. Fact is, they are only found in private collections because the AZA Felid TAG doesn't want to maintain this species anymore.

That's why it is more important than ever to a member of the Feline Conservation Federation, the only organization of its kind devoted to insuring the existence of healthy captive populations of threatened and endangered felines.

Kevin Chambers, candidate for FCF Secretary/Treasurer is ready to work for you.

Paid for by supporters of Kevin Chambers for FCF secretary/treasurer. Photo taken at Kevin Chambers' ZooARC facility.

Board Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2001 Fourth Quarter Board meeting Results.

Meeting called to order by George Stowers

Motion 1 by Tracy Wilson, seconded by Shirley Wagner

LIOC offer the Mexican Feline Research Expedition trip to any of our members interested in going as a group, with me organizing and arranging the trip, and going as leader of our team.

For Against Abstain Results - 8 0 3 Motion Passes

Motion 2 by Lynn Culver, seconded by Leann Montgomery

LIOC board form a committee to study the SPARKS program as it stands now, and make recommendations for it's future.

For Against Abstain Results - 8 0 3 Motion Passes

Motion 3 by Lynn Culver, seconded by Carol Siegley

LIOC officially endorse the concept of Species Enhancement Strategy Programs.

For Against Abstain Results - 7 0 4 Motion Passes

April 25, 2002 First Quarter Board Meeting Results-

Meeting called to order by George Stowers

Motion 1 by Shirley Wagner, seconded by John Perry

By-law 1.12 be amended to read: (Change in caps) Upon consideration of current income and expenses, the Executive Board may establish discretionary funds for the use of officers, directors or appointees in the performance of their duties. Before such funds may be replenished, full accounting must be made to the Secretary/Treasurer in the form of receipts and statements. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OF LIOC-ESCF INC SHALL BE A SIGNATOR ON ANY DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNT.

For Against Abstain Results - 6 2 3 Motion Passes

Motion 2 by Shirley Wagner, seconded by Carin Sousa

Move that the following be adopted:

4.14 In addition to the Secretary/Treasurer and President, a Life director of the Executive Board's choosing shall be a signator on all the organization's accounts.

For Against Abstain Results - 8 0 3 Motion Passes

Motion 3 by John Perry, seconded by Shirley Wagner

That the Board of Directors of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation recommends to the membership that they vote against the name change proposed in the submitted amendment.

For Against Abstain Results - 2 6 3 Motion Fails

Motion 4 by John Perry seconded by Shirley Wagner

That the Board of Directors of the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation recommends to the membership that they vote against the amendment of the constitutional amendment process.

For Against Abstain Results - 5 3 3 Motion Passes

Motion 5 by Shirley Wagner, seconded by Leann Montgomery

LIOC-ESCF's membership application include a member profile and that the same member profile be sent to existing members to obtain a demographic picture of our membership, and identify those willing to work on various projects.

For Against Abstain Results - 8 0 3 Motion Passes

Motion 6 by Tracy Wilson, seconded by Shirley Wagner

I move we amend Article 1 of the By-laws as Follows:

1.16 Officers & Directors of LIOC ESCF shall adhere to the by-laws, Board approved policies or procedures of the organization in the performance of their duties.

1.17 Should any Officer or Director be found to be deficient in their duties to the Organization or in violation of any by-law, Board approved policy or procedure which affects their duties, it should be brought immediately to the attention of the President, who will act as chairman of a special inquiry committee or a Life Director if the allegations involve the president.

1.18 Special inquiry committee shall consist of 2 Life Directors, 1 term Officer and 1 term Director and the president as chairman. Should the allegations involved the president, a Life Director shall act as chair. The chairman will assign the members of the special inquiry committee. The committee members shall immediately be notified by the chairman and as a committee shall conduct an investigation into the matter and give a full report to the entire board in a timely manner.

1.19 Upon determination that a Board member is in violation of any by-law, Board approved policy or procedure, that Board member shall be notified and have 10 days to reply to the charges in writing either by US Mail or electronically via email.

1.20 Considering the circumstances, the special inquiry committee shall make determination as to the seriousness of the violation(s) and direct a remedy or are empowered to ask for the resignation of the Board Member involved, In the event there are misused or unaccounted for funds, the committee shall request restitution. The committee shall set a predetermined amount of time in which the board member in question is to turn in their resignation and/or provide restitution. Failing to receive such by the predetermined date set, the committee shall refer the matter to a vote of the entire Board.

1.21 By a vote of 2/3 of the full Board at a specially convened meeting the charged Board Member may be removed from office and the Board may appoint someone to fulfill the remainder of the term in accord with the bylaws for filling a vacancy. Such removal vote shall be conducted in writing either at the annual meeting of the Board or at a meeting conducted by US Mail.

For Against Abstain Results - 7 1 3 Motion Passes

Motion 7 by Tracy Wilson, seconded by Leann Montgomery

A committee be formed to research and put together a new tiered membership structure and voting rights, to include an individual membership with one vote, and a family membership that includes 2 votes; while also addressing all forms of current memberships we have available and working them into the new membership structure and creating any new levels of membership. This committee should put together a proposal of a new membership fee structure and voting privileges to present to the rest of the BOD no later than July 1. From July 1 until our annual BOD meeting in August, the BOD should discuss the proposal, and suggest any changes. The committee shall present the final proposal for our annual BOD meeting in August and the BOD will make a final vote to pass or not the new membership structure.

For Against Abstain Results - 8 0 3 Motion Passes

Results of Special Meeting of LIOC-ESCF Board requested by Lynn Culver and Tracy Wilson, called to order by George Stowers.

Motion by Lynn Culver seconded by Tracy Wilson

LIOC-ESCF establish a policy of hiring an independent CPA to receive and tally ballots for mail-in votes by the membership, and that JB Anderson be asked to select a CPA and act as the LIOC-ESCF point of contact for the vote on the proposed constitutional amendments which are to be placed before the membership in the May/June issue of the newsletter

For Against Abstain Results - 7 3 1 Motion Passes

minutes continued on next page

Feline Conservation Federation
Special Meeting of Board of Directors
September 23, 2002

On September 9, 2002, John Perry and Shirley Wagner called for a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to consider seven motions to be voted on as follows:

Motion 1. That the vote on the amendments to the Constitution be vacated because the voting process was tainted and did not follow the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies of the organization.

Motion 2. That a revote by the membership be held on the ballots being distributed for election of officers.

Motion 3. That a Life Director other than J.B. Anderson be directed to hire a Certified Public Accountant for counting of the ballots because J.B.'s veracity is in doubt.

Motion 4. That the return address for the ballots be: Life Director's Name, c/o Selected CPA, CPA's Address.

Motion 5. The completed ballots shall be mailed to the nominating committee within 5 weeks of the distribution of the September edition of the corporation's newsletter and the results announced in the November edition of the corporation's newsletter.

Motion 6. That Shirley Wagner be appointed as the Life Director to hire the CPA.

Motion 7. That the following bylaw be adopted as part of the membership section of the bylaws to clarify exactly the term of membership: Only members in good standing, current in their dues are to be qualified to vote in any election or voting by the membership.

We also ask that the voting on all of the above be by roll call vote, and the stated motions and the results of that voting be published in the Newsletter.

On September 23, 2002, the vote was called with the following results:

Motion 1. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Nay.

3 Yeas, 7 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 2. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Nay.

3 Yeas, 7 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 3. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Nay.

3 Yeas, 7 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 4. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Nay.

3 Yeas, 7 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 5. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Yea.

4 Yeas, 6 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 6. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Nay.

3 Yeas, 7 Nays Motion Fails

Motion 7. John Perry - Yea, Shirley Wagner — Yea, Lynn Culver — Nay, Carin Sousa — Yea, Tracy Wilson — Nay, Robert Turner — Nay, Tonya Jones — Nay, Carol Siegley — Nay, Leann Montgomery — Nay, J.B. Anderson — Yea.

4 Yeas, 6 Nays Motion Fails

All motions failed.

Submitted By: Tonya Jones
Secretary/Treasurer

Safe Heat Source for Outdoor Denboxes!

Snuggle Safe Heat Pads \$21.50

A hard plastic microwavable disk that provides up to **12 hours of safe gentle heating**, Indoors or Outdoors.

Heats in Just 5 minutes in most microwaves.

Exterior is Tough, the Interior is NonToxic

Disk is approximately dinner plate size.

Order yours today from Wild Trax Supply

www.wildtraxsupply.com or call 1-866-953-8729



N.O.A.H. Feline Conservation Center has bobcat and Geoffroy's kittens available. USDA Licensed. Lynn & Bart Culver 141 Polk 664 Mena, AR 71953 479-394-5235

FCF Member Alert - H.R. Bill 5226

Legislative update by Lynn Culver

Senator George Miller of California has introduced H.R. Bill 5226. This bill will modify the Lacey Act in the following way; It will be illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce tiger, lion, leopard, jaguar, cheetah, cougar and bear unless you are a USDA licensed zoo, circus, research facility, a TAOS or ASA sanctuary member, a state licensed rehabilitator or humane society or veterinarian, USDA breeder or dealer, or someone who is transporting for these people.

The stated reasoning behind this bill is a desire to stop the pet trade in dangerous animals. This ignores the obvious fact that 4 of the six listed felines are already banned from interstate pet trade due to the Endangered Species Act. But this bill actually goes much further, it makes the interstate donation of these feline species to people willing to provide refuge, who are not members of the ASA or TAOS sanctuary groups, a violation the Lacey Act. And any transporting of these prohibited species across states lines becomes problematic. You are allowed to transport them to a veterinarian - but how do you prove that is what you are doing? There is no exemption for licensed exhibitors or educators, they could not transport their prohibited species to an educational event, a school presentation, or to a movie or television job.

The Lacey Act itself covers the following topics - Prohibited Acts, penalties and sanctions, forfeiture, enforcement and administration. In 1981, growing concern about "massive illegal trade in fish and wildlife, their parts and products, and wild plants" promoted Congress to overhaul the Lacey Act to make it a more effective tool for protecting wildlife resources. Today the Act prohibits the import, export, transport, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants in interstate or foreign commerce that were taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of state, tribal, foreign, or U.S. law. As a broad anti-trafficking statute, the Lacey Act remains a key enforcement tool for protecting wildlife in this country and supporting wildlife conservation worldwide.

Presently, if your state laws forbid you to import any of these protected species, you and the person sending you the feline have both broken the Lacey Act and could be charged with such a violation. With this proposed Lacey Act amendment, it doesn't matter if your state has granted you a permit to import these species, it will be federal Lacey Act violation unless you are exempted in the modified Lacey Act

Should H.R. 5226 become law, one cannot help but wonder how far down the road it will be before Senator Miller or another representative, amends this bill further to add additional species to the protected list. There is no doubt this is an attack upon our increasingly limited freedoms and each state's right to govern the activities of it's residents.

All Feline Conservation Federation members should all contact their various representatives and let them know they are against this bill. Points to cover in a letter to your representative are:

Four of the six listed felines are already protected under the Endangered Species Act, the other two feline species; cougar, being a native, or once-native species to most every state in the US, are regulated by most state Game and Fish agencies. And lion, commonly declared a dangerous animal by most state legislatures are almost always regulated, making most of this bill completely redundant and unnecessary.

Rather than amend the Lacey Act, Congress should appropriate more funds to the USDA so this agency can do a better job of enforcing the Animal Welfare Act. More scrutiny of USDA licensed facilities and coordinated information sharing between USDA and the USD1 would do more to apprehend and stop the people who are breaking the law selling endangered species across state lines for pet purposes, then this bill will ever accomplish.

This bill will seriously harm felines in need of relocation or refuge by severely limiting the number of potential placement options to the small handful of facilities which have joined the TAOS and ASA.

FCF members can keep abreast of this bill's progress on <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in H.R. 5226.