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**Feline Conservation Federation**



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To sign up, contact Tracy Wilson,  
FCF list moderator

**Cover photo:** This adorable tiger  
cub was a guest during the Thurs-  
day evening social mixer at the  
Doubletree Hotel in Miami. Doc  
Antle and handlers shared several  
exotics with the FCF members at  
Convention. photo by Mike Friesen

photo right:  
**Maddie  
bobcat  
gives her  
owner Kyle  
Hinze a kiss  
on the lips.**





## Feline Conservation Federation

This magazine is published bi-monthly by the LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation, Inc. d/ b/a as the Feline Conservation Federation. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this publication is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members. The material printed 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'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 magazine may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. We encourage all members to contribute articles. 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. Submission deadline for the next issue is the tenth of odd numbered months. Please submit all photos and articles to the Editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should contact the Term Director in Charge of Member Services.

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## FCF Convention 2005

Tim Stoffel

July had proven quite a trying month for me. The final ‘challenge’ was getting a fairly hefty cold just before traveling for the FCF convention. Budget and time challenges had already made going this year a hit-and-miss proposition. But, a surprise check from some moonlighting I had done gave me enough money to buy the plane ticket. (The ticket price went up \$100 while I was in the process of purchasing it, forcing me to take a less desirable flight.)

By Thursday morning, the cold was well enough under control that traveling was feasible. So, I relaxed and enjoyed the long flight, catching up on some reading I needed to do. The descent into Miami was a bit painful due to the cold, but I was happy and relieved to finally be in Florida.



*You've heard the saying "riding the tiger - well Tim rides the lion."  
photo by Lynn Cuvler*

Getting from the Fort Lauderdale airport to the hotel turned out to be much easier (and less expensive) than I had thought. Soon, I was walking in the front doors of the Doubletree Grand. The hotel got my immediate mark of approval when I saw two big bronze lions flanking the entranceway!

I got to the FCF hospitality suite quite late that evening. I had just missed Doc Antle having a tiger cub and a baby orangutan in the room. The hotel staff was taking away the last remnants of food. But, there were more important things to do, like renew old

acquaintances. And, I talked to friends until everything closed down. In fact, we were there so late that I was lucky to get a hot meal that evening.

Friday morning couldn't have come quickly enough. There was a lot of excitement in the air as we boarded the bus for the Everglades! I had been in the everglades 20 years previously to help build a TV station. This time, I would actually get to enjoy being there!



*Heading out for the river of grass . photo by Tim Stoffel*

Our first stop was a sanctuary called ‘Everglades Outpost’. It was home to a wide variety of animals, including a white



*Beautiful markings that formed swirls and question marks were visible on the Outpost's tiger. photo by Lynn Cuvler*



tiger, a cougar, a binturong, and a few alligators. They also had a lion cub in the facility's gift shop.

The staff of Everglades Outpost put on quite a snake show for us. They had a wide variety of snakes to show to us, including a gaboon viper, and a cobra. The presenter put on quite a show with the cobra, demonstrating that snakes like that could be handled in a spectacular manner by a skilled handler. The snake show

alone was worth the ‘price of admission’.

*the very beautiful and extremely deadly Gaboon viper above*

*Cobra left.*

*Don't try this at home!*

*photos by Phil Parker*



After a quick look around, many of us went inside and proceeded to spend the rest of our time ‘spoiling’ the lion cub. It turns out that this cub was being raised for someone else, as the staff at Everglades Outpost apparently had a lot of experience hand-raising big cats. In any case, the cub was soooooo cute!



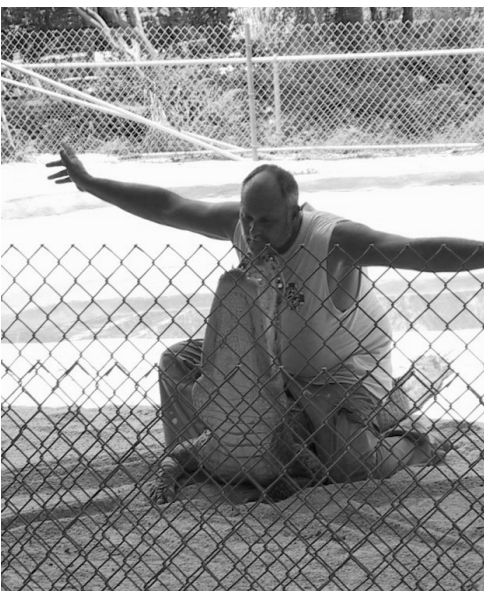
*FCF member Joy Giesinger says “I’ll take one of these lion cubs please”. photo by Tim Stoffel*

We then proceeded to a Florida-style fruit stand, called ‘Robert is here’. The array of fruit they had was utterly amazing! In fact, they were so fruit oriented, it was hard to find a snack for a non-fruit lover like myself. This fruit stand also had a small display of farm animals, including a few emu.

Then, it was on the the Everglades Alligator Farm. When we arrived, we saw a good sign it was going to be a good time. There was a Jaguar right out in front.... that is a Jaguar with a V-12 engine!

We had lunch at the farm’s picnic facility, which consisted of all the pizza you could ever want to eat, and some cold water. (It was very warm and muggy that day, and the water tasted especially good.)

We then toured the alligator farm, more or less on our own.



*Alligator show at the Everglades Alligator farm  
Photo by Mike Friesen*

Although this place does not commercially produce alligators, they could if they wanted to. The main facility was a series of pits, with walls made of cut coral stone. Each pit contained alligators of a certain age. Irrigation systems kept the water fresh (which it never really is around alligators!).

From time to time, different groups of people were taken on airboat rides. This was a lot of fun. At slow speeds, there was plenty of time for wildlife viewing. With appropriate ear protection, the high-speed runs were exhilarating, not to mention a bit wet! Even so, I kept my camera dry, and got some nice pictures.

After the airboat rides, we were treated to an alligator show. The keepers showed us how one goes about working with these downright dangerous animals. It’s really quite simple....if you know what you are doing at all times, and don’t mess up!

There was some time to shop the farm’s gift shop. Due to the hectic pace of the tour that day, this is the only gift shop I was able to really see. I ended up buying an alligator foot back scratcher. As it turns out, this was the only souvenir I ended up buying the whole trip!

Now, it was off to Parrot Jungle Island! It turns out Parrot Jungle was just walking distance from our hotel. This was a place someone had spent a lot of money on. All the facilities were first-rate. (About the only thing I could find wrong was there were no drinking fountains!) As the name implied, there was a heavy emphasis on tropical birds. All sorts of different enclosures were used for the birds, including some, where the birds were right out in the open. You could even hand-feed these birds if you so desired.

But, the thing I really wanted to see was right smack in the center of the facility...the liger pen! The first time I went through, the liger ‘Vulcan’ was taking a big, long drink. After that, he seemed to keep moving around to places where it was hard to get a good photo of him. (Maybe Napoleon Dynamite was right...ligers have some magic about them!) I looked around as much as our break-neck schedule would allow, but kept checking back on the liger, to see if he had moved.

We attended a bird show. At first, I thought this was going to be super-boring. It wasn’t. It was exceptionally well done, and featured a LOT more than parrots! There was not one but two trained vultures, a bird that does not get enough positive attention. The bird that stole the show though, was a cassowary. These are large, flightless birds that are supposedly second only in size to an ostrich. (I think emus are actually bigger.) In any case, this is a really dangerous bird. The cassowary is the closest living bird to the dinosaur, and of all dinosaurs, a velociraptor! This bird could easily rip you wide open, if it wanted to. However, this cassowary was more interested in swallowing whole oranges thrown in the air.. or a grape out of the hands of Amanda Whitlock, an ‘unlucky’ FCF member! *cont. on page 6*



*Photo by Phil Parker*



### **FCF Convention, *cont. from page 5***

Finally, it was time for Doc's show. And, it was worth the wait! I got an excellent seat, and was quite close to many of the cats and other animals. There was an African porcupine and an orangutan in the show. But, it was the big cats that stole the show!

A number of different tigers were brought out, including a cub, a normal orange tiger and two white tigers. The final white tiger was a 'pure white', and was a huge animal. However, the most impressive (not to mention rare) tiger that was brought out was a 'golden tabby'. This extinct-in-the-wild species of tiger is orange with strikingly reddish stripes. It was an utterly beautiful cat.

We were shown both a spotted and a black-phase leopard. They were beautiful cats, and enjoyed playing with each other for us! Then a cougar was brought on stage.

There were no lions in the show. The only lion Doc Antle has is at his facility in South Carolina. This lion, 'Arthur' is 21 years old now, and in Doc Antle's words, one of the few trainable lions he has ever seen.



*Black and spotted leopards at the Wild Encounters show. Photo by Phil Parker*

Last, but not least, we got to see Hercules the liger. Major, awesome cat! (He is as big as our liger Hobbs, but Hobbs has a much more massive head. Hobbs also has a mane, whereas Doc's ligers do not. This is because Doc told us he 'fixes' his ligers.) Doc did his (in my opinion) signature behavior with Hercules, and that was to lightly bite his lower lip. This makes the liger open his mouth. While in this state, Doc grabbed the liger's jowls and pulled them back, revealing the heavy-duty 'butcher shop' that ligers carry in their mouths!

After the presentation was over, Doc 'talked shop' with us for about 45 minutes. What a wonderful experience it was to learn how Doc has handled various problems over the years. Doc was only more than happy to give us good advice on how we can better care for our cats.

Following the show, we had dinner in the Treetop ballroom, a really sizable facility, at Parrot Jungle. Although not the barbecue originally promised, no one objected as the room was air-conditioned! (Few people were used to the heat and humidity.) After a sumptuous buffet dinner, we held the FCF General Membership Meeting.

The membership meeting this year was very upbeat compared with some previous years. This is due in part to big success with the FCF's Playa de Oro project and all the goodwill it had created. In the end, the membership decided that Playa de Oro should get some additional funds to help better protect the reserve from encroachment. The board promised to follow suit if it could (and it did!).

We then returned to the hotel. Those of us not totally exhausted then spent several more hours 'talking cat' and life in general in the hospitality suite.

*continued on page 25*



*Giant hybrid liger proves you never outgrow your need for milk.  
photo by Mike Fries*

## Chance meeting with a Legend

Elizabeth Hatton

This year at convention I had the pleasure of meeting Jeanette Williams. Ms. Williams is an accomplished animal trainer; her handling of cats goes back to 1962. As a matter of fact, her family has a history of working with cats going back to 1932. You may remember her work in Ringling Bros. circus.

We had discussed the impact current regulations have had on both the cats and the people who handle them. Jeanette feels regulations have insured us better access veterinary care, and to be more knowledgeable about enclosures and food for the animals. But the ever tightening noose of regulations is making it increasingly impossible to afford ownership. She notes insurance alone for one traveling act is \$10,000.00 annually. That just covers insurance for the cats, not the trucks and trailers required for transport. The above makes it very difficult to make a business work, thus the decrease in available skilled trainers to teach the next generation. In addition, laws set in place to "protect" species, have made it impossible for her to export white tigers for the purpose of diversifying bloodlines.

For Jeanette, learning how to handle cats was different from current standards. She did not have to seek out her education, she lived it. Growing up in a circus environment, where the animals were a constant part of her daily living, enabled her to wear many hats in connection with the care of animals. From trainer, to Vet, and even surrogate parent to neonates. The sad truth is, we can no longer offer our children the same opportunities. Certainly if we were to have a minor involved in the care and hands-on raising of large cats, SOMEONE would find fault with it. Someone out there would consider it child endangerment, animal abuse ... or both.

So where *does* one go to gain the experience current regulations require? Ms Williams, acknowledging the dwindling availability of experts, suggests volunteering in a sanctuary or zoo that houses neonates. She feels it is important to understand how to first properly raise and care for a cub before moving on to big cats. From there, she suggests seeking out a reputable trainer to work under.

Meeting Ms Williams was a biter sweet experience. While I was thrilled (and humbled) to finally meet the woman who was behind the scenes of my favorite form of entertainment as a child, I had no choice but to face the sad fact: My children will never experience that kind of show. They will never witness first hand the imagination of a child brought to life by skilled trainer. As a matter of fact, MS Williams informs me Ringling Bros. is doing away with the big cat acts all together. Sadder

still, with the current trend in regulations my 14 year old daughter, will undoubtedly have nowhere to go to train when she comes of age. No trainers, no owners, no cats. Lets give a big hand to those who promote animal rights. They are effectively giving animals the right to become extinct.

On a more sincere note, let me say thank you to Ms. Williams, for reminding me where my passion for cats began, and re-igniting my desire to fight for my right to pursue happiness in the form of feline companionship.



*Gloria Johnson, Jeannette Williams and Reva Anderson banquet night. Photo by*

### **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM EVELYN SHAW, FCF LEGAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**

The number of state county and local laws restricting or banning the ownership of exotic pets continues to increase. This November there will be a number of seats open including federal, state, county and local. We must work now to get candidates that are supportive of the ownership of exotics elected. Please contact your candidates and find out how the feel about your exotic friend. You can get a list of open seats and candidates at your local Board of Elections. Please consider donating a little of your time to these campaigns and get to know your candidates. Developing relationships and trust will help if something arises in the future. You will be able to educate them and if the need arises in the future you can ask them for help. This is the key to fighting these types of law.



## FCF Convention - Seen thru the eyes of a newcomer

Laura Walker

Being a newer member, I had the excitement, privilege and pleasure of attending my first FCF convention. I loved every minute of it! Before I even attended, I just loved the idea of it — a gathering of like-minded wildcat lovers! WOW! And the fact that a hotel would be so generous as to let people bring their wildcats with them to share with all of us! WOW! I died and went to heaven even before I attended the convention!

I started with the basic husbandry course. We had an intense 12-hour day. And under normal conditions, you wouldn't have been able to keep me seated for that long, especially with such a cold conference room! (The hotel overdid it on the air-conditioning!) However, Carol Bohning did a great job on presenting and covering all the material she set out to share with us, and we were all brain-dead — including Carol — at the end of the day! Whether you think you know it all or not, and have some experience with wildcats, it is a great seminar to take and you will learn something new.

We all enjoyed the generosity of cat owners who brought their kittens to share with us! I just loved seeing Lynn's little serval and Geoffroy's cat, as well as Gary's Siberian lynx kitten. Adorable! It was the first time for me to be around kittens of these species! What a privilege! WOW!

During the whole convention, I was inspired to be around other real exotic cat lovers. I could tell that people really were dedicated and loved their captive animals as well as their cousins in the wild. I wished that animal rights activists could see this, and see that they have to open their hearts to all kinds of animal lovers and ways of doing things, and see what joy and beauty they are robbing from people as well as from animals and their future on our planet.

I attended all the seminars and found all of them enriching and highly interesting. We learned about all the small cats that need monitoring and research. I personally am so interested in that Andean Mountain cat and the Guigna. (I wish I could get involved with getting some of these in captivity and breeding them, and ensuring a viable gene pool.) Jim Sanderson made a great presentation about small cat conservation and is clearly on a quest to discover more on some neglected small felid species.

Seeing Doc Antle's "Wild Encounters" show, as well as having he and his staff attend our convention room with some of his animals was a real treat. I enjoyed so much talking to the staff about raising different animals and hearing about their jobs as animal trainers and educators. Seeing the liger and the snow white tiger were a highlight for me. I also realized and told Doc Antle that his animals were the FIRST hands-on I had ever had — which was 20 years ago now — here in Massachusetts at the King Richard's Renaissance Faire. And he told me the lion I sat with and petted was Arthur, who he had talked about with us. And I also held and petted a six-month white tiger cub, and fed a bottle to a two-month-old lion cub. I have some Polaroid pictures from it. I didn't realize it was Doc and his animals. That first hands-on experience started to change my life.



*Laura Walker with 14-month old Canadian lynx buddy, Sampson*

I really enjoyed Ron Magill's talk on "The Cheetah Challenge." What a great presentation, photos, and a good animal guy he is! His slide show was fascinating and beautiful, as we saw gorgeous photos of cubs, adults doing all sorts of things, and got an understanding of what dedicated people are doing in the cheetah's homeland of Africa.

Seeing Tracy Wilson's presentation on Playa de Oro also was excellent, full of beautiful photos, a greater understanding for a different culture, lifestyle, and ecology, and to fund a project like this is just marvelous. And I saw and felt the kindred spirits in the room who are willing to invest in wild animals' future.

Hearing Jeanette Williams talk about her life with animals also was very fascinating, and offered a different perspective yet again. And yes, I agree with a lot of what others had said: She needs to write a book!

There's so many things to write about concerning this convention, going out to the Everglades, enjoying the dinner and the auction — J.B. and Reva charmingly, humorously presenting and talking us into paying more for certain items on sale, all for the FCF's fund so that we can spend money on conservation projects, help fight laws that will wreck the private owner's future as well as perhaps the gene pools of wild animals. (J.B. and Reva, were you professional entertainers, auctioneers in a past life? :) (editor's note: both are accomplished thespians in their present life. )

And most importantly, I loved the camaraderie, meeting so many of you, the feeling that I was around real wildcat lovers, and people who cared about all



kinds of animals and want them close to us in our future. I have met some lovely people who I would like to call new friends now and in my future. And your dedication and delight over your animals is validation for my own — and I appreciate that very much also. I cannot wait until next year! I wish we could do this more than once a year! :)

In the meantime, all of you enjoy your cats, the inspiration from kindred spirits stays with me, and I'll see you next year! I am still avidly reading the back issues of FCF magazine I bought from the convention. Thanks for such a memorable event, all of you!

Laura Walker

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There are several levels of membership - Associate, Professional Zooculturist, Public Facility, Non-public Facility and Commerical. Membership fees vary and some levels require sponsorship.

ZAOA web site: [www.zaoa.org](http://www.zaoa.org)

e-mail: [iszn@c2i2.com](mailto:iszn@c2i2.com)

or write: Zoological Association of America  
HC1, Box 747  
Elgin, AZ 85611



*An organization of Zoos and  
Zooculturists supporting conservation,  
propagation & preservation.*

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### My trip to Miami

Rachel Bean

My trip to Miami took fifteen and half hours to get there, but when we first got there it was amazing how fancy it was.

Doc Antle brought two adorable tiger cubs, one orangutan and a binturong. They all were so cute, and what I thought was so funny about the orangutan was he crawled under the table and peeled a piece of gum off the bottom of the table and put it in his mouth! YUCK! Then we found his carrot juice and I got to feed while he was in my arms giving me a hug. I thought he was so cute with the green pants with leopard lining.

The next day was so cool because we got the best fruit and milk shakes in the world, how cool is that? At Everglades Outpost we went to this really cool snake show. I thought the cobra was really cool and long. Then we saw a lion cub, a little bobcat and two housecats. We went to the Everglades Alligator Farm where we saw Alligators and got to feed them, and we also got to feed soft shell turtles and all kinds of other animals and fish. Now lets get to the real fun part - the airboat rides. I was on the first row, the one that gets wet the most! And then we just figured out our driver is the best driver out of all three airboats. He asked us if we wanted a wild ride or a normal ride, of course we said wild ride! Then he started the ride and acted like he ran out of gas, and said, "well folks I guess well be swimming back". My dad asked how deep is it he answered two feet deep, then my dad said he's walking back. Then the boat driver said he was just joking and he got busy with the ride. First he started out really slow and before you knew it you're going really fast and all the sudden he did a three-sixty and that's when water comes flying in the boat. My sister almost fell out on a different one-eighty and a few minutes later he did a three-sixty. He did a lot more one-eighty's and three-sixties. When we got out we were all dripping wet. We went to a show that Bob Freer put together. He did tricks like putting his chin on the Alligator's nose with his hands by his side and the Alligators mouth wide open.

Then he showed this snakeskin about two feet wide and twenty feet long. A plumber found it under a family's house and called Bob Freer to come get it. It died of liver failure a few years later. After that I got to hold a python and a baby alligator and I got my picture made with both of them.

Then we went to Parrot Jungle, where we of course saw parrots and all other sorts of birds and animals. They even had a twenty-foot long Crocodile but I didn't get to see it. Then we went to see a bird show at the Parrot Bowl, and saw a parrot ridding its tricycle on a rope, which is amazing! And also birds flew right over our heads. Some people even had to duck their heads. They had singing birds and talking birds and more. After that we went to a performance that Doc Antle was in. They told you all about animals and had those animals there. My favorite animal in that show was probably Hercules' the liger, and the orangutan. I got my picture made with the orangutan and with one of the tiger cubs and my sisters, the picture turned out really good. My sisters also got their pictures made with birds. My big sister Lauren had two birds on each arm; Kathryn had one on her back and another in her hands. That picture also turned out really cute. After that we went to eat dinner with Doc and some of his keepers.

The next day was Saturday. Heather, Anise, my sisters and I went to the pool and hot tub for about three hours. Then we went to the ballroom and saw the last part of Tracy's speech. She was one of the last few of the speakers. So I just played with Lynn's serval and Geoffroy kittens. After the speakers were finished, we ate dinner and had the auction. I got to help with the auction along with Tracy, Reva, my Mom, and sister. After the auction we talked and talked until almost everyone was gone except Reva, JB and my family. We went to bed really late and slept in the next morning. We got packed and left to go home.

I think the 2005 FCF convention was my favorite out of all the five conventions I've been to. It was really an awesome trip!

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## FCF 2005 CONVENTION BOARD MINUTES

By Harold Epperson

President Robert Turner called the board meeting to order on Thursday morning, July 28<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were Officers Robert Turner, Kevin Chambers, Harold Epperson, Leann Montgomery, JB Anderson, Robert Bean, Lynn Culver and Tracy Wilson. Absent from convention were Officers Evelyn Shaw, Donna Verba and Marcus Cook. Also present were members Mindy Stinner, Pam Hotle, Phil Parker and Jim Sanderson.

Motion by Leann and second by Robert T: MOVE THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THE SECOND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES. The minutes were not read. Eight Yes votes, motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was requested. Harold distributed copies of the first quarter and second quarter reports and copies of the four monetary account statements, dated June 30<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

An update on the KHMSF was requested. Harold reported that the following documents had been filed: (1) The Articles of Dissolution clause of the Articles of Incorporation, amended to list FCF as recipient of the funds, (2) Resolution of Board of Directors, (3) Notice of Intent to Dissolve and (4) Notice to Attorney General. In addition, (1) the Minnesota Resident Agent was changed to Pete Bergerson, (2) the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer were changed to JB Anderson, Robert Turner and Harold Epperson respectively and (3) the Annual Renewal was filed. Dissolution of the corporation is pending acceptance of the Notice To Attorney General by the Secretary of State of Minnesota.

Progress of the Accreditation Program was discussed. Suggestions were presented on ways to instill interest by the members to become accredited. No action was taken.

Motion by Robert T. and second by Kevin: MOVE THAT THE BOARD EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE MONTHS. Eight Yes votes, motion passed.

Lynn presented a progress report of the FCF lawsuit involving the Long Island Ocelot Club Trademark. A motion to compel the Long Island Ocelot Club to answer discover questions was denied by the judge and both parties were given instructions to attempt to continue to gather documents and the judge imposed rules of confidentiality to be followed by both parties. The discovery period ended July 15<sup>th</sup> and the testimony phase of the opposition follows next.

Funding of four conservation projects was presented for review.

1. No action was taken on the request by IUCN, Cat Specialist Group. The date requested for funding had expired.

2. Motion by Leann and second by Harold: MOVE TO GRANT \$750 IN 2005 AND \$750 IN 2006 FOR FIELD STUDIES ON WILDCATS BY NAMDHPA TIGER RESERVE IN INDIA. Eight Yes votes on funding in 2005, motion passed. Funding in 2006 will be dependent on a progress

report by Shekhar Srinivas Kolipaka, principal investigator at Namdhp. 3. Motion by JB and second by Leann: MOVE TO GRANT \$1980 FOR FIELD STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF THE LYNX IN BULGARIA BY THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL NATURE HISTORY MUSEUM. The Lynx is considered extinct in Bulgaria since the early 1940's. Eight No votes, motion failed.

4. Motion by JB and second by Robert T: MOVE TO GRANT FUNDING TO THE ANGEL FUND. Details of the request by Cathryn Hilker's request were not available and she will be notified to submit a completed application. Six No votes, One Yes Vote and One Abstention, motion failed.

Update on the coloring book project was requested. Project has been placed on hold.

Review of the forms and letters that are mailed to the membership was requested. A need to revise this correspondence to be more acceptable to the members and for the line items on the forms to be more uniform. No action was taken.

Motion by Lynn and second by Robert T: MOVE THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT [www.theFCF.org](http://www.theFCF.org) AS THE NEW FCF WEBSITE ADDRESS. Seven Yes votes and One No vote, motion passed. Transfer of the information on the FCF website presently owned by Kate Conner and Jeremy Kahn will be completed if and when it is released to FCF.

Motion by JB and second by Robert T: MOTION THAT FCF REIMBURSE MEMBER IRENE SATTERFIELD FOR COSTS INCURRED WHILE BUILDING THE NEW FCF WEBSITE. Eight Yes votes, motion passed.

Motion by Tracy: MOVE THAT THE BOARD APPROPRIATE \$3600 FOR ONE YEAR TO FUND TWO, 2-MAN PATROLS INTENDED TO PROTECT THE PERIMETER OF PLAYA DE ORO FROM LOGGING COMPANIES AND SQUATTERS. No action was taken. The board recommended that the proposal be presented to the members for their review and input.

The report by Leann on the USF&W Ocelot Recovery Team and FCF Participation was tabled and no definite date for presentation was determined.

Lynn announced that the Stud Book Program would be available to FCF members and non members on the FCF website.

Kevin presented a fund-raising project to sell approximately 1000 tickets in an African Safari raffle. The project was tabled for presentation during the membership meeting to request ideas by the members.

Motion by Robert T. and second by Robert B: MOVE TO REVISE BY-LAW 1.5 TO READ: BOARD MEMBERS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING BY USE OF EITHER CONFERENCE BY PHONE AT THEIR EXPENSE OR INTERNET CONFERENCE PROGRAMS PROVIDED THE BOARD HAS THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE AND ALSO HAS A NON BOARD MEMBER VOLUNTEER TO TRANSCRIBE ALL DIALOG IF THE USE OF INTERNET CONFERENCE IS CHOSEN. The request above was submitted by Donna Verba and added to The Third Quarter Agenda. One Yes vote, Six No votes and One Abstention, motion failed.

Leann announced a need to change the procedure of accepting nominations for award of the Lotty. JB mentioned the procedural changes that he has implemented were necessary due to the lack of response from former recipients. No action was taken.

Motion by Kevin and second by Leann: MOVE TO ADJOURN. Eight Yes votes, motion passed

*Saturday minutes continue next page*

### **BOD Meeting on Saturday, July 31, 2005**

President Robert Turner called a board meeting to order on Saturday, July 30, 2005. The Officers present were Robert Turner, Kevin Chambers, Harold Epperson, Leann Montgomery, JB Anderson, Robert Bean, Lynn Culver and Tracy Wilson.

Motion by Robert B and second by Kevin: MOVE THAT THE FCF CONVENTION BE HELD IN CINCINNATI ON JULY 27, 28 & 29, 2006. Eight Yes votes, motion passed.

A complaint by a Hilton Doubletree Grand employee against an FCF member was presented verbally to Harold. The complaint in writing was requested.

Motion by JB and second by Leann: MOVE TO FUND A BORDER PATROL THROUGH EARTHWAYS. THE COST TO FCF WILL BE \$3600 MINUS RECEIPTS FROM THE RAFFLE OF THE JAGUAR PRINT AND THE SQUEEZE CAGE. Six Yes votes and Two No votes, motion passed.

Motion by JB and second by Robert T: MOVE TO ADJOURN. Eight Yes votes, motion passed.

## **FCF Board approves funds for Playa de Oro Border Patrol**

Dear Tracy,

I am thrilled to learn that the FCF Board of Directors voted to support a border patrol for the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos for one year.

You mentioned in your e-mail that some of the board members think it would be a good idea to call the border patrol "conservation officers." I think that's an excellent idea. It will convey a clear idea to visitors of what their role is, and the men who actually do the job will appreciate being recognized for what they themselves are trying to do.

Something I am not sure your board members understand, or would have any way of knowing, is how very important it is to the Playa de Orans themselves that they protect the 10,000 hectares of forest to which they hold title. It is, after all, the ONLY thing of value they own, and has been theirs for as long as they and their ancestors have existed in Ecuador. They have already turned down countless offers from logging and mining companies, and fought two long years to stop a road from being built in, which would have resulted in incursions from squatters and timber rustlers. Now they are faced with these last two threats on some of their more remote boundaries. They believe (and I think they are right) that the best way to prevent this is to have regular border patrols. That way, if there is an illegal incursion, they can go at once to the authorities and put a stop to it. I understand that they did this once or twice in the past. But there have also been cases, on one of the more remote borders, where they did not discover the incursion until it was too late—which is to say, trees had

already been cut, areas burned, and squatters moved in. They and we want to prevent this from happening again. Thus the need for people to walk the boundary of their territory/our reserve.

In case anyone should ask you why they don't just send out regular patrols on their own, let me explain. You and anyone else who has been to the reserve know how rugged that hike is to the waterfall, right? And that is on a wide, clear trail. There is no trail around the perimeter of the reserve. The land is very rugged, mountainous in part, and dense jungle all the way. It requires at least two weeks of arduous hiking and bushwhacking to circle the boundary, living on fish and small game they catch along the way, sleeping in the rough. It goes without saying that they lack all the modern conveniences that make our camping/hunting/fishing trips so comfortable. In short, it's a damned hard job we are asking these village men to undertake.

So let us say that a pair of village men are willing make this two-week long reconnaissance trip. Who looks after their families while they are away? These people are hunter-gatherers. Each and every day, men, women, and children go into the forest to gather plantains and tropical fruits, to dig yucca root, to fish, and, in short, find the food to feed their family. If the man of the house is away for two weeks, who takes on this chore?

If they are being paid the standard wage of \$5/day to go on patrol, they can either buy food from a neighbor or hire a neighbor to do the hunting gathering for their family. But they do have to be paid. They are no more in a position to do this work for free than an American GI would be in a position to stand on guard for his country for free. The family back home needs to eat, and for that, there needs to be a salary to cover those needs while dad is away. As the community of Playa de Oro is itself almost outside the cash economy, it cannot afford to pay individuals to do this much-needed job. THAT is why the decision made by FCF, to cover the salary of local men hired to patrol the boundary of the reserve, was such a wise decision.

I spoke to Mauro on the phone about a week ago, and notified him of the Board's decision, and asked him to pass it on to the village council. I told him that you would be bringing down the funds when you come in September. If the FCF board thinks it best to send only half the funds at one time, I don't see any problem with that. As we know, whatever amount you take down will be placed in Mauro's capable hands, and he will pay the border patrol salaries just as he now pays the salaries of the reserve's boatmen and other employees, with every cent being accounted for.

Speaking of accounting, I know that on most of your trips down, or perhaps on all of them, you have gone over the reserve's books, as I myself do in order to make regular

*continued on page 20*



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# **THE FREEDOM TO CONNECT:**

## **The Path To Change**

John Williamson and John Burkitt

**THE ANIMAL RIGHTS INDUSTRY** In an earlier essay, *The Freedom To Connect: Divine Rights vs. Conventional Wisdom*, the authors made a lengthy exploration of the nature and science of happiness and how it underpins individual and societal wellbeing. That essay established the link between happiness and connectedness, and how the “Animal Rights Industry” threatens happiness by legislating away our connectedness with other species.

Pressure to end private ownership of exotic animals comes from both animal rights organizations and the politicians that stand to benefit from their support. A pattern has emerged: Animal Rights groups relentlessly play on public misunderstanding and fear, then alternately court and pressure politicians to respond legislatively to appear as dedicated public “protectors.” It’s an old tactic to expel marginal groups without the funds to fight negative perceptions and restrictive measures.

**A NEW PATH** Despite the early momentum of the Animal Rights Industry, there is a way to slow and eventually stop the personal and social losses and animal suffering it spreads. We must integrate recent scientific discoveries into the fabric of our existing legal structure to root out the myths Animal Rightists depend on. We call this strategy “The Path To Change” to emphasize that it’s not a quick fix against self serving politics and raw power plays now arrayed against the private exotic animal ownership.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK** Who could better state the Animal Rights Industry’s legal position than Gary L. Francione, one of its top legal and ethical experts. Here is his case for Animal Rights legislation:

1. Everyone thinks animals should be treated “humanely” and humans shouldn’t cause them “unnecessary” pain. So why do animals enjoy so little legal protection?
2. Building on Tom Regan’s *The Case for Animal Rights*, Francione argues that the major obstacle to effective protection is the treatment of animals as property, denying them rights.

There is a reason why animals are regarded as property under federal and state law—property without rights. Animals are unable to participate fully in the responsibilities that accompany rights. Rights are not free, and animals are unable to comprehend the theory or shoulder the cost of our constitutionally protected freedoms. So why are lawmakers now turning a blind eye to this logic when they write Animal Rights “laws” even as Animal Rights organizations flout the legal system? How can the Animal Rights Industry behave lawlessly, violating its non-profit status, financially supporting eco-terrorists and violent animal liberationists, yet still exercise such profound influence on lawmakers?

Francione complains that in every choice between human desire and animal pain, humans—who grant only themselves legal rights—almost always win. It is always easy to make a case that animal suffering is “necessary”, regardless of the triviality of the human’s gain or the depth of the animal’s loss. Francione argues his case well — including a crucial point: he maintains that there isn’t anything in current “property” based animal law that has the effect of conferring rights on animals anyway. This point is more controversial than some readers may be aware; other writers on this subject (e.g. Gary Varner) have argued that other species do have de facto “rights” under U.S. law and have had them at least since the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

One crucial issue here is “standing.” Animals, being “property”, devoid of rights, do not have “standing” to bring lawsuits, and generally humans don’t have “standing” to bring suits on animals’ behalf. Christopher Stone suggested in a 1972 paper, *Do Trees Have Standing?*, that even natural objects such as trees should have standing, so human organizations could represent their interests in court. So far there hasn’t been a majority on the U.S. Supreme Court to agree with them. Stone himself has since backed off from his suggestion.

Francione (following Regan) bases the possession of rights on intrinsic worth. But neither one of them argues that nonhumans have the same intrinsic worth as humans, and neither has established intrinsic worth as sufficient grounds for rights. There might be creatures whose existence is intrinsically worthwhile but whose survival requirements conflicted so far with our own that they could not be said to have any “rights” with respect to human beings. And in that case, it’s not clear why, or even whether, the intrinsic worth of other species imposes a moral obligation on us.

We believe we can actually help the expressed cause of the AR’s here by establishing that animals, in their connected relationships with humans, most definitely have substantial value, something they have been loath to actually show in any rational way, except in commercial enterprise because they are truly trapped in the conundrums of their irrational ideology. Next, let’s refer to the legal definition of damages and establish an anchor point.

Damages, in legalese, can refer either to the harm suffered by a plaintiff in a civil action, or to monetary compensation awarded for said harm. There are three major types of damages:

Special damages are those for which a specific dollar amount can be determined, such as medical costs or property replacement.



General damages are those for which only a subjective value may be attached, such as physical or emotional pain, loss of companionship, disfigurement, loss of reputation, loss or impairment of mental or physical capacity, or loss of enjoyment of life. (This last example is of particular importance to where we want to go).

Punitive damages are designed to punish the defendant for inflicting loss, and to deter similar losses from being inflicted in the future. Punitive damages are awarded only in special cases, and great judicial restraint is expected to be exercised in their application.

Ill-conceived, hastily enacted ban laws rip asunder the life enhancing bonds of connectedness between human and animal. This clearly inflicts major pain, suffering, and loss upon an individual, and does so in the name of protecting the public from supposed danger and protecting animals from the “pain and suffering” of living in a human habitat rather than facing the challenges of a wild habitat which is unforgiving and quickly falling before human encroachment.

In fact, our laws clearly recognize the value of the human-animal bond, and puts a substantial value on the happiness that arises from such relationships. Animals are even permitted in places where they are usually excluded when the therapeutic nature of the bond is certified by a physician. To further the matter, science strongly supports such values as well.

Driven by the relentless, often mysterious AR agenda to remove most all animals from private ownership, a monstrous wave of ban laws have been — and continue to be — enacted across the country. With false claims and distortions of their danger to the public and maltreatment of such animals, it has become a free-for-all in which unwitting politicians vie for political capital. The results are animals being put to death, or moved to suffer somewhere else, and owners who are forcibly separated from their vital connectedness and source of happiness. Sadly, humans and animals both lose a great deal of their well being on this endless treadmill of abuse driven by the AR industry.

Separating humans and their legally owned, mutually connected animals by unjustified banning is a breach of constitutional law. It is quite unlikely that the AR agenda and the politicians who serve it could survive close scrutiny in a court of law.

**EPIGENETIC EVOLUTION** Much of the strategy used to convert animals into symbols of fear and loathing hinges on the assumption that all “wild” animals are inherently dangerous. This presupposes the very outdated notion that their genes evolved over millennia and aren’t expected to change for another vast period of time just to adapt to sanctuary in a human world. A magnifying glass wielded by modern science now illuminates and dispels the myths of these self serving notions. Animals can indeed adapt to human proximity very quickly and pass this adaptation on to their progeny if the captive dynamics are recognized. They simply do not have to be burdened with the “intrinsic” dangerousness almost desperately proclaimed by the AR industry.

*continued on page 19*



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## 2004 Lotty awarded to Nanette McGann

*The tradition continues with the organization's highest award being presented by last year's Lotty recipient Tracy Wilson, at the Saturday night banquet ceremonies. The coveted gold statue of an ocelot head symbolizes unusual devotion to the cats and the club.*

Hi Everyone ...

The evening of July 30, 2005, was a very special evening for me. I cannot remember ever being more surprised. When Bob Turner called my name as this year's Lotty recipient, I actually looked around to see who else was in the room with my name .... I was definitely at a loss for words. I think I mumbled "thank you." I could not think of a thing to say. I hope I can do a more adequate job here and now.



*Last year's recipient Tracy Wilson presents Nanette McGann her Lotty*

It is an honor and a privilege to receive this year's Lotty. The beginning of my life with exotic cats began more than fifteen years ago. Though I did spend the required 1000 hours for my Class II Felidae License here in Florida, mostly, I learned how to open a can of Zupreme and change a litter box. I did spend some of that time making friends with some adult servals and bottle-feeding some oh so cute baby servals, caracals, cougars and a few primates. I also searched for books to read to increase my knowledge - I never found any. At that time it was my desire was to find a very young serval kitten - preferably before its eyes were open. I wanted the first thing my baby saw to be me.... Then I would raise it "the right way" and it would be the perfect serval companion. I have a feeling I am not the only one who started out this way; with this belief. And in this warm and fuzzy fantasy world, "perfect" meant that this darling baby would have only the most loving personality and absolutely no "bad" habits. You know, perfect litter box habits, and never bite anything except its food, playing only with his or her toys. Never would my darling eat my furniture, carpet, or bedding. She would always be gentle around my friends; never knock crystal off the shelf above the bar, or eat electrical cords, or hide the TV remote, etc. I did use a little common sense; I replaced the lamps in most of my house with

ceiling lights and I added a security door to the front entrance of my house so that there would always be a locked door between my cat and the outside world. I will always be grateful to whomever it was that brought a LIOC newsletter into the pet shop. I read about the upcoming 1990 convention in Las Vegas. I was really thrilled. I was actually going to be able to meet lots of people who shared their lives with exotic cats! I was sure that many of these people had raised babies - now I could get lots of information on how to raise the baby serval I planned on sharing my life.

The 1990 Las Vegas convention was wonderful. Everyone was friendly and helpful and I filled a steno notebook with assorted formulas for raising baby servals, and other information I knew would be helpful with regard to keeping my cat. I remember how fortunate I felt to come home with so many names, addresses and phone numbers of people who had the experience I so hoped would some day be mine. There was one thing that I did think strange and unfortunate. There were actually some people who, for whatever reason, did not get along with other people.... I remember wondering why anyone would spend his or her energy and time on bickering. Certainly within any group of people there would be differences in beliefs and how they did things. But it seemed to me then that the goal of doing the best that could be done for these wonderful animals should create a strong bond between the people here. It seemed strange that some were dwelling on what they disagreed about rather than on all they had in common. I did not give it much thought at the time - my focus was on learning what I could from so many knowledgeable people.

The 1990 convention sent me home with the confidence that I now had new friends who insisted they were willing to help me with any difficulties I might experience while raising my baby serval. Scarlett Bellingham, Lynn Culver, and a bit later Jean Hatfield, were to become sources of huge amounts of knowledge. My gratitude for their time and efforts goes way beyond "Thank You" or any other words I might come up with now.

Through the years the exotic cats that have shared my life - either permanently or temporarily have taught me well. I learn something new from my cats each day. My cats have brought me much joy. I have been thrilled, impressed, proud, and extremely happy all because of my cats. I have also been upset, sad, angry and just plain devastated. I have taken in cats temporarily, helped people get the necessary hours for a Class II license, raised a couple dozen serval babies for friends, and found homes for adult cats in need. Through all of this and more, my FCF friends have been there to share the really good times, and support me during the bad times.

## VISIT FCF'S ONLINE FUNDRAISER STORE!



You can now shop online and purchase FCF logo items for the cat lover in your life! A lot of items would make great presents for any FCF supporter. You'll find various styles of T- Shirts, baseball hats, mugs, mouse pads, clocks, and more—all with the FCF ocelot logo on them. Profits earned from the FCF online store will be used by FCF for special projects for education, conservation, fighting legislation, and other projects that benefit our membership.



Just visit the new FCF web site at **www.thefcf.org** and then click on **Online Store** hyperlink at the top of the FCF home page to the left of the site search feature and it will take you directly to our FCF store front. Select the items you would like to purchase, then follow the instructions on how to purchase.

Through the laughter and the tears the cats have brought us all – it has never been boring! I will always be grateful to FCF and many of its members for helping me acquire the knowledge I needed to offer my cats successful, healthy and happy lives. I have done my best in return to offer whatever help I could to any and all who have asked.

We all have busy lives. Life itself is often not very easy. As a group I would like to believe that we choose to share our lives with exotic cats for the love and joy it brings us. I have often wondered why that connection between us as members of FC is not powerful enough to keep us all working together for all of us who strive to guarantee captive cats will continue to be able to legally share our lives and the lives of any who wish to make the necessary commitment in the future.

We are individuals. We will always have differences of opinion on how to do something - or even if we should do it at all. If I disagree with one or more of you, it does not make any of us a bad person. It does not make either of us right or wrong. Disagreements and differences of opinion can often produce a solution that is better than it would have been had it not been discussed. Our world is getting tougher to live in. Many states have made our lives with our cherished cats illegal; more are trying to do so. It may be that a federal ban is not far behind. I know it has been said before that we need to work together. If we continue to take a difference of opinion as a personal slap in the face we will continue to fragment and go our separate ways and in the long run both our cats and our individual lives will suffer. A change in perspective could allow our differences to make us stronger. There are a finite number of hours in each day and each of us have only so much time and energy. I really hope that each of us uses the time and

energy we allocate to FCF, its members, and its cats to help and support each other. My life and the lives of mycats are better because of FCF and its members. I am now and will be forever grateful for this gift.

It saddens me that the day might come when I won't have to do laundry at 3:00 a.m. because I won't have a Kira to pee on my quilt; that I will not have to make a dental appointment for a crown replacement because there will be no Snuggles to get carried away with his head butts; or that there will be no Tica to search everywhere for her favorite snack - plastic bags! Our cats are a serious commitment and the life style change that this demands is not for everyone. Without our serious and positive efforts I am afraid that soon it will not be allowed for ANYONE.

With heartfelt thanks, the highest hopes and a few prayers, I wish you all the very best.

Nanette McGann

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## ***Feelin' the Fur – a “Joy”ous Occasion***

Joy Geisinger

I am still in awe of my experience with exotic cats last Thursday...I walked into the hospitality room, and the first thing I saw was this striking Siberian Lynx kitten in a cage. I was looking for a place for two at any table so that I could claim it for my husband and myself when I saw Lynn holding Miss Charity, her Geoffroy's kitten, so I immediately walked in her direction without asking for a Siberian Lynx “fix” from young Romeo.



*Carol Bohning holds Romeo.  
photo by Mike Friese*

When I found a table and “marked my territory” with my drink, I approached Romeo and was distracted again by a line forming for food. I got in line and listened to Romeo complain about his fare in life, asking repeatedly to be released from his cage – he was not happy. Such an articulate loverboy! Then Doc Antle walked in with his tiger cubs, and I developed tunnel vision.

Within the hour, young Romeo had gone upstairs for the night, but I was able to play with not only Lynn Culver's darling Geoffrey's kitten and Serval kitten, and I actually got my hands on TWO (not one, but TWO) real tiger cubs! Great Googly Moogley! The hair still stands up on my arms as I remember the experience. I suspect that less than .1% of



*Joy Geisinger pets young tiger. photo by Mike Friese*

all humans ever get to touch a tiger, and now I am one of them. This delightful experience is deeply embedded into my memory for the rest of my life – I will never forget it. However, I am sooooo glad that Phil and my sweet husband snapped some

photos for me. I was in sensory overload from feline “fixes.” Life is good!

And the bearcat – Holey Moley – What a bizarre varmint! And that darling orangutan...all of the charm of any comical two-year-old child. What FUN! But those delightful tiger cubs! I would never know how coarse their fur feels, or the way kewl sounds they make, if not for Thursday evening. They displayed the dispositions of little children, verbally grouching about not being allowed to wander around the hospitality suite at will. How envious I am of the few individuals whose laps attracted these kittens. What a joy they were to me and everyone else as well. They were far too sweet – I daresay I could just eat them up if I had a little tiger gravy!

Later that evening I watched as Miss Charity stalked and captured a chirping bird toy. Yes, my housecats have always loved the stalking and capture of a bird toy, but this tiny kitten was merely 12 weeks old a



*Charity geoffroy tackles twittering bird. photo by Phil Parker*

and was desperately trying to capture this bird toy for sustenance – she was ready to eat that guy! I was amazed as I watched this kitten support her own weight as she hung onto this “flying” bird toy with her teeth and claws for what seemed to be an eternity. It's a jungle in there...

I will never be able to express adequately my thanks to Doc Antle for making this experience a reality for me. His staff was very attentive and alert throughout the evening to ensure our safety. I am certain I speak for my fellow FCF members when I state that the good doctor's hospitality made our experience Friday afternoon at Parrot Jungle Island unforgettable as well.

I cannot say enough good things about this entire convention – kudos to the convention committee. We had non-stop activities going on every day – I'm going to be resting up for a week to recover from this vacation trip. Thank you for making this happen for us!

This was my first FCF Convention, but it will NOT be my last. I learned a tremendous wealth of information from the Husbandry Course – I hope to use it someday by being owned by a Caracal. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity to meet so many wonderful people of like minds. No, we are NOT crazy, just a bit eccentric in our love for these beautiful big cats.

## THE FREEDOM TO CONNECT, *continued from page 15*

The process of adaptation and subsequent incorporation of those changes into their genetic line is a collection of processes that modify the expressions of the genome without modifying the genes themselves. It's called epigenetic evolution. The many recent discoveries in this field are even now reshaping society's basic views of evolution to expand the classical models of both Lamarck and Darwin – who are both right and wrong. Epigenetic evolution portends a major impact on many of our cherished institutions, including law, infant rearing, education, animal husbandry, social behavior, religion, politics and the like.

Some important and well-understood epigenetic mechanisms include:

- DNA methylation – pathogenic loss of gene function by methylation of adjacent control sequences;
- changes in chromatin configuration – chromosomal rearrangements can up-regulate or silence expression of an intact gene;
- imprinting – gene expression is controlled by methylation patterns that differ according to the parental origin of the gene; and
- changes in protein conformation – such changes propagate through a population of protein molecules, converting them from a stable conformation into a new form with different properties.

**OTHER INSIGHTS** Then there is brain neurochemistry, far more complex than simple protein modulation. Noted neuropsychologist James Prescott, Ph.D. tells us that the whole answer will not be found solely in brain neurochemistry, which is only a mediating mechanism for behavior where the “cause” is not to be found in any singular neurochemical but in the complex mosaic, pattern or gestalt of brain neurochemistry that is determined more by the environment than by the genome. Gene expression is thus controlled and regulated by the environment! The environment in this sense includes the physical realm, the nurturing emotional and psychological space, and significantly, the fetal space.

The myth that organisms are hardwired by their genes has been thoroughly exploded by scientific findings accumulating since the mid 1970s and especially so since genome sequences have been accumulating. Maternal effects on the development of offspring are well known. But they were thought to be due to nutritional and physiological factors affecting the fetus in the womb; and within the past few years, geneticists have discovered that diet and stress can profoundly change the pattern of gene expression in the offspring.

Caring mothers reduce stress response. For example, in the nest, the mother rat licks and grooms her pups, and while nursing, arches her back to groom and lick them. Some mothers (high caring) tend to do this more frequently than others (low caring). As adults, the offspring of high caring mothers are less fearful and show more modest responses to stress in the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) neuro-endocrine pathway.

Maternal behavior, therefore, alters the development of the HPA responses to stress. The magnitude of the HPA response is a function of the corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) secreted by the hypothalamus, which activates the pituitary-adrenal system. This is modulated by glucocorticoid, which feeds back to inhibit CRF synthesis and secretion, thus dampening the HPA responses to stress.

They found highly significant differences in methylation, with low methylation in offspring from high caring mothers and high methylation in offspring from low caring mothers, corresponding to high and low expression respectively of the GR. Moreover, these epigenetic differences due to maternal behavior during the first week of life persisted into adulthood.

Amazingly, the pups of both high and low-caring mothers start out life genetically the same. Just before birth, the entire region of the GR promoter was unmethylated in both groups; and day one after birth, methylation is found in the region in both groups to the same extent.

The changes in methylation pattern then develops within the first week according to the behavior of the mother, and thereafter remain for the rest of their lives. This finding is consistent with earlier studies showing that the first week of postnatal life is a “critical period” for the effects of early experiences on hippocampus GR expression.

This is all grist to the mill, of course, of the fluid, adaptive, and adaptable genome that makes nonsense of the Central Dogma of immutable genetics and associated behavior.

A Tiger can become less dangerous in one generation by exposure to optimum environmental influences — and pass this on to the next generation. On the other hand, by raising that offspring in a horrid environment, it can be made to develop into a mean and nasty animal. It also means that a sweet captive raised Tiger is far less likely to survive an introduction to the wild. Especially if there is no longer any easy prey with suicidal tendencies around... Politics anyone?

Having recently completed the sequencing of a number of genomes of scientific interest, including the human genome, it has become clear that the more complex an organism, the bigger its genome. However, it is also evident that increased bio-complexity is not reflected by an equivalent increase in the number of protein coding genes in each genome, with, for example, 15,000 in a fly compared with only 40,000 in a human.

This suggests that the DNA sequence itself is not the only source of heritable information, and that mechanisms other than DNA sequence information have been adopted during evolution. The discovery of epigenetic mechanisms that considerably extend the information potential of the genetic code mean that we and other creatures are more than the sum of unchanging genes.

*continued on page 22*

## FCF Supports Playa de Oro Border Patrol, *cont. from page 12*

reports to Earthways. But are other FCF board members who have gone down, or who might go down in the future, aware that the books are open to them as well; that all they have to do is ask to see them? This transparency was established at the outset, an understanding that the reserve's books are open, on demand, to all donors as well as to the village council. This has never presented any problem; in fact, Mauro takes pride in showing it off to people. No one yet has failed to be impressed. I taught him the double-entry bookkeeping system myself, and can honestly say that he is now better at it than I ever was (perhaps because he actually likes accounting and I don't!) He also keeps back-up receipts in meticulous order. You could ask him, for example, "Mauro, what donations have come in through FCF to date, and what were they used for?" He would disappear into his room, and a short time later, appear with a neatly hand-printed list detailing every dime. You could then say, "I see here that you were given \$5000 for a new boat motor, but the motor only cost \$4550. What did you do with the rest of it?" Again he would disappear into his room, and soon return with receipts showing exactly where the remaining \$450 went. What I am saying, Tracy, is that any board member or individual FCF donor who wishes to go over the reserve's accounts and see how money was spent is welcome to do so—or can ask you to do so and bring back any particular piece of information they want.

Oh, one other thing you mentioned was the possibility that the border patrol guys, or "conservation officers" might also give conservation pep talks to children in the local school, or something like that. Actually, the best people to perform this task would be the teacher whose \$100/month salary, as you know, is being covered by private donations from Earthways and FCF members.

What I would recommend is that anytime you or I are taking in a group who includes someone who is fluent in Spanish, that that person prepares a one-hour presentation on conservation for the local school, perhaps bringing along books, coloring books, posters, or whatever they can lay hands on to leave with the teacher—and ask her to do similar lectures to the class on a more or less regular basis. Meanwhile, what we could ask our "conservation officers" to do is to make a report at the end of each trek to the General Assembly (whole community) about what they saw, not merely any possible threats to their territory, but also what they observed in terms of wildlife. I think this would be a very good way to keep the community informed and focused on conservation.

Well, that's about all I can think of in terms of things members of the board, especially those who have not yet visited the reserve (but soon, I hope!) might want to know regarding this new conservation effort FCF has decided to support. I will of course write the board members a formal letter of appreciation once we have the funds in hand—as I am sure Mauro and/or the village council will do.

For the cats,  
Rosa

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## THE FREEDOM TO CONNECT, *con. from page 19*

**LOVE AND CONNECTION** Not so surprising, some new findings have come along at a fortuitous time. Lowell Getz, research scientist, says love is found in the genes. Altering the expression of a single gene, for example, can switch mouse-like voles from a promiscuous to a monogamous lifestyle. Neuroscientists today are peering into the brain to understand the drive of romantic love, and they are finding evidence backing a 19th-century philosopher's observation: Love has a striking neural kinship with drug addiction.

As they probe love's neurochemistry, researchers are also finding that its neural substrates are conserved among species. "Human romantic love evolved from the same brain system that mediates attraction in animals," says Helen Fisher, a research professor of anthropology at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is one of several scientists who say that **animals experience love**. Almost any caring animal owner would wholeheartedly agree.

**IN CONCLUSION** There is no legal precedent to support the AR Industry's drive to arbitrarily, in wholesale fashion,

eliminate private ownership of animals by creating blanket ban laws, especially through fraud and misinformation designed to influence both the public and their elected officials. However, there are many reasons they should pursue rational policing of violations of animal welfare if they choose.

There is no foundation to support the AR Industry's continued reliance on the critical myth of "intrinsic" or extreme dangerousness of broad classes of animals, especially in ways designed to mislead and excite the public and thus lawmakers. For this activity alone, several AR organizations should have their non-profit status revoked.

There is every reason for government and community to support the tireless efforts of private owners of animals to provide sanctuary, maintenance and dispersion of their gene pool. And to promote the reality that animals are a critical part of nature and, by extension, human happiness, and thus have high value both in law and the very serious issues our entire planet faces. The love of a Tiger can fill the emptiness of many people as well as bring great integrity. Before any of this is made moot, we should stand up to the plate and face the emptiness and hatred of the growing AR industry.

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Oct. 13 fee increases to \$110)

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Veneta, OR 97487.

**For other info call Jessi at (541)  
935-5457 or email**

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Have you ever dreamed of being awakened from a night of peaceful rest by the sounds of primordial Africa or being lulled to sleep by the roar of free ranging lions? Well, thanks to the FCF, two lucky people will have the opportunity to experience just that, and all for the cost of a \$10 raffle ticket!

The FCF is proud to announce that we are sponsoring a raffle for international airfare and a six-day and six-night African Safari for 2 people in South Africa at the Zulu Nyala Properties, valued at almost \$7000!



We all win with this FCF fundraiser. The cats win because net proceeds are for the FCF Conservation fund to help wild

cats. The FCF wins because helping cats is what we are all about. The members win

because this donation drive will free up more FCF general funds for use on membership benefits. FCF members who raise donations towards our Conservation Fund by

selling Safari raffle tickets win prizes for their efforts. **And two lucky people will win an international flight and a six-day African Safari.**



## Here's what's included:

Six days and six nights accommodation for two people (double occupancy) at either Zulu Nyala Game Lodge, Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge, or Zulu Nyala Nyati/ Ndlovu Lodge including three full meals per day prepared by the finest international chefs - with an African flavor, of course, and

two game viewing activities per day guided by professional game rangers in open game viewing vehicles. International airfare for the winner and guest aboard South African Airlines is also included in the grand prize package



Zulu Nyala was the setting for the filming of the recent motion picture, "I Dreamed of Africa". This section of paradise is home to a wide variety of game from majestic elephant, rhino, buffalo and stealthy predators to abundant

plains game and a wealth of bird life. All of the facilities are of superior quality and are rated at 4 or 5-star. Zulu Nyala's website can be seen at [www.zulunyala.com](http://www.zulunyala.com).



**Raffle Details  
and Prize  
Information  
next page**





photos on page 23 from [www.zulunyala.com](http://www.zulunyala.com)

### **EVERYONE CAN BE A WINNER IN THE FCF AFRICAN SAFARI RAFFLE**

Here's the best part, even if you do not win the trip, you may still earn prizes. To start with, the FCF member selling the most raffle tickets will receive a gift certificate for the 2006 FCF Convention registration fee and 3 nights stay in the Convention hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio! That's around a \$370 value! And for every 10 raffle tickets sold by an FCF member, a raffle ticket will be filled out and entered in the FCF member's name. One thing is for sure, the more tickets you sell, the better chance you have to win an African Safari!

#### **Winning Ticket to be drawn February 12, 2006**

The last date to purchase tickets will be February 1, 2006 and the drawing for the winner will be held February 12, 2006. The winner has one year from the drawing to select a date for the Safari. The Safari is transferable, the winner may sell or donate the grand prize to another person if they wish.

### **RAFFLE TICKETS ARE IN THIS ISSUE**

In this issue of the FCF magazine are an insert with the full details of the raffle, and four raffle tickets. You may make photocopies of these tickets and sell them to friends and associates, or fill them out for yourself. All FCF members are encouraged to make as many photocopies of these tickets as needed. Additional raffle tickets can also be received by mailing a request to: FCF Raffle 3310 Remington Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227 or downloading raffle tickets from our FCF web site at [www.thefcf.org](http://www.thefcf.org). The tickets are in two parts, with the left side to be mailed to FCF and the right side is for the donor. Tickets have a place to write your name so that you get credit for the number of tickets you sell and a complimentary ticket will be entered in your name for each 10 tickets sold by you. All you need do is send the left half of the ticket along with the money collected to the address on the ticket. Ticket entries must be post marked on or before February 1, 2006.

#### **Enter Often and WIN!**

Anyone 18 or older may enter this raffle. Raffle tickets for the African Safari Raffle are available on the Internet at the FCF website [www.thefcf.org](http://www.thefcf.org) and can be purchased on-line using PayPal or raffle tickets can be printed out and mailed in with a check, or purchased direct from FCF members.

### **JULY 2005 MEFES MEETING MINUTES**

Patty Turner

The July meeting was held at The Fun Spot Amusement Park and Zoo in Angola, IN on July 16th.

Twenty-one members and guests attended on this very rainy, hot and humid day.

President Pam Hotle started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves.

The question was brought up by Harold Epperson concerning MEFES paying for the meat item at each meeting instead of the host paying each time. Also should MEFES pay for the rental of a facility to hold a meeting should it be necessary to rent. The question was then asked if there should be a maximum amount to be paid out. The amount of \$50.00 was decided on. This was voted yes by all attending members. This new plan will not take affect until published in the next newsletter.

Bob Turner spoke of member Jim O'Brian's sudden passing away. Jim and Rita didn't own cats, but he was always ready to help in any way he could. The cats and we have lost a very good friend.

Harold reported on the workday 3 weeks earlier at Anna Horton's in Tell City. Pam Hotle, Phil Parker, Kevin Chambers and Harold all did what they could with what they had to work with to keep Anna, the cats, and the public safe.

Harold mentioned that Phil Parker drives over from Fithian, IL. Almost every weekend to work at Joe Taft's facility in Center Point, IN. and has done so for the last 3 years. Phil does his part to help preserve the cats. Phil thanked Harold for the kind words, but said its all for the cats.

Mary Oatess said more people would have liked to help at Anna's, but couldn't for one reason or another. She said that it shows MEFES's love and dedication for the cats.

Bob Turner put the last newsletter together, and Chris Worley printed it. Chris has volunteered to do the next one as well. Anyone wishing to send him articles can email them to him. Pam will send a note to everyone with his email before the next newsletter is due.

Harold gave the Treasury Report. The balance on July 16<sup>th</sup> was \$1,569.46 and the previous balance on April 16<sup>th</sup> was \$1,512.69. WE received \$120.00 in dues including a \$10.00 donation from J.B. and Reva Anderson. Expenses of \$63.23 was reported but the printing cost of the newsletter was not available.

Lisa Merrilees volunteered to host the October 2005 meeting and cats are welcome. Mary Oatess, Pam Hotle's mother, volunteered for the January 2006 meeting. Steven & Rita Kemerly will host the July, 2006 meeting at their lakeside home and cats are welcome.

Peggy Epperson motioned to adjourn, and Phil Parker seconded.

### **FCF has a new domain name!**

#### **Visit us at [www.thefcf.org](http://www.thefcf.org)**

**Or you can still find us at our other addresses:**

**[www.lioc.org](http://www.lioc.org) & [www.felineconservation.org](http://www.felineconservation.org)**

You will find legislation information, like state law summaries and agency contact info. And don't miss the expanded section on husbandry that includes selected articles on felines, medical and husbandry from past editions of our bi-monthly publication. Our exclusive FCF Members-only section with forums and FCF announcements will be running soon!

## FCF Convention *continued from page 6*

Saturday morning arrived too soon. Many of us were quite tired from the adventures of the previous day. We had breakfast, and then settled in for 'lecture day'. This year, we had an especially fine group of presentations. There wasn't a single one that wasn't interesting!

The first presentation was from Ron Magill of the Miami Zoo. He related his story on how he started a cheetah 'ambassador animal' program at the Miami Zoo. This program had its moments, as Mr. Magill had to go about obtaining his cheetah on his own against the wishes of the AZA. But was the program successful? Well, it inspired twelve similar programs across the country!

Dr. Mary Moore of USDA did a very informative talk on USDA policies and licensing. USDA presentations are always highlights at any convention I have been to, as these people really do want to help.

Jeanette Williams, sister of the famous animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams, did a very interesting presentation on what it is like to work with animals in a circus setting. Far from the 'cruel confinement' the animal right people claim circuses are, these people live and sleep when necessary, with their animals. This was a truly fascinating and refreshing look at circuses from the inside out! Mrs. Williams was also instrumental in getting a white lion breeding program started in Europe!

After lunch, we heard from Gary Lynch of Mazuri Feeds. He did a program that looked at the importance of a proper diet for our cats. He showed us where it was appropriate (and inappropriate) to use either a 'dry' or 'wet' diet. The importance of some micronutrients was also extensively discussed.

The final presentation was from Tracy Wilson, concerning the ongoing work at the Playa de Oro reserve in Ecuador. This eventually turned into a discussion, as we worked through how some things could be improved. In any case, one got a real appreciation as to just how special Playa de Oro is, both to the FCF and to the people living there.

The 'lecture day' ended surprisingly early, as a couple of speakers canceled out. The rest of the afternoon was spent talking with new and old friends. One especially valuable discussion was with one of Doc Antle's employees. (Doc was there as well.) We talked about different aspects of working with cats for at least an hour and a half.

After that, it was up to the room for a quick shower. I then donned my new kilt (Thanks, Max of Project Noah!) and went down to the banquet.

The buffet dinner featured some form of fish, chicken and beef. Despite not being a big fish person, the fish was the only meat I went back for a second helping of. It was really, really good! (I guess you should expect that at an oceanfront hotel!)

Doc Antle and one member of his staff (the one we had talked at length to earlier) stayed for the dinner and the auction. Doc bought a few items, and (apparently) also made a nice donation to FCF.

The various awards were announced, and then the auction began! This year, I did not have a lot of money to spend, so I concentrated on just a couple of items, and got one of them. The auction this year seemed more focused than last years, which helped keep the interest up to the very end.

After the auction, many of us had to say 'good bye' to friends old and new. Unlike previous years, there was no Sunday activities, so this was it. It was hard to believe that the convention was over so quickly!

The next morning, I was up early to catch my flight. It was time to return to the 'real world'. The cold was still bothering me, but I found a mechanical device that helped protect my ears. (My ears are still suffering after effects of the flights a week later!)

Wouldn't you know as soon as I got back, I had to go into work and take care of a technical problem. But, I got out of there early enough to get to the zoo and do some chores! In fact, I ended up staying there until dusk, as there were some extra things we needed to do with the cats. (Of course, I told Hobbs that he was still the greatest liger!)

So, how would I rate this trip? For as short as it was, it was excellent. It will be hard to improve on this years' FCF. But, it sounds like they just might. Next year, we return to Cincinnati to visit Cathryn Hilker and her wonderful cheetahs. As good as this was last time, it should be even better this time!



*Tim Stoffel dressed in new Scottish kilt for the banquet*



*Auctioneer JB Anderson has fun while he raises funds for FCF.  
photo by Tim Stoffel*



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## ***Letter from the President***

By Robert Turner

Greetings Fellow Members

We just had a record-breaking convention at Miami this year. We had 119 attendees, which surpassed last year's record of just over 100 attendees at the 2004 convention held in Cincinnati. 23 states and Canada were represented at Miami this year. I want to thank all the members who attended this year's convention and I'm sure they had a great time. It was a non-stop three days with all the activities that the convention committee had set up for us. Big thank you goes out to convention committee chairman, Bobby Bean and the rest of the convention staff.

We had (19) students taking the husbandry course, which I feel was a good turnout. Many thanks to Carol Bohning for teaching the course and all of you that have had Carol as an instructor knows she is an excellent instructor.

I wish to thank the (22) Corporate Sponsor and Supporters of the 2005 FCF Convention and fund-raiser auction. They are listed in the newsletter and please remember these vendors when you make your feline-related purchases. With out the corporate support, the convention would not be as successful as it is.

Also want to thank all the great guest speakers that we had the honor to hear Thursday night and Saturday.

Those of you, who were unable to attend this year's convention, should make plans for next year. The 2006 convention will be July 27-29 in Cincinnati. Cathryn Hilker has invited us back to experience another running of the cheetahs that you heard about from those who were fortunate enough to see the cheetahs run couple of years ago. I look forward to another attendance breaking record next year.

As for the new FCF Exotic Feline Facility Accreditation program, I encourage all FCF members – pets to exhibitors to apply for this high standard FCF Exotic Feline Facility Accreditation. FCF Exotic Feline Facility Accreditation provides a "Seal of Approval" that the owner meets or exceeds the high standards and is qualified to provide a safe and productive environment for exotic cats. It's been out there a year now and we all need to take the time to consider applying.

Kevin Chambers came up with a great African Safari fund raising project that we all will be asked to sell tickets for. It should not be a hard sell as we have an excellent African Safari package that is covered in the newsletter.

Happy to announce that FCF is continuing to provide funds for Playa de Oro Reserve in Ecuador. The FCF Board approved \$3600.00 for the reserve border patrol. Big than you to Tracy Wilson for all her work on this project.

Big Big Big thank you goes out to Lynn Culver for jumping in and getting the excellent newsletter out while our newsletter Editor is recovering from the extra work of receiving some new cats. I do not know how Lynn can find the energy and time to do all the work she does for FCF.

FCF just recently had two FCF Board members, Leann Montgomery our Education/Conservation Director and Donna Verba our Membership Services Director turn in their resignations to the FCF Board. I have enjoyed working with Leann and Donna and will miss their service to FCF. Hope in the future they will consider running for an FCF board position again. I know Leann wants to devote more time to the Ocelot Recovery Program and Donna with her facility. They both plan to stay active and support FCF. Being an Officer or Director is hard work and time consuming but also can be rewarding.

The FCF board has appointed Carol Bohning to fill the rest of the vacant Education / Conservation director's term of office. Carol has taught the FCF Husbandry many times and is ideally suited for the position. Providing and running the Husbandry Course is part of the duties of the conservation/Education Director. Couple of years ago, Carol was the FCF Advertising/Publicity Director, so Carol is not new to being on the board.

Any member who has good computer skills and would be interested filling the rest of the FCF Member Service Director position, please submit your name to me or any board member for consideration. Member services is a challenging position, and is rewarding and interesting too because you are often the first contact a new member has with this organization..

Lets all that have the cats, be the best owners possible and be safe not only with the cats, but also on the roads and highways. The roads and highways is where the danger is. Look forward to serving FCF as your President for another (16) months.

### **Member Services Director Position Open**

FCF Board of Directors is accepting applications for Director of Member Services. This is a vitally important position on the FCF team. Member Services keeps the membership database and cat census updated.

We are looking for an outgoing and friendly member who has computer skills and Internet access and has time to devote to FCF members. Duties also include answering e-mail inquires from our FCF Web site visitors and mailing out new member packages.

Member Service duties are being completely overhauled and are now largely automatic, leaving more time to visit with our FCF members and give them the warm welcome they deserve. Member Services Director must also participate in on-line Board of Director Meetings and attend the annual Convention Meeting. If this sounds like you - please don't hesitate to send any BOD member a letter outlining your interest and skills. Thank you.

## Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership

### *What does this mean?*

Sara Comstock

Due to a number of recent events published in the media, I feel compelled to remind every exotic animal owner to know your laws and regulations governing the exotics you own. Your exotic animal relies on you to keep them safe and healthy.

A few things to consider: ESA – The Endangered Species Act is a congressional act, protecting wildlife and their habitat. The ESA establishes a prohibition against the commercialization of endangered wildlife, except under very strict circumstances that aid the survival of the species in the wild, such as teaching thru educational programs, or breeding to sustain their captive populations.

In order to engage in any interstate commerce with endangered species, one must first obtain permission from the F & W Service. Some of the cats covered under the endangered species act include African & Asian leopards, clouded and snow leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, tigers and ocelots. Two native American endangered felines, ocelot and jaguar, require even more steps to obtain F & W permission for commerce.

Illegal ownership= irresponsibility, as well as potential harm to your animals, to you, and to your creditability.

Responsible ownership requires that you know your regulations; local, state and federal.

Remember - *animals rely on us for nutrition, safety, enrichment, health and interaction*

From the eyes of a rescue and relocate organization, “Put the rescues groups and the sanctuaries out of business, and help make confiscations a thing of the past. Please make sure you are completely legal with **all** requirements to possess, federal, state, county, and city.”

In the past year, a very high profile case went to federal court. At one time 55 charges were pending, and 9 people and their animals were at risk. Some violations of the Lacey Act are felonies, punishable by fines and imprisonment. Don’t take chances. In this case some of the defendants chose to work for the government and turn other people in, in return for leniency for their crimes. Ironically, it is often the guiltiest of parties that take this path.

This past year, the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Indiana has been called by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to pick up illegally purchased leopards in Ohio and New York, as well as ocelots.

The ocelot community was dealt a crushing blow this past spring when national media coverage and a copy of the

search warrant were splashed over the Internet. F & W was quoted as saying, “ocelots were prized in the underground pet market”; and “sales of these felines contributes to smuggling of the species from the wild.” Statements such as these hurt us all. F & W relied heavily upon informant statements to gain a judge’s approval for a search warrant to gather corroborating evidence.

The real tragedy is that these ocelots were neither being abused nor neglected. They were receiving excellent care by their owner and the quality of their habitat was reduced by the seizure actions of the government and the placing of them in a sanctuary, according to the facility director that received these animals. Sadly, it appears this might expand into another F & W dragnet, with a goal to seize even more cats from private hands. Ocelot owners in the US are receiving phone calls and visits from F & W officers.

Just last month 2 clouded leopards and 2 tiger cubs were confiscated in Oklahoma, a result of an F & W sting operation. According to newspapers, an informant in the Kraft case introduced the Texas seller to the F & W agent posing as a buyer, who then busted him in Oklahoma. Charges against the seller were later dropped in District court, however the felines still remain under seizure at the Tulsa Zoo.

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Whistle blowers - There can be, and most likely will be, repercussions to the whistle blowers, especially those who have falsely accused or misinterpreted statements being made privately and/or on open Internet e-lists.

What is the whistle blowers interest? If it is not to protect the life of the feline in imminent danger, or the safety of the public – shame on them.

Everyone must realize the government has tremendous resources and information-gathering ability. Big brother is watching and so are members of the feline community. You cannot expect to hide illegal activity. It puts everyone at risk, and most important, it places your exotic animals at risk. Remember, they rely upon *you* for their safety.

Unlike the prosecutors who seem to be following the course of action that leads to splashy headlines and career advancement, we who are truly concerned about animal welfare insist on asking the question – “What happened to the cats?”

We can all imagine the heartache of what the felines must feel during the actions of a confiscation. I hope every whistle blower, or every person who takes a part in the actions of a confiscation, cannot rest due to the eyes of the scared and helpless feline, not knowing where they are going, and why this is being done to them.

A good owner works to educate those who are headed down the wrong path – to turn their feet towards safety and out of harm's way. The FCF is an organization that has traditionally relied upon trust to help reach those who hold wildlife outside their local or state or federal restrictions. The FCF must continue to move forward with its education programs to enlighten and to educate owners and legislators. Most importantly, to reach those who need help the most, FCF must not scare people away with fear they will be turned in to the authorities.

Only in serious and proven situations where a feline's life or health is in imminent danger, or to protect the public from possible harm as in the case of a known escape of a dangerous animal, should anyone consider going down the path of turning in others.

The cat's uncertainty and not knowing what their future will be, and their natural apprehension of strangers can result in illness or even death to the feline. Turning an exotic owner in to the authorities casts a bad light on the cat community, and it begins a chain reaction of people turning on each other in retaliation to the initial act. I beg you, please, think of the feline first. FCF members must help problem owners, educate them, and offer their hands-on experience.

From the eyes of a rescued/relocated serval named, Isis: “It's no wonder I'm so ferocious! I have been ripped away from the only home I've ever known, I've lost my entire family. Oh my God! No! I've been forsaken! I'm so scared, heartbroken and lonely. Why is this happening to me? I'm only eleven months old.

What did I ever do to be treated like this? All I ever did was love my family, where are they? How could *they* let this happen to me? This would never happen if humans would just make a responsible *lifetime* commitment to us, before they make us a part of their lives. That commitment involves learning and understanding our nature, meeting our emotional needs, our requirements for a proper habitat, diet and health care. Most importantly, they must ensure we can legally live where they place us! If someone is not prepared to make that kind of commitment, they don't deserve our presence.”

We are all human and it is human nature to make unintentional mistakes. But if those mistakes can endanger the very lives of the ones who have placed their trust in us, whether human or animal, we must understand each mistake does hurt everyone concerned. We must try harder, or there will be no tomorrow for the exotic felines in our care now.

### FCF Global Assets as of June 30, 2005

FCF Main Checking	\$ 17,984.49
Member Services Checking	317.76
Ken Hatfield Fund	\$ 11,923.54
Smith Barney Money Fund	\$ 12,469.02
Total	\$ 42,694.81

### Convention 2005 Totals

Auction and Sale Table items	\$2,478.00
Funds raised for Playa de Oro reserve	
Auction Items (donated by Donna Verba)	\$ 125.00
Jaguar Print Raffle (donated by Tracy Wilson, won by Connie Riehl)	\$ 475.00
Squeeze Cage (donated by Bart Culver, won by Liz Hatton)	\$ 635.00
Total raised for Playa de Oro	\$1,235.00

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## FCF remembers Paul Ramses

The cat world and the human world mourn the passing of Paul Ramses. Paul was the model for anyone who belongs to any organization. Before Paul got together with Loreon Vigne and exotics in 1980, he was a very successful director of contribution campaigns and volunteer programs for organizations varying from The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Heart Association to symphony orchestras in Chicago and in San Jose. He worked to establish and direct the Holistic Health, Education and Awareness Center in San Jose. He and Loreon continued their career in breeding exotics; ocelots, servals, and bobcats at Isis Oasis.

I first met Paul at the 82 Convention held at Isis Oasis and have been with him over the years at many conventions, the last in 04 at Vegas. He was the most soft-spoken man I've known. If there was ever a model for a "gentle soul" it was Paul. I never head the man raise his voice in anger, or say a bad word about anyone. And no one ever said a bad word about Paul. He believed in the Golden Rule. In this dog eat dog world of fighting and slandering, we should all live and act like Paul did, "Do unto others . . ."

Paul was always concerned about other folk's problems; cats and others. His advice was always from the heart. The next time FCF calls for volunteers, finances, or talents, or time, think of Paul Ramses. He gave it all to us and the cats. FCF and the world have suffered a great, irreplaceable loss in his passing.

Our heart felt condolences go out to Loreon and all the critters and folks at Isis Oasis. We all look forward to meeting Paul again and our critters in a better place. We all thank him for being a model member of our organization in every way,

Respectfully, JB Anderson



*2004 FCF Convention, Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas:  
JB kneels down between Paul Ramses and Loreon  
Vigne to visit over breakfast*

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### FCF Member Gloria Johnson chosen for newly formed Florida Captive Wildlife Technical Assistance Group

It is the goal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop and maintain the best regulations possible that provide for public safety, animal welfare, and the legitimate use of wildlife for personal, educational or exhibition purposes. To this end we formed a technical assistance group, consisting of 11 experts, to review captive wildlife regulations and address current captive wildlife issues.

The FWC received many resumes from interested parties possessing a wide and varied range of expertise and a vested interest in addressing captive wildlife issues. Group members were selected based on their diverse background and areas of expertise. The experience possessed by the selected members represents all facets of the captive wildlife industry and wildlife rehabilitation. Additionally, it represents experience in animal welfare, disease/bioterrorism, emergency response and local government. We are confident that these members represent a well-rounded group and are equal to the task of developing the best regulations possible for captive wildlife.

Congratulations Gloria! Florida FCF members may contact Gloria at [GJPanthergirl@aol.com](mailto:GJPanthergirl@aol.com)

## Texas Dangerous Wild Animal Act

By Dan & Caroline Kneip  
8/16/05

After buying some land in the country and building our dream home, we were ready to begin our animal collection. It was June of 2000. A few weeks after placing a deposit on an unborn Female African Serval, we found an advertisement for a baby Female African Serval ready for immediate pickup. She was close enough for us to drive, so we did. We picked up Zoey from Lynn Culver at N.O.A.H in Mena, AR. A few months later, our second baby was ready. Cherish arrived via American Airlines cargo. Such joy only true animal lovers will ever know! All we needed was a male and we would be making our own babies! Babies are best for wildlife outreach programs that we planned to do. Alas, it was not to be, at least for a while.

It was about this time that we got wind of a recently passed Texas Dangerous Wild Animal Act (DWAA). We researched this act on the Texas State's Web Site. The full text of the "Texas Health & Safety Code - Chapter 822 Regulation of Animals - Subchapter E: Dangerous Wild Animals" was there to be read (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/docs/HS/content/html/hs.010.00.000822.00.htm>). After reading through this Act, it seemed innocent enough, politically naïve as we were. The Act wishes to ensure the safety of the public and as well as the safety of the animals. It requires registration of one's animals and requires caging and safety standards. The registration fee was set to \$50 per animal and capped at \$500. This did not seem over burdensome. The Act required that counties enact legislation to handle the registration by June 1st 2001. A list of animals that it considered dangerous contained our new babies, the African Servals. What a surprise it was that our little girls would be called dangerous. For the record, the following is the Texas DWAA's list of dangerous animals: "lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, bobcat, lynx, serval, caracal, hyena, bear, coyote, jackal, baboon, chimpanzee, orangutan, gorilla, or any hybrid of an animal listed in this subdivision".

June 2001 arrived and calls to our county began. No one at the county knew about the Texas DWAA. Several weeks later, a call to a nearby city's animal control office yielded a number at the state level. Another week later, we got through to the person coordinating the Texas DWAA with the counties. This person told me that almost all of the counties, including ours, chose to enact a total ban on all animals on the Texas DWAA's list. Our county enacted its ban in December of 2000. We had missed that one little sentence in the Texas DWAA that allowed counties to enact a total ban instead of regulating. Shocked and horrified, we quickly became educated about the Commissioner's Court that exists in our county (and every county in Texas) which creates county laws through court orders. It was that court that enacted the total ban for our county. In a cash-strapped government, which do you think they would have chosen?

We contacted Joe Jaynes, the County Commissioner for our area, to setup a meeting. We arrived with pictures of our Servals

and a new addition to our family, Tasha, a Bennett's Wallaby still in the pouch. Tasha was a big hit at the county court house and was even allowed to hop around a bit. Joe had also invited a representative from the SPCA. Our local SPCA provides animal control services for our county and the representative was one of the animal control officers. The officer was quick to mention (with a smile on his face) that he had once received a "Love" bite from an African Serval. Even though he was obviously for the Texas DWAA, he saw no danger from African Servals and did not have any reservations against us keeping our Servals. Our commissioner decided to help us petition the court to keep our Servals. He arranged for us to have our day in Commissioner's Court to explain why we should be exempted from the ban law. We would still be required to register and meet all the requirements of the Texas DWAA.

We wrote a letter to each commissioner and the judge in an attempt to make our case prior to the Commissioner's Court date. When our day in court came, only 1 of the 4 commissioners was strictly opposed. He referred to pitbulls as part of his argument to keep the total ban. It didn't make sense to us either. The court voted to draft an amendment to their court order for the total ban, which when enacted would allow us to keep our Servals. Now the amendment would have to be approved by the court before we would be sure to keep our Servals. After the court adjourned, we were approached by some reporters. Our local papers published a little article about our situation and one of them even put a picture of Cherish on their front page. The very next Sunday, we got a call from a local TV news channel. On the phone, they talked to us for awhile about the Texas DWAA and our day at the Commissioner's Court. At first we were concerned about bad publicity. However, it soon became apparent that they were on our side. They came out and interviewed us at home with Zoey and Cherish. The interview lasted nearly 3 hours and the broadcast news story ended up being more than 2½ minutes. We felt very lucky that the news story was positive toward us keeping our Servals.

In November of 2001, the day finally arrived to go back to the Commissioner's Court for approving the amendments to the court order. The vote was 4 Yes votes and 1 abstaining. Can you guess which commissioner that was? The abstaining commissioner told the court that his conscience would not allow him to vote to allow us to keep our Servals just in case someone was ever attacked by one of them. Then he promptly left the room just before the vote was taken. The Commissioner's Court stated that the main reason for permitting the exemption to the ban was because we had the Servals before the ban order went into effect. Even so, we were greatly relieved that we would be keeping our Servals! At least for now.

Our experience with the DWAA should serve as a warning of things to come. The need has never been greater for a nationally recognized accreditation program for individuals whose life purpose is to provide and care for exotic animals. To not allow these individuals to fulfill their life's purpose is to deny the need of and the important roll these individuals play in conservation, preservation, and propagation of all animals.

## **Upcoming Playa de Oro Tour date: November 4-13, 2005, with tour guide Rosa Jordan**

Join us in November on the next eco-tour to the Playa de Oro Reserva Tigrillos for an adventure of a lifetime!

The cost for this adventure is \$700, excluding your airfare to Quito, Ecuador. This price includes two nights at a charming bed & breakfast in Quito (breakfast included), an afternoon at the Otavalo artisan's market and that night in an Otavalo B&B (breakfast included), followed by six nights at the Playa de Oro Reserve Lodge with all meals, jungle guides, river trips, a visit to the village, and a children's dance performance all included. Private Transportation between Quito, Otavalo, Playa de Oro, and back to Quito is also included.

Your fee supports the Playa de Oro Reserve by bringing income to their village and providing them with work, and also assists with feline conservation projects being conducted at the reserve. In exchange, you will see, taste, smell, and hear ancient rainforest as you have never imagined while being safely guided by local men through the jungle, coming to know the local people and experiencing their river and ancestral forest as they do.

Space is limited on each tour, so please sign up as soon as possible to reserve your space. You are required to have a passport to travel to Ecuador. Your \$350 deposit is nonrefundable. If you cancel for any reason, this deposit will not be refunded. If FCF has to cancel the trip for any reason, your entire deposit will be refunded.

For bookkeeping and accounting purposes, we have changed how the FCF tour fees will be handled in the future. Please make your check for tour deposit and any remaining tour payments made payable to EARTHWAYS, and mail to the following address: Attn: Tracy Wilson, PO Box 1382, Searcy, AR 72145

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Dear Tracy,

Thank you very much for the support and encouragement. The flooding has been bad and it felt hopeless for a short time. I was told the water rose so high and the flow was so powerful one could have done little to stop it from taking anything in its path.

I spoke to the owner of the Ken River Lodge who supports me by providing me with the logistics locally for fieldwork. He is very brave and as usual said, "Shekhar we will build every thing we lost before the end of the monsoon season and get ready". It's so encouraging.

Yes, there was loss of equipment and material used in field work. We lost both the rooms in Panna where field material is stacked. They just got washed away. 3 photo traps, Binoculars, a night vision monocular, a range finder, spot lights I mean the usual field equipment used was lost. I lost a lot of reference material; books and papers and some stored specimen samples. The loss of equipment will definitely have an impact on the work I have to find ways to over some it.

I am more worried about the 4 locals who work with the project. They may have got affected badly. Because they have few possessions and even a small loss can make a lot of impact on their day-to-day life.

I will be visiting Panna on the 31 of July and take things into my hands Tracy. Fieldwork will not stop under any circumstances. The small inconveniences will be dealt with and work will progress as usual.

I will work in the eastern Ghats between the 15th of august and 15th October I will be in Central India from Nov to March 2006.

If you need any further information on any thing please ask me I will be happy to provide you the same.

Thanking you again for the support. I am happy that you and the FCF are participating in the work in India and it means a lot. Yes the \$750 will be invaluable and I will use this efficiently in the fieldwork.

Sincerely,  
Shekhar



# Blast from the Past . . . .

LIOC Endangered Species Conservation Federation  
newsletter  
Volume 35 Number 3 May/June 1991

*This little issue, only 16 pages, included a letter of apology from the editor Shirley Wagner, for its tardiness and small size. The cover photo was Gayle and Clem Schaecher's Siberian lynx holding up a Popsicle between her front legs and licking it. There were several vacancies on the board due to resignations, leaving the board at nine members. Articles inside included a piece titled Private Ownership Under Attack" analyzing a growing concern in Arkansas. Also included was this piece below on Teegee, a geoffroy cat, and his life and times with owner Jack Spiers*

## TEEGEE AND ME

Jack Spiers

Teegee, a male Geoffrey's cat, was born July 24, 1990. He came to me at ten days of age on a permanent breeding loan, all eight ounces him. What a fragile sight he was.

Teegee was removed from his natural mother at 24 hours of age, since she had a history of killing her offspring. He was then put on a Bengal queen, who allowed him to nurse, and given four supplemental feedings a day. The supplemental formula consisted of Kitty Lac mixed in fresh goat's milk, with raw egg yolk, corn oil, and pediatric vitamins. A few days later, Nutrical was added to this formula. All my resources kicked in to raise this tiny, totally dependent baby. When we arrived to pick him up, we brought our nursing domestic queen. He was transferred to her at ten days of age, without incident. My daughter Lora carefully suspended him in her shirttail, cushioning the bumps on the highway for his trip home. Miss Cat, the nursing domestic, let him nurse and then carefully cleaned and groomed him.

The domestic queen had plenty of milk for Teegee, so he refused the supplemental feedings of earlier. Teegee has special needs our careful eyes could not see. By ten weeks of age, not receiving the large digestible amount of calcium he would have received from his Geoffrey's mother's milk, his first debilitating health tragedy occurred. Rickets suddenly manifested itself with heart breaking reality. Teegee walked on the tops of his front paws as his feet rolled outward and over. At the vets, several things were theorized. The domestic queen he was nursing from was fed a commercial, high carbohydrate diet, and probably didn't produce milk with enough protein and calcium levels for Teegee.

If Miss Cat's diet had been calcium fortified, perhaps this could have been avoided. And Teegee was old enough for solid food, which would have provided additional protein. We had started solid food with vitamin mineral supplement too

late. Teegee was given a therapeutic calcium injection by the veterinarian and once home, we began giving him a pet-cal tablet a day. We also took him away from the domestic queen's milk. Now he would eat raw ground meat, which had been frozen to kill salmonella. His initial improvement was rapid, but for complete healing, he required braces and hours of physical therapy, which bonded us to each other even more closely. Today I marvel seeing him walk, his graceful stride on near perfect legs pleases me.

At three months of age another malady manifested itself. This, I believe almost took Teegee from me. His throat erupted in blisters, making eating painful. He picked at his food, slinging his head when he swallowed. Then he would sit with head drooping and salivate with mouth gaping open. Some days he became so dehydrated that syringe feedings became necessary. In his run-down state he became asthmatic, possibly allergic to his beloved cream tabby playmate. It seemed that there was too much against him. After three months persistence of these symptoms I began to despair of his life.

Then the trip to Florida. We live in Ewing, Virginia, and Teegee had lived in the house all his six months. Early in February we drove to Lakeland, Florida and spent four days. Was it a vacation to Florida, or a special prayer for Teegee prayed by James Farrah? Teegee is much better. Teegee will live to be my friend and to father the exquisite Safari cats.

Today, Teegee eats a diet of 2 ounces of raw meat per feeding, three to four times a day. His raw meat is either beef or deer; ground up by me, and mixed into it is a small amount of metamucil dissolved in 2 ounces of water, with goat cheese, corn oil, Nutrical and pet-cal. His pet-cal dose has been reduced since his bout with rickets to only 1/4 tablet a day.

This tiny spotted South American leopard cat has the personality to attract the skeptic's attention, delight the indifferent, and to mesmerize his fanciers. I know how Teegee, an animal fierce in the wild, feels about me when I hold his raw meat in my hand for him to eat. He alternately rubs his face on the meat, chews the meat, and licks my hand. This ritual continues until all the meat is gone. Rubbing the meat with his face says, "You're my favorite." Chewing the meats says, "You're delicious." And licking my hand says, "Thank you Daddy, for giving me my favorite delicious food." Then curling up on my lap for grooming and sleep says "I trust you with my life."

The Safari is a true hybrid, the result of breeding a wild Geoffrey's male to a female domestic. The result is a super intelligent, loving, and large cat, often weighing twenty or more pounds. They are gorgeously black spotted. Readers interested in learning more about Safaris should locate the summer 1990 issue of "Wildom". Which featured three articles on them.

# The Fox Gets The Blame While The Cat Gets The Game

Pat Quinn, Director Emeritus, Founder, The Zoo in Gulf Breeze

How many birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians do domestic cats kill each year in the U.S.?

The estimates indicate that more than 77 million cats live in our country as household pets, but only 35% live indoors at all times. This leaves millions of cats free to kill wildlife at will. In addition (12 million in our state of Florida) are feral animals that roam our cities, farmlands, forests, beaches and urban areas.

This environmental disaster is caused by irresponsible cat owners that abandon cats and refuse to keep them indoors and or spray and neuter these destructive animals.

Although loss of habitat due to human activity is a serious cause of the reduction or extinction of several species, we know that cats have caused the extinction of many species. Domestic cats are not a natural part of our ecosystems. They were introduced by humans from the

old world. The African wildcat is the ancestor of all domestic cats. These wild cats live with many larger predators that prey on them and disease keeps some control in the wild state. Domestic cats, however, are protected, fed, vaccinated and given medical care.

Cats were domesticated by Egyptians some 4,000 years ago in order to control rodents that ate grain stores and damaged crops. In urban areas, we feed birds in our yards and this gives the cats an opportunity to kill birds, small mammals and reptiles that are necessary for a healthy environment.

Unlike most predators, cats are not strictly territorial. As a result, cats can exist in high numbers (some feral colonies in Florida have 1,000 cats living in a territory). Cats compete with native species for food, hawks, owls, fox, bobcats, snakes, minx, weasels and skunks depend on the prey that cats consume.

Cats can have three litters of 3 to 6 young each year. Their numbers can increase at an alarming rate. They transmit disease to wildlife and humans. Of all domestic animals, cats are reported the most to the Center for Disease Control for rabies.

Here are a few facts that have been reported by researchers on cats in the U.S.:

- 19.6% of 1,976 prey killed by 78 outdoor cats were birds. (University of Wisconsin-1/04)
- Cats are the reason for elimination of 8 bird species on islands. • The total eradication of 41 species of birds in New Zealand alone.
- Cats in the Marion Islands killed some 450,000 island birds each year prior to the cat eradication program.
- Cats have caused severe damage on the Galapagos Islands. Many species are very rare and endangered.

Well fed cats DO KILL WILDLIFE: they are expert hunters by nature. Killing is not always motivated by hunger. In one study, 6 cats were eating their food as rats were introduced. All the cats stopped eating and killed the rats: none were eaten. (Behavioral Biology)

Don't think bells on collars prevent the cat from killing. It does not work as they can stalk their prey without ringing the bell, and wildlife does not associate bells ringing with cat-predation.

Cat trapping and spaying and neutering programs are not effective as many cats become trap wise and in addition other cats move into the same territory. In Florida alone, cats kill some 12-15 million small birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year. This is an emotional (hot) topic for the biologist, regulators and policy makers as "cats are our friends". Politicians are reluctant to bite the bullet on the issue as most folks do not want to think about the pressing environmental problem. Keep your cat indoors, spay and neuter them, keep them away from bird feeders. They are an injurious species in our environment.

By controlling our cats we are really doing an important job for conservation.

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# A Special Treat

Elizabeth Hatton

One of the highlights of convention 2005 was a visit to Parrot Jungle with Dr. Bhagavan Antle, affectionately known as “Doc.” With 24 years of experience, he has much to offer the novice looking to expand knowledge in preparation of future responsible captive husbandry. In a presentation that was both entertaining and educational, we were treated to a vast array of cats, including leopards, tigers and even a liger!

Having grown up on a farm, Doc was no stranger to reading animal behavior. In addition to the usual farm animals, he was exposed to some of the smaller exotics at a young age. Even so, the first big cat he owned presented a challenge. In 1982, Doc obtained a 7-month-old semi hand raised tiger. Mitra Shantar, (“peaceful friend”) was primarily running loose on exhibit at Busch Gardens. A little healthy fear mixed with a lot of hard work, made for a most fondly remembered cat and the beginning of a whole new way of life. In later years, he would find ownership to be a constant learning process. He had a lion go a little off track during a show. Having quickly remedied the situation, a new mental note was instilled to not assume any cat’s behavior is a constant. Even a well-trained, well-mannered cat can exhibit unpredictable behavior.

Not only do Doc’s animals do live shows, some have been hired as animal actors for TV movies and commercials. Unique to many in the industry, Doc’s program is around the clock. With a philosophy of living the job rather than working at it, the animals are in almost constant contact with their handlers. Sharing living quarters, both animals and their humans are offered the opportunity to forge a relationship where reading each other becomes a dance perfected over time. I would highly recommend applying for this program to anyone who has a deep seeded passion to work with animals AND no distractive attachments (Children, other pets... )



*Liger brothers enjoy a bottle. Makes you wonder what’s in that milk to make these cats grow so large.*



*Doc and his trainers make it look easy. Group photo of animal handlers and trainers of T.I.G.E.R.S. and three tigers.*



*Four colors of tigers enjoy a swim at T.I.G.E.R.S. facility  
these photos © by Doc Antle and T.I.G.E.R.S.*

For further information on Doc or T.I.G.E.R.S (The Institute of Greatly Endangered and Rare Species) go to <http://www.tigers-animal-actors.com>

Dr. Bhagavan Antle  
Director of T.I.G.E.R.S. [www.tigerfriends.com](http://www.tigerfriends.com)



## *Thank-you Everyone for Making FCF's Miami Convention Memorable*

Dear FCF members,

On behalf of the Convention Committee and board of directors of FCF I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who attended - members, guests, and corporate vendors & sponsors. Your attendance, support and donations made this Convention another great one to remember.

As you are thinking of more and better ways to take care of your cats, improve your facilities and help FCF's conservation efforts, please remember these people and their businesses listed below that supported the FCF Convention. Twenty one businesses participated to help our Convention be the best ever. Lets all show our appreciation to them.

Robert Bean, convention chairman

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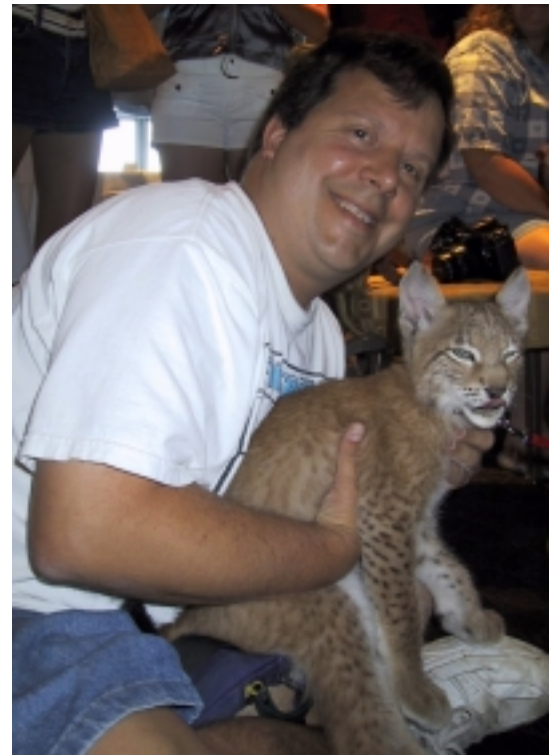
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**2005 Miami Convention Attendees:** JB & Reva Anderson, Doc Antle, Aders, Tim Barry, Bobbie & Jessica & Kathryn & Lauren & Rachael Bean, Raymond & Susan Buckley, Craig & Carol Bohning, Luis Cassanova, Kevin Chambers, David & Carolyn & Anissa & Ariana Clendinen, Sara Comstock, Lynn Culver, Ellie Davidson, Chris Delorde, Barbara Dieckow, Rebecca Dirr, JoAnne Ellerbrock, Harold & Peggy Epperson, Mary Lee Ferguson, Karin Fires, Adam Fishman, Michael Forbes, James Foulds, Richard Freitag, Mike Friese, David & Joy Geisinger, Dolly Guck, Richard & Mary Anne Hahn, Regina & Gary Hardison, Jean & Connie Hatfield, Liz & Heather Hatton, Pamela & Lucas & Elizabeth Hotle, Maria Houck, Judy Jezl, Gloria Johnson, Leslie Kathe, Dan & Carolyn Kneip, Sheryl & Dwight Koontz, Steve L, Gail Laviola, David Linde, Gary & Julie Lynch, Nanette McGann, Ron Magill, John Mercer, Monty Merola, Sandra Michael, Amy Migliori, Leann Montgomery, Dr. Mary Moore, Sandra Nabeta, Amy Nemeth, Mary Oatess, Lisa Padula, Phil Parker, Phyllis Parks, Teri Powell, Bonnie & Phyllis Rainbow, Sally Reaves, Paul Richardson, Mary Roberts, Jessie Roth, Jim Sanderson, Felicia Serpico, Carl Shon, Blake & Marci Simpson, Diana Smith, Mindy Stinner, Tim Stoffel, Kathleen Szabo, Nick Trinocosta, Robert & Patty Turner, Stacy Turner, Laura Walker, Amanda & Elizabeth Whitlock, Jeannette Williams, Tracy Wilson, China York, Gail Zippilli,

## ***Miami 2005 - Memories to last a lifetime***



*Two tigers on stage at Parrot Jungle Island. photo by Mindy Stinner*



*Mike Friese holds Romeo, Siberian lynx in the hospitality suite.*



*Regina Hardison adjusts bobcat fur wrap being worn by Liz Hatton. photo by Phil Parker*



*Heather Hatton cradles serval kitten. photo by Phil Parker*



*Mike Friese holds tiger cub as Judy Jezl looks on. photo by Phil Parker*



*Diesel bobcat hung out in the Hardison's hotel room. He's taking a cat nap here. Photo by Phil Parker*

## Our FCF Web Site

Irene Satterfield, FCF Software Developer

And suddenly, there was a new web site and the old link no longer worked. Actually, none of that was planned. Unexpected events, however, lead to premature changes and launched a new beginning. The official address for the FCF is [www.thefcf.org](http://www.thefcf.org). The official domain is .org. We currently own several domains and addresses but are slowly reining them in and will have all pages running on the .org domain over the next few months. We will ensure you are redirected properly in the interim. So what does all this mean for you?

**Log On** You've probably noticed the User Login and Password boxes on the home page and wondered what that was for. It will be your doorway to revealing hidden links those only members will have access to use. It will grant access based upon your user id.

**Navigating the Site** The main categories of the link are always presented directly beneath the logo. Above the logo, in the upper, right-hand corner, static links for contact, shopping, and membership are maintained as well as the search box.

**Home** To return to the FCF home page simply click the FCF logo of any page.

**Breadcrumb Trail** Depending on what level you are at, a breadcrumb trail starts to build directly below the main categories giving a visual indicator of which category you are under and how many pages deep you have clicked.

**Table of Content Pages** Pages at the same level as your current view are presented at the top of the page beneath the breadcrumb trail as a Table of Contents.

**More Pages** The topic you are reading may offer more to view. Links to this content is displayed to the right.

**Related Pages** In addition, there may pages under other categories that are related to the topic you are reading.

**Search** The search box is the best way to quickly find information on thefcf site. Here are some tips on searching (more help can be found by clicking the yellow question mark (?) on thefcf.org home page. Look for words with the same prefix. For example, in your query form type key\* to find key, keying, keyhole, keyboard, and so on. Search for all forms of a word. For example, in the form type sink\*\* to find sink, sinking, sank, and sunk. Search with the keyword NEAR, rather than AND, for words close to each other. Refine your queries with the AND NOT keywords to exclude certain text from your search. For example, if you want to find all instances of surfing but not the Net, write the following query: surfing AND NOT the Net. Put quotation marks around keywords if you want Indexing Service to take them literally.

**For help, tips and tricks** Click the yellow question mark (?) in the top right-hand of thefcf.org home page.

**Members' Directory** The new site not only lists your information, like name and contact information, but gives you the opportunity to introduce yourself, share hobbies and interests as well as upload some photos of your cats and family on your own web page! Only you can edit your information and you can share your link with anyone – even non-FCF members – if you like.

**Studbooks** And just what is all this talk about studbooks? You've heard zoos disgrace us for not keeping studbooks and you've begun to hear rumblings about the FCF starting international studbooks for privately held wild cats. Well here's where you will find them. Our web site will host the World's first and only (that this writer is aware of) studbooks for pet wild cats. Your cats will automatically be included (unless you have requested that they remain anonymous) into the appropriate species studbook. Once you log in, you can manage your cats and submit your updates for inclusion by the Studbook Master (Studbook Masters are to be announced).

**FCF Forums** Have something really bugging you? Want to announce it to the world? Really know your species? We have the place for you. The FCF Forums are both public and private. Forums attract Internet users with interests in conservation, environment and feline lovers. We want to educate the public and the best way to entice them to our site is a little controversy. Go ahead and speak your mind and get others from all walks of life to have an exchange with you. The FCF Webmaster only asks that you remember to respect other people's viewpoints and that ultimately you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

**The Board and Member Only Forums** And then there is The Pride, a members' only forum. The Pride will be used to post important information from our Board and members to discuss upcoming issues. The Board will also post agendas and minutes from their meetings and events under the FCF Members' Only section of our web site.

**Help Out** Not enough for you yet? The entire site was developed so that anyone granted the security rights could post new content or modify existing pages. The entire site's look 'n feel can be changed within hours. So can you write, or have a penchant for art and colors? Then we need you! Please contact Irene Satterfield or any Board member right away. More content means our pages return higher in search engines and the more people we will educate. Know a species? Be the species specialist and keep the content fresh and lively. Are you a traditional journalist? Then keep our News exciting and timely and the Press Room hot. Have extraordinary digital video? Send it to your Webmaster and showcase your cats on the upcoming flash intro. Have an idea not mentioned here? Send it in! This is your site, our site. Make it happen!

**Tech Talk** Once everything is ready – over the next few weeks – an email will be generated by the system and emailed to you. If you don't have at least one email address on file with the FCF, please get one to us asap. We will announce the email a day or two before they are mailed out so you can keep an eye out for it. If you never get your login and password email, don't fret. Simply contact your Webmaster by email and request it to be sent to you. We will manually generate the email for you along with the user login id and password. If you forget your password, you will be able to request it be re-sent to you automatically from online as well.



## I think they touched our hearts more than we realize.....

Debi Wiloughby

I always look forward to getting the FCF newsletter. This month was no different. It's a great source of information, articles, stories and pictures of loved animals. Hello everyone, my name is Debi Willoughby and I own Jungle Encounters, a traveling wildlife education facility in Massachusetts. I have small exotics that I bring to schools, fairs, libraries, etc to teach people about wildlife and conservation.

The first FCF convention I ever went to was a couple years ago in Ohio. I never got the chance, but I wanted to thank all of you for your generous hospitality. I went to the convention by myself, but I never felt alone. Everyone was very nice and I learned a lot at that convention. Like most people who attended, the cheetah run at Kathy Hilker's was my favorite part of the trip. But one of my more memorable ones was meeting and talking with Marvin and Hush. They inspired me to expand my wildlife education business to include pet therapy. I've been doing therapy now for 2 years and the nursing homes love it! They keep calling me back to do more shows. It's a great feeling when the nursing home faculty tells me I have made somebody's eyes light up like never before because I let them hold and pet one of my animals. For those of you who are not familiar with Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife and their laws, they are extremely strict on what animals the general public can have as pets, never mind the restraints they put on permitted educators like myself. The state of Mass has not given new permits to possess wild cats (large or small) for many years to small traveling facilities. Lord knows I've tried many times and have been shot down each and every time! So I decided to be *creative* and find other ways to be able to have a small wild cat. The only idea that has worked so far was to compromise and get a Savannah Cat. Once the state said yes, I wasted no time in finding a baby. His name is Hunter and he is a 9 week old Serval and Bengal cross. I named him after Rider's father (Rider is a Serval I spent a lot of time with at a wildlife park I used to volunteer at and he touched my heart tremendously). Hunter acts very much like a Serval, pouncing and head butting and he is very affectionate.

Now that I've introduced you to Hunter, back to my story about the May/June issue. I was very glad to see someone wrote an article about Marvin and Hush. I had the pleasure of meeting them at the Ohio convention. I noticed they were never alone, they were always surrounded by people eager to pet Hush, hear stories from Marvin and learn from both of them. As I read

about Marvin and Hush's separation, I could only imagine the big hole left in both of their hearts after living together for so long and now they can't be together. As I read about Hush's unpleasant interim, tears came to my eyes, wondering what was he thinking about his new conditions and if he understood why Marvin wasn't around anymore. Then as I turned the page and saw the picture of them reunited, the tears started to flow. That picture speaks louder than words. I think they both appreciated their reunion very much. As I continued to read the article, my little spotted friend was entertaining himself by rolling around on the article, batting at my face and purring. It made me stop and wonder if my little Hunter would be able to touch as many nursing home resident's lives as much as Hush had. After finishing the article I am left with a bittersweet feeling. My stomach turns when I think about Marvin and Hush's separation but then Hunter keeps stalking the newsletter, somersaulting head-over-heels to *kill* it and I am overcome with gratefulness for being able to spend man, many years with this great spotted protector of mine! He may only be part Serval, but his actions speak "mighty-African-hunter"!

I want to thank Bob Turner for assisting Marvin over the years and Leann Montgomery for taking the initiative to step forward and take Hush in. And for spending the time letting them reunite and enjoy each other. I also want to thank Leann for taking even more time out of her busy schedule to pay tribute to them in that article. Whenever people talk about FCF conventions, Marvin and Hush's names always come up. Because of this I consider them both FCF icons. I am grateful for being able to have met them both and I only hope Hunter and I will be able to spread as much joy, love and companionship to others as they have spread over the years. Thanks again Leann for keeping us FCF members up to date on Marvin and Hush's conditions and for opening up your heart and home so Hush can enjoy the remainder of his life in a good, healthy and happy atmosphere.



*Hush and Marvin - a inspiration to many. Photo by Monte Francis*



*Rachel Bean holds up the Jaguar print raffled off for Playa de Oro Reserve. photo by Phil Parker*



*Mindy Stinner awards Reporter of the Year snow leopard plate to Amanda Whitlock. photo by Phil Parker*



*Dan and Carolyn Kneip with stuffed snow leopard at the auction. Richard Hahn behind. photo by Phil Parker*



*Doc Antle and Reva Anderson banquet night. photo by Mindy Stinner*



*Bob Turner and China York with tiger cub at the Thursday night ice-breaker party. photo by Phil Parker*



*Husbandry course instructor Carol Siegley congratulates Laura Walker as Tracy Wilson hands Laura a certificate of completion. photo by Phil Parker*