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A membership to the FCF entitles you to six issues of the *Journal*, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to FCF husbandry and wildlife education courses and annual convention, and participation in our online discussion group. The FCF works to improve captive feline husbandry and conservation. The FCF supports captive and wild habitat protection, and provides support for captive husbandry, breeding programs, and public education. Send \$35 annual dues (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 141 Polk Road 664, Mena, AR 71953.

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The *Journal* publishes articles on exotic feline conservation and husbandry, management, and regulatory and legislative issues affecting ownership for our members. The author's point of view does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. Reproduction of any material in the *Journal* may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner, FCF.

Letters to the editor and guest editorials are also published.

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lynnkulver@hughes.net, or send by postal service to: 141 Polk 664, Mena, AR 71953.



Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

Now that the holiday season is over, it is time for that dreaded season to arrive; legislative season. Everyone needs to be diligent on keeping abreast of the developments in your own state and keep in close contact with your own legislators. Don't depend on others to keep your right to own animals. YOU must fight and if you do, others will help.

Legislation must be stopped before it is passed. If not, things become 100 times harder. The perfect example is what is going on in Ohio at the present. Their bill was passed into law strictly regulating felids. The Ohio Association of Animal Owners has fought valiantly and continues the fight, but the law is now in effect and many Ohio residents face the confiscation of their animals.

Five members of the OAAO were plaintiffs in appealing the constitutionality of the law. They lost the initial hearing and appealed in the Federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. They have had their first appeals hearing and are currently awaiting the court's decision. Whatever the outcome, the losing party is sure to appeal. While we all anxiously await the ultimate decision, the fact remains that owners must either comply with the law or face being arrested and having their animals confiscated. The law stands and is in full effect until it is either stricken down or a judge issues an injunction to keep it from being enforced. It may take some time before the possibility of either has a chance of happening.

Many people have misunderstandings of the current Ohio law. I was contacted on December 30, about taking some big cats and bears from Ohio. Besides being the eleventh hour, even this is now illegal. When the law passed in 2012, it became illegal for an Ohio resident to even transfer a dangerous animal without state permission. When a law is passed, you can't ignore it, hoping it is fixed or goes away. People can say all they want to about the state being unfair, unethical, unconstitutional, or whatever. The fact remains that you as the owner are ultimately responsible for the lives of your animals. If you ignore laws, YOU are the one who is risking your animals' lives. Fight laws that are unfair, but also make sure you comply and have backup solutions in place should you need to move your animals, etc.

There have been some recent develop-

ments in Ohio that strengthen the fact that the Ohio Department of Agriculture is taking things way beyond the scope and definition of the enacted law. In letters dated December 16 and later, five of the seven plaintiffs in the lawsuit charging the state of Ohio as being unconstitutional in passing this law were told that the exemptions under which they were assured by the law were not going to be recognized by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The ODA singled out three exemptions in the law that they now say they will not recognize. The first states that if an Ohio resident has certain permits issued by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, they are exempt from this law. The ODA states in their letters that the exemption only applies for the specific species covered under the ODNR permits, even though that is not what the law states. The other two exemptions they say they will not recognize deal with people who have applied for but not yet received accreditation from ZAA and GFAS. The law states clearly that if a person is in the process of being accredited, they are

exempt. Now the ODA is saying that that is only applicable until January 1, 2014. The actual law does not state a time period. Only one other person is currently known to have received these letters besides the five plaintiffs in the lawsuit. That person was one who assisted ODA in placing numerous reptiles that were surrendered by their owners to ODA rather than try to go through the permitting procedure. This person did this at his own expense only to have ODA turn on him.

It is going to be a long, expensive, and mentally exhausting fight to ensure that the state of Ohio sticks to the law as it is written and hopefully even be forced to rescind the law. Until then, the losers in this battle are going to be the animals that will pay by losing their homes at best, and paying with their blood at worst.

Take heed, everyone. Fighting bills is hard work. Fighting laws is much harder. Be a proponent in your state to preserve your rights now, before it is too late.

Kevin Chambers

BE PROUD & WEAR AN FCF LOGO T-SHIRT!

New FCF logo t-shirts are here! These beautiful color printed shirts feature the FCF logo on the front and the paw prints and message "What will you leave behind?" on the back. Shirt colors are sports grey, yellow haze, and pebble. Shirts sizes are small, medium, large, extra-large, and double extra-large. Shirts are \$20, and shipping to U.S. addresses is only \$5.00. Use the Membership form/Product order form included in this *Journal* issue to buy yours today!



From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

The FCF *Journal* is still behind schedule, but we are working very hard to catch up. By the time you read this issue it will be January, and FCF editor Eden Tran and I will be hard at work on the January/February 2014 issue to get it to press by the middle of February. You can help us by sending in articles and photos.

The FCF Wildcat Weekend in Sarasota, Florida, is shaping up to be another successful event and I am looking forward to meeting everyone there. Kay Rosaire at Big Cat Habitat has been gracious enough to host this FCF learning opportunity. We have many requests for our classes, and if you would like to host one at your facility, please give me a call.

If you know cat owners, please be sure to recommend that they join the FCF. Where else can you find a community that shares your love of these wild cat species? Where else can you turn to for information, advice, and support when you need it? The FCF fills a vital role in the captive husbandry world. In fact, if I had to sum up the FCF in one word, it would be "helpful." The FCF and its members help the cats and the people who care for cats. It is this unselfish love of nature's felines that brings us together and keeps us together.

Convention will be here before you know it. The FCF website registration will open shortly. If you have never made a convention, this is the one to attend. The hotel is first-rate and the field trip to Out of Africa Wildlife Park is going to be incredible. We will be assembling our speakers next, and now is the time to speak up if you have someone in mind you would like the FCF to invite. Call me with your requests.



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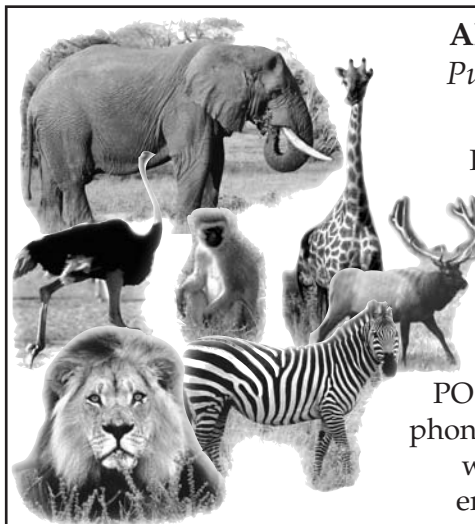
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A New Year and Two New Little Bengal Tigers at the Wild Felid Advocacy Center of Washington

By Shelleen Mathews,
Director, Wild Felid Advocacy Center

Over the years, I have been blessed many times over to have the honor of working with wild cats of many sizes and species. This past fall brought yet another blessing. I have never had the pleasure of working with young tigers. Until that time I had drawn the line at housing nothing larger than leopards and cougars - and smaller species. Then, in October, we were contacted about the possibility of taking in two young female Bengal tiger cubs. So my mind set upon justifying all the reasons why we should - not the least of which being that it was an experience I had yet to have.

Tigers Suri and Tabbi arrived on November 22, 2013. They had been used as photo op cubs and needed a



Little Tabbi will only be little for a little while. In fact, by the time this *Journal* went to press, she was already moved outdoors.

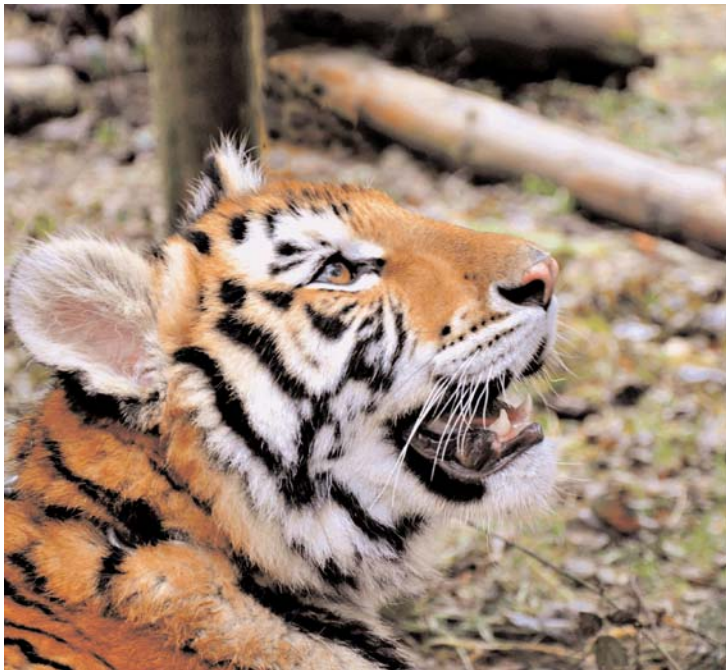
place to call home for the remainder of their lives. Tabbi was 15 weeks old at the time and Suri was 25 weeks. I'm not ancient, but since having my first exotic - a bobcat in 1971 - I DO have a few years under my belt. The main function of our non-profit is sanctuary and it means we almost never have the opportunity to experience youngsters of any species and I do miss that. Anyone who has worked with wild cats knows that all kittens/cubs have a LOT of energy and require a tremendous commitment of time for handling and training.

Tiger cubs are certainly no different. Suri was about three times the size of Tabbi and the girls had not been raised together. At almost 70 pounds, Suri was too big to live inside with us. Tabbi was a more manageable size, so she moved right in. Neither of the girls had a tremendous amount of training, so our time, patience, and resolve to raise two well behaved tigers was and is needed. Time juggled between them and the forty plus other Center residents.

Initially, Tabbi and Suri had to thoroughly understand that we did not appreciate or would allow them to bite us - thankfully they are both good with their claws. This is not something that once learned will resolve itself magically. They test us continually and we must have our full, undivided attention on them at all times when working with them. They also needed to learn and accept being leash trained - which has gone well. Our days start at about 6 am, when Tabbi is taken out for a potty. We are extremely lucky to have help with the girls' training. Several handlers from a zoo about an hour away come almost daily to work with the girls and give us a much needed break.

Construction on the tiger habitat will be starting very soon and, by the time it's complete, our goal is to have Tabbi and Suri at the point where they can start living peacefully together. Taking in these two girls is a huge commitment of our time and finances. We estimate that habitat construction, tiger-proof dens, and "furniture" will be just under \$20,000. Then, of course, there is the cost of keeping a tiger's tummy full.

Over the years, I have learned that life is full of surprises and challenges. Two tigers named Tabbi and Suri are doing their part to fill the bill and we're grateful to have this opportunity and all its challenges.



Beautiful side profile of Suri, the other tiger that now calls WFAC home.

Belize Is Teeming With Life Both In The Jungle And In The Ocean!

By Debi Willoughby

My company, Jungle Encounters, offered a group trip to Belize, and marketed it to FCF members at the last convention. The trip was from November 11-16, 2013, and I am now writing to tell you about our trip.

I had contacted the Lamanai Outpost Lodge in the Orange Walk District of Belize over a year ago. We put together a trip and negotiated a price, and then spent a few months marketing it to various online venues and gathered people together. The Lodge was excellent at being the point place to answer any questions we had and they had one of their representatives at every checkpoint during our trip. We never had to wait for a representative to show up to transport us from one place to another. They were very easy to work with and always tried to accommodate us.

The Lamanai Outpost Lodge is part of the Lamanai Field Research Center, which has been in operation as a non-profit organization since 1992. The center was created by Mark and Monique Howells, who wanted an educational facility for long-term, academic-based research projects in which students and professors from throughout the world could participate. These projects provide a wealth of valuable knowledge which can then be shared with Belizean students, foreign students, and ecological tourists. Their goals and objectives are to:

- provide a center that will promote and sustain an interest in Belizean conservation;
- provide a base for researchers to study Belize's cultural and natural resources;
- provide a means by which that information can then be disseminated to the Belizean community at various levels;
- provide a bridge between scientists and the general public in an informal learning environment;
- offer programs that complement and supplement conservation and science education in schools; and
- offer opportunities that provide instruction in the scientific methodology of field studies.

They have three conservation efforts currently underway: the Morelet's Crocodile Project, the Community Wildcat Con-

servation Project, and the Hicatee Turtle Survival Network.

The Lamanai Outpost Lodge is nestled deep in the jungle along a 27-mile long river. There are about a dozen cabanas at the Lodge for people to reside in. The closest village is inhabited by Mennonites (similar to the Amish). The country of Belize has a contract with the Mennonites; in return for the Mennonites never having to pay taxes, they would need to supply the Belizeans with a variety of grains. Today they supply 60% of Belize's grains, so their presence is widespread and valued.

I had never been to Belize before this trip and was very excited to go. Belize is home to five species of wild cat: jaguar, mountain lion, ocelot, margay, and jaguarundi. This is such a large variety of cat species for a small country. There were eight of us in our group and we were all from different parts of the United States, with one person being from Canada. We all met at the Belize airport and a representative brought us to their air-conditioned office to wait for one more traveler to arrive at the airport, then our journey began!

There was a 45-minute road trip to get to the New River and then a one-hour boat ride up the New River. There were no signs of civilization along the river, just

wildlife and jungle.

Once we arrived at the Lodge deep in the jungle, we were escorted up to the open air dining/lounge area, where we were given a hot snack and a cold beverage. From there, we were shown to our rooms to relax until dinnertime. The cabanas were very roomy with cathedral height ceilings. They were dimly lit, as to not attract bugs at night. Flashlights were provided if one needed some extra lighting. The cabanas are situated along the river lagoon, so everyone had a beautiful view of the water and jungle. Beside the cabanas and open air dining and lounge area, there is also a computer corner, a bar, and a gift shop.

After relaxing from the day of traveling, we all met at the dining area for dinner, and an orientation meeting was put on by the Lodge. We met our guides and watched their PowerPoint presentation about the Lodge and what we would be doing over the next few days. At the end of the presentation, we meandered back to our cabanas for a surprisingly quiet night of rest. Being in the middle of the jungle, I would have thought the night air would have been full of jungle sounds, but it was pretty quiet.

We awoke the next morning to the sound of howler monkeys off in the distance, enjoyed a delicious breakfast and



Lamanai Outpost Lodge is part of the Lamanai Field Research Center, which has been in operation as a non-profit organization since 1992.

began the day's journey with a five minute boat ride to the Lamanai Mayan ruins. This ancient civilization is believed to have been occupied as early as the 16th century BC and, due to their remote jungle access, was inhabited long after most other Mayan villages were destroyed. These ruins are set in the midst of the jungle and only three areas have been unearthed so far. There are estimated to be over 100 ruins that need to be unearthed; some will be worked on in the near future and some will be left for future archaeologists to uncover. People are allowed to climb all three temples: the Mask Temple, the High Temple, and the Jaguar Temple.



Lamanai Mayan ruins. Debi and the others on the tour pose on the Mask Temple.

Our guides spent the next couple of hours walking us around the temple sites and explaining their history and importance. We were able to spend time climbing the temples and enjoying the views. After visiting the Mayan gift shops, we boarded the boat and returned to the Lodge to relax for the afternoon. Time was spent getting to know one another and showing off pictures of our own cats. After dinner, we went on a night Jungle Safari Walk through the Lodge grounds and down some dirt paths through the jungle. Once again, our guides pointed out the flora and fauna of the area and explained how life is lived in Lamanai. We saw mostly spiders, reptiles, and a couple of mammals. Unfortunately, we were having too much fun talk-

ing and I think we scared most of the animals away! Nonetheless, we had a good time with lots of laughs!

On our last day at the Lodge, we boarded a bus and headed off down the dirt road to visit a close Lodge Mennonite friend, George, and to download images from some of the Lodge's trail cameras. Most Mennonites do not interact with local people, but George has always been a long-time friend of people from the Lodge and he believes in their conservation efforts. In return, he allows the Lodge to put trail cameras up on his property, spreads the word of conservation throughout his village, and recruits fellow Mennonites to do the same. One of the biggest hurdles in most conservation efforts is informing the

locals about how wildlife works and teaching them about what is really killing their livestock or crops. In Lamanai, the Mennonites grow grain crops and thought the wild cats were destroying their crops. They had to be taught that smaller animals, like raccoons, rats, and coatimundis, were destroying their crops and that wild cats prey on these animals and their land would actually benefit from having these predators on their

property to keep the prey populations down. This teaching was done by putting up trail cameras on their properties to prove which species were actually destroying their crops. Once the Mennonites saw the proof, they were more open to discussing conservation efforts and allowing more cameras to be put up on their property. Currently, all locals are encouraged to allow trail cameras to be put up on their land and the Lodge pays them for each image of a live wild cat. The Lodge also pays them for any cattle that are proven to have been killed by a wild cat. Another issue that the Lodge is working on is the fact that the Mennonites are clearing areas of their land for more crops. The areas that are left to be cleared are not the easiest to clean up and prepare for crops, so the Lodge asked the Mennonites to figure out how much property they can leave uncut and figure out how much money they would lose by not clearing those areas. The Lodge is giving the Mennonites compensation to NOT clear these areas, because these areas are corridors for wildlife to get from one jungle location to another.

Now that I have explained the working relationship between the Lodge and the Mennonites, I will get back to our adventure! And this day proved to be a bigger adventure than any of us had anticipated! When in the jungle, you must adapt and overcome any hurdles that get in your way. The plan was to have two of George's horse and buggies take us to the areas where his crops met the jungle and download images from the trail cameras.



Mennonites' horse-drawn carriage leads Debi and George to check on the trail cameras.



Debi holds a baby Morelet's crocodile, born in the lagoon and caught as part of the statistical research.

Unfortunately, due to unusually rainy weather for the past two to three weeks, the crop areas were flooded and extremely muddy. The horses were struggling to pull our weight through the paths, so we decided to walk it ourselves. We all set out walking slowly through the four- to five-inch deep mud, water, and scarce patches of dry land. Once we reached one area where cameras were set up, the sun decided to come out and we were unable to view the images on a laptop due to the sun glare on the screen. The images were downloaded onto the laptop and it was decided we would view the images back at the Lodge. So, off we went back into the mud and water, crossing huge crop areas to get back to George's house. This walking journey took about two hours and were we ever tired and muddy when we arrived at George's! But what an eye-opener after we rinsed off with a hose and were invited into George's house! There was a table about fourteen feet long that was covered with a feast of homemade food for us to enjoy! We knew they would be providing us lunch, but we never expected the enormous feast which was put in front of us! It was just what we needed after a long workout trudging through the mud! The food was delicious and no one left the table hungry. We

thanked George and went back to the Lodge to finish cleaning up. A hot shower never felt so good!

That evening, we viewed the camera images and were elated to see a shot of a margay! That picture made the whole day worth it! Everyone was in good spirits throughout the day, experiencing obstacles the jungle put in front of us and seeing pictures of coatis, margays, ocelots,

jaguarundis, peccary, and jaguars was the icing on the cake. Our guides shared with us all they were doing with their wildcat conservation project and told us stories about some of the local wildcats. But the day's excitement was not finished yet! We hopped onto an airboat and explored the lagoon by moonlight! It was now time to learn about the Lodge's crocodile conservation project. They are currently catching crocs in the lagoon, logging the individual crocs' stats, letting us view the crocs and releasing them back into the water. It took a few tries, but our guide finally caught a croc in his net. I think it was the smallest croc in the lagoon! It was less than a foot long and was estimated to be between four and six months old!

Despite its tiny size, everyone was excited to see the animal up close and be able to hold it for pictures. Then the guides let us watch them do their research statistics (body length, area caught, size, sex, etc.). For the official records, we were able to name the croc before it was released. One person in our group was ecstatic to be a part of this research; it fulfilled a life-long dream of hers and unknowingly she hoarded the croc to herself for most of the time it was out of the water! None of us minded because the look on her face showed it all! She named the baby "Puddin'!" So it is now on official record that this baby male crocodile has the name of Puddin'! Poor thing!!! She reluctantly let the guides release the croc back into the water and we headed

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Howler monkey, a frequent sighting in the forest canopy.

back to the Lodge.

Everyone was enjoying the Lodge and being immersed in the jungle so much that the next morning was a bit sad, because we had to leave and head to the coast for the last part of our journey. The jungle is so full of life that one could stare at one square foot of an area and still not see all of what was going on in that area. Around here we have trees, but in the jungle they have trees with countless numbers of vines, flowers, and animals living in them, on them, and using them. The jungle is so full of life and breathtakingly beautiful.

So, off we went back to Belize City, to board a ferry to the island of Ambergris Caye, off the coast of Belize. There are numerous islands off the Belize coast; some of them occupied and some of them not. Ambergris Caye is one of the largest islands and the main town of San Pedro is highly populated. The ferry ride was not like ferry rides here in the states; it was a tiny ferry that was jam-packed with people. It was open in the back, which allowed the diesel fumes and extremely loud sounds from the motors to fill the boat. The ferry ride was almost two hours long and we were all extremely relieved to finally get off of the boat! A representa-

tive met us at the landing and drove us through the narrow cobblestone streets of San Pedro. They drive just as bad as cab drivers here in our major U.S. cities! What an eye-opener! I was not too impressed with the city; it looked old, run down, and a bit dirty.

We stayed at the Banyan Bay Resort, a little south of San Pedro. The island is about a half-mile wide and has only three long roads running its length. These long roads have many side streets to get from one place to another. Our resort was well landscaped, had a beautiful pool, and was right on the beach. There were about a dozen buildings with four suites in each building, so they were able to house us all in one building. There were two to four people to a suite. We each had our

own bedroom and bathroom and we shared a living room/kitchen area with one to two other people. The suites were

very roomy and clean, and we all had a view of the gardens and pool area. The first thing I did was run to the ocean and put my toes in the water! I love the ocean and will always need to live near it, and sticking my toes in the water seems to ground me somehow! After getting my toes wet, we visited the resort restaurant, which had good food, and one could eat outside overlooking the ocean or eat inside and enjoy the air-conditioning. We were on our own for most of the day and spent the day walking the beach and “sampling” from each beach restaurant/bar we came across! The evening was spent sitting out on our balcony enjoying a few cocktails and talking about how much fun we have had so far on our trip!

The next morning, we headed down the dock to meet our captain and boat mate for our day out on the water! Willy (the captain) and Jason were very friendly locals who make their living showing tourists the waters and all it has to offer. The Belize coastline is protected by the second largest barrier reef in the world, which runs along the entire coast. This reef protects the islands and coastline by taking the brunt of most storms and stopping the water surges from hitting the mainland. The reef is teeming with life



Margay caught by a camera trap in Belize.

and is second in size only to the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia.

Only five out of the eight of our group went out on the boat for the day. Two of us had good snorkeling experience, one had a little experience, one had never snorkeled before, and one opted out of the snorkeling part of the trip. The first stop was a short trip from the island to the edge of the reef. The waves crashing over the reef can be seen from the island, so it was not a long boat ride. The two experienced snorkelers geared up and jumped right in; the other two less experienced ones decided to wear life vests around their waist and slowly went into the water! We called the life vests “floaties,” because when worn around the waist they looked like baby floaties! Once all were in the water and we took our first look at the coral reef, there were no more hesitations – we were all fascinated by the amount of life below us! We snorkeled for as long as they would let us, being guided around by Jason. He pointed out fish and explained things to us; he also allowed us time to explore on our own. As mentioned earlier in this article, the weather was very rainy, and while we were snorkeling a huge storm came in. There was just rain and no lightening. But when one is snorkeling, one does not know what the weather is doing; one only realizes it when surfacing. So, we did not surface often, as it was too nasty on the surface!! Just like the jungle, every square inch of the reef was teaming with life and one did not want to miss anything! When we finally, reluctantly, got back in the boat, we were brought to Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley. This area is full of nurse sharks and sting rays due to its past of fisherman throwing their leftover chum and fish overboard in this area. As soon as we dropped anchor, we were greeted by four nurse sharks at the surface of the water. Once we saw them, someone yelled shark and we could not get into the water fast enough to see and swim



Trail camera photo of a jaguar.

with them! For those of you who are not too familiar with sharks, nurse sharks do not tend to attack man, and they are fairly safe to swim with. We enjoyed the marine reserve by snorkeling with the sting rays and sharks. The guides are allowed to interact with these animals and gently held them while we all touched them. We

were then brought to an area to enjoy fishing in the shallow, calm, turquoise blue waters. A few fish were caught while the storm clouds thinned enough to show a hint of the sun. At the end this fun-filled day, the captain cooked us fish, chicken, conch ceviche, and potatoes on the boat. The delicious food was a great, relaxing end to a fascinating day in the water!

That evening, we took golf carts into town to eat a light snack, explore San Pedro, and do some souvenir shopping. Our last night of our trip was at our resort’s restaurant, sipping on tropical blue cocktails overlooking the water! What a perfect ending to a wonderful trip!

To sum it up: the jungle is an amazing place full of life, and the ocean can be both fascinating and tranquil! We are currently researching other locations for another trip! We will let FCF members know where we decide to go and when! It could just possibly be a trip back to Lamanai!!!



Debi and Edwardo download photos from the trail camera.

ZAA Conference Review

By Michelle McKay

This was my first time attending the ZAA conference and it was quite the adventure. It was great to see friends I had not seen in a year and to meet many new people in “the business.” The first night was a welcome reception and, after talking to my friends, I enjoyed getting introduced to new individuals like “the Bear guys,” Dean and Monte Oswald, from Oswald’s Bear Ranch. I was once again reminded of what a small world it is when I introduced myself to Terry Tykolis, the director of the “Safari Niagara



At Bearzonia, large natural-looking rock formations are sculpted out of scrap metal and cement.

Zoo” in Canada. Come to find out, he owns a chalet in my hometown of Elliptonville, New York. “Matt 1” and “Matt 2” were excellent bartenders and made sure everyone was feeling welcome and well hydrated.

We were able to see some amazing views in Sedona, Arizona, on our way to Bearzonia, which is home to native North American wildlife. The ride was a little long, but Bearzonia was a great facility

and very impressive for only being open for three years. Everyone really enjoyed getting to see their free flight raptor show, and my other favorite was watching the yearling bear cubs roll around and wrestle with each other. Their enclosures were very spacious and provided lots of enrichment, utilizing the beautiful trees from the forest as well as rock walls they have created. Another highlight at Bearzonia was watching how they create cement rock creations

which start with a large pile of scrap metal (cars, buses, scrap metal sheeting), which is then covered with wire mesh and then sprayed with cement using specialized equipment that mixes water, cement mix, and air. I had no idea that this is how these awesome rocks are created.

Our next adventure involved a trip to Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium, which was a gorgeous facility that had a great mix of mammals, reptiles, and marine life. Upon arrival, everyone scattered in different directions, where some took in the education program, a behind-the-scenes tour of their veterinary facility, a tour of the sea lion area, bird feeding experience with their lorikeets, operant conditioning of their tigers, and a tour of the life support and kitchen at the aquarium. We were informed that this zoo had opened in 1960, and it was evident that this was a very well established zoo with years of experience behind it. The dinner they



Mindy Stinner poses with Alan Shoemaker, another ZAA conference attendee.

and wildlife encounters, training and its important role in stress-free medical treatment of large felids, a live animal program presentation with tips from professionals from a variety of facilities (Avian Ambassadors, Columbus Zoo, and Animal Edutainment), cheetah conservation, an education committee meeting, and Zoo 911, which gave excellent advice on dealing with medical emergencies when the vet is not close by. These are just a few of the presentations, but there was defi-

nately something for everyone, no matter if they were a large zoo owner, an animal trainer for the film industry, or an outreach educator like me.

The live auction and dinner was a great way to end a very fun, exhausting, and educational week in Arizona. One of my favorite things was listening to stories and looking at pictures of new and old friends. Charlie and Heather Sammut and Mark Fowler were just a few of the people I had the honor of meeting and getting to know. I believe I learned as much from this networking as I did by attending the presentations, which is what makes events like this so beneficial.

Although I was exhausted at the end of the week, it was definitely well worth the trip to the Wild Wild West of Arizona. I even got to do some tree hugging (well, actually cactus hugging) while spending time with family who had just recently moved to Phoenix.


provided was an amazing buffet, with something for everyone in our crazy crew.

The meetings at the conference offered a wide variety of presentations, from handling and management of venomous snakes, enhancing the guest experience through animal enrichment



Michelle couldn't leave Arizona without doing a little cactus hugging.

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Out of Africa, Our Favorite Place

By Robert and Sandralee Hohn

While visiting family in Arizona, it was suggested we visit Out of Africa Wildlife Park (back then, it was located in Fountain Hills). It was a small, couple of acres in size park, but we instantly fell in love with it. A wide range of animals were displayed in nice open habitats, but the real attraction was the staff's interaction with every animal. We were amazed to see handlers swimming with tigers at what was called the Tiger Splash (see Out of Africa tiger trainer Jeff Harwell's article in the September/October 2012 *FCF Journal*).

The Big Cat show with Dean and Prayeri Harrison, Eclipse the black leopard, and happy guy Saginaw Tiger was our favorite. We were invited to come back for the camp out that they had twice a year. We would sleep right over the lion's den. (Tim Stoffel, you would love this.) It was a fascinating opportunity to learn from these experts about natural animal behaviors vs. training.

When the Harrisons were forced to move off of the Indian reservation in Fountain Hills, Robert took a week off from work to help along with many other volunteers, who moved fencing and materials up to the new location in Camp Verde. We both returned to Out of Africa the following spring to volunteer help with road construction and brush removal



Out of Africa has its own lion king watching over the vastness of the Arizona landscape.

at the new park.

We were worried that by moving to a much larger place they would lose the intimacy of a smaller park, but that was not the case. With a great staff that interacts with all the animals, it is even better than we could have imagined. Every time we visit, we learn more and more. The park has everything from snakes, birds, giraffes, zebra, and rhino, to all of our favorite cats. There are hyenas that mess

around with everything, cougars and bears sharing a giant habitat, and sharing other things as well (I do not want to ruin the surprise). When I learned that Convention was going to feature a trip to the Out of Africa park, I was excited. You should be, too, because this will be a convention you will not want to miss; there is something for everyone.



Eclipse, the black leopard, gets to walk around the park with Dean Harrison.



Happy guy Saginaw Tiger is one of Robert and Sandralee's favorite cats at the park. Prayeri sits beside the giant for a close encounter.

Capturing Small Wild Cats

By Len Davidson

We have all tried to capture our wild cats for various reasons, including those that get loose when we least expected it. We have all experienced that heart-thumping panic when we realize our beloved wild cat has gotten out.

Tools of the trade: that is what I call my small cat capturing kit. It includes a cat carrier, have-a-heart trap, gloves, a pull net, sand, motion sensor, and other sundry cat attractions. Wild cats, however, are very smart—not that I need to tell you this. If they know you are trying to capture them, food usually does not work. It is game time to them and outwitting you is their specialty.

If they are still in a building, it is just a matter of time before they go back into their enclosure. Catching them in there is the real challenge. For this, I have used a baby monitor. If they cannot see you, the excitement is gone and they may wonder back in; then all you have to do is rush in and shut the door—if you are fast enough. I put something in the enclosure that makes noise when they bump into it, like plastic cups. Baby monitors are good at picking up small sounds, so this has helped. Keep the area dark or with very low lights and quiet. This provides an atmosphere of comfort and security for them.

If you still cannot find them and are not sure they are in the building, put a fine layer of sand all over the floor. This way, you can see their paw prints. I always keep several pounds of sand on hand just should the occasion arise.

The most horrifying circumstance is when they have escaped outside. Now you have to work fast. Use the sand as described above. Put out their favorite food—this is when food is worth a try. I have used a CD player with the sounds of birds playing continuously. Just play it softly. A loud noise may drive them off. If they normally live indoors with you, leave a door cracked

enough for them to fit their body through and put a motion sensor in that area so that they will trip it just by walking through. I put the listening device by my bed because chances are they will show up at night. When the device beeps, I go to the other side of the door so that I can shut it from behind, capturing them inside. If you do not have this option, any slight noises you make to investigate may send them running back out again.

Some other ideas people have shared with me are putting feathers on a string and letting them blow in front of a small fan. This could intrigue a wild cat's urge to hunt. If the building is a comfortable temperature, you may consider sleeping in it, if you do not think your cat will "attack" you in your sleep. Be prepared for other creatures to wander in and trip the motion sensor, such as stray cats, skunks, raccoons, and other charming woodland creatures.

Another idea is to use a video monitor so you can see and hear what is going on in your building. The only difficulty with this approach is using it in low light. I have also used night vision goggles. I purchased some that use the same technology as those used by the army in Desert Storm. They work amazingly well. The key is not to let the cat know you are near.


It is far better to be prepared than to do all of these things after the cat has gotten out. And believe me, if you think it cannot happen to you—think again. Wild cats are so fast and so intelligent that our ability to move and keep up with them is almost impossible. The key is acting fast. The more time that goes by, the less likely you will see them again. Wild cats often hang out in familiar territory for a few days, then sometimes disappear forever. On the other hand, I have known of cases where cats have come back, on their own, after several weeks.

If you need to capture a cat for the purposes of medication, etc., I have seen people put a cat carrier up to the cat in its cage and the cat will jump into it. If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. Try it some time. My favorite is the pull net. It is a fairly deep net with a heavy cord around at the top. Once the cat is nabbed, just pull the cord. It is usually that simple. I have found it worth its weight in gold since I have had occasion to use it so often. I can give an injection through it or move a cat to another area. You will lose a lot less blood this way.

The difficulty of losing a wild cat is that you cannot exactly ask your neighbors if they have seen your wild cat without instilling a sense of panic throughout the entire neighborhood. How would you post a flier with a picture of your wild cat on it? The smaller the cat the better, since many people cannot tell the difference between a small wild cat and a domestic cat. Sad but true. If you do decide to let your community know, be prepared to be inundated with calls that turn out to be domestic cats and people calling to gift you with another cat to replace your loss.

The best advice is to be prepared before this problem arises. I would enjoy hearing from others about their experiences capturing wild cats and the things they have tried that brought good results.

Books - Feeding Supplies - Gifts

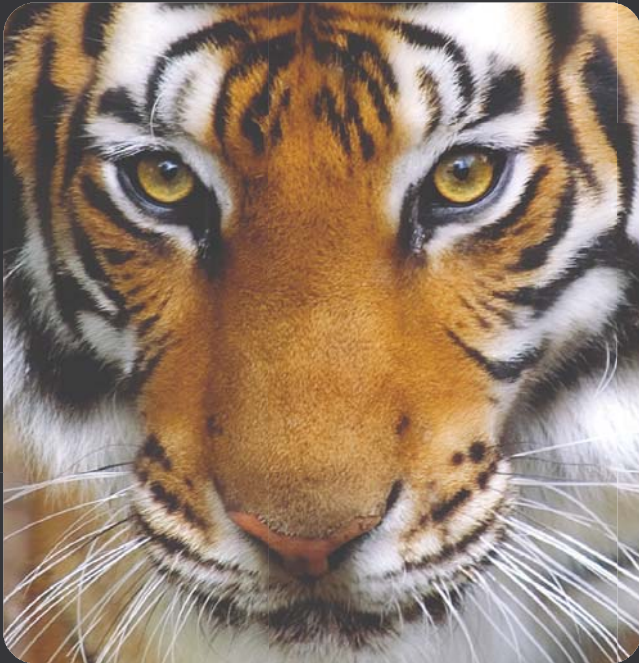
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Educating Our Youth

By Amy Flory

As the editor and a major contributor of the *FCF Young Feline Ambassador Newsletter*, I would like to provide our members more insight into this publication produced by the Youth Education Committee/Education Committee. This bi-monthly electronic newsletter was first published in March 2011, as a way to educate the kids of FCF members and non-members alike about wild cats. Each issue features the following regular sections: FCF News and Events, FCF Member Zoos and Sanctuaries to Visit, Learning about the Cats, Efforts to Save the Wild Cats, Feline Fun, and a Glossary.

FCF News and Events is where we post the current events happening in the FCF, such as the Wildcat Weekend or the Convention. Our members may also submit their kid-friendly events happening at their facilities or with their educational or research programs to be included in this section. For our members with permanent facilities, we have the FCF Member Zoos and Sanctuaries to Visit section. Several member facilities are already listed. Please send us your facility name, address, and website if you want your facility included as a place the kids can visit.

Learning about the Cats provides interesting facts about a different cat species and, whenever possible, goes beyond the normal facts like habitat and diet that are already found in our Youth Resources section on the FCF website. We include facts about records the cat has, its history, any interesting movies and television shows it was in, any unique items the cat is on, and any other similar information. For instance, did you know that a serval was part of a circus exhibit in Pennsylvania in 1868, and was on exhibit at the National Zoo as early as 1902? Or that President Calvin Coolidge once had a bobcat in the Whitehouse?

Efforts to Save the Wildcats is the conservation message part of the newsletter that includes both field research

our members and others are doing and captive breeding and education programs. Past messages have covered the Andean cat research program, rare captive births, an overview of the various conservation statuses (IUCN, CITES, ESA), educational programs at schools, and captive breeding efforts.

The Feline Fun section is our fun and games page. Here we have matching, crosswords, unscrambles, questions about what is in the newsletter, and other games. During holiday issues, we often include a section with fun photos of cats.

I am currently seeking a volunteer to be in charge of the conservation section for each issue. The volunteer would need to come up with the conservation topic and write and send me a one or two page article every other month. A photo or two to go with it is also encouraged. The newsletter goes out the first of odd months, so the article would need to be turned in a couple of weeks in advance.

The Education Committee is also interested in starting a new teen newsletter that would be geared toward training teens about the various jobs involving wild cats

and what they need to do if they want to pursue one of them. It would also include any classes and internship-type opportunities available. In order to start the newsletter, we would need a team of dedicated volunteers. Some possible positions we came up with include:

•Editor/Head of the Newsletter – Would be fully in charge of all aspects of the newsletter from beginning to end. Duties would include keeping the team members on schedule, getting the articles and items from the rest of the team, putting the newsletter together, and ensuring it gets sent to the Education Committee Chair on time.


•Interviewer – Would submit an article that covers a different profession each time. Duties would include writing a list of interview questions that ask what education, skills and experience someone interested in that profession would need and a basic plan for obtaining it, sending it to, or personally interviewing professionals who work with wild cats, and writing an article based on the answers.

•Feline Information Provider – Would submit information about a different species for each issue that would focus more on the various professions involving felines. For instance, is the species ideal for those who want to start their own educational programs? What methods are used by veterinarians to treat this species? What is required for those who want to research this species in the wild?

•Education/Internship Opportunity Researchers – Someone to research some of the educational classes and programs that exist for someone interested in working with felines, and to find internship or other opportunities where teens can get experience now or after they turn 18.

If you are interested in any of the positions listed or you wish to have your facility or event listed in the newsletter, please email the Youth Education Committee at Youth@FelineConservation.org.


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*2014 FCF Convention is
being held in
Scottsdale, Arizona!*

**Thursday, June 19, through
Saturday, June 21**

**Basic Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry
Course and Wildlife
Conservation Educators Course ~
Wednesday, June 18**

*Make plans to vacation with feline enthusiasts
from around the world at the FCF Convention.*

Keep your eyes peeled for flight specials to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX).

We have something really special in mind for the 2014 Convention. Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Mingus Mountains of Camp Verde, we will be busing to Out of Africa Wildlife Park, nestled on over 100 acres of rolling hills and valleys. This setting is home to hundreds of exotic mammals, birds, and reptiles from all over the world.

Upon entering the Serengeti preserve, we'll immediately be transported to the world of roaming African wildlife, where anything is possible, including making friends with a herd of giant eland or spotting a zebra foal nuzzling up against its mother. How about an encounter with an ostrich or stealing a kiss from a giraffe? It's all ready to happen; all you have to do is be there!

We may be in Arizona, but the feeling will be like Africa when we hitch a ride on our own African Bush Safari Tour. Imagine being surrounded by some of the world's most exotic free roaming animals as we ride in safari vehicles, complete with expert guide and narration.

Get closer than you ever thought possible to giraffes, zebras, sable antelope, gemsbok, and so many more inhabitants of Out of Africa Wildlife Park's spacious Serengeti preserve. Be sure to bring your camera so you can capture all the priceless safari moments!

Stay in luxury at the Scottsdale Cottonwoods Resort and Suites Hotel, 6160 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona (www.scottsdalecottonwoods.com). Call 480-991-1414 to reserve your room at the special FCF Convention rate of only \$82, which includes breakfast for two each morning.

See you there!





Photographer Brittany Nelson submitted this one of Gretchen Mogensen holding PJ, an adorable white tiger cub, posing as “Santa Claws” for the holidays. Come visit both at the Natural Bridge Zoo in Virginia.



Debbie Marietta caught her boss, Patty, asleep on the job. Patty's feline pillow cougar, Max, a wonderful companion and savior for Wildlife Environmental Conservation, a non-profit center that rehabilitates rap also houses native and exotic felines tion.

Your Best Shots



Spirit took to the celery offering from owner, Debi Willoughby. Last *Journal*, Tina Bayer reported celery as a favorite enrichment offering, and Geoffroy's cat Spirit seems to agree.



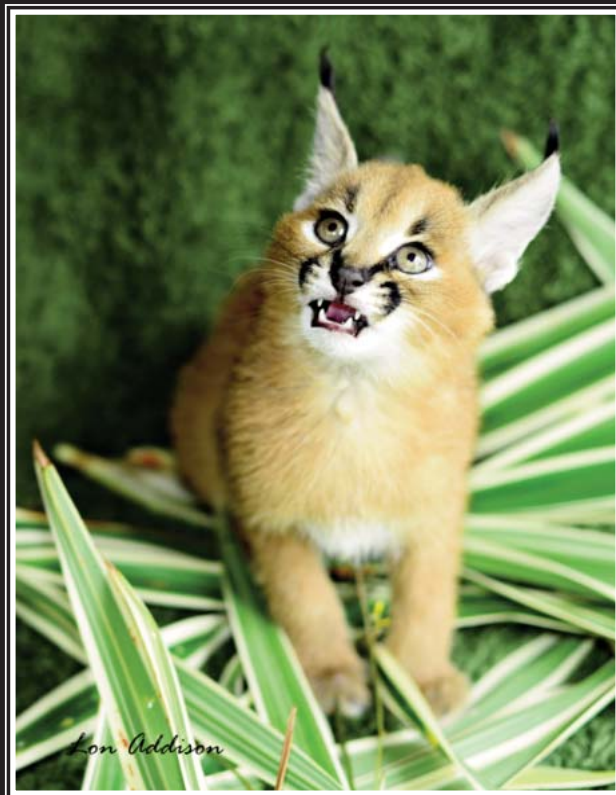
What's better than a pair of leopard cats? How about their litter of four kits? Photo by David Sparandara.



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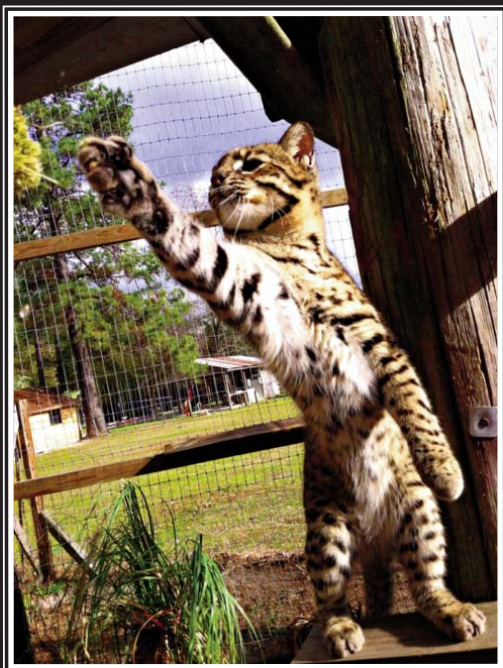
Looks like Lyncoln Lynx is loving this attention from Santa's elf, Courtney Frenchak. Photo by her husband Michael.



Lon Addison took this photo of Billie Lambert's little caracal kitten. Is she smiling or grimacing?



low
id



Dahruma, a Geoffroy's cat, reaches for the toy. This little species has great balance and owner Sherri DeFlorio photographed this standing shot.



These are a litter of liligers, a double hybrid crossing created by breeding a liger (lion/tiger hybrid) with a lion. The final size of these felines when they reach adulthood is unknown. Watch them grow up at the GW Interactive Zoological Park, Wynnewood, OK. Photo by Joe Schreibvogel.

Jaguarundis Board the “Photo Ark”

By Jim Broaddus, Director, Bear Creek Feline Center, Panama City, Florida, & Joel Sartore

I had just finished a strenuous afternoon, training one of our cats and, admittedly, I was tired. I usually let my phone calls ring through to voice mail on days like this, but this time, when the female computer generated voice announced, “Call from Cal-o-han, Pat-rick,” I anxiously picked up on the second ring to greet Pat, calling from Cincinnati. “Some guy with a camera is following me around” said Pat. “Let me send him to you.” That “some guy” was Joel Sartore, and I soon learned that that “some guy” has rock star status with just about every spirited animal aficionado on Mother Earth. Joel Sartore is none other than National Geographic’s elite photographer whose mission is “Photo Ark.” Eight years ago, Joel began this project, which aims to photograph roughly 6,000 captive species of Earth’s assortment of animals (including felines....also people). Now he’s more than halfway there, having catalogued 3,050 species and counting. I think the Bear Creek jaguarundis were 3,049!

That first conversation transpired with



Little Yoda is used to being the king of the household and so he hisses at cameraman Joel Sartore to make sure the stranger with all the equipment has proper respect for the pint-sized feline. ©Joel Sartore/www.joelsartore.com.

Joel Sartore over a year ago. Then, after months of preproduction planning, this big time photo shoot was set for the morning of November 9. There were amped up sounds of voices on property and deliberate, aggressive vibrations of boots on the ground as Joel, assisted by BCFC interns, unloaded his assortment of Nikon cameras, foot-long

optics, light boxes, slaved wink lights, cables, and power supplies. Many hours of planning were about to produce pay dirt as Joel began to acquire his world class images of our young male, “Yoda,” using his signature stark white backgrounds alternating with jet black settings, while shooting captive subjects. “It allows us to get close and personal and look them in



Joel Sartore shoots Yoda again, this time a more relaxed pose in front of a white background.

©Joel Sartore/www.joelsartore.com.



Ruskie, from Russia, and her cub, Fraulein. Ruskie is an excellent mother and the pair are inseparable. ©Joel Sartore/www.joelsartore.com.



Volker Firnkes/BluzArtPhotograph photographed the photographer taking photos of the jaguarundi.



Yoda's profile makes for a stately portrait of the lively young jaguarundi. ©Joel Sartore/www.joelsartore.com.

the eye," Sartore said. "You can see details and what makes them marvelous."

We moved the set to our main jaguarundi night house, where images were obtained of the adult female, "Ruskie," gifted to BCFC last year by Zoo Novosibirsk, Russia, and her six month old cub, "Fraulein," appropriately named in tribute to friends at Zoo Dortmund, Germany, who sent us Der Vader.

Joel told me that he would rather be lucky than good, but why don't you judge for yourself. He's both! These photo images are worth more than a thousand words.

If you think that you might have ani-

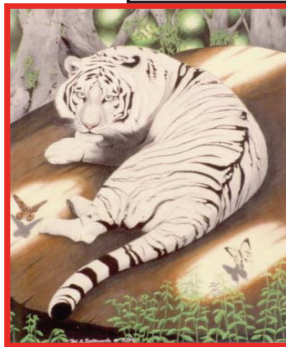
mals that Joel needs for "Photo Ark," you should contact him. Mind you that he catalogues each species only once. We snatched the entry for jaguarundi and we couldn't be more proud of this achievement. Take a look at his work online at www.joelsartore.com. And, if you like our small reddish-brown cats, we extend an open invitation for FCF mem-

bers and friends to see all six of them, just north of Panama City, in the famous Panhandle of the Sunshine State. We stream live jaguarundi video from our facilities at www.bearcreekfelinecenter.org. Tours are available, by appointment, to see 24 resident felines representing six species at (850) 722-9927 or email at info@bearcreekfelinecenter.org.

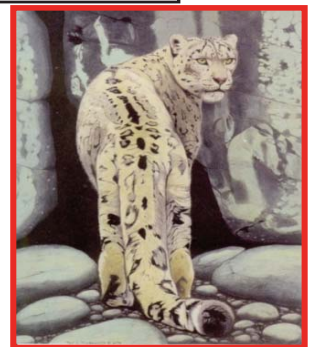


Another shot of Yoda, doing what he does best – hissing at strangers in his household. ©Joel Sartore/www.joelsartore.com.

FCF NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Meet the Wildcat Safety Net Challenge!



FCF granted funds to transport 28 tigers to Turpentine Creek

Wildlife Refuge where these big cats a secure retirement home to live out their golden years.

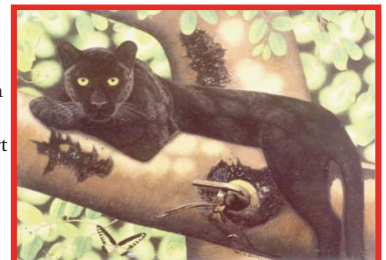
Now we need to refresh our funding so FCF can help transport more cats when emergencies arise.

For each donation of \$30 or more, choose one of three thank you prints by artist Teri Zucksworth. These 18" x 24" colored pencil drawings are ready for matting and framing.

Pick the black leopard, "Hanging Around," the lounging white tiger, "Paying a Visit," or the snow leopard, "Standing Guard."

Go to the FCF website to make a donation with PayPal today. Or call the treasurer at 479-394-5235 to use your credit card and support this worthy cause.

Do your part to help transport captive felines out of harm's way—support the FCF Wildcat Safety Net with a donation today.



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Buddy, the Ambassador

By Elizabeth Felton

Buddy “Love” Felton Serval is my pet. As the only animal in the house, Buddy gets A LOT of attention. We started putting a harness and collar on him as soon as we got him. At seven months old, it has become a normal activity for him. Our beach allows pets to be walked most months of the year. After checking with town hall and making sure it was okay, we started taking Buddy for walks on the beach within a week or so of his arrival. This has also become part of his “normal.” We do not allow strangers to touch him when we are out in public. He does, however, “sit” on command and will generally stay long enough for me to answer inevitable questions about him. We try to keep stops for chat to a minimum and go to the beach at times when there are very few people there.

In addition to his regular vet visits, we’ve made an agreement with Buddy’s veterinarian to have social visits every couple of weeks. On these visits, we bring Buddy in on a leash. This allows the doctor, staff, and patient to have a relationship that is not always about needing to be poked and prodded.

Knowing how much I love to travel, one of my considerations before getting Buddy was “Who will watch him while

we are away?” Those with exotics know how difficult it is to find a reliable sitter you trust with your furry kids. Judy Berens is one of the most loving cat people I know. If you’ve had the pleasure of visiting Panther Ridge Conservation Center, in Wellington, Florida, you understand why I’d be so comfortable leaving my little fur baby with her. I was very happy when she agreed to watch Buddy for me here and there. It was on the first vacation away from Buddy that we realized such a spoiled pet might make a fabulous ambassador.

Buddy is accustomed to being exposed to new people as part of his regular routine. He is handled by multiple family members and has not fallen into the “one person cat” category. (I hope it stays that way into adulthood.) Panther Ridge offers a photo tour, but the photographs must be shot from a distance through chain-link. The cheetah enclosure is two acres with a sizable lock-out. An idea was born. What if you could allow photographers a shoot



Buddy relaxes on his passed out “daddy,” Robert Felton.

in a setting large enough to feel as though it were “wild” without crowding the cat, but small enough to easily track and capture photos of the cat? With Charlie cheetah taking a rest in his lock-out, we brought 12 photographers, four handlers, and one adorable serval into a two-acre enclosure. Buddy had no idea he was “working.” As a matter of fact, all we did was what we do at home, run and play. The tour resulted in some amazing photos. The photographers were happy, Buddy got to have some fun, and we were able to raise some money for Panther Ridge. It was such a success, we planned for another



Liz takes Buddy to the beach for walks and jogging. He enjoys the ocean view and enormous sandbox to play in.

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The FCF board of directors congratulates the following individuals for being accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program since the past *Journal* issue.

Gabe Ligon - Basic
Jaden Siler – Basic

Nancy Siler - Basic

Basic Feline Handlers have documented at least one year of experience, Intermediate level is at least five years of experience, and Advanced handlers have more than ten years experience. Update your registration when you obtain additional handling experience or new species experience.

The online registration form can be filled out directly in the members-only section of the FCF website. The \$30.00 registration fee can be made through PayPal.

Being a registered handler is the first step to becoming a Professional Member. Professional Membership application is also online on the Members-Only website.

Congratulations to all of these members for their dedication to their cats.

Debi Willoughby, FCF Secretary



At Panther Ridge Conservation Center, Buddy got the run of the cheetah habitat, and run he did! Photo by Kim DiNapoli, who also took the *Journal* cover photo.

er a couple of months later.

The second tour was as successful as the first. I had received, before making the trip, a letter from Palm Beach Mazda inviting everyone to bring their pets to meet Santa. So that's what we did. Buddy dazzled staff; everyone was tickled to see the "wild cat" perched on the hood

happen. There are no state, county, or local restrictions on servals where I live. I did however need to drive through Georgia and into Florida. Florida Fish and Wildlife was very helpful in assisting me with paperwork to make sure I had the proper permits for their state. Georgia Department of Natural Resources was also

of a new car. The manager was sweet enough to open discussions with Judy on how the dealership might be able to assist Panther Ridge in fundraising.

We did have to jump through some hoops to make the visits to Panther Ridge

very helpful with a "drive through" permit, since they do not allow private possession of servals in the state.

We will continue to lavish love and attention on Buddy. At home, it essentially feels like we have an overgrown house cat. We hope the continued outings we provide as enrichment for him will keep him open to ambassador volunteer work in the future.



Another shot of Buddy here at play in the cheetah yard.



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Avalocats Sanctuary

By Michelle Donlick

I am delighted to be the guardian of a serval, caraval, and two lovely, small leopard cats. I am also the guardian of twenty or so early generation hybrid felines (savannah, bengal, safari, jungle cat, and chausie), as well as quite a few hybrids that are considered domestic, being F4 or higher. My husband Steve and I have a sanctuary in South Carolina, for hybrid and small exotic felines, some of whom are personal pets and some who need a safe haven to live out their lives.

What we do here is welcome in cats that need a safe, loving place to live (like many of us do!). There are many different reasons why the cats end up here. On some occasions, their owners couldn't keep them due to travel or their own illness. It is a stressful and emotional event for any hybrid or exotic cat to be rehomed, both for them and their owners. Unfortunately, some have ended up here



Serval resident at Avalocats.

due to inappropriate urination issues. It seems humans don't appreciate sprayed urine in their home the way another cat does. Having said that, we also have domestics with the same issues - so it certainly is not limited to just hybrid cats. We have cats with aggressive tendencies, IBD, OCD, thyroid problems, bladder stones, lost limbs, a missing eye, antisocial and painfully shy behavior, and a once difficult to handle F1 bengal with a fractured pelvis who needs her bladder expressed every day as she can't urinate on her own due to being hit by a car. Many have also arrived through shelters as referrals by cat rescue groups. Obviously these cats ended up here for a reason, some reasons of which make no sense to me like the cat just being louder or busier than normal.

It was so very exciting and moving when my husband and I had the opportunity to welcome in our serval and caraval from Bruce and Denise Little, whom many of you know from being members and active educators for years. They raised these two from babies and trusted us to care for them when the property they lived on was selected to have a

highway run through it. They had to rehome most of their animals. Over a year later, I acquired two Asian leopard cats, who are rather like role models to my further understanding of the hybrid cats that are here. They have become a passion and I hope to be blessed with more. I also participated in both the husbandry and educator's courses offered by the FCF, which helped a great deal in my education to apply towards the cats. Most important was feeling welcomed and supported by other cat conservationists of the same - who welcomed and appreciated all cats for their cat behavior.

I've been a veterinary technician most of my life, but I'm fortunate enough to make my living training horses on our farm - specializing in Natural Horsemanship for Eventing competition. I have working students come from all over the world to study these techniques to learn to be better for their horses. The first prerequisite is that they must love cats! Coincidentally, one of my best horse clients is a small animal veterinarian who used to work at the Birmingham Zoo with expertise in the large cats. We are lucky to have her as our sanctuary veterinarian and she enjoys learning more about the lesser cats and the hybrids. With both our knowledge and skills combined, we are able to monitor and treat our cats' health when need be. We have a microscope, centrifuge, and our own lab account - which make it a heck of a lot more convenient to be able to do some things at home.



One of two leopard cats does a balancing act.



Caraval came to Avalocats Sanctuary after the owner's property was elected to have a highway run through the middle. This hybrid is half caracal, half serval.

When owners rehome their cats to us, we require donations to be able to keep up with the care of their cats. If a cat comes with no owner or a failed owner (shelter), there is no donation and the cost comes out of our own pockets. Different accommodations are offered depending on the breed, size, problem, and lifestyle that the cat is used to. We have small condo/apartments for indoor areas with outdoor enclosures attached. Some areas don't have indoor access, but have safe, warm houses within the enclosure. We also have house cats, barn cats, and front and back yard cats. A perimeter fence is on our wish list!

I love what I do every day; day in and day out it is a commitment, a privilege to be able to be a guardian for these magnificent cats. Through the FCF, I have felt and seen the same lifestyle and level of commitment to cats that all of you have. It is inspiring and motivational to me as a fair newbie to exotics, yet not to cats. I look very much forward to developing my skills and experience as a conservationist and as an educator for my cats.

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The Kevin Richardson Trifecta

By Tina Bayer

My introduction to the world of Kevin Richardson came a few years ago when I received an African lion documentary box set for Christmas. That set contained eight lion documentaries, one of which was “Dangerous Companions.” I watched and was hooked, truly amazed at what I saw.

Later, one lucky day while perusing the shelves of Half-Price Books, searching for written treasures, I came across the book *Part of the Pride: My Life Among the Big Cats of Africa*, by Kevin Richardson (with Tony Park). I was absolutely thrilled that I found the autobiography (I didn’t know existed) of the same guy who impressed me so much in “Dangerous Companions.”

While reading the book (and loving it), I learned of the movie “White Lion,” made by Kevin Richardson and Lion Park owner Rodney Fuhr. I immediately had Amazon send it to me.

This is the Kevin Richardson trifecta, and let me introduce you to his world.

Part of the Pride begins with an intense incident (written as a prologue) involving a lion named Tsavo. Kevin’s family was

visiting the South African Lion Park where he was working. Not wanting to disappoint his family, Kevin wanted to interact with Tsavie (Kevin’s pet name for him), who was not so inclined to put on a show. The dramatic events that unfolded were instead a bloody show that became a pivotal point in Kevin’s lion education. As the stakes climb, the retelling stops in suspense for Kevin to start from the beginning and explain how his life led to that point.

Born in 1974, Kevin Richardson grew up in the Orange Grove suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa. As a possible replacement for material possessions, like toys and vacations, his father brought the children animals to nurture.

The relationship between his parents was tense, and as things worsened inside the house, Kevin spent more and more time with animals. Watching “Dallas” with his leopard toad Paddatjie and his parrot JR Ewing sounds like interesting household dynamics. His reputation for caring for sick or injured birds earned him the nickname “The Birdman of Orange Grove.”

Early on, he was “not content to just look at his pets, he wanted to get to know each one, build a relationship and test boundaries.” A schoolboy frog liberating stunt taught him an important lesson: just because an animal is caged, it doesn’t necessarily mean that an animal is neglected.

The death of his father, when Kevin was about 12, was a bit of a relief for the family, but with the strict disciplinarian gone from his life, Kevin started down the wild path of his rebellious teenage years. Ironically, his wild behavior during this time would later prove valuable when trying to relate to lions in their wild teenage years.

After somewhat settling down, Kevin started university in the zoology field. Disappointed with the constant study of sea mollusks and nematodes, Kevin dropped out. He eventually returned to school, finishing in the field of exercise physiology. Working at a gym, Kevin’s life changed when he met a client named Rodney

Fuhr. This man was to play a huge part in his life.

Rodney bought the South African Lion Park and loved to share his toys. During an exercise session, he invited Kevin to check out the park. Kevin’s first meeting with Napoleon and the then unnamed Tau sealed his fate. That’s when Kevin heard the first piece of advice. “Conventional wisdom, or perhaps superstition, among lion keepers, was that one should never trust a lion with clear eyes.” This little tidbit was referring to the crystal clear, soul-piercing eyes of Tau.

Not knowing all the conventional lion keeper wisdom, Kevin spent more and more time at the park, visiting, enjoying, and getting to know the animals. This interaction led to some unbelievable relationships. Not knowing how taboo his actions were, he pushed conventional boundaries when he fed the lions meat by hand and let them drink water from his cupped hands. He broke the “rules” before he even knew the “rules.”

What Kevin was doing and how he was doing it definitely attracted controversy, criticism, and skepticism. Not wanting to admit or acknowledge his success, some critics and skeptics put forth some theories to explain the “real” reason for his success. Some of the more popular theories: His lions are so well fed; they are declawed; he carries a concealed weapon or shock stick; another handler is always posted outside the enclosure armed with an AK-47.

Kevin soon decided to listen to his own senses and instincts, not the words of people. “I’ve based a lot of how I work with animals on watching them and learning how they behave. I was watching and learning not just for the sake of learning, but because I wanted to work out how I could relate to my pets.” And relate he did. He considers Tau and Napoleon his brothers and he is part of their pride. His favorite girls are Meg and Ami. He hand-raised them when their mother Tabby abandoned them. Each lion is an individual and Kevin constantly examines each relationship. He has learned the individual barriers with each lion and also that those barriers can change.

Another species with which Kevin’s relationships have defied logic and baffled many is the spotted hyena. Rodney Fuhr decided to expand the Lion Park to a



Tina’s niece Madalynn holds up *Part of the Pride*.

Predator Park and thus began the hyena adventures. Immediately, the warnings were drummed into Kevin's head. "These are not relationship animals" and "they will tear you to pieces." These ideas were adamantly stressed to Kevin by experts. "Hyenas have a bad reputation as marauding scavengers, and this has been perpetuated by Hollywood, documentary makers, and even local African tradition." Portrayed as the enemy and villain of the enemy of the cat world, the hyena is hated by many. I fell prey to that same prejudice. Kevin's book and documentary opened my eyes to an unseen side of hyenas. The tales and escapades of Trelli, Bonnie and Chucky (aka Bonnie and Clyde), Geena, and others easily dispel that hate. This hyena change of heart is one of the biggest points taken away from my Kevin Richardson experience.

Kevin tells of many more cute and comical critters that have shared his life at the park. Nandi is a black backed jackal who has eyes only for Kevin. Since jackals mate for life, Kevin is her soul mate and one true love. Lenny the cheetah will definitely make you chuckle. His theme song is "I like big butts and I cannot lie!"



Maeleigh, another of Tina's nieces, holds up "The African Lion" documentaries and "White Lion," which became a movie.

Not all tales have such a happy ending. The life of little Homer the hyena cub requires tissues. What happened to Graham the white lion is a sad, sobering reminder that nature is red in tooth and claw.

Kevin discusses and defends his ideas and opinions on captive animal management and hunting, two topics that illicit very strong opinions. One point he expresses I found interesting because I never thought of it the same way. "Part of the problem with a troubled captive lion is that it may have been hand-raised as a cub and exposed to humans when it was little and cute. Getting all this attention made for an enriched and contented animal. In captivity there usually comes a point when the cub is withdrawn from public contact due to size and safety. The cub starts with so much love and attention, then human contact and interaction is stopped. Imagine how confusing that can be to a lion and how it would definitely have some impact on a cat's behavior."

Someone who works as intimately with these types of animals may not be as impressed. Reading the book with the right attitude is key. If you are a hardcore conventional animal trainer who views your way as absolute, you may not enjoy this book. If you do not try to compare his way to yours or other trainers'

and just read the book, you will enjoy it. I really enjoyed this book. It was very well written and easy to read. I found it difficult to put down. It was thought-provoking, entertaining, and educational, all without any hint or undertone of arrogance or cockiness that comes across from other trainers. Kevin openly admits mistakes and bad judgment calls. He faults himself for overlooking signals for a show or shot and that has cost him some feline relationships. Whether you agree or disagree with what and how Kevin has worked with these animals, he has produced some amazing results.

After you have read the book, I highly recommend the documentary "Dangerous Companions" to see the results for yourself. The documentary visually enhances the book when we meet some of Kevin's favorite animals. Putting faces to the names make for a more intimate experience. The names are no longer just words on a page.

We meet Tau and Napoleon, Kevin's lion brothers, as we are introduced to "lion etiquette." 1. When I tell you I have had enough, please believe me. 2. Don't come near me when I am eating. 3. Don't approach me without notice. 4. Don't irritate me when I am sleeping, unless I invite you to tickle my tummy.

Remember the advice Kevin was given, "don't trust a lion with clear eyes," referring to Tau? We see those eyes in the documentary. Words do not give them justice. His eyes are crystal clear and absolutely mesmerizing. You can easily get lost staring into those magical eyes.

We are also introduced to the girls in Kevin's life. Meg and Ami are the two very special lionesses he hand-raised. Meg looks like Baby Huey as she follows Kevin into the water, then decides to hang onto him. Pelokghale is a huge and intimidating lioness who shows us the best and worst parts of Kevin's job.

The hyena footage is particularly interesting. Trelli is the perfect ambassador hyena who can turn a hater around. He reminds me of man's best friend, riding in



"Dangerous Companions" is available on DVD.

a truck cab, sticking his head out the window.

Gambit is a giraffe with an over curious nature that almost gets him into trouble. He thinks everyone is his friend, including Napoleon and Trelli.

Reading the book about these special relationships is one thing. Watching them come to life is absolutely amazing, especially when you can call a hyena cute. No matter how odd it seems, Kevin is right at home with his dangerous companions.

Those companions influenced a massive feature film project that eventually became the movie "White Lion."

The "White Lion" story was an idea Rodney Fuhr carried around in his heart and mind for many years. With Kevin's assistance, the project was able to come to fruition.

"White Lion" is a simplistic story of a young African boy named Gisani and a white lion cub named Letsatsi. Gisani is coming of age and follows Letsatsi as they both face challenges along the path destiny paved for them.

The story may be simple, but the project was not. Rodney wanted the picture filmed entirely on location and during the season Africa's colors are most vibrant. The beautiful white lions set against the lush emerald greens of the grass and bush would be striking footage never done this way before. Ambitions were high, maybe too high, as the day-to-day reality of the choice of filming season set in. The set was constantly struggling with rain, mud, stuck vehicles, and more. Pristine white lions would not look so gorgeous covered in mud.

Being involved in every aspect of this film from producer to wrangler to photographer, Kevin was stretched thin and pulled in many different directions. He felt it was difficult to walk the line between getting the job done and watching out for the animals best interests. One specific relationship was destroyed by Kevin being pressured and missing signals. The only adult male white lion at the Lion Park was actually named Letsatsi. Kevin had a five year relationship history with that lion. Filming him for the promo did not go as planned. When Letsatsi got out of the truck, Kevin looked in his eyes and realized something was not right, but he and others tried to convince themselves it would work out. It did not. Kevin's five year relationship was destroyed in one day. He chastises him-

self for breaking two of his rules on the movie set: overruling his sixth sense to get a shot and succumbing to peer pressure. Looking back now, he says "I don't want to put myself or my animals through that again."


The movie begins with the narrator retelling an old African legend regarding a tribe that revered the white lion. As man has eradicated the white lion, the tribe feels it is being punished for that sin with the bad fortune that befalls them.

As soon as the narrator speaks, I immediately recognize the captivating voice of John Kani. Interestingly, this African actor also narrated and starred in "The Ghost and the Darkness," the film based on Col. John Patterson's 1890s' true account with the man eaters of Tsavo.

The movie takes the point of view of a campfire story being told by an elder to a group of children at a wildlife sanctuary. As a very young cub, Letsatsi is constantly facing the very real struggles to survive. The young boy Gisani finds it is his soul's path to follow and watch out for Letsatsi. He hopes his duty to watch over the sacred white lion will bring a better fortune and future for his tribe.

One of the most intense sequences in the movie is the must have showdown between a fully grown Letsatsi and a resident tawny lion. Having two real lions fight for the scene was too dangerous, so special effects people were called in. An animatronic lion was built, completely movable with hydraulics and cables. A dyed white skin and a brown lion skin could be draped over it as fur and interchangeable as needed. The idea was for the real white lion to fight the brown fake one and vice versa. Then the shots could be edited and combined to show as much of the real lions as possible, all without injury to real lions or people.

The fight scene required the lions showing real, true aggression. Accomplishing this was easier said than done. To get a serious, aggressive reaction from Napoleon (one of Kevin's lion brothers), Kevin had to resort to a ridiculously odd plan. I am finding it difficult to write this



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with a straight face, so you can imagine how ludicrous it would be to view. The solution involved Kevin bobbing around the animatronic lion dressed as a giant hot pink chicken. Yes, you read that right. The first time I watched the movie, I forgot all about the Behind the Scenes Special Feature on the DVD. I went back and watched it for this review. Reading about this incident in the book is one thing, but is nothing compared to seeing Kevin dressed as that giant chicken, flapping around in all his flaming hot pink glory! How anyone got any work done on the set at that time is totally beyond me.

The finished film seems aimed at a younger audience, similar to "Two Brothers." In comparative terms, I consider "The Ghost and the Darkness" not quite appropriate for younger children. Overall, the movie is cute and fun. All of Kevin's favorite critters appear throughout the film, adding to the cuteness. A Hollywood blockbuster it is not, but the finished work delivers the vibrant footage Rodney and Kevin aimed for. Africa is bursting with green and gold, blooming and bold, as Gisani returns to his tribe a man. The triumphant ending lifts your heart as the golden sun is setting as Letsatsi regally ascends the rocky cliffs to proudly take his rightful place as the real lion king.

I definitely recommend all three together; they turn one dimension into three. The book is great, the documentary is amazing, and the movie has fantastic scenery and lion footage. All three contain the proper elements: you may ooh, you may aah, you WILL laugh, you might cry. Kevin is definitely unique. What he has achieved is definite proof that there are no absolute rules in animal behavior.

A New Species of Wild Cat Found Prowling Brazilian Forests and Grasslands

Reprinted from National Geographic online, posted by Carrie Arnold

Wild cats are charismatic creatures, so you'd think we'd know them all pretty well by now. Just how little we understand—at least in some cases—is reflected in the identification of a new species of cat known as a tigrina in northeastern Brazil.

Scientists have discovered that two populations of tigrina previously thought to be one species do not, in fact, interbreed and thus are distinct, according to results published today in *Current Biology*.

“So much is still unknown about the natural world, even in groups that are supposed to be well-characterized, such as cats,” says the study's lead author, Eduardo Eizirik of Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

“In fact, there are many basic aspects that we still don't know about wild cats, [including] their precise geographic distribution and their diets.”

Eizirik's results have implications for conservation efforts—particularly laws about poaching and the designation of national parkland. Such measures are often focused on individual species.

Recognizing the northeastern tigrina as distinct means that biologists will have to assess its conservation status and determine what steps need to be taken so that both species of tigrina can be adequately protected. (See “Rare Cat Captured in



Northeastern Brazil tigrina found to be new species (Project Wild Cats of Brazil).

Camera Trap.”)

Ancient Interbreeding

Eizirik and colleagues weren't looking to discover a new species. Instead, they were looking to understand the evolutionary history of what were thought to be three species of cat from the genus *Leopardus*:

The Pampas cat (*Leopardus colocolo*) looks like a large, heavy-set, long-haired house cat. It lives in the grasslands and scrublands of South America, from southern Argentina and Chile up through Peru and Ecuador along the western third of the continent.

Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*) is roughly the same size as the Pampas cat, with a brownish-yellow or gray coat, black spots on its trunk, and dark bands across its tail and limbs. Like the Pampas cat, Geoffroy's cat likes scrublands and lives throughout Argentina.

The tigrina (*Leopardus tigrinus*), also known as the oncilla or little spotted cat, lives throughout much of Central and South America. With a yellow-brown coat and black rosettes, the tigrina looks like a house cat-sized leopard. Scientists had previously identified four sub-populations of tigrina, including the southern tigrina, which lives primarily in Brazil's mountainous forests, and the northeast-

ern tigrina, which lives in savannahs and grasslands. The coat of the northeastern tigrina is slightly lighter, and the rosettes are slightly smaller, than those of its southern relative.

Eizirik and colleagues obtained DNA samples from a total of 216 different *Leopardus* cats across their ranges. Analysis of the DNA sequences found in the mitochondria, the cell's power plant, revealed ancient interbreeding between the Pampas cat and the northeastern tigrina.

Since an individual only inherits mitochondrial DNA from its mother, researchers could peer into the ancient history of these two felines, and found that they mated together frequently before the two cats split into separate species.

Although the Geoffroy's cat and the southern tigrina divided into separate species over a million years ago, they began to mate together in the more recent past in the areas of southern Brazil and Bolivia where their habitats overlap. While the two cats interbreed regularly at this contact zone, the mating doesn't extend to farther areas and the two species remain distinct.

Known Unknowns

When Eizirik and colleagues analyzed the genetics of the two different tigrina populations, however, they were surprised to learn that genes did not appear to be moving between the northeastern and southern tigrinas. (See “Pictures: 7 Cat Species Found in 1 Forest—A Record.”)

“This observation implies that these tigrina populations are not interbreeding, which led us to recognize them as distinct species,” Eizirik says. The researchers have suggested that the northeastern tigrina retain its current name of *L. tigrinus*, while dubbing the southern tigrina *L. guttulus*.

“Very little was—and still is—known about this species,” says Eizirik. “There have been some initial studies on its diet, but still most of its basic biology remains poorly known, including density, habitat use, and population trends.”



The tigrina is actually two separate species, say researchers in a new report. Photograph by Tadeu Oliveira.

Acute Septic Mastitis – Breast Infection or Abscess

By Kurt Beckelman

This is a bacterial infection of one or more of the mammary glands. The bacteria can get into the gland via a scratch or puncture. The scratch can be caused by a kitten's claws. These can be trimmed when the kitten is two to three weeks of age. It can occur from one day to six weeks after birth.

The milk becomes poisonous to the kitten and may kill the kitten through kitten septicemia.

The mammary gland is swollen, painful, reddish-blue, and tender. The milk may have blood in it and be yellow. It will have a pH of seven or higher. The mother will have a fever and feel ill. She will be lethargic and have a poor appetite.

Now for the story about Zara and her problem with mastitis. It all started this spring. We thought she was bred, she was filling out nicely, and her teats were looking like they were filling with milk, but after a month her bulk in her belly area seemed to go down, so I figured she lost the kittens.

About two weeks after that, I started to notice that the back teats were swelling up and she was licking them, at times to where the hair was coming off. I kept an eye on them, thinking that since she lost the kittens (if she had any to begin with), she had some milk to get rid of. The swelling did not seem to be getting worse; it seemed even at times the swelling

would go down some, until the summer, when it looked as if she had a tumor. It was as large as two fists put together. This happened almost over a two-day period. All during this time, she would eat normally, act normally, give bobcat love, and everything that was normal.

I spent many hours online researching possibilities and, believe me, there were so many choices. I also talked to several people asking them for possibilities. Last month, she was taken to the vets to have tests done and to see what could be done and try to figure out what the problem was.

We gave her Phenobarbital at home to make it possible to get her in a carrier, since it had been several years since she was in one. Once the drug took effect, we were able to get her in the carrier and on the way to the vet's we went. I was surprised how calm she was in the carrier; I guess the Phenobarbital was doing its job and making her calm. We arrived at the Best Animal Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to have Zara looked at.

Dr. Best and her crew took Zara back to the surgery area, and we were able to go back to see what procedures Dr. Best was going to do. She took two samples from the affected area and put them on slides to look at them under the microscope and to do data collection of said samples. Three x-rays were taken, showing no signs of masses or tumors. The



Close up of the infected mammary gland.



Bobcat Zara has swollen mammary glands and has been diagnosed with mastitis.

tests showed, of course, that she had a very high WBC count. One sample that Dr. Best took did not make her feel very comfortable, so she sent those off to another lab to have them tested. There was a slight possibility of a tumor, so she wanted to make sure we were covering all bases. The sample came back as mastitis.

Zara received a shot of Convenia for infection and Duratactin for pain and inflammation. After two weeks, the mass did not appear to be going down, so I called Dr. Best, who put Zara on Zeniquin for infection. That does not seem to be helping, so I am going to call the vet on December 23rd to see what other options we have. Mastitis can be and is an ongoing infection of the mammary glands, so it will take quite some time to get this under control. I have talked to several other cat owners who have never heard of mastitis in a bobcat. I am not saying it's not possible, as I am dealing with it right now, but it's very rare.

Species Spotlight: Guiña

Words & Photos by Jim Sanderson & Fernando Vidal

Guiña (*Leopardus guigna*)

(Molina, 1782)

Common names:

Guiña, huiña, austral spotted cat. Named kodkod by English researchers who could have misunderstood the pronunciation of local people using the name of “colo-colo” (another wild cat species) to name all the species of small cats in the geographic distribution of the guiña. The name guiña, meaning “the one that changes its home continuously,” was given to the species by the Mapuche people.



Guiñas are the smallest cats in the Americas, with soft, dense fur.

General description:

The smallest cat in the Americas, with soft, dense fur.

Weighs 1.7 to 3 kilograms (3.5-6.5 pounds), males slightly larger than females.

Dark brown to yellowish brown fur with small black spots, white belly with brown spots. Melanistic individuals also bare spots of a darker color; mostly present in southern populations.

Strong, short tail with approximately eleven black rings.

Small head with short, rounded ears that have a white patch on the back of the ear.

Characteristic wide black lines run down the face to the nose. Small nose size with dark or pink color.

Strong legs allow individuals to climb and descend trees easily, especially when escaping from threats.

Capable swimmer that makes use of water sites even in winter.

Distribution and Habitat:

This wild cat has the smallest geographical distribution



Very similar in appearance to the Geoffroy's cat, the guiña has the smallest geographical distribution of any cat in the Americas, and is found only in central and southern Chile, on Chiloe Island, and in a few places in Argentina.

in America. It lives in central and southern Chile from S° 30 to S° 46, very few places in Argentina, and also a population exists on Chiloe Island. Guiñas are specialists of the temperate forest. Fragmentation and destruction of the native forest could force the individuals to live by shrubs and almost open areas. This species lives from sea level up to 1,200 meters of elevation.

Behavior:

Guiñas are solitary and territorial, mainly nocturnal, but can present diurnal activity where human presence is low or absent. Cryptic and elusive through all the populations and distribution, individuals can live close to humans without being detected.

Biology and Ecology:

Guiñas are sexually mature at two years of age, pregnancy occurs in spring and summer. Gestation period is about 78 to 85 days (Vidal & Sanderson unpublished data). According to field camera research and a captive breeding program, guiñas give birth to just one, possibly two kittens. Kittens stay with their mother until one and a half to two years of age.

Guiñas prey mainly on small mammals, insects, reptiles, and fish. Diet can vary depending on the areas they live in. Their rodent-predator behavior helps prevent humans from getting infected with the hanta virus (carried by rodents); it also

FCF Professional Membership

The Professional Membership Review Committee has approved the following members who have applied for FCF Professional Membership since publication of the last *FCF Journal*.

**Kathrin Stucki
Julie Walker**

Julia Wagner

Professional members have registered their handling experience, entered their felines in the census, agreed to abide by the code of conduct, and meet the policy definition of an FCF Professional.

decreases the impact of rodents in agricultural- healthy genetic flow in the long term.
ture.

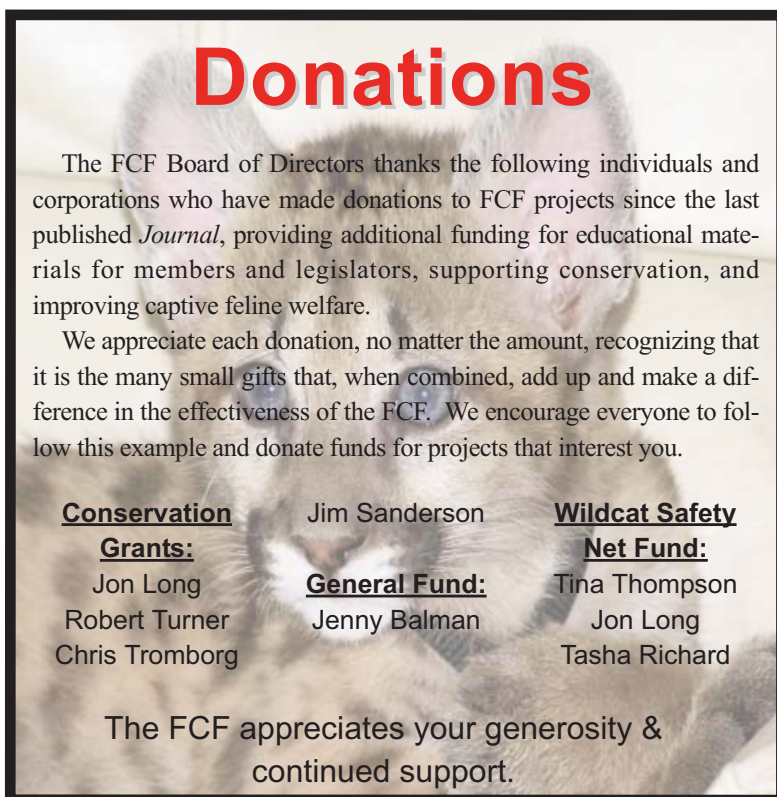
Threats:

Guiñas are losing habitat because temperate forests are being logged, even though the forests are protected by law. Most of the populations and individuals are sharing their territories with domestic dogs and cats, animals that are certain threats of predation and transmission of diseases. Local people also think that guiñas kill their chickens, ducks, and geese (all domestic animals that rural people depend on for living in isolated places), thus they kill every guiña they see. Roads built in areas occupied by guiñas are also a new danger; many animals are killed by cars every year. Urbanization is separating populations, which will prevent a

Conservation efforts:

There is little in the way of conservation efforts for this species. There is a group of researchers attempting to solve the mysteries of this unknown wild cat. It is believed that protected areas (parks) could be the hope of the species, but in reality we don't know the populations that are present throughout their range and we don't know the numbers. There is also one ex-situ project that has been successful in Chilean country; Fauna Andena is a breeding center focusing on research and future reintroduction into the wild with captive breeding pairs.

CONSERVATION STATUS IUCN: VULNERABLE



Donations

The FCF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals and corporations who have made donations to FCF projects since the last published *Journal*, providing additional funding for educational materials for members and legislators, supporting conservation, and improving captive feline welfare.

We appreciate each donation, no matter the amount, recognizing that it is the many small gifts that, when combined, add up and make a difference in the effectiveness of the FCF. We encourage everyone to follow this example and donate funds for projects that interest you.

<u>Conservation Grants:</u> Jon Long Robert Turner Chris Tromborg	General Fund: Jenny Balman	<u>Wildcat Safety Net Fund:</u> Tina Thompson Jon Long Tasha Richard
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The FCF appreciates your generosity & continued support.



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Feline Conservation Federation

November/December 2013 Volume 57, Issue 6

The mission of the FCF is to support the conservation of wild felids by advocating for qualified individuals to own and to pursue husbandry of wild felines, providing expertise and material support to ensure the continued welfare and viability of these populations, contributing to research, and funding protection programs that benefit felids living in nature.

Front Cover: Photographer Kim DiNapoli took this photo of Buddy Serval, who was all smiles while he was at Panther Ridge Conservation Center for a special photo session fundraiser for the Wellington, Florida, center. Read about Buddy's budding career as a serval ambassador in this issue of the *Journal*.

Back Cover: Beastie the bobcat smiles in anticipation of unwrapping all the presents for him lying under the Christmas tree. Photo by Jim Blankenagel. Don't let the name fool you; this feline is friendly and is happily taking part in all the holiday festivities.

www.FelineConservation.org

