



Feline Conservation Federation

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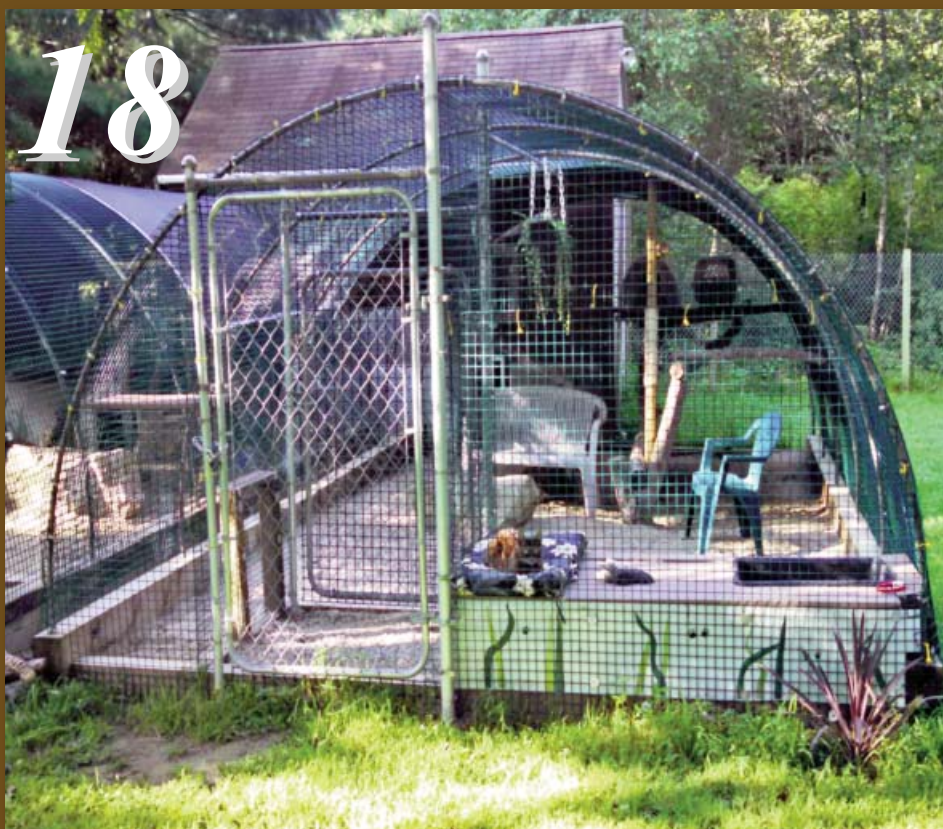
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A membership to the FCF entitles you to six issues of the *Journal*, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to FCF husbandry and wildlife education courses and annual convention, and participation in our online discussion group. The FCF works to improve 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 Feline Conservation Federation publishes the *Journal* bimonthly. The FCF is non-profit, (Federal ID#59-2048618) noncommercial, and international in membership, devoted to the welfare and conservation of exotic felines.

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.

Display advertisement space is available at the following prices: \$10 business card, \$25.00 quarter page, \$50.00 half page, and \$100 full-page ad.

Submission deadline for articles and advertisements is the 10th of even numbered months.

Please submit high resolution photos and articles to the *Journal* Managing Editor. Photos and articles may be emailed to

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



Feline Conservation Federation

Letter from the President

FCF VOTING PROCEDURE

In this issue, you will find the profiles of the candidates for the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, we had a very poor response from the membership and there are no contested races this year. In the last board meeting, we discussed this matter and decided to do the election differently this year. The costs of holding an election by mail, as in the past, usually run around \$1,000. Since there are no contested races, we felt that the Constitution allowed the latitude to save the organization the cost of holding a mail-in election and conduct the balloting on the FCF website's forums. It was unanimously agreed that this would only be done since there were no contested races, otherwise we would conduct the normal voting procedure.

The forum voting page will be set up and voting may begin on December 1, 2014, and the voting will end on December 15, 2015. Only members that have been a member for one year are eligible to vote. You will need to go to the FCF web-

site's home page, www.felineconservation.org. From there, log in to the "Member's Only" section on the left hand side, using your login name and password. An email will be sent out reminding you of your username and password just prior to the polls opening.

Once you get to the "Member's Only" section, scroll down and click on the "Forum" on the left hand side. A new window will open, which lists the different forums available. Scroll down until you find the one listed as "2014 Election." Click on it and the election page will open.

On the election page, you will see the different offices listed. You will need to click on each one and vote separately. When you click on each different position, a new page will appear and you will see a poll at the top of that page. It will state how many people have voted one way or the other and if you have not yet voted, just below the current voting results, you'll see in blue, "You have not voted yet. Please vote!" Click on that phrase and a pop-up box will appear giving the

option to vote *yes*, *no*, or *abstain*. A *yes* vote is a vote for a candidate and a *no* vote or abstention is not a vote for the candidate. Click on the box beside the way you wish to vote and hit the submit button. This will take you back to the topic page for that particular race and your vote will be showing in the current results. Just below the results, it will say in blue, "You have already voted for (*yes*, *no*, or *abstain*, depending how you voted)."

Below the poll, you will see the posts that have been made to the topic and a place where you can make a comment. You are welcome to make a comment if you desire, but please do not use this area to cast a vote. The only officially cast votes will be those recorded above in the poll area.

Once you have voted for that particular race, you can click the return button twice or the "Return to Topics" option found just above the poll. This will take you back to the list of topics (races) and you can proceed with the next race. If you happen to hit the "Return to Forum List," it will take you back to the page that lists all of the different forums and you'll have to find the "2014 Election" and click on it again to get back to where you want to be.

Repeat this process until you have cast your vote for each of the races.

Please note that the Constitution does not allow for write-in votes.

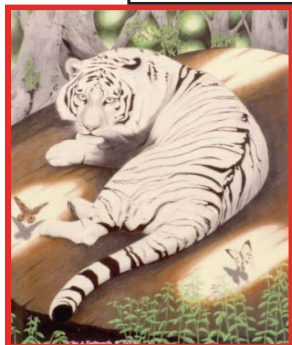
Any votes cast before December 1st or after December 15th will not be counted in the official results.

With that out of the way, I would like to thank Dr. Jim Sanderson for the time he has served the FCF on the board as a director. He is a very valuable asset to us and he has assured us he will continue to help out with our conservation grants and projects.

When the new board is seated after the first of the year, we will be appointing the various positions on committees and other much needed help to continue to keep our rights to own animals and to preserve, protect, and propagate wild felines in captivity and in the wild. If you have an interest in serving in any capacity, please get in touch with me at president@felineconservation.org.

Kevin Chambers

FCF NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Meet the Wildcat Safety Net Challenge!

FCF granted funds to
transport 28 tigers to
Turpentine Creek

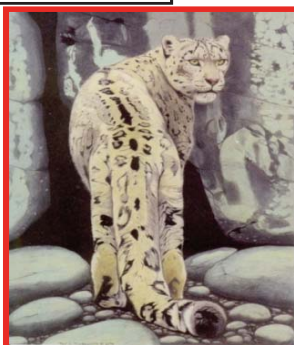
Wildlife Refuge where these big cats a secure retirement home to live out their golden years.

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 Zuckworth. 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.



From the Executive Director

By Lynn Culver

The FCF has been a driving force in representing responsible private exotic feline owners in legislative and public relations arenas. Lately, the Zoological Association of America has been reorganized and reenergized to join the FCF in this effort and even hire state and federal lobbyists to help ensure that USDA-licensed facilities remain legal and captive breeding of wildlife by non-AZA facilities remains viable into the future. Another entry into the legislative front is the Cavalry Group, offering animal owners pre-paid legal assistance insurance. In addition to being available to stop illegal seizures, Cavalry is active in lobbying and public education on matters that affect animal owners and businesses. I encourage everyone to consider joining the Cavalry Group. Both of these additional support organizations have filled in recently and, admittedly, the FCF has reduced some of its efforts in this arena. Not because of any reduced interest, but honestly a lack of willing and capable new volunteers to perform this work.

The status of captive husbandry is threatened for sure. Legislation, animal rights agendas, and draconian regulations all make it very difficult to remain in this business and much more difficult to get started with a first feline. The FCF has taught husbandry courses for more than two decades to help ensure future generations of owners, breeders, and exhibitors. The FCF wildlife conservation educator's course helps people transition their exhibiting into messaging delivery that will educate this and the next generation about wildlife issues. The FCF secretary, Debi Willoughby, received a letter from Rene, a 9th grader in Texas, thanking the FCF for the work this organization performs.

It's hard to be optimistic with so many global crises looming, from climate change to terrorist attacks, an ocean of garbage being eaten by sea creatures and shorebirds, radiated ocean water headed to the west coast from Japan, degraded surface water quality and depleted aquifers, and general destruction of wildlife habitat. Our individual efforts to keep a core of felines safe and happy in captivity is a noble effort. It is sad that there are those in our fold who also hold

felines, but preach that they, and only they, should be allowed to hold these cats. And they work against good owners as equally as the poor ones. This messaging by them hurts captive conservation of felines being practiced by individuals and small businesses.

Recently in the news, the F&W Service determined that the African lion should be given protection under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. It's in keeping with the overall trends in wildlife species decline. In fact, this year the World Wildlife Fund published a report stating that global populations of wildlife are down by 50% in the past 40 years. Protecting the lion will not stop lion hunting, only regulate it. And it will change captive lion status when this change is finalized. CBW permits and interstate commerce permits will be

required to sell lions across state lines.

The FCF has published an update on the status of efforts to conserve fishing cats in India. Ashwin Naidu is spearheading this effort, and generous donations during the FCF convention helped send him back to India with working capital to implement Fishing Cat Conservation goals.

I wish to congratulate two FCF facilities for being approved by the newest Accreditation Committee for facility accreditation. Jungle Encounters was examined and re-accredited. And the newest addition to the exclusive list of FCF-accredited facilities is Branson's Promised Land Zoo. Accreditation is a way to show your community that your facility and its management provide outstanding care, and is safe and secure for the animals and the public.

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Tiger Tales from Australia

By Matthew J. Tebb
Senior Big Cat Handler, Australia Zoo

For as long as I can recall, all that I have cared about is to leave my mark on this world in a positive and uplifting way. Whether it is in my personal life, my interactions with strangers, or in my professional life as a zookeeper, I aim to inspire and motivate those around me.

In the past ten years, I have worked at some of Australia's most prestigious zoos. A large part of my career has been working at Australia's arguably most famous zoo, aptly named Australia Zoo, which is the dream and success story of one of the world's most passionate, impactful, and iconic conservationists, the late Steve Irwin. Famous for his catchphrase "Crick-ey," Steve Irwin built an amazing zoo that not only has won multiple awards, but also created educational television programs and founded his own conservation organization named Wildlife Warriors, which raises millions of dollars to go directly towards saving wild animals.

Tiger handling is certainly a challenging job. It's all fun and games when they are small cubs, but things can get serious very quickly. What makes the job so rewarding is building a relationship with one of nature's most powerful predators and maintaining that relationship throughout the tigers' adult lives. A 180-pound man is no comparison to a 600-pound tiger, so the most important aspect to keeping safe is having a profound amount of respect for the tiger, as well as a deep level of understanding how they think.

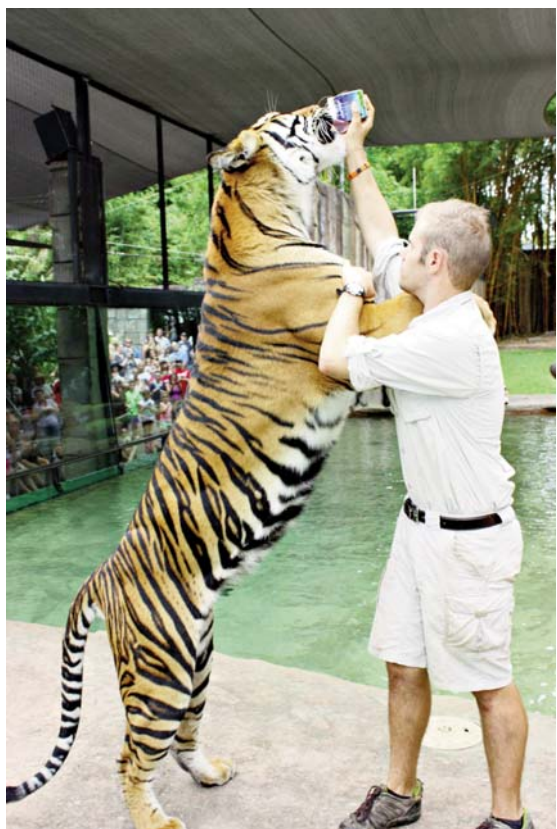
Tigers are extremely intelligent animals and think very differently than you and I. They independently express many cognitive skills such as working memory, processing speed, and long term memory, but do so in a way that unquestionably shows their unique predatory dominance. Why then would people consider working so closely with what can only be described as an apex predator?

Personally, I believe that building a strong relationship with the tigers in my care allows me to completely

fulfill my duty as a zookeeper in giving the cats in my care the best possible life. From hand raising tiger cubs to conducting a toy session with adult tigers, we are able to stimulate the cats in ways that are



Matt sitting with Bashii the Sumatran tiger. Photo taken by Che Wolcott.



Matt gets Charlie the Bengal tiger to stand tall for the crowd. Photo by Ethan Kimmence.



Matt working with Charlie the Bengal tiger for visitors at Australia Zoo. Photo by Ethan Kimmence.



Matt on a conservation mission in the forest of Kerinci Seblat National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. These men are vital members of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) tiger protection units.

just not possible through traditional protected contact methods. Every day, training sessions designed to get the cats thinking and moving are undertaken, play sessions with toys on land and in the large swimming pool occur, and daily walks in our few hundred acres of bush land are all designed to enrich the cats' lives and strengthen our relationship with them. As handlers, we do not consider ourselves greater than the cats, nor are we seen as their equals. However, we are able to harness the ability to use the gift of love and co-exist whilst forming a mutual respect, thus greatly reducing the risk of serious injury.

Australia Zoo gets millions of visitors each year. People come from all over Australia. However what the zoo is known for is its huge impact internationally, especially in the United States of America. With a multitude of tourists visiting us at the Tiger Temple (Australia Zoo's tiger habitat), I would quite often be asked an array of questions on a daily basis. One of the most common questions asked is, "Can't tigers smell fear? Aren't you scared work-

ing so closely with them?"


The easiest way for me to answer this question is to focus on explaining the ways in which tigers think, as well as the way in which they live their lives. Like most cats, tigers are solitary animals. When it comes to hunting, they don't rely on teamwork like lions would; therefore they need to be extremely in tune with their surroundings, paying attention to everything around them. Once they locate their prey, they will do all that they can to keep themselves hidden. They will stalk whilst crouching as low as possible, allowing their stripes to camouflage their bodies among the grass,



Matt walking Bashii, a seven year old Sumatran tiger. Photo by Kassie Campbell.

taking purposeful steps to avoid making any noise, aiming to sneak up as close as possible to their unsuspecting victim.

The tiger is not using the prey item's fear as judgment, purely because it has purposefully hidden itself from its prey, until it launches the assault. Comparatively, when tigers interact with their handlers, they do not smell for fear. They are studying our movements, reading our behavior, and assessing what they can and can't do in our presence. Although I have a strong bond with them, it is important to always remember any tiger in captivity is still a wild animal. A tiger can never be tamed. Because tigers assess a situation and base their movement and decision making circumstantially, through positioning and the reading of body language, what keeps handlers like



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Matt relaxes with Bashii the Sumatran tiger. Photo by Che Wolcott.

me safe is the loving relationship formed from birth between the tiger and me.

As a tiger handler, it's vital to understand how tigers think. This understanding results in knowing how to respond when around them. This is why it's so important to build a strong foundation of love, care, kindness, and respect with the tigers when they are young; then through a continuation of those values, it gives us opportunity to introduce positive training and conditioning methods that allow us to enrich and stimulate the cats, which ultimately helps eliminate issues such as boredom and stereotypical behaviors, i.e. pacing.

So then, why is it important to focus on the strength of relationship when working in a full-contact environment with big cats? I believe it gives us a reason to not just explain to the public, but to show them its value by igniting their own passion for tigers. When people watch a fully-grown tiger "head bob" its handler, showing an obvious expression of affection, they develop an emotional connection with that animal. When people become emotional about something, when they care about something, they are stirred to action and want to help in whatever way they can.

Working for Australia Zoo's Tiger Temple has led me to many great opportunities that I am eternally grateful for. I've spo-



Matt training Charlie, an eight year old Bengal tiger. Photo by Ethan Kimmence.

world on why it's important to save the tiger; and I've had the great opportunity to be a part of a team that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to help protect the Sumatran tiger from the brink of extinction.

In July 2012, I was fortunate enough to spend two weeks in the Kerinci Seblat National Park (Sumatra, Indonesia), working with Fauna and Flora International [FFI] (a world-leading conserva-

tion group) with their tiger protection taskforce. We trekked the forest looking for traps and snares designed to catch wild tigers, as well as looking for the presence of poachers. It was an eye-opening experience seeing first-hand the efforts of truly passionate people who risk their lives to protect this critically endangered big cat on a daily basis.

With only around 3,000 tigers left in the wild today, there is a severe chance that the world's largest and most revered big cat will go extinct in as little as a decade. My goal as a zookeeper is to work with world leaders, both zoologically and politically, to make an active difference. I feel that we are all on this planet with a purpose to suit. Mine for the greater part has been to lead people to care about something other than themselves. Tigers and

other endangered animals do not have a voice. They purely exist. My goal is to use my experiences, my skills, and to explore the knowledge that I've gained in order to give back to what I think is the most incredible cat on this planet. I owe so much to the tiger and I will do all that I can to make this world a better place for them, in both the wild and in captivity.



Matt cuddles with Hunter, a four-week-old Sumatran tiger cub, to build a strong foundation of love, care, kindness, and respect with the tiger when young.



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FCF Election Candidate Platforms

PRESIDENT - KEVIN CHAMBERS



I am Kevin Chambers and I am re-running for the office of President of the FCF. I have served as President since 2009. Before that, I served as Vice-president in 2005-06, and Treasurer in 2007-8. I have served on numerous committees and projects for the FCF.

I live in Shelburn, Indiana, where I raise various animals and also import and export. I have owned exotic felines since 1982, and in the last 30+ years have owned over 300 individual cats of over 20 different species, from white African lions to black-footed cats.

I am also very active in 4-H, where I have been poultry superintendent in our county for 25 years, as well as having served for over 20 years on the fair board, 4-H Council, and Extension board.

In my career as an animal dealer, I have become quite experienced with federal and state regulatory agencies, such as the USDA and USF&W Service, and have many times participated in legislative hearings and public comment periods. I have a broad base of experience in the different aspects that constitute FCF members, from circuses to pet owners, AZA and ZAA zoos, to breeders, exhibitors, and sanctuaries. Having this experience gives me a good understanding of each segment of our membership.

My vision and goals for the FCF are to continue the path we are on, better serving all aspects of wildcat owners and enthusiasts and the cats that are part of our natural world.

VICE-PRESIDENT - MINDY STINNER

I am a former high school teacher who co-founded the Conservators' Center in 1999. After working with a wide range of species at different facilities, I envisioned and coordinated the development of a collection focused on wild carnivores, especially cat species.

Still an educator at heart, I lead our organization in teaching others about these species, including how to safely manage all aspects of their care and ways to enrich their lives out of the wild.

A large part of what drew me to the FCF was the educational nature of the organization, including the *Journal* and

the courses, so I have been involved as a course instructor and *Journal* contributor after a brief run as the *Journal's* editor in the early 2000s. Our support of conservation work in the wild is also very important to me, so I have served on the conservation committee for many years. When I began this career, I did not envision myself learning to run heavy construction equipment, having to understand the minutia of non-profit accounting, or managing a large staff of both volunteers and paid workers, all while retaining my skills working with the animals, but it has been an adventure I would not trade for anything.



SECRETARY - DEBI WILLOUGHBY



My name is Debi Willoughby and I am running for the position of Secretary on the FCF Board of Directors. I am currently a wildlife educator traveling with my small cats to teach people about wildlife and conservation.

I have 19 years of experience working hands-on with exotic animals. My experience started with working at zoos, taking care of a wide variety of animals, and performing educational shows both on and off zoo premises, including work for Animal Planet and Discovery. I started my exotic feline experience during this time, caring for and training different species of cats, from servals to Siberian tigers. It became my passion and main focus of my life, and still is to this day.

In 2001, I started my own wildlife edu-

cation business, Jungle Encounters. I have performed thousands of shows and lived with, cared for, and trained 30 species of exotic animals to serve as animal ambassadors for our shows. In 2007, I formulated a small wild cat conservation show to raise awareness about and funds for small wild cats. In 2012, due to the popularity and success of this show, we now focus all of our attention on small wild cat conservation and education. We currently have five small cats we use in our shows and have plans to expand on the species of cats, the number of shows, and value of our shows. We also started a wild bobcat research project here in my state of Massachusetts. We are researching the current bobcat populations within our state, so we can determine where the

healthy populations are, where they are expanding to, and the future of bobcats in Massachusetts. This study can be used for future bobcat conservation in our state as well as our surrounding states.

It took me ten years of fighting for and establishing credibility to be able to obtain the proper state permits to legally have small wild cats in my state. I have also stood behind and fought for similar rights for educators in a neighboring state. This has given me the knowledge and experience for the future to effectively help other members fight for our rights to possess exotic felines.

During my working career, I have also worked in the accounting field for 27 years. I started in an entry level accounting position and worked my way up to being an independent bookkeeper for numerous small businesses. I have been successful in the bookkeeping field because I am trustworthy, confidential, detail oriented, reliable, and responsible. I also served on the Board of Directors for a non-profit DART group (Disaster Animal Response Team) for two years, helping the group grow, expand its member database, train town representatives and staff on animal disaster preparedness, and market the organization across our region.

I have been an FCF member since

2003, and have helped out in different areas of the organization throughout my membership. I currently hold the Director of Education position for both adults and our youth, and the Secretary Board position. I have overseen our Youth Committee to accomplish valuable electronic educational resources. I redesigned the FCF's Wildlife Educators Course book, I teach the Wildlife Educators Course twice a year across the nation, and am currently working on expanding the educational resources the FCF offers. I have also assisted with other various projects within the organization, as well as written numerous articles for the *Journal*.

I am dedicated to wild cat conservation and believe in responsible exotic cat ownership. Every convention, I strive to meet as many members as I can so I can learn what everyone is about. The FCF has hundreds of members with diverse animal backgrounds and beliefs. If we stand together, we can be a productive force in maintaining exotic cat ownership, as well as an established contributor to numerous wild cat conservation projects around the world.

Over the years, the FCF has grown tremendously as an organization, and we now have in place very valuable assets to aid in our fight for responsible exotic cat

ownership. These assets include accreditations, outreach education, and world-wide conservation efforts. These assets have put the FCF in a highly respected position to be able to have a strong voice in fighting the bombardment of bans that come our way.

I feel every member has much to offer and contribute to the FCF. I feel I have the knowledge and experience to fulfill the Secretary position and I will continue to strive to meet and learn from as many members as possible so I can represent the entire membership in helping the FCF move forward. As Secretary, I would serve the members to the best of my ability, will continue to grow and expand on the educational courses we offer, as well as increase the online resources we have available to everyone. Together we can serve an important purpose by providing significant positive contributions to responsible ownership and conservation efforts throughout the world. Thank you for your time and consideration for this position. I look forward to meeting more members at next year's convention and finding new ways to further the FCF.

TREASURER - LYNN CULVER

I have accepted my automatic re-nomination for the position of treasurer on the board of directors of the FCF. I have served in this capacity for the past two years, and entered my service to this organization as its secretary/treasurer in 1991.

My husband and I have run a wild feline breeding and husbandry consultation business since 1988. We have experience with cougar, Eurasian lynx, Canada lynx, fishing cat, bobcat, serval, caracal, and Geoffroy's cat. Our USDA-licensed facility is a full time business and a never-ending act of love. Most of our felines are hand-reared, human-friendly individuals, with which we share a deep emotional bond.

Member interest in running for FCF board positions was very low this year, and either everyone is very satisfied with the work we do, or is just too busy to step up to the plate. This next term will have six returning officers and directors. Dr. Jim Sanderson is not returning so that he

can focus on the in-situ conservation efforts of the FCF. In his place as director will be Robert Bean.

As treasurer, I am responsible for payment of FCF invoices, billing of FCF advertisers, and receiving and tracking all new memberships and renewals. Bookkeeping can be time consuming, but is a necessary part of any non-profit corporation. We may not pay income taxes, but we must report to the federal government.

As I continue in this position for another two years, I want everyone to seriously consider a run for the FCF board next election cycle. The current board has given more than its share of time and effort, and for the FCF to continue there must be a next generation of leaders and workers. Additionally, we need energetic and talented writers to help with public relations, e-newsletters, press releases, the *Journal* production, and updates on the FCF website. Contact any member of the board if you wish to be a working member of the FCF team.

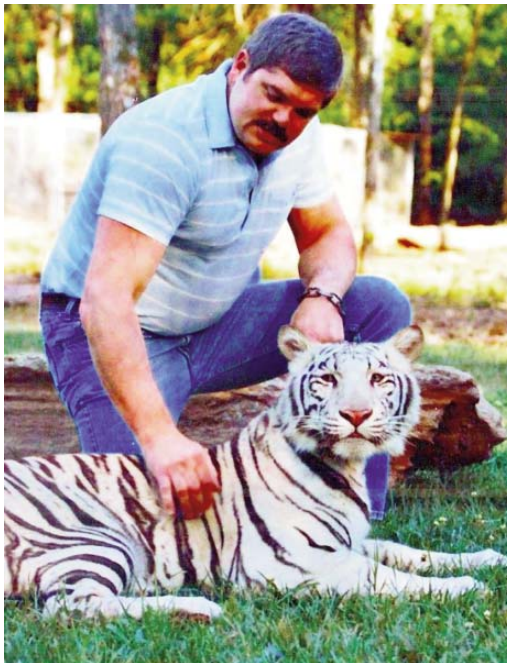


BOARD OF DIRECTORS - BOBBY BEAN

I joined the FCF in 1987. Back then it was called LIOC-ESCF. I've worked with and owned wild animals for 53 years and had non-domestic cats for 28 years. My wife and I founded the 501(c)(3) non-profit Tennessee Nature Center, which, at its peak, housed 55 non-domestic cats. We specialized in non-invasive research that added to the body of knowledge on enrichment, reproduction, and diet. I have experience with over 13 species of Felidae, including tiger, leopard, cougar, snow leopard, Chinese leopard, Siberian lynx, bobcat, caracal, and serval. We were at one time one of the most successful breeders of caracals. With such a long existence, it is only natural that most of our cats have passed on. Now we care for just a few non-domestic felids, consisting of bobcats, Siberian lynx, and serval.

I have served in many capacities for this organization, from Life Director to Director of Advertising / Marketing. During my tenure as Director of Advertising, I gained advertisers for our newsletter to allow the FCF to expand the number of pages and include color

photos. As Convention chair, I gained corporate sponsors to participate in our conventions, setting new fundraising and attendance records. I worked with Lynn Culver to develop FCF press releases so that the FCF became known as a serious private possession



BOARD OF DIRECTORS - PAT CALLAHAN

I retired from the Cincinnati Zoo in 2013, following a long career in the animal business. I am enjoying a new phase in my life, spending more time with family and friends and staying connected with those involved in feline conservation through my associations with the AZA and the FCF.

I started at an Ohio Division of Wildlife Forest Game Research station in 1974, and became one of the original employees at the startup of Lion Country Safari at Kings Island, later purchased by Taft Broadcasting Company.

This monorail ride traveled through approximately 125 acres and contained a variety of African, Asian, and native species, often in large groups. At times, I and the other animal care professionals were responsible for more than 50 lions, 12 tigers, 29 white rhino (imported from Natal), African elephant, elk, bison, various birds, and some primates, including 50 baboons, which I might add did not stay long.

But it was the Cincinnati Zoo in 1981,

where I found my true love, small cats, followed by medium and large cats. Successful breeding occurred in many species, including some rarely bred in zoo collections, including clouded leopard, margay, ocelot, jaguarundi, black-footed cats, Asian golden cats, and cheetah.

I have travelled to South Africa, Namibia, and Chile, to participate in field studies by such experts as Alex Sliwa, Laurie Marker, Jim Sanderson, and Fernando Vidal. I am on the FCF Conservation Grants committee, reviewing and voting on submitted proposals so that the FCF supports worthy conservation projects.

I enjoy sharing the experiences of my life and have a special interest in the complex task of designing and holding facilities and habitats with safety and animal welfare in mind. I focus this interest by serving on the FCF Feline Facility Accreditation board.

I am honored to continue on the Board of Directors of the FCF and will serve the next two years.

conservation organization for felids. I've also served on the Conservation Grants Committee to help the FCF choose which conservation projects to support. I served on the original Accreditation Committee that laid the foundation for a facility accreditation program for the FCF.

My last term on the FCF Board of Directors was as a Life Director, ending in January 2007. Since then, I have taken a break from board service to spend more time with my family and felines, and let others share in the responsibility and rewards of leading this organization.

I am honored to return to service as a Director of the FCF. I have seen this organization suffer growing pains and come out stronger, taking on projects such as fighting against animal rights legislation, teaching husbandry to the next generation of keepers, and funding in-situ conservation.

My past voting record on the BOD has always been represented by member feedback and I welcome you to contact me with questions or suggestions. I want to work with today's membership to see that the FCF meets its goal of conservation of felids both in captivity and in nature.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CHRIS TROMBORG

I am writing to announce acceptance of my automatic re-nomination as director on the Feline Conservation Federation Board of Directors. I am honored to serve an additional term.

I have been a member of the FCF since 1992, when it was then known as the Long Island Ocelot Club. This reflects a nearly 40-year interest in feline behavior, conservation, and husbandry.

I became interested in the plight of free-living and captive felines in 1969, when I became involved in efforts to change the management status of the mountain lion in California, where they had been poorly studied and were virtually unprotected. The Coalition to Save the California Mountain Lion succeeded in achieving a high degree of protection for the mountain lion. Years later, the Mountain Lion Foundation, a successor to the original coalition, would achieve even more protection for cougars within the state of California. My interest in conservation of free-living cougars and other felines motivated me to become a member of the board of directors of the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Over the past 40 years, I have worked for the protection of wild mountain lions and bobcats in California; the preservation of free-living cheetahs, snow leopards, and tigers; and the improvement in the management of populations of captive felines in public and private institutions, either accredited or non-accredited.

I am a long-term member of the AZA, and now a member of the ZAA. My interest in the husbandry of captive felines prompted me to serve as a member of the AZA's "Animal Care and Husbandry Advisory Board (Feline TAG)," and to conduct and publish several studies focusing on behavioral enrichment for captive animals in zoos. In cooperation with Dr. Hal Markowitz, the developer of the concept of behavioral enrichment in

zoos, I have conducted research that focused on improving the conditions in captivity for a variety of captive feline species, with the goal of enhancing their cognitive prowess and their overall quality of life.

Over the past several years of serving on the board of the FCF, I have come to reconsider my relationships with many organizations claiming to be concerned with the future of animals in nature and captivity. Consequently, I have realigned my associations with some and eliminated my associations with others. I am a member of the Zoo Association of America, and now consider it my primary professional zoo-related affiliation. I maintain memberships in important feline-oriented organizations, including the Endangered Feline Breeding Center, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and the Mountain Lion Foundation. I support Niassa Lion Research, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Small Cat Alliance, and others. I have attempted to bring the various functions of the Wildlife Conservation Network to the members of the FCF through the *FCF Journal*, especially when



there are FCF member organizations involved. For example, whenever the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund or Lyon Ranch Therapy Animals bring animals to presentations by the Snow Leopard Conservancy or the Cheetah Conservation Fund, I attempt to provide FCF members with an account of the event. Finally, I support the work of Dr. James Sanderson, one of our own scientists, in his relentless attempts to preserve the habitats of many of the world's smallest felines.

Although I do not presently possess wild or exotic felines, I have always recognized the right of responsible private individuals to possess, manage, display, breed, and befriend captive felines, both exotic and native.

I promise to continue to uphold its constitution and to continue to work for the felines of the world, domestic, exotic, captive, wild, and free...

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.

Conservation Grants:

Tina Thompson

Wildcat Safety Net:

Lynn Cartee

Dean Harrison

Lisa Padula

General Donations:

Chris Tromborg

Capital One

The FCF appreciates your generosity & continued support.

News for African Lions

ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed to list the African lion (*Panthera leo*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), due to habitat loss, loss of prey, and increased human-lion conflicts. This proposal is the outcome of a petition filed in 2011 from a coalition of organizations requesting the Service list the African lion as endangered. This coalition's primary concern was to end American sport trophy hunting of lions, and supported this petition with documentation that African lion populations are falling. On November 27, 2012, the Service published a positive 90-day finding and status review of the subspecies. Two years later, the Service is now proposing listing the African lion as threatened under the ESA throughout its entire range.

ACTION

In addition to proposing ESA protections, the Service is also proposing a rule under section 4(d) of the ESA. The rule, if finalized, will establish a permitting mechanism for the importation of sport-hunted lion trophies, provided that the lions originate from countries with scientifically sound management plans for African lions. This exception is supported by the finding that sport-hunting has not been found to be a threat to the species at this time. The proposed rule has been published in the *Federal Register* and comments must be received by January 27, 2015. The online link to making a comment or to read the comments of other people is:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-R9-ES-2012-0025>.

REASON

The African lion subspecies is estimated to occupy less than 22 percent of its historical range. African lions are still found across a large range in Africa, but about 70 percent of the current African lion population exists in only 10 major strongholds. Human settlements and agricultural and grazing activities have expanded into lion habitat and protected areas, putting more livestock in proximity to lions. The lion's native prey base is hunted by humans at unsustainable levels to meet a growing demand for food for an expanding human population. As a result, lions kill more livestock, which then leads to retaliatory killings by humans. The

combinations of all of these interactions threaten the future of lions in Africa. For more information on the African lion and the Service's proposal, please visit http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/african_lion.html.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

When a species is listed as *endangered*, certain actions are prohibited, including taking within the United States, within the territorial seas of the United States, or upon the high seas; importing; exporting; and shipment in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity. For *threatened* species, the ESA does not specify particular prohibitions and exceptions to those prohibitions. Instead, under section 4(d) of the ESA, the Secretary may issue such regulations as deemed necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of such species. The Secretary also has the discretion to prohibit by regulation with respect to any threatened species, any act prohibited under section 9(a)(1) of the ESA. For the African lion, the Service has determined that a 4(d) rule is appropriate.

Under the proposed 4(d) rule, the prohibitions would, in part, make it illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to "take" (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or to attempt any of these) within the United States or upon the high seas; import or export; deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate or foreign commerce, by any means whatsoever, in the course of commercial activity; or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any lion specimens. It would also be illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken in violation of the ESA.

A 4(d) (special) rule for the African lion (*Panthera leo leo*) would maintain all of the prohibitions and exceptions codified in 50 CFR 17.31 and 17.32 and a threatened species import permit under 50 CFR 17.32

would be required for the importation of all African lion specimens. Under the proposed 4(d) rule, all otherwise prohibited activities, including all imports of African lion specimens, would require prior authorization or permits under the ESA. Permits or authorization to carry out an otherwise prohibited activity could be issued for scientific purposes, the enhancement of propagation or survival of the species, economic hardship, zoological exhibitions, educational purposes, or special purposes consistent with the purposes of the ESA. The application form used is the 3-200-37 for Export/Re-export/import/interstate and foreign commerce/take of animals (live/samples/parts/products) (ESA and/or CITES). Applications for these activities are available from: <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/permit-application-form-3-200-37-export-import-interstate-and-foreign-commerce-take-of-animals.pdf>.



Listing the African lion as a threatened species will not end trophy hunting. Instead, the ability to bring trophies back to the U.S. will be regulated by F&W permits.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SPORT HUNTERS?

African lions are already listed as Appendix II animals by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; as a result, all lion export, regardless of the country of origin, requires a CITES export permit. However, depending upon the country the lion is being imported into, an import permit may or may not be required. In the case of the United States, CITES Appendix II animals listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA



Hunting big game is big business, attracting all kinds of people, such as young Kendall Jones, who fueled much debate online when she posted photos boasting of her kills.

may or may not require a threatened species import permit. The proposed special rule for African lions would require an ESA import permit. Currently, a permit is needed for a lion to export it from the country of origin, and then it must be declared and be inspected by FWS upon arrival. Now, should this threatened determination be finalized with the special rule as proposed, lions will be regulated differently. For sport-hunted trophies of lions in particular, the Service is proposing to restrict imports to only those taken from countries with favorable management plans for African lions that incorporate scientifically sound conservation plans. This will encourage range countries to improve conservation if they wish to receive the economic benefits of legal sport hunting. While the Service found that sport-hunting is currently not a threat to the species the conservation benefit of sport hunting was also considered. As a result, should the Service finalize this proposed rule, they will now regulate the import of trophy specimens by evaluating conservation programs in counties that offer trophy hunting. This way the FWS is doing its part to reward good stewardship and improve conservation of lions overall.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CAPTIVE WILDLIFE BREEDERS AND EXHIBITORS

In the case of live lions, importation of African lions will also be allowed for scientific purposes, the enhancement of propagation or survival of the species, economic hardship, zoological exhibi-

tions, educational purposes, or special purposes consistent with the purposes of the ESA. USDA breeding facilities wanting to import lions to expand gene pools will need to already be CBW registered. The form used to apply for a Captive Bred Wildlife registration is 3-200-41. Additionally, a 3-200-37 form will need to be submitted and approved by the Service before a lion can be imported into the U.S. This form requires documentation justifying the proposed activity, as well as full descriptions of the proposed activity, technical expertise, and a state-

ment on how the activities will enhance or benefit the wild population. Applicants must supply a detailed description of the holding facility, describe the operator's husbandry experience, and list the last five years' of births, mortalities, and causes of and steps taken to decrease death rates.

A listing of threatened under the ESA heightens the federal government's regulation of interstate commerce of lions. Presently lions are mainly regulated by the recently passed Captive Wildlife Safety Act, which restricts interstate transport (regardless of whether it is commerce or not) to only USDA licensed facilities or sanctuaries that meet the federal definition. Once the CWSA was finalized, the movement of privately owned, non-USDA

regulated lions from state to state became illegal. When the Service finalizes the listing of lion as threatened under the ESA, another layer of government monitoring and control will be added. Not all USDA licensed facilities will meet the requirements to qualify for exemption from the prohibition against interstate commerce with lions. Those wanting this exemption (i.e., a permit) will need to apply using the 3-200-37 application form.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CAPTIVE LION POPULATION?

When an animal becomes listed as either threatened or endangered under the ESA, interstate sales are restricted to permit holders. This designation reduces the overall captive area, but does improve the quality of available space. This is because some private facilities might not qualify for an exemption, or the owners may not want to apply due to all the paperwork, government regulations and oversight. Without a permit however, there can be no interstate commerce, offspring or adults of threatened species can only be donated across state lines. Captive lions will be protected against taking (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or to attempt any of these), which means captive lions cannot be deliberately harvested for meat or taxidermy. We will not see any more lion meat advertised at exotic meat markets and lion mounts at taxidermy sales will be limited to in-state sales, as it is doubtful the Service will issue a permit for that kind of commerce. If this proposal is

finalized, commercial breeders will need to meet the F&W requirements for CBW registration and interstate commerce. Could CBW registrations be limited to breeding only subspecies pure lions, as they are for tigers? Will CBW registration holders be allowed to engage in interstate commerce with non-pedigreed lions? If these are issues you are concerned about, you must inform the Service by commenting on this proposal during this comment period.



This young male lion may someday reach adulthood to claim a pride of his own, but he will still have to avoid the deadly aim of the hunter's gun.

Fishing Cat Update from India

By Ashwin Naidu

In India, it has been known so far that fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, in wetlands along the Ganga and Brahmaputra River valleys, and sparsely along the east coast of Central and South India. Fishing cats are likely extirpated from the wetlands of western and southwestern India. Current threats to fishing cats and their mangrove/wetland habitats include lack of awareness, direct persecution, deforestation, and land encroachment for aquaculture/agriculture. Fishing cats are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and thereby protected from hunting. On the east coast of Central and South India, only a few intact, small populations of fishing cats are known to occur, and these are subject to heavy habitat loss, persecution, and poaching by humans. To date, there have been no extensive surveys on the occurrence of fishing cat populations, their habitat, or diet requirements in coastal South India. Until recently, only two published records in the peer-reviewed literature and anecdotal information were available on the distribution and ecology of fishing cats in South India. Therefore, we saw an urgent need to carry out a community-based survey and establish long-term conservation measures to protect this species from local extinction.

In early 2014, we began establishing the Fishing Cat Conservancy (FCC) with the mission to promote the perpetual survival of fishing cats in the wild through public awareness and education, commu-

nity-based conservation of fishing cats and their habitat, and mitigation of human-wild cat conflicts throughout their range.

With seed funds from the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Small Wild Cat Conservation Alliance in January 2014, we started a community-based fishing cat conservation project which is currently being coordinated by the Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society (EGWS), our first conservation partner in India. Wild Oasis later supported us with supplemental funds in May 2014, for purchasing wildlife cameras and employing local people to work for surveying fishing cats outside Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh (AP), India.

Soon afterwards, in June 2014, additional funds raised through the Feline Conservation Federation at their latest convention held in Scottsdale, Arizona, helped startup the FCC in multiple ways. First, we were able to provide sup-

port to our local conservation heroes, Ramesh and Appa Rao (the mangrove man of India), with capacity-building training on wildlife camera-based monitoring of fishing cats and funds to continue wildlife camera setup to document fishing cats in the last remaining, yet



unprotected mangrove tracts along the coast of northern AP, India. Second, Murthy Kantimahanthi, President of the EGWS and local coordinator of this fishing cat project in coastal AP, conducted several more questionnaire surveys with villagers to document the occurrence of fishing cats, and two education programs for schoolchildren in schools not very far away from where fishing cats occur. So far, we have

reached out to about 65 local villagers doing questionnaire surveys and about 200 schoolchildren through conservation education programs in 2014. Finally, we were able to launch the FCC website (www.fishingcat.org), which highlights



Recent photographic record of a fishing cat. Camera-traps setup by the EGWS and FCC's conservation education and capacity building efforts for local people outside Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary.



Murthy Kantimahanthi speaking to local people about the fishing cat.

the significance of the endangerment of fishing cats, their unique wetland/mangrove habitats, and community-based conservation efforts underway to enhance awareness and protection, both locally and globally.

The FCC obtained its 501(c)(3) federally tax-exempt non-profit status in September 2014, and is now looking at becoming the umbrella organization for fishing cat conservation efforts throughout the 11 fishing cat range countries in South and Southeast Asia. Apart from our current project in South India, we have developed contacts with the following people who are currently working on fishing cat research/conservation projects and are in the process of creating partnerships with them to materialize in-situ conservation programs in due course:

- India: Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, work-

ing on range-wide fishing cat conservation genetics, and Tiasa Adhya, working on fishing cat ecology and conservation in West Bengal.

- Sri Lanka: Ashan Thudugala, working on fishing cat conservation education, a road-sign project to reduce vehicle-caused mortalities of fishing cats in central Sri Lanka, and Anya Ratnayaka, working on GPS-tracking of urban fishing cats in western Sri Lanka.

- Nepal: Sagar Dahal, working on a fishing cat survey and conservation efforts near Ghodaghodi Lake and Jagadishpur Reservoir, in southern Nepal.

We are looking at creating partnerships to initiate/support dedicated community-managed conservation and public education programs in each of the 11 range countries over the upcoming years.

Since January 2014, we have documented fishing cat presence with information on tracks, scat, historical sightings, road kills, and camera-trap photos in multiple locations along the east coast of AP, India. Our data on fishing cat occurrences are currently available to view through an online map of fishing cat records in AP. With pictures and tracks of multiple fishing cat individuals, we have potentially recorded the southern-most population of fishing cats in India, occurring outside the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in AP – a sanctuary protecting one of the last remaining mangrove forests of South



Students get involved in conservation efforts, too.

India, where we can be certain that a sizeable population of fishing cats persists.

Our first photographic records of fishing cats span five different locations, all outside protected areas. We have also documented jungle cats through camera-trap photographs and tracks in the field, and we believe the leopard cat and rusty-spotted cat to be co-occurring with the fishing cat here as well. About six local people/volunteers, including Ramesh and Appa Rao, are fully involved in monitoring cameras outside protected areas.

We are also working with the AP Forest Department to help establish Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding mangrove areas as a dedicated community-managed fishing cat and mangrove forest reserve. We have designed a banner/poster to display in villages as bill-

boards/signage for awareness, especially along roads leading up to Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary.

We believe that there are many such areas throughout the known/estimated historic range of the fishing cat that remain unstudied and unprotected. Given the enthusiasm of local people to help protect fishing cats and to work for conservation in several areas, the FCC hopes to reach out to many such areas in the future to document the occurrence of fishing cats and initiate community-

managed conservation programs.

We are looking forward to doing more education and outreach talks at zoos, sanctuaries, and professional meetings of conservation-oriented organizations, and reaching out to individuals interested in our work. We hope to garner international support and funding to continue to implement our programs and action plans.



This incorrect headline in a local Indian newspaper highlights the continued need for conservation education relating to fishing cats. How can they be protected when locals don't even know what they are?

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.

Jennifer Gibbons - Basic
Jon Long - Basic
Marie Scarpa - Basic

Billie Lambert - Intermediate
Robert Hohn - Advanced
Sandra Lee Hohn - Advanced

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

Jungle Encounters Accreditation

By Lynn Culver

The latest facility to be re-accredited by the FCF Accreditation Committee is Jungle Encounters, owned and operated by Debi Willoughby. Jungle Encounters is an outreach wildlife educational service located in Massachusetts. The facility's felines currently include a pair of bobcats, a Geoffroy's cat, a savannah cat, and a Bengal cat.

Accreditation board chairperson Christa Donofrio expressed admiration for the facility, saying, "The enclosures are great for the size of the felines and are well-built with a lot of emphasis on enrichment."

Jungle Encounters is situated on eight rural acres, offering plenty of privacy and room for expansion. All of the cat habitats are enclosed by chain link perimeter fencing.

The feline enclosures are constructed using 1.5 inch by 1.5 inch vinyl-coated

arched outdoor structure has a double door entryway for security, and the back half of the roof is covered to provide protection from wind, sun, rain, and snow. There are a variety of platforms and ramps inside, giving the cats ample opportunities to enjoy elevated perspectives and opportunities to go vertical in their outdoor environment. A layer of wire sits atop of the ground to prevent any dig out, and that is covered with several inches of sand. Many places for lounging and basking in the sun have been provided. There is also a "kitty" pool and deck area to cool off in on hot days.

The other enclosure is structurally identical to the Geoffroy's cat enclosure and currently houses an adult male bobcat named Dakotah. A young female bobcat, Moxie, will join Dakotah

in this enclosure once she has reached sufficient size. Controlled introductions have already begun. Both enclosures are furnished with items geared towards the species' physiological and psychological well-being.

The indoor building has two cat cages and an area for the humans. This human-use area also acts as a double-door



Dakotah enjoys the stimulation of rolling in plants Debi offers.



Habitats are spacious and comfortable, for the cats and visiting people.

wire, attached alternately with hose clamps and wire over pre-arched greenhouse hoops. These metal hoops are secured into pre-drilled holes into an eight-inch treated landscape timber which sits atop another eight-inch square landscape timber. The timbers are fashioned together by both ten-inch steel spikes and metal clips.

The facility's spotted South American Geoffroy's cat, Spirit, was raised with the hybrid domestics and still gets along great with them, so the trio shares a 14-foot by 25-foot by eight-foot tall outdoor enclosure, which is attached to an additional space inside a connected building. The

entry system for added security. The indoor cages have numerous bunks at different heights to increase the overall useable space of the indoor areas. The substrate is shavings and hay for bedding. The cats are fed and have water bowls inside.

During Jungle Encounter shows, the Geoffroy's cat walks on a table and demonstrates his climbing and jumping ability on a scratching post with multi-tiered platforms. The bobcats prefer to walk on the floor and engage the audience with their beauty and stealth.

FCF Executive Director Lynn Culver welcomes this re-accreditation, saying, "Jungle Encounters continues to be included in the distinguished group of accredited facilities that meet the FCF high standards of facility design and husbandry."

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Spirit likes to venture outside on walks through the woods surrounding the Willoughby home.



Dakota stands on a hollow log to get a better view of the photographer, Debi.



Spirit likes to go fishing in his pool when it gets hot in the summer.



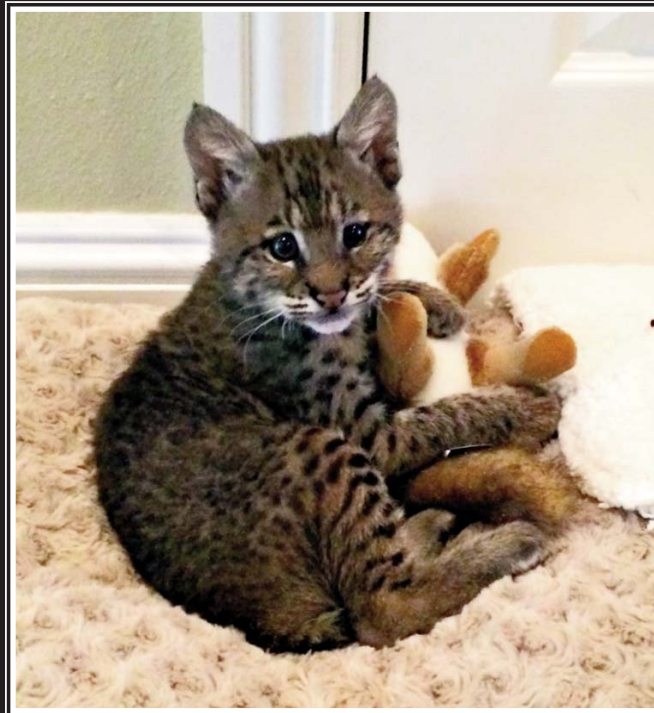
Little Moxie is the latest addition to the Jungle Encounters collection.



Both outdoor enclosures attach to a building that provides climate control when the weather gets bad.



Two sleepy Geoffroy's kittens at the FCF Convention in Scottsdale, AZ. Photo by Fred Hood.



Bandit and his buddy the stuffed squirrel
Stephanie Wells.

Your Best Shots!



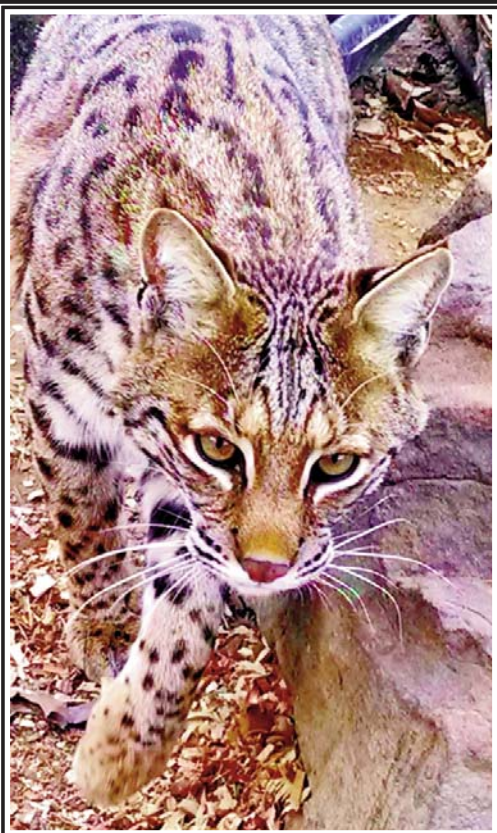
A couple of bobcat buddies enjoy the cooler weather in northern Ohio. Photo by John Chuha.



Kim Kyle took this photo of Nokia the white tiger at Catty Shack. Kim passed away from cancer last year, leaving a big hole in many lives, both human and animal.



el. Photo by



Tina Bayer shares a shot of Tigger, a bobcat at Safari's Sanctuary, OK.



Amos is a stunning black panther at Panther Ridge Conservation Center. Photo by Yvonne Veety.



te tiger at
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Mutosh the puma lives at Natural Bridge Zoo, where she shares a special relationship with Gretchen Mogensen.



Siberian lynx at Bear Creek Feline Center, photographed by Galina Simanovskaya.

Promised Land Zoo Accreditation

By Lynn Culver

The Feline Conservation Federation has approved Branson's Promised Land Zoo for feline facility accreditation. The FCF accreditation committee chairperson,

through park exhibiting over 500 animals of 60 species. Sanders owns a construction company and built both zoos from scratch. Daughter Laura Remenar remarks, "It is definitely a plus to be able to do all your own construction and modi-



Jungle Josh Remenar and Bruce Lee, the Bengal tiger, one of two big cats on site. The zoo is planning an all new big cat habitat this winter to include some exciting ways for the public to interact with the cats.

Christa Donofrio, says, "The young zoo's design is impressive, especially its spacious, well-organized nutrition building and the carnivore building's inside lock-downs."

Branson's Promised Land Zoo opened in May of 2013, and public reception has been outstanding. Located within the incorporated city of Branson, the zoo must comply with federal USDA regulations, Missouri's Large Carnivore Act restrictions, and the city of Branson's ordinances as well. The nine-acre park features 45 species of wildlife, including lion, tiger, serval, caracal, olive baboons, spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys, marmosets, ring-tailed lemurs, sloths, kangaroos, parakeets and tropical birds, hyena, zebras, camels, alpacas, lamas, capybaras, reptiles, and petting zoo animals.

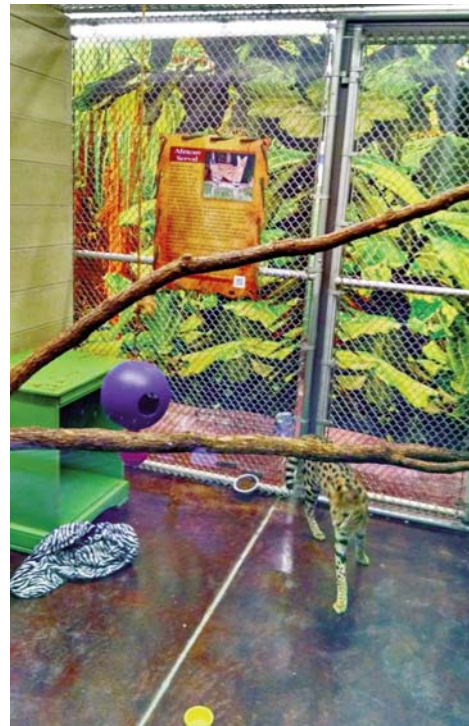
The zoo was built from the ground up by Jeff Sanders, who is no stranger to the zoological world. Promised Land Zoo is the family's second zoo; the other Promised Land Zoo in Eagle Rock, Missouri, opened 25 years ago as a drive-

fications that every facility needs over time."

The idea behind the Promised Land Zoo was to create a smaller, walk-through zoological park located in a popular tourist destination where conservation education could be presented to visitors, alongside one-of-a-kind interactive experiences. Three generations live and work with Promised Land Zoos to provide top-notch care for all the animals.

Promised Land Zoo is required by the city of Branson to have closed-top construction for all potentially dangerous animals and the big cats are no exception. Outdoor runs feature sturdy construction, gabled roofing, stamped concrete, drains to the sewer, and even guttering to prevent undermining of foundations.

Promised Land Zoo keeps the safety of its visitors in the forefront of any planning. Exclusion barrier fences are all at least five feet from any animal exhibit and are construct-



Sebastian Furlong, an African serval raised right here at the zoo in this inside exhibit area of the nutrition building. He is a November 2013 kitten and an excellent ambassador animal.



Jungle Josh Remenar and Delilah, Promised Land's first big cat, an African lioness. She is a wonderful addition to the animal family.



The outside view of Promised Land Zoo's cat house. Owner Jeff Sanders also has a construction company and build all the facilities from scratch.

ed of sturdy, welded wire. Most of the carnivore enclosures are built with chain link for safety, as well as welded wire.

The indoor nutrition building has several exhibits inside behind tempered glass.



Penny, an African caracal kitten born and raised at Branson's Promised Land Zoo, working as an animal ambassador, is presented by handler Buckaroo Brice Roewe.

Many of the hand-reared babies spend time in these displays as well as the zoo's popular ambassadors. Zoo staff comprises mainly animal professionals with degrees in biology, wildlife conservation management, and agriculture.

The zoo's original caracal pair, older

felines, was believed to be post-reproductive. With a vitamin regimen and varied natural diet of poultry, beef, venison, pigeons, squabs, guinea pigs, and rats, the pair surprised everyone and produced a litter of three kittens. Diego, one of the caracal kittens, has bonded with a new female, and recently they produced a single kitten. Diego still performs in shows at the zoo.

Sabastian, Promised Land's male serval, is almost a year old. He was raised from a kitten by Laura and performs in the zoo's live animal shows. Laura says he is by far the best mannered feline, but prefers females over men. Growing up he was doing exclusive encounters, where zoo patrons could have personal visits, but now he only performs in the animal shows.

The zoo is home to a two year old lioness named Delilah, and its most recent feline acquisition, a nine month old Bengal tiger named Bruce. Bruce has been successfully introduced to the older lioness. Delilah has a mothering instinct and was receptive to the playfulness of the young tiger. Both big cats were reared from cubs at Promised Land Zoo and will remain a part of the animal collection for the duration of their

lives. Laura says, "Being family owned and operated has many advantages; these animals become your family and then are cared for by family, forever."

This winter, the zoo plans to construct larger habitats for the still-growing big cats. Huge, closed-top outdoor enclosures will allow dirt and grass substrate. Also in the plans are some new and interesting ways to safely interact with the big cats. The FCF accreditation committee looks forward to the completion of the larger spaces for these cats.

Laura Remenar says, "We are all very grateful that the FCF has accredited our newest location and we look forward to working with everyone in the FCF to educate others on these wonderful cats placed in our care."



Jungle Josh with Jane, the olive baboon, during a live animal show. Promised Land Zoo focuses on education, preservation, and interaction.

Blast From the Past: Asian Golden Cat - Domestic Born

Long Island Ocelot Club
July-August 1972
Volume 16, Number 4

By Arnette Barnett

After a long and disappointing three and one-half year wait, our Asian golden cats, Mommy Cat and Apollo, have finally come through with a little boy. On December 31, I noticed what appeared to be evidence of mating activity. Mommy Cat's neck was all bitten up, and she was extremely vociferous towards the male. Figuring on a gestation of 72-74 days, I hoped for a birth between March 12 and 14. This pair of cats is extremely compatible and is allowed to remain together at all times, but in case of a pregnancy, I decided to separate them on March 3. We kept a close eye on Mommy Cat, but she never showed any of the normal signs of an impending delivery. Her nipples did not swell and no fetal movements were seen. She did not even prepare for the delivery by building a nest or removing any fur from around her nipples.

Still, I hoped, and on March 12, I

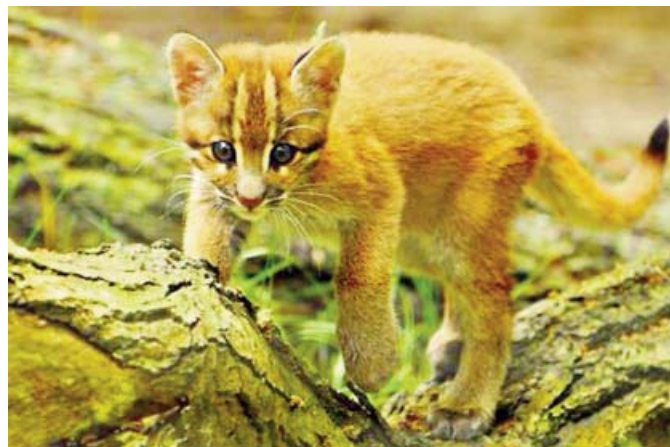
noticed what appeared to be light contractions. This persisted for more than 24 hours, without gaining in intensity, although she was obviously in discomfort. Late Monday, March 13, it was decided to give her an injection of Pitocin to help her contractions along. Getting her into a box and giving her a shot only upset her, and by then all contractions stopped. On March 14, still not knowing whether or not she was pregnant, it was decided to knock her down and give her a more thorough examination. For this, she went to Dr. John Jeffries, DVM, who has done wonderful work with many of our cats. She was given an injection of Ketilar and examined.

At this point, we finally found out that she was pregnant and also found out that she would have to have a Cesarean section. At 12

noon, one large male kitten was removed from her uterus. Incidentally, during her 48 hours of labor, the kitten only ascended one quarter of an inch.

From then on, Mommy Cat did beautifully. She is not bothering her stitches; and we have been told that there is no reason why she cannot have normal deliveries in the future.

Our next problem was the little one.



In 1972, the humble beginnings for a captive breeding population of Asian golden cats was shared with Long Island Ocelot Club members.



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When he was removed, he was more dead than alive. He would not start breathing; he was dehydrated from his extra-long stay in the uterus and his lungs were filled with mucous. After all the initial work with him was over, he was weighed (nine ounces) and tapped, given glucose and temporary enteritis serum. Then he was put into an incubator for intensive care.

Since then, it has been uphill all the way, and although he is only three days old, his weight gain is already obvious. He is beginning to look like a little butterball. Let me make mention that our male tiger and the newborn share the same birthday, one year apart.

Due to the circumstances of the birth and the fact that Mommy Cat is a very nervous cat, and besides, he had no milk, we decided not to attempt to give her the baby. With no mother-child bond, she surely would have devoured it. He still stays in an incubator except when I am feeding him. He is now getting about 12 feedings per day of approximately six ccs each. His daily consumption is between two and one-half and three ounces. Needless to say, we love him already. He is getting stronger and friskier by the day. Originally, we were going to call him Caesar for his type of birth, but later we decided that it would be nicer to call him Jeff, for the veterinarian that had worked so hard to make his

life possible.

RECENT PROGRESS REPORT ON "JEFF"

Jeff, now 11 weeks old, is at least as big as any five month old domestic kitten, and just about as agile. The growth that has taken place in the mere eleven weeks that he has been with us has been phenomenal; Jeff is well on his way to becoming a truly beautiful golden cat.

Jeff has adopted me as his mommy and seeks me out when he is tired, hungry, or just wants affection. He sleeps with me at night and nurses on my neck, fingers, or lip most of that time. He is quite an affectionate little boy, even with strangers; he does not show any of the normal "kitten

fears" and appears to be very well adjusted, although somewhat babyish. I guess it is to be expected. He was already ten weeks old by the time he finally learned to lap milk out of a bowl, and he still prefers his bottle.

Jeff has completed his preliminary course of immunization, and the typical "infant danger period" is just about over. His doctor says that he is just perfect, the picture of health.

"JEFF'S" PROGRESS CHART

As an aid for others who might breed golden cats, we are reproducing, in full detail, a chart showing Jeff's development to date.

AGE	TEETH	WEIGHT	EYES	VACCINATIONS	FOOD	OTHER PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS
Birth		9 oz		Temporary	Enfamil	Incubator - 78 - 80 degrees
6 Days		14 oz		Temporary		Umbilical cord drops
10 days			Outer corner, right opening			
11 Days			Left opens a slit			Ears starting to stand up
12 Days	2 upper incisors visible		Both 95% open			
13 Days				Temporary		
15 Days	4 lower incisors visible	1 lb 3 oz	Start to clear		Start adding cereal to formula	Tries to walk, hind legs still weak
20 Days			Iris and pupil visible			Takes 4 - 6 steps per time, sits up
22 Days	2 upper incisors visible					Walks well, changes direction, responds to voice
23 Days		1 lb 7 oz	Very clear			Hits objects with paws, hides and jumps
24 Days	2 upper incisors visible					
25 Days	2 lower incisors visible				Strained chicken	
27 Days		1 lb 11 oz		Temporary		Removed from incubator to carton
28 Days	2 upper canines break through				KMR/ w cereal, strained egg yolk	
30 Days	Lower right canine	1 lb 13 oz				
31 Days	Lower left canine through		Very clear, sees objects			Urinate spontaneously, uses litter pan
34 Days		2lb 4 oz		Temporary	Add Zupreem	
43 Days	1 each, upper and lower right, and left molar					
46 Days	1 each, lower right, and left molar		Starting to change color			
48 Days	1 each, upper right and left molar	2 lb 12 oz		Temporary		Jumps from object to object
54 Days		3 lb 8 oz				
61 Days		4 lb 4 oz				
62 Days				Permanent	Zu-Preem	
63 Days		5 lb				Learns to lap water from bowl
77 Days		6 pounds		Second Permanent		Adult fur starting to grow in at face

Meet a Cheetah

By Chris Tromborg, Ph.D.

Photos by Julie McNamara

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, at the Mountain Winery in Saratoga, California, the Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund (an FCF member organization) presented Themba (which means "hope" in Swahili), a four year old cheetah, to supporters of the Cheetah Conservation Fund. The venue for the cheetah presentation was the Mountain Winery in Saratoga, California, located in the foothills just south of San Francisco Bay. Ironically, this is near where only two weeks earlier, a mountain lion, the cheetah's closest living relative, attacked a young winery visitor.

Themba was born in South Africa, orphaned, and then raised in captivity. He has become an important animal ambassador for cheetahs. After a gestation period of around 93 days, cheetahs are born and hidden in a nest for months while their mothers provide for them. Their den is called a nest because of the bird-like chirps that are so characteristic of cheetahs. Cheetahs gradually leave their mothers at around 18 months of age. Frequently, males form coalitions with their brothers. At four years of age, Themba would probably still be in a coalition with his siblings. In the wild, cheetahs can live for up to 12 years, although in captivity they can live up to 15 years and beyond. Incidentally, during all of this time they shed!

The Cheetah Conservation Fund was founded nearly 25 years ago by Dr. Laurie Marker, to fight for the continued existence of the cheetah in the wild. Laurie uses a community-based conservation approach, which involves the participation of local people. People will only conserve wildlife when they realize some of the benefits derived



Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund co-founder Rob Dicely shows off Themba, an adult cheetah, at a Cheetah Conservation Fund presentation.

from its continued existence. The CCF has a visitor center, a school, a laboratory, and a veterinary clinic. The clinic can treat injured adult and orphaned cheetahs and the special dogs that CCF trains and provides to farmers and ranchers to ward

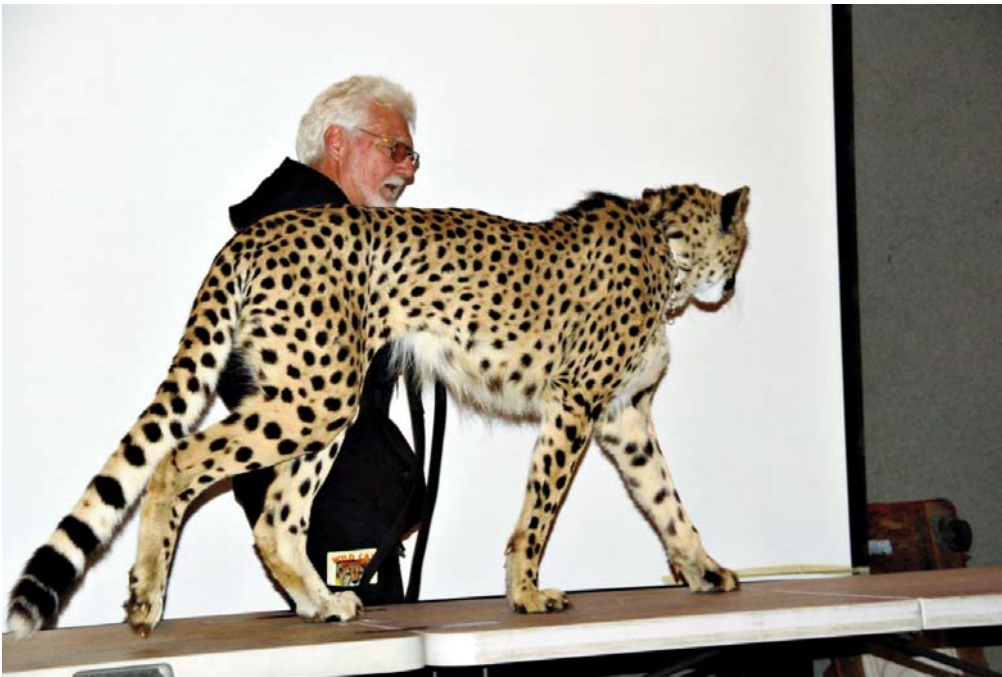
off cheetahs. Over 900 orphaned cheetahs have been rescued by CCF, and over 600 of these have been re-released into the wild.

Cheetahs have had their problems. There was a severe population bottleneck

15,000 years ago, producing a critical reduction in the genetic diversity of cheetahs. Today, histocompatibility research reveals that a skin transplant from one cheetah to any other cheetah on earth is hardly recognized as foreign tissue. Five thousand years ago, Egyptians began the practice of capturing wild cheetahs to be used as coursing animals. This practice culminated in the capturing of thousands of cheetahs, then called hunting leopards, in the 1800s and early 1900s by the maharajas of India, for use in coursing. During this period, cheetahs that did not reproduce in captivity



Nothing captures an audience's attention better than a live ambassador animal interacting closely with its handler.



Rob and Themba have been working together for nearly four years to educate the public about the plight of wild cheetah in Africa.

were simply replaced by new individuals from the wild. As the 20th century closed, cheetah numbers had declined precipitously, and by the late 1970s were thought to be under 20,000 in the wild. Although cheetahs are efficient predators, they often lose their kills to lions, hyenas, and leopards. In the wild, they breed well enough, producing from three to six cubs. Unfortunately, the rate of infant mortality is nearly 90%. Much of this mortality comes from lion and leopard predation on them in their nests.

Today, there are estimated to be around 10,000 cheetahs living in the wild. Over two thirds of these are found in Namibia. Cheetahs inhabit open savannah habitats, usually outside of the protection of wildlife parks. Cheetahs tend to live outside of parks due to high levels of harassment by lions and hyenas that exist in elevated concentrations inside of parks. Outside of parks, cheetahs come into conflict with farmers and ranchers, who regard them as problem animals. They are also subject to exploitation by big game hunters, the fur industry, the Chinese traditional medicine industry, the illegal drug trade, and terrorist organizations using all animals as a means of generating financial resources. Perhaps they are not problem animals; perhaps we are problem people.

The decline of cheetahs in the wild has made them a favorite target of conserva-

tion research in captivity. Research suggests that cheetahs possess the most acute vision of the medium and large cats, while they seem to possess a rather modest olfactory capacity. Some of the mysteries of cheetah reproduction have been revealed; nothing excites a receptive female like a good boxing match by potential suitors. The genome of the cheetah is now completely known. This knowledge is employed by Laurie Marker

and her colleagues at the CCF field station to assess the population genetics of large numbers of free-living cheetahs, the genetics of orphaned cheetahs, and the maintenance of a gene bank to insure genetic diversity in future populations of cheetahs.

The Wildcat Education and Conservation Fund, operated by Rob and Barbara Dicely, have presented exotic and wild animals in educational settings for over two decades. They currently use several felines in their educational programs, including cheetahs, mountain lions, and young leopards.

Themba chirped and stutter-barked all through the presentation on the CCF presented by Laurie Marker. When he was brought into the auditorium, there was a simultaneous cessation of breathing by many, exclamations of wonder by still others, and many other spontaneous responses that are seldom heard in response to videos or at zoos. Being close to a living cheetah provides a qualitatively different experience than those provided by zoos. The WECF's successful use of felines in education provides a powerful message about the need to continue to have animals maintained outside of traditional zoos. This is precisely the kind of educational approach which the FCF so strongly supports. Felines forever!

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A Day for Wildlife Conservation Conversations

By Chris Tromborg
Photographs by Julie McNamara

Once again, the Wildlife Conservation Network has presented its Fall 2014 Wildlife Conservation EXPO at the University of California, San Francisco, on October 11, 2014.

This year, there were 19 presentations focusing on wildlife conservation involving species including elephants, cotton-top tamarins, sea turtles, and Ethiopian wolves. The feline contingent was represented by lions, cheetahs, snow leopards, Andean cats, and many species of smaller cats. Additionally, over 50 conservation organizations, including the FCF, were represented in the exhibitors' area.

The FCF was represented during the presentations by our own James Sanderson, Ph.D., presenting his efforts to conserve many of the world's smallest felines, including the flat-headed cat. Once again, Jim admonishes all of us to cease using palm oil, which creates a demand that results in the spreading of extensive palm plantations and the simultaneous destruction of small cat habitat.

The FCF was directly represented in the exhibitor area by Chris Tromborg, Ph.D., who also assisted with exhibits by the Mountain Lion Foundation (MLF). The FCF was also represented by the Endangered Feline Breeding Center (EFBC), who wishes to report the recent births of both fishing cats and Pallas's cats.

As usual, the news was relatively grim. Ignoring the horrifying plight of the African elephant, many other species continue to exhibit troubling declines in population. Tiger and lion numbers are lower, once again, primarily due to habitat loss and pressure from poaching for the traditional medicine trade and trophy hunting. The pressure on the smaller cats comes primarily from habitat loss, though there is also some hunting pres-

sure. Some of this is from the illegal pet trade, but much of it comes from trapping and hunting from local people, who often consider the smaller cats competitors or possibly as sources of additional income.

The bad news notwithstanding, the assembly of over 50 different conservation organizations in one location and the presence of an interested public always creates a sense of hope for the future. At the end of the day, all of the FCF informational materi-



Sheri Dance holds a beautiful cheetah print won at a fund raiser for the CCF and used as a backdrop for the FCF expo table.

als, *Journals*, and DVDs were in the hands of the interested public. Several people requested more information about the FCF and could become future members.

Sometimes it seems as if our work might actually be going somewhere. Consider the work of Dr. Laurie Marker, who founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and has almost single-handedly succeeded in stabilizing the cheetah population in Namibia. The fact that there are still wild animal populations in the wild that are large enough to be concerned about, even after years of destructive trends, suggests that our conservation attempts might be having some effect. The conservation of animals in the wild, and the responsible maintenance of populations of wild and exotic animals in captivity can offer many species the possibility to exist well into the future.



The FCF booth and the Mountain Lion Foundation booth were both manned by Chris, who was kept busy talking cats to the visiting public.

Texas Ocelots

By Jim Sanderson

U.S. F&W has done a lot of good conservation work on behalf of ocelots in South Texas. Efforts, however, to create safe road crossing requires participation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), which seems less than enthusiastic about conserving ocelots. The issue in South Texas is land. South Texas is an agricultural landscape sliced and diced by TxDOT roads that surround a small patch of native land that is Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Further north are private lands occupied by black buck and nilgai from India, native white-tailed deer, and probably by ocelots.

U.S. F&W has been buying land, mostly agricultural property, and restoring it to native landscape. This land in South

Land acquisition and restoration, and recovery of genetic diversity by an introduction program, require expensive long-term investments. But the results will pay off over the long-term as well, provided TxDOT sees the light and does its part for the ocelots.

I want to add one word of caution however. On June 27, 2014, U.S. F&W bureaucrats in Washington, DC, issued a reinterpretation of a key phrase that refers to a significant portion of a species range in the Endangered Species Act. Basically the reinterpretation says that if a species, in this case ocelots, live elsewhere in greater number, then these small satellite populations will not be considered important to the survival of the species. That means our jaguar and few ocelots in Arizona and Texas, are irrelevant and do not need protection. Funds could be pulled from these valuable conservation programs. The reinterpretation is under review. If such

a statement was applied globally, there would be no subspecies or isolated populations left. All leopards would disappear except in Africa and India. Such a statement could come only from a person totally ignorant of evolution. While we have the Wild Horses and Burros Act protecting introduced species turning our western public range-



The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge holds one of only two small populations of ocelots still native to the U.S.



Sadly, these rare ocelots have been hit by drivers, a devastating loss to the genetics of this struggling population.

Texas is not enough habitat and there is only one way to increase the amount; buy abandoned farms and restore them to native habitat. This is expensive, but necessary. Radio-collared ocelots show they use the restored habitat that takes more than a decade to look natural. U.S. F&W also runs a monitoring program to census ocelots. Results have been published in *Cat News*.

Another issue is a lack of over/underpasses that allow ocelots to cross safely. In the last two years, four ocelots have been killed by vehicles. Another issue is low genetic diversity in Texas ocelots. U.S. F&W is now working with Mexico to introduce a few Mexican ocelots to prevent inbreeding, which is suspected of happening in the small, isolated Laguna Atascosa NWR ocelot population.

lands into an equine nuclear winter landscape, we will ignore ocelots that are expanding northward to disappear. Of course, this makes no sense whatsoever. But once a politician issues a formal statement, they are loathe to admit their error. Let us all hope more thoughtful minds are at work.

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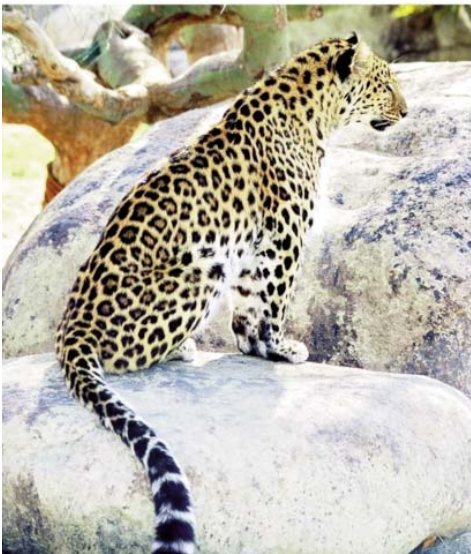
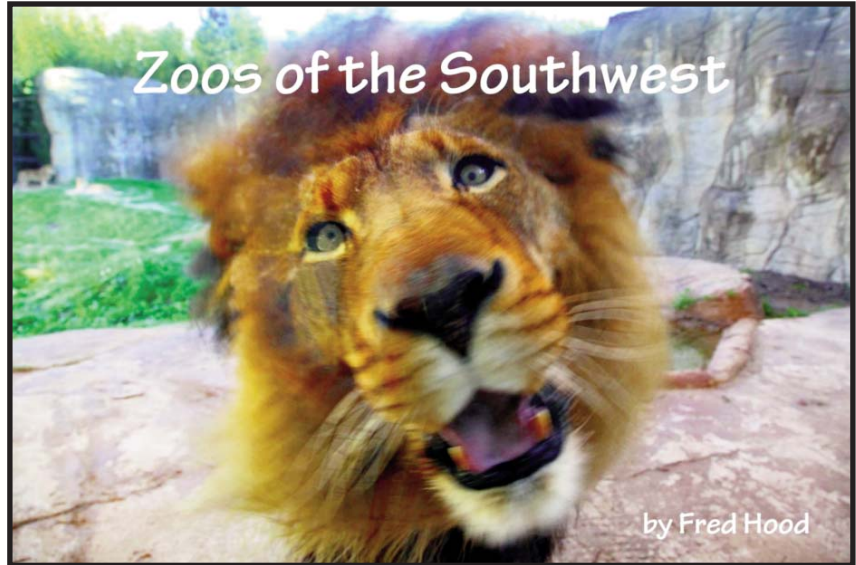
Zoos of the Southwest

By Fred Hood

Review by Lynn Culver

The FCF's own zoo geek, Fred Hood, has assembled a review of 17 zoological parks in the Southwest U.S. Fred begins with a short chapter on the history of zoos, taking the reader back to the late 1700s and up to the modern time of zoos. The zoos showcased in Fred's book are located in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Each zoo review includes all the basics you would want to know, address, driving directions, hours of operation, admission price, unique features, and eating options. Fred introduces us to each park by taking the reader on a more personal journey,



most unique facilities in the book.

Fred devotes a chapter to zoos that offer nighttime viewing. Cooler temperatures in the summer evenings and more active animals make for the potential of dramatic photography opportunities.

Zoos of the Southwest is an enjoyable read, easy to digest. If you are traveling out west, definitely pick up a copy before you go. If you are like most cat people, it's a great addition to your library collection. Available online at Fred's website Fine Art Photography, <http://www.hoodfineart.com/>.

Living Desert Zoo's cats of Africa include leopard, Arabian wildcat, and sand cats.

describing the geographical location and back drops where the facility rests, and what a visitor can expect to see in the way of exhibit designs, the animal species enclosed, with a bit of info about the animals themselves. What's fun, what's worth seeing, Fred lets you know. While Fred is an admitted carnivore lover, no species is slighted, from birds to reptiles, complete with plenty of photographs illustrating each zoological park.

Two of the zoos featured in the book were part of the recent FCF convention field trips, the Out of Africa Wildlife Park and the Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium. Fred says Wildlife World shines with diversity and Out of Africa is one of the

Wildlife Zoo and Aquarium's black panther's piercing gaze.



The Small But Precious Ones

By Andrea Sobotka
Spirit Animal Wisdom, LLC

Back in August, I received a call from a lady who had read my recent article in the *FCF Journal* about my "Healing Project" visit to PrideRock Wildlife Refuge. Her direct intro told me she meant business; "Hello, my name is Pat Quillen, and your services are just what I've been looking for!" The services I provide are natural energy healing for animals, intuitive counsel, and animal communication. After chatting with Pat for nearly an hour regarding her cats, and in particular one named Oie, we agreed that I would make arrangements to travel out to her private facility, SOS Care, a 501(c)(3) organization in Valley Center, California, later in September.

Depending on your age and tenure in the field of felid conservation, some of you may know who Pat Quillen is. She was the recipient of the LIOC Lotty Award in 1980, she has collaborated with National Geographic in the past, has worked with and consulted to private and public facilities in North America and around the world, and has been a presenter and workshop moderator globally. Pat modestly refers to herself as "specializing in small cat species," but I was fascinated to learn that she has been (and in many places still is) regarded as an international authority on the successful care, breeding, rehabbing, and conservation of many small wild cat species, including sand cats, bobcats, leopard cats, the tigrina (oncilla), and most notably the highly

endangered Brazilian margay cats, just to name a few. In 2003, while she was visiting Spain, her home burned to the ground, along with awards, special appreciation

as soon as she was able to get back and reorganized. Today, she has seven cats remaining in her capable care. Each of them is getting on in age now and has

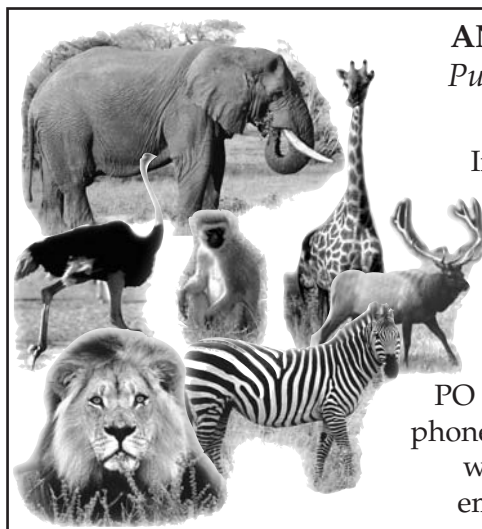


JC, the bobcat, affectionately known as "Mr. Personality," loves the connection with Andrea, who has arrived to check in on the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness of Pat's cats, as well as be a pair of "ears" for them.

gifts from governments and organizations around the world, photos, research papers, and EVERY document and daily care record on the animals she had cared for; years' worth of records and information! All gone in a flash. Mercifully, every animal on site was safely moved out of harm's way and they were returned to her

been with Pat for most, if not all, of their lives. As devoted as Pat is to the care and conservation of the small but precious wild ones, she is keenly aware of her own mortality and is no longer taking in any new charges. Thus, her feline family is dwindling as nature takes its course.

But in the meantime, Pat's cats get the very best of care, love, and attention so that they will live out the rest of their days in healthy, happy, and peaceful harmony. One of Pat's margay cats, an elder named Oie, had been displaying some uncharacteristic behaviors and not eating well. Being fully aware of how stressful a trip to the vet is for these wild ones, Pat takes the holistic approach to healthcare as much as possible. In Oie's case, she was a bit stumped and was hoping that both my skills as an animal communicator and as a natural energy healer could help her determine if that trip to the vet was absolutely necessary. As for the others, which included a bobcat, a leopard cat, and four other margays, the primary focus was to just check in on their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness, as well as be a pair



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His Lordship is an old margay who takes everything in stride and never complains even though Andrea detected he is “feeling his bones.”

of “ears” for them. After doing a couple of remote sessions with Oie, we indeed determined a trip to the vet was wise. I detected a bit of dehydration, as well as something in the lower digestive tract that was causing some discomfort. By way of a remote energy session, I provided Oie with relaxation and emotional balance to reduce the stress of the excursion. The transport went well and, once at the vet clinic, she received some fluids which made her feel much better. Further testing left the doctors aware that there “may be something in the intestines,” but there was nothing conclusive to be a cause for worry or further invasive action considering Oie’s advanced age. In general, they were very happy with her health. On returning home, I provided her with a couple more remote energy sessions and collaborated with Pat on some natural supplementation and slight dietary changes to ensure Oie remained well hydrated and eating well again.

A couple of weeks later, when I arrived onsite with Nancy (my friend, “keeper”, and photo chronicler), we were pleasantly taken with how quietly tucked away the property was. Pat, with her kindly face, beautiful long white hair, and work-worn hands, greets us with a big smile and can hardly wait to introduce us to her “kids.” Much care is taken to ensure the cats are not disturbed. Most of the enclosures on

the property are now empty, but speak of just how busy this facility once was, and the seven precious cats in Pat’s care are now all in one area with their own private mews, but strategically neighboring each other depending on relation and emotional considerations.

We head straight to the enclosures and, as Pat introduces me to each cat, beginning with CJ, the charismatic and vocal

bobcat, I am delighted to see shiny coats, bright eyes, well kept mews, and very interesting little personalities! It is evident that the cats love their “mama” and appreciate that while she loves them dearly, she respects their wild nature and gives them their space. CJ and the youngest margay, Marta, love the attention and are quick to engage in communication with me. Both would have appreciated an even “closer” encounter (perhaps my lap!), which was not a surprise to Pat regarding CJ, but a bit of a surprise with Marta. Padrone, a male margay, enjoys his proximity to his father, “His Lordship,” in the next mew, and makes it very clear he does not want to be moved from that spot; he is not a fan of change. His Lordship is an old soul who takes everything in stride and never complains even though I detect he is “feeling his bones.” I provide him with a bit of energy work to sooth his joints and recommend some holistic supplements to Pat, which he is taking and doing well on now.

Rosebud, the eldest of the margays and mother of Oie, is quite the princess and wants us all to know she is the boss! She is standoffish one moment, then outright nosey the next. She loves her mama (Pat), but keeps her in check and adores her mice, especially the heads. Rosie expresses her concern for Oie, who is next to her and, although she is doing much better now, Oie seems so much older in body



Margay Marta loved the attention and was quick to engage in communication with Andrea, and acted as if she wished for possibly even a “closer” encounter.

and spirit than her mother. And then there is Wylie the leopard cat. Wylie is very shy and stays hidden from view of Nancy's camera. Once I start to gently connect with him, he is interested in me and slowly peeks out from behind his log one eye at a time. He lets me know he loves his food (especially mice!), enjoys peace and quiet, and has a bit of a soft spot for Rosie across the way from him; a bit of a Romeo and Juliette situation.

It is always an honor for me to work with animals and their people when I witness the respect, love, kindness, and consideration that flows between them. It shines a light on the GOOD there is in the world. I am so pleased to have met Pat and to hear stories of the wonderful work she has done, and continues to do, in the name of conservation with the small wild cats over her lifetime. I really hope she writes that book (hint hint, Pat!) so that those in the field today, and coming up, can benefit from such experience and knowledge. And most of all, it is the animals themselves I live to work for. As a born animal communicator, intuitive, and natural energy healer, I work with all animals, wild and domestic. I also volunteer as a wildlife medic and rehabber at a local



Margay Oie peeks out of her crate. Oie had been displaying some uncharacteristic behaviors and not eating well, so Andrea was invited in to help identify what might be at the root of this problem.

rescue and rehab center in Scottsdale, Arizona. I also teach some of what I do through my Animal Sense workshops. If you have a gift, do it justice by developing it through practice and continuing education, and by giving back in some way

either by teaching, volunteering, or both. Many thanks to folks like Pat Quillen who has made the wellbeing of animals, in some way, shape, or form, their life mission.

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A Priceless Thank You

FCF Secretary Debi Willoughby was surprised by a handmade card from Rene, a Texas student that found the FCF through our website. This young lady is an animal lover and understands the importance of saving animals.

Since the FCF is the membership, a collection of individuals, and the zoos, breeders, sanctuaries, exhibitors, and researchers that work with, and work for the cats, we wanted to share this small act of appreciation, which affirms what

we already know. We need to reach kids! They are the future of this planet.

Dear Secretary Feline Conservat-
-ion Federation,

Thank you so much for all your hardwork in helping/saving wild cats. I understand that your work fighting for this cause can be difficult or even dangerous but it truly is appreciated. Organizations like you are positively impacting our world and it is so meaningful and inspiring. Please continue your amazing work, even as a child I know we need these creatures because they are valuable/important part of not only our ecosystem but world. Thanks again!

♥ Rene

A 9th grader
at Greenwich
High School

P.S. I wrote this letter because I care. Recently I learned about the fact that specifically there are more tigers in Texas than in the wild. I hope that one day more people will hear this and also experience the shock and anger that comes with it. All humans should know we can change this and make a difference. Groups like you help this.



POSTER GIFT NOTICE

You will notice something else in this *Journal* envelope. Included is a full-color print, "Cats of the World," created by artist Jessie Jordan, www.zoologyillustration.com. Jessie is an accomplished artist and has a unique perspective for wildlife, having worked as a zookeeper at Dallas Zoo and volunteered at a wildlife rescue center.

FCF Director Chris Tromborg met her at the WCN Expo this past fall and was so impressed with this illustrated work that he purchased the copyright for FCF to reprint these as gifts for every FCF member!

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International Help for Fishing Cats

Update from Director Jim Sanderson:

These photos are from Alex Sliwa, who was just in Sri Lanka, showing people how to radio-track fishing cats he fitted with collars. Two cats were rescued from villagers and released with collars.

This is the kind of international cooperation that happens. Add up the collars, antennas, receivers, workshop costs, and flight cost that Alex paid for to help. He left all that equipment in Sri Lanka.

We can do this everywhere now. Projects in several range countries want this help and we will discuss at the Nepal meeting in April. I plan to go to Sri Lanka in early 2015 to do the same thing to keep the project moving forward.



Alex Sliwa gives instruction on how to radio-track fishing cats.



This fishing cat is rehabilitated and was set to be released September 14th of this year.



A radio collar is fitted on the fishing cat so that it can be tracked and studied.



Fishing cats come into captivity and need rehabilitation for a variety of reasons, including being injured by traps or gunshot when they prey on the fish at man-aged fish farms.

Update from the Legislation Director

By Amy Flory

The state law pages on the FCF website have recently been reviewed and updated to reflect the changes from this year.

The following states are filing bill draft requests or are pre-filing for their 2015 sessions. Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia are pre-filing. Colorado, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming are drafting.

For this year, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania continue to be the only states still in regular session, with Ohio in skeleton session and Massachusetts in informal session. Here are the updates since the last Journal.

BILLS

There has been little action on federal and state bills since the last report. All federal bills affecting felines are still stalled in committee at this time.

Another Michigan bill (SB 1065) was introduced on September 16, to amend the exemptions for the Large Carnivore Act.

This bill changes which sections animal control or protection shelters, those licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Michigan Department of Natural Resources (other than Michigan DNR licensees with black bears), those approved or accredited by the AZA, the Association of Sanctuaries, or American Sanctuary Association, law enforcement, and veterinarians are exempt from. They would be exempt from Section 4, which is the ban on owning, breeding, and transferring, and would no longer be exempt from Section 6, which includes the tether ban and the facility, signs, and annual checkup requirements.

One of the New Jersey wildlife rehabilitator bills was scheduled for September 11, but that was later cancelled.

RULES

On August 29, Arizona introduced a proposed rule change that will make significant changes to the entire Article 4 Live Wildlife, in addition to adding all primates to the restricted list. Comment

deadline and hearing is expected December 5.

On September 16, Indiana DNR discussed introducing a rule change to Section 312 IAC 9-10-9, regarding rehabilitation permits, and Section 312 IAC 9-11-2, regarding first permit to possess a wild animal. No formal rule change has been introduced yet, so no public hearings are scheduled or public comments being taken at this time.

The comment periods have ended for both Louisiana rule changes introduced pertaining to big exotic cats, and both are still pending.

The West Virginia dangerous wild animal rule and list is still pending and will go before the legislature for approval in 2015.

PETITIONS

According to reports, the petition submitted to California Fish and Game to ban hybrid cats in the state was rejected during the meeting on October 8.



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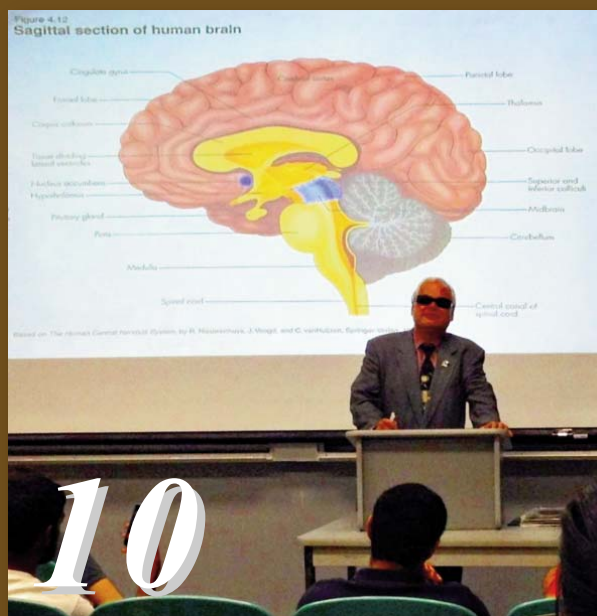
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Feline Conservation Federation

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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: Ocelot at Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium and Safari Park. FCF members enjoyed a complimentary tour of this ZAA accredited, private zoo park in Tucson, Arizona, after the conclusion of the FCF Convention. Photo by Fred Hood.

Back Cover: Matthew Tebb with four-week-old Sumatran tiger cub, Hunter. Matthew had the privilege of hand raising his mother, Kaitlyn, and helping her deliver Hunter and his brother, Clarence. Hunter is now 18 months old and is maturing quickly. He is around 200 pounds now and will put on another 100 pounds over the next year. He is involved in shows and loves to play around with the handlers and other cats. He is a very important part of the zoo's education and conservation programs. Photo by Australia Zoo photographer Ben Beaden.

