

EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES FALL 2006

**CATS UPDATE**



Our newest residents are two jaguarondi. We have two sisters, named Aztec and Maya, who were born on May 15 at Sierra Endangered Cat Haven. Jaguarondi do not look like little jaguars - they have small heads with small low set ears, a long flat tail, and a long weasel-like body. They're one of the only solid colored wild cats. The color can range from red to nearly black. Maya is a reddish brown, while Aztec is very dark brown. They have solid colored ears, which is also unusual - most wild cats have a white or black spot on the back of their ears. Also called the Otter Cat, the jaguarundi is found in the Americas as far south as Paraguay. A few still survive in southern Arizona and Texas.



The two North Chinese leopards born in February are doing great! At 6 months old they have now moved full-time to one of the natural habitat cages so they can be seen by visitors every day. Yanna and LiMing are still fairly well-behaved with our staff and volunteers, but we don't expect that to last forever!



(Top left) Maya and Aztec;  
 (far left) Aztec;  
 (left) Yanna;  
 (above) Maya

**SPECIAL EVENTS – REVIEWS**



Feline Follies – We had another great night for Follies this year, with over \$24,000 raised! Thanks to everyone who attended our 17<sup>th</sup> annual Fabulous Feline Follies, held August 19. Over 175 guests enjoyed great food, bid on beautiful auction items, and were entertained by Anita Jackson and her helpers from “Zoo to You”, who brought out a warthog, a Lemur, lynx cub, and other animals. The \$1000 grand prize winner at the Follies raffle was Allan S. Hill of Kent, Washington, who donated \$500 back to us! Allan is a longtime adoptive parent of black leopard Roby. The Felitarian award was presented to Cheryl Rendes. Cheryl, along with her father Steve Rendes, founded Wonders of Wildlife in 1983, an educational organization that travels throughout Southern California visiting schools, libraries, nature centers and other civic and private functions promoting public awareness of wildlife and conservation. Cheryl is a credentialed instructor in the animal care field and has over 35 years of experience working with a variety of exotic animals. Cheryl is also co-host of the “Pick-A-Pet” cable show for the Newport Beach Animal Control for the wildlife/special segments portion of the program. Cheryl and her mother do presentations at our events including last year’s Kids Day. Many thanks to our sponsors, we had a record amount raised in sponsorships this year!



*(Above) Cheryl Rendes; (below left) Camille and Jerry Gadwood with Joe Maynard and Sandy Masek*



**PLATINUM - Donations of \$1,000.00**

- Scott & Nicole Pearson, Los Angeles, CA
- George & Joan Paulikas, Palos Verdes Estates
- Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow, Altadena
- Steven Crutchfield, Gainesville, VA
- Susan Lozier & Ian MacLeod, Omaha, NE
- AAZK-EFBC Chapter, Rosamond, CA
- Jerry & Camille Gadwood, Burbank, CA

**GOLD - Donations of \$500.00**

- Coach’s Sports Bar & Grill, Rosamond, CA
- Larry Purcell, Lancaster, CA

**GOLD continued:**

Serrano Animal & Bird Hospital, Lake Forrest, CA

Wayside café, Rosamond, CA

Antelope Valley Bank, Rosamond, CA

**SILVER - Donations of \$250.00**

Palmdale Veterinary Hospital, Palmdale, CA

In Memory of Steve J. Rendes, Former Director  
EFBC- Sponsored by Irene & Cheryl Rendes,  
Fullerton, CA

Eileen Maluccio, A. American Self Storage,  
Lancaster, CA

**BRONZE - Donations of \$150.00**

Hunter Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Lancaster, CA

Marjorie Lulay, Tehachapi, CA

Kimberly Dolan, Lancaster, CA

Medical Billing & Consulting - Marian & Liam  
O'Neill, Marina Del Rey, CA

Lanescapes - Magda Lane, Studio City, CA

Chem-Dry of Santa Clarita/Kim Blaquera

The winner of the 50/50 (\$1667.00) raffle drawing  
at our Summer Twilight Tour was Michael and Lori  
Brethour of Saugus, CA.



(Top) Starr tallies the results; (bottom) Jeff awards raffle prizes



Canada lynx cub meets the guests

Poker Run – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> poker run was held Saturday August 5. Many thanks again to Starr Bayard (and her husband Jeff) – this is our ONLY fund-raiser where someone else does ALL the work of organizing and running the event. We all

appreciate Starr’s work very much! This year’s event raised over \$1500. The riders registered at Harley-Davidson of Lancaster, went to Coach’s restaurant in Rosamond, then toured the compound, then had stops in Tehachapi and far east Lancaster before ending at Schooner’s in Lancaster for food, raffle prizes, and the winner announcement! A new addition was a limited edition special T-shirt.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

2006 Twilight Tours – the last one for this year is on September 16. If you pay in advance you can enter at 5 PM, otherwise you can pay at the door and enter at 5:30 PM. The admission is still \$15 each and you must be 18 or older. This is your last chance this year to spend time in the back areas not open to the public during the day. As usual there will be a bake sale, a barbecue for \$5 from the Lancaster Rotary, and a raffle with many prizes!

2006 Kids Day – This coming November 18 we will be having our 2nd Kids Day. There will be all kinds of fun and games along with an animal exhibit, miniature train ride, and pony rides. Those of you with children or grandchildren be sure not to miss this. Admission is increased that day to \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. NO child drop-offs, they must have an adult present!

### 2007 Event Dates! Mark your calendars!

Big Cat Bazaar – May 19 & 20 2007. This is a yard sale held at the compound where all proceeds go to the cats. You can donate any clean, sellable item but please, no clothing. Bring a carload by anytime during normal operating hours..

Twilight Tours – April 26, June 16, September 15 2007.

Feline Follies – August 18 2007

Kids Day – November 17 2007



*Windie, Sand Cat*

## OTHER ORGANIZATION'S EVENTS

Wildlife Conservation Expo, Saturday, October 7 at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA – see for details

Wild Cat Conservation Learning Experience at the LA Zoo Saturday October 14. Tickets \$40, call 559.338.3216. Speakers include researchers from snow leopard, cheetah, and small cat conservation projects (plus more!).



### VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER – KIM BLAQUERA

My husband and I have been the owners of a small business in Santa Clarita for 18 years. My son and I are black belts in Tae Kwon Do. I first visited the feline compound in the mid 80's when my kids were small and even though it was a small place then, I always thought it would be an awesome place to work. I worked backstage for many years with my daughter's ballet company and decided when she was grown, I would be able to come to the compound as a volunteer. I have always had a love for animals and in particular dogs (for my house) and an affinity for large cats. I am also a charter member of The Aquarium of the Pacific. I love the ocean and am a certified scuba diver. I love the whole idea of the feline compound and their dedication to conservation and preservation of these amazing animals and am grateful to be a part of it.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are at a very low level of regular volunteers right now. Many of our volunteers come from the Los Angeles area, and the high gas prices are having an effect on them. We provide all training. Just show up (any day except Wednesday) at least 5 minutes before 8 am, and wait in or outside of the employee parking lot until you see someone (don't walk onto the facility by yourself the first day, please). The day begins at 8 am, cleaning cages and checking on the cat's health. From 10 am - 4 PM, the volunteers assist visitors to the compound by answering questions, and may help in preparing the cats' dinners. In the afternoon, up to 150 pounds of raw meat is delivered to the cats, and dishes are washed. Don't come here expecting to play with cats - you need to be willing to work hard. There are only a few cats we go in with, and you have to work your way up to that privilege. It's a busy day, but well worth the effort. We are in the process of designing a poster to recruit more volunteers, let us know if you have a good place to display one. Also we will be recruiting people to work more as docents - just interacting with visitors while we are open, with perhaps some food preparation duties - as opposed to our animal care volunteers. This will appeal to those not physically able to perform animal care duties, as well as those interested in shorter volunteer hours. We are also exploring whether 17 year Old's can be docents. You have to be a minimum of 18 to work with the cats.

## **ADMISSION PRICE CHANGES FOR 2007**

Starting January 1, 2007 our admission will increase. It has been the same since January 2000 when we first started charging admission. The new prices will be: General admission \$5, seniors 60 plus \$4, children age 3-12 \$3, and under age 3 free. Membership prices will stay the same, and still include free admission.

## **CAT NEWS**

ALTA (Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance), August 2006 update

In February 2006 the Amur Leopard Project (ALP) was established in the Russian Far East. The main focus of the project is to build capacity for wildlife disease monitoring in the Russian Far East. The long term goal of the ALP is to educate Russian veterinarians and veterinary students in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of wildlife diseases. We are also focusing on the particular



risks that wildlife diseases hold for Amur leopards, given their small population size, and on the veterinary aspects of long-term preparation for Amur leopard reintroduction from zoo stocks. WCS China has made very good progress with its tiger and leopard conservation work in the Hunchun and Heilongjiang Provinces in China near the Russian border. WCS organized a first social survey in 2004 in and around the Hunchun Nature Reserve, and repeated this survey a year later in order to measure progress. The percentage of villagers that fully agree that it is necessary to protect tigers rose from 56% to 73%. However, WCS's ungulate monitoring indicates that ungulate numbers in China remain suppressed even in the more remote parts of the reserve and are lower than on the Russian side of the border. Dale Miquelle, Director of the WCS Russia Program, was overall coordinator of the latest full tiger survey in the Russian Far East. The survey was the most comprehensive in Russia to date and the results indicate that tiger numbers are stable with preliminary estimates of approximately 334-417 adult tigers and 97-112 cubs. The news was a welcome relief to tiger conservationists around the world, who have seen spiraling decreases in tiger numbers in other parts of Asia.

**Colorado-born lynx has twin kittens,**  
[news.yahoo.com](http://news.yahoo.com), 8 Aug 06

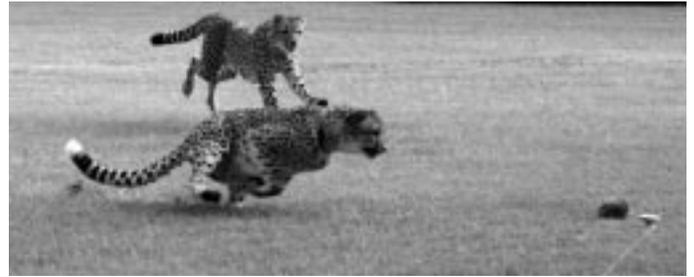
A lynx born in Colorado has given birth to two kittens, a major milestone in the state's attempt to reintroduce the cats. It was the first documented case of a Colorado-born lynx giving birth since the reintroduction program began in 1999. The cat, born in 2004, gave birth to two males in mid-June, buoying hopes that lynx will develop into a self-sustaining population in the state. "From here on out, we're just waiting to see if we can maintain a good survival rate," said Tanya Shenk, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's lead researcher on the program. The animals' death rate hasn't increased, and most of the cats are staying in established territories, said Rick Kahn, the Division of Wildlife biologist who heads the lynx program. Lynx, designated an endangered species by Colorado, were wiped out in the state by 1973, victims of trapping, poisoning and development. A total of 218 lynx from Canada and Alaska have been released in southwestern Colorado since 1999. More than 80 births have been documented since 2003, and researchers believe the total number of lynx in the state is holding steady at about 200.



*Trapper, Canada Lynx*

**Cheetah Conservation Botswana report mid-2006: ([cheetahbotswana.com](http://cheetahbotswana.com))**

We have been very busy raising awareness about the elegant and endangered cheetah through training workshops and farm visits, and monitoring



*Cheetah run at the Cincinnati Zoo*

at Jwana Game Park has taken a technological edge with the successful use of a cell phone collar on pregnant cheetah, Nala. One of the most exciting events of this year so far has been the relocation of our three orphaned cheetah cubs to their new home in the Tuli region of eastern Botswana. We remain optimistic about their future and that they will gain the necessary skills that will enable their release into this beautiful part of the country. This is the first cheetah rehabilitation of its kind in Botswana! Africa can certainly get cold at this time of year and it is during this season that cheetahs need to be particularly careful. With less young wild prey available, as regional records indicate, predators are more likely to take unattended livestock and as a result of this and working with the Department of Wildlife, the winter months will find us out in rural tribal lands to put on a series of workshops about effective methods to decrease losses to predators. Our community program is beginning to earn the respect of both the farming community and government organizations. By working together, we believe that it will be possible to find a positive future for Botswana's cheetahs. Our program of workshops continues to develop since the staging of our first event for farmers in Jwaneng last year and on March 1 2006, Rebecca, and David Mills from the Khutse Leopard Trust, hosted the first training workshop for Problem Animal Control (PAC) Officers of the Department and Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). The event focused upon measures to tackle human/predator conflict in Botswana and received an extremely enthusiastic response from the sixty or so attendees. DWNP officers were provided with information about establishing correct identification of predators from spoor, indirect signs of predator activity and kill characteristics. On the heels of the DWNP workshop came another on March 11, this time staged with the help of Mokolodi Nature Reserve. Hosted by CCB and with the support of the Angel Fund at Cincinnati Zoo, our colleagues from Cheetah Outreach and the DeWildt Breeding

Centre in South Africa staged the first in a planned series of workshops for local teachers and education professionals. This two-day residential workshop explored teaching tools and techniques and how the cheetah, in particular, can be introduced to engage pupils in a variety of subjects – not least, Environmental Education. The recruitment of a new Community & Education Officer generated significant local interest and resulted in the receipt of applications from over 40 potential candidates. During the process, we also learned that CCB had been successful in receiving funding specifically for our community and education programs from the United Nations Global Environment Facility. This news has therefore enabled the project to recruit not one, but two new members of staff from the local community and we are now excited about the prospect of making significant progress in both our community and education programs!

### **DONATIONS**

A special thank you to supporters who made general donations to our operating fund:  
Dr. Hans Einstein \$10,000.00  
Vicki Haneckow & Brent Prendle \$3,000.00  
Kennon Hudson \$1,000.00

Leo & Kathy Notenboom \$1,000.00  
U.S. Crane Company \$1,000.00  
John McGregor \$500.00  
Rotary Club of Lancaster \$500.00  
Allison Sheckman & Sean Senical \$500.00 (to Project Tiger).

Additional donations: Sandra Price, Lisa Edmondson, Everett Munsey, David Forward, & James Snodgrass. Thank you all!!

### **WISH LIST**

Landscape materials, plants and trees  
Construction & equipment supplies  
(8x8x16 concrete block, re-bar, cement)  
New electrical supplies  
Washing machine (good condition)  
Golf carts (electric)

The following people have donated in-kind supplies which are of major importance in our operations:

Larry Purcell, Sav on Fence Company - caging, fencing materials and fittings.

Angela Bone, Bruce Kirkpatrick - gardening and cleaning supplies.

Ron & Marcie Fletcher, Gail Lyon, Michael & Maryeann McMullen - animal enrichments and food.

Brandt & Lynn Bishop - office equipment.

Jen & Greg Price - Home Depot gift card.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity!

### **ATTENTION Ralph's Shoppers**

On 9/01/06 Ralph's Community Contribution Program changed: To have a percentage of your purchases go to EFBC/FCC as a donation, you now need to register on line. The club card numbers we provided to them before are no longer valid.

To register log on to [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) and follow these simple steps:

1. Click on "Community Contribution" and an application form will appear.
2. The first entry requests a NPO number for the specific non-profit organization you are signing up for. EFBC's number is 82845.

3. Enter this number then complete the rest of the form to enroll. Be sure to fill in all the information requested in bold.

Click submit and after that you can sit back and watch your grocery shopping earn money for EFBC/FCC.

We had a great response from our members who provided us with the Club Card information and we hope you will continue to do so by registering on line. Thank you for your continued support!!



*(Left) Yanna and LiMing, Chinese leopards born February 2006; (above) Tori, fishing cat born 2005*