



EFBC/Feline Conservation Center

<http://www.wildcatzoo.org>

DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED FELINES FALL 2005

## CATS UPDATE

It has been a busy summer! In addition to Tori, the fishing cat born in February, and the 3 Pallas's Cat kittens born in March, we had two jaguar cubs born in June and 3 more fishing cats in July.

The Pallas's Cats have been named Romulus, Remus, and Lina (two boys and a girl) and are doing well. We are the ONLY facility in the United States to have surviving kittens of this species this year!

On June 3rd our female jaguar Annie, born here in 1998, gave birth to a male (Poncho) and female (Rosa) cub. She is doing a great job raising them herself, which is surprising considering Annie was herself hand raised! We think maybe that's why she doesn't mind us handling her cubs. Really- it's amazing that the male cub, Poncho, doesn't mind being handled! Mother-raised leopards and fishing cats would never let us do that. We'll see how long it lasts! The father is Nacon.

And finally, on July 15 fishing cats MyLai and Bandit had 3 kittens. All were pulled for hand raising as MyLai was not taking care of them. Former keeper Nicole was called back from her new job at the Port Defiance Zoo in Washington to help take care of them and took the male cub back with her to grow up there. The two females are staying here for now.

## Volunteer of the Quarter - Mandy McCue

I began volunteering at the FCC in April this year. My husband, myself and the most important member of our household Claudia (the cat) are all living in America for a year while my husband works at China Lake Weapons Station in

Ridgecrest, CA. I have learned so much since I began volunteering and I love being part of the FCC and the work that it does in conserving these amazing animals. The highlight of working here is definitely any time spent with the cats but I really enjoy talking with visitors and giving them a better understanding of the FCC. Questions from the kids are always interesting ☺ Volunteering at a breeding facility has definitely rubbed off and my husband and I are expecting our first child in March. I hope I'm as good a mom as Annie! Unfortunately we are moving back to Australia at the end of the year but I hope to continue my involvement with the FCC in any way I can. I think volunteering here is an amazing opportunity and I can highly recommend it to anyone thinking of becoming involved.

## Construction Update

The new DPC (Dietary Preparation Center) is now complete and in use. With its completion we can now return to finishing Project Tiger.

## Special Events:

Starr Bayard of the Antelope Valley Harley Riders - Ladies of Harley held their 2nd annual Poker Run in which the proceeds were donated to us. This even had a great turnout and it looks as though it may become a premier annual event.

The drawing of the 50/50 raffle winner at our Summer Twilight Tour was Michael Franconi. The total amount of the prize was \$1,100.00. Congratulations Michael.

The 16th Annual Fabulous Feline Follies was held on August 20th. We were lucky again with

the weather, it was great. Animal entertainment was provided by Animal Encounters in Santa Clarita and Zoo to You in Paso Robles. Cherly Rendes also brought her Canada lynx, Sasquatch.

The \$1,000.00 Raffle prize went to Evelyn Wisneski. Congratulations Evelyn.

We would again like to thank our generous sponsors who make this event a great success;

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

George & Joan Paulikas, CA.

Nancy Vandermeijer & Eric Barkalow, CA.

Steven Crutchfield, VA.

AAZK-EFBC Chapter, CA.

Susan Lozier & Ian MacLeod, NE.

Serrano Animal & Bird Hospital, Lake Forest, CA.

### **GOLD - Donations of \$500.00**

Larry Purcell, Sav ON Fence, Lancaster, CA.

Renee Weber, CA.

### **SILVER - Donations of \$250.00**

Irene & Cheryl Rendes, CA.

Deluxe Financial Services, Lancaster, CA.

### **BRONZE - Donations of \$150.00**

Kimberly Dolan, CA.

Lisa Edmondson & Diane Citron, CA.

A special thank you goes out to Andy and Bill Meyer, owners of American Data Plates, Lancaster, CA. who continue to supply us with our Platinum Sponsor Plaques every year, and, Bohn's Printing, Lancaster, CA. who donate the printing of our Follies tickets every year.

Of course there are many other people that help set up and tear down tables and chairs and displays, make decorations, work the gift shop, too

many to mention by name, but we thank them also for making our event a success.

Be sure to plan for next year's event, there is never a dull moment and everyone says they have a great time. Next year it will again be held in August on the 19th.

### **"KID'S DAY"**

This coming November 19th we will be having our 1st "kids' day." There will be all kinds of fun and games along with a miniature train ride and pony rides. Those of you with children or grand children be sure to mark this day on your calendar.

### **OTHER DONATIONS**

#### Cash & Grants:

Rotary Club of Lancaster - \$500.00.

Lou & Lynn Danes - \$350.00.

Debbie Girdler & Dave Cutler - \$10,000.00 "In Memory of Raisin."

Lifetime members Leo & Kathy Notenboom - \$1,000.00 general donation.

T.E.I. Education Fund - \$500.00.

Kern County Dept. Of Tourism Grant - \$5,000.00.

#### Non Cash Donations:

Lynn & Brandt Bishop - \$300.00 Home Depot Gift Card.

Jason Wells & Andrea Villella - upright freezer and file cabinets.

Mike & JoAnn Glass - 2 Pentium III computers.

Charles & Shiela Binkley - Gardening & Maintenance supplies.

Stroock, Stroock & Lavan LLP, Los Angeles, CA - 3 HP5 laser printers.

Teri & Phil Borowski - refrigerator, storage cabinet, & gardening supplies.

And last but not least! LARRY, this is for you - Larry Purcell, Sav On Fence Company, Lancaster, CA. A continuous flow of fencing materials to help us keep caging and perimeter fencing up to specs.

All of you have our undying gratitude for your generous donations, Thank you to all.

### **Calendar of Events for 2006:**

Spring Twilight Tour - April 22.

Summer Twilight Tour - June 17.

Fall Twilight Tour - September 16.

Fabulous Feline Follies - August 19.

We will also be holding our 2nd "Big Cat Bazaar." Date yet to be set but we will publish it in advance in our newsletter. All donations appreciated but please, no clothing this time.

### **Cat News From Around the World:**

#### **Aug. 19 05, PRNewswire**

Two unrelated clones of a wild species have bred naturally to produce healthy babies. Two litters of kittens produced by natural breeding of cloned African wildcats have been born at Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species. The first five kittens were born on July 26, 2005 to the African wildcat Madge, who is a clone of the wildcat Nancy. The second litter, consisting of three kittens, was born on August 2 to the African wildcat Caty, also a clone of the wildcat Nancy. The father of both litters is Ditteaux, a clone of the African wildcat Jazz. Jazz made headlines when he was born as the result of transfer of cryopreserved ("frozen") embryos to a domestic cat. Skin samples of a long-dead but genetically valuable animal, if properly preserved, can be cloned to create a genetic match of the animal. Those genes can then be introduced back into the population through natural breeding, keeping the species viable and increasing their numbers. What's next at the research center? The team will continue its work with small cats, turning to critically endangered species such as black footed cats, sand cats and rusty spotted cats. Work with species such as bongo antelope, Mississippi

sandhill cranes, whooping cranes and tigers will continue as well.

#### **18 Aug 05**

The number of living Florida panthers (cougars) has grown from a previously estimated 30 to a recently counted 87 as a result of a controversial breeding effort to improve the genetic health of the endangered and inbred animals, according to a new assessment. Hybrid kittens born to panthers brought into the area from Texas have "about a three times higher chance of becoming adults as do purebred ones," reports a paper planned for publication in January 2006 in the British journal Animal Conservation. "Hybrids are expanding the known range of habitats panthers occupy and use," the paper adds. In 1995, separate pairs of Texas female panthers fitted with radio collars were released in each of the four sections of South Florida where Florida panthers were known to be living. Five of these eight cats are known to have produced hybrid kittens. By 2003, all three of the surviving Texas adults had been removed from the wilds, since wildlife managers wanted to keep outside genetic exposure to a minimum. Beginning in 1992, researchers also briefly captured kittens and inserted microchips into them to track their whereabouts and fates. Of the 118 purebred and 54 hybrid kittens that received microchips, 13 purebred and 20 hybrids survived long enough to also receive adult radio collars. Purebred Florida panthers have been confined largely to protected areas north of interstate 75 and west of State Highway 29. "I think they were surviving in this area because they had the least trouble there," author Pimm said. In contrast, hybrid offspring have been moving successfully south and east into new sections of the Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. While female hybrids seem to be surviving considerably better than their purebred counterparts, "hybrid males have shorter lives than purebreds," the paper also reports. The authors suspect many of the males are killed by older purebred males in the area. Others migrate into areas with "fewer cats but other dangers from human settlement," Pimm said. "Young males get into trouble whatever species they are."

#### **10 August, ENS**

In response to a petition from the National Trappers Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a proposed rule to delist the Mexican bobcat (*Lynx rufus escuinapae*), a subspecies that is currently listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Bobcats are the most heavily trapped and traded species of cat. Over 30,000 specimens, mostly skins, were exported in 2002, mostly from the U.S. and Canada. International trade in bobcats is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) where the species (*Lynx rufus*) is listed on Appendix II. The proposed rule represents the latest effort by the Service to de-regulate international trade in bobcats. In 1992, the U.S. successfully lobbied CITES to transfer the Mexican bobcat from CITES Appendix I (which does not allow international commercial trade) to Appendix II, thus opening international trade in the subspecies. However, Mexican bobcat skins cannot currently enter the U.S. because ESA Endangered status protects the subspecies from U.S. markets (it is illegal to trade in Endangered species). At the last CITES meeting in 2004 the U.S. proposed to delist bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) from the CITES Appendices. However, the U.S. withdrew this proposal in response to concerns raised by Mexico about the lack of information on bobcat populations in Mexico.

### **July 26, 2005 (ENS)**

Amur tigers living in the forests of Russia's Far East are increasing in number, a new census conducted by Russian scientists last winter reveals. Researchers counted about 500 individuals - 334 to 417 adult tigers and 97 to 112 tiger cubs - an indication that a conservation program begun in the 1990s by the Russian government and environmental groups is working. During the previous Amur tiger census, conducted in 1995-1996, scientists could find only 450 individuals. "It is generally believed that there were a thousand tigers living in the Far East of Russia in the beginning of the 20th century," said Igor Chestin, WWF Russia's Chief Executive Officer. "The animals were being hunted actively - only 150 tigers were left by the middle of the past century," he said. Ecologists managed to inspire the creation of six national parks with a total area of 934,000 hectares across the Khabarovsk region of the Russian Far East. When the Soviet Union

collapsed, the Russian-Chinese border became virtually open. Poachers started killing Amur tigers to sell their organs for use in traditional Chinese medicine. About 70 tigers were killed every year, at rate that could have resulted in extinction by 2000 had it not been for the conservation effort. Unlike Indian tigers, Amur tigers do not kill humans, biologists emphasize. These tigers hunt hoofed animals - dappled deer, roe deer, and wild boar. Tigers may attack livestock and dogs at times too, but such conflicts happen when there is an insufficient number of wild hoofed animals to supply them with food.

### **China Daily, 23 June**

Work on the world's longest oil pipeline has been suspended after scientists protested that it would cause severe ecological damage. The 4,187-kilometre pipeline from Siberia to the Sea of Japan was hailed by the Russian Government last year as the nation's biggest infrastructure project and one that would revitalize Russia's far east and make it one of the biggest oil suppliers to other countries. But the project is now mired in controversy after the Russian environmental watchdog ordered a halt to work under way within a mile of Lake Baikal. The Ministry said that a planned oil terminal could threaten Russia's only marine reserve and its oldest nature reserve, which is home to the Amur leopard, arguably the world's rarest big cat. Construction was due to start this summer and the first section, from Taishet to Skovorodino, near the Chinese border, was to be ready by 2008. The first controversy was over the decision to build an oil terminal at Perevoznaya, a pristine bay, rather than expanding the terminal at the nearby port of Nakhodka, as planned. Environmentalists say a new terminal would threaten a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, which is home to the world's last 30-35 wild Amur leopards. Sarah Christie, carnivore programme manager at the Zoological Society of London, said that the noise, the roads and the influx of people "could be the last straw for the leopard."

## **WISH LIST**

Landscape materials, plants and trees

Construction equipment supplies

(8x8x16 concrete block, re-bar, cement)

New electrical supplies