

# Big Cat Chronicles

Summer '18

**LZZY**

Species: Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Sex: Female

Born: Dec. 10, 2002

Arrived: Sept. 14, 2012

# Letter from the President

Co-Founder Tanya Smith

Welcome to another edition of the Big Cat Chronicles!

I am thrilled to say that May 1, 2018, marked 26 years since our founding, and oh, the work that has been accomplished in that time! Our team has been blessed to have your support through many of these amazing hurdles, including the opening of the Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital in 2016, which has allowed us to stay on site to care for our animals – significantly reducing the risk and the stress that comes with transporting them. This building has truly been a blessing.

And it would be impossible to forget September of 2016, when our team partnered with Tigers in America (TIA) to purchase 11.7 acres of land in Calhan, Colorado, to begin what became known as the largest big cat and bear rescue in U.S. history. The property housed 115 of these animals. By mid-February 2017, all animals from the Colorado Project were successfully rehomed. TCWR is currently working to sell the 11.7-acre property in Colorado – once this is done the project will finally come to a close.

In February of 2018, Payson, a female white tiger, moved from an AZA-accredited zoo to TCWR so that the zoo could focus solely on their Amur tiger conservation efforts – an increasingly important undertaking. Having adjusted to Refuge life, Payson particularly enjoys her enrichment play, all thanks to you!

Kite Fest this year was a smashing success! A record 1,300 people visited TCWR that day. Lines were long, reaching all the way out to the parking lot! It was a great day filled with fun! This year's turn-out emphasizes our desperate need to move forward with our new Visitor Education Center project. Creating a bigger, better space to not only educate our visitors but to help accommodate large crowds for events is vital to the future of the Refuge.

TCWR has begun fundraising for your up-to-date Visitor Education Center, which will encompass a new entry, state-of-the-art education area, café, and gift shop. We desperately need funding partners to make this dream a reality. Can you or your company help?

Thank you for being a valuable partner in the improvement and growth of our mission! And stay tuned, because as always, there is so much more to come!

Until next time....



42 big cats in three cattle trailers prompted the founding of TCWR.

You were there in the beginning... we need you here today.

50k visitors prompted the dream of the Visitor Education Center.



You raised \$19,105 to support our animal residents on NWA Gives Day! Of the donations, \$7,500 will go towards the purchase of a new refrigerator to store food for our animals. The remaining balance will assist our secondary goal of \$17,500, which, in conjunction with a matching grant of \$12,500, will allow us to replace three trucks needed to transport team members and supplies around the Refuge. "Chuffs," "roars," and "bear hugs" of thanks to everyone who supported us by donating and by spreading the word about our needs!

## New Staff Member Spotlight: Carly Hepburn

It was her love of the animal residents and a teamwork attitude that kept Carly Hepburn at the Refuge for four internships before she was hired on as animal care staff in January of 2018. Knowing that she wanted to work with big cats since she was a child, the Southwick, Massachusetts, transplant pursued a Biology degree at Bridgewater State University where she also minored in Geography. It's always difficult to pick favorites at TCWR, but Carly says Roulon and Tammy are her number ones because of their unique personalities. She has also discovered a newfound love of cougars. When not working, Carly enjoys hiking and exploring all the lakes and rivers the Natural State has to offer. She's currently looking to adopt a dog to join her on her adventures.



# The Importance of Enrichment



Khaleesi, Aurora, Joey, and Lakota, four big cats that live together, enjoy all forms of enrichment. From boxes sprayed in perfume to pools filled with toys, these big cats are some of the easiest animals to entertain at TCWR.

Enrichment increases natural behaviors in the animals at TCWR; the presentation of new items and scents relieves boredom and improves their overall welfare. The four young cats are always eager to destroy provided enrichment items, which our supporters love to watch.



Tsavo



Koda ©

Xena

Small gestures, like providing enrichment, makes a big difference in our animal residents' lives!

# Bear Habitats Nearly Completed



Building habitats for the animal residents at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is always a learning experience. Each one needs to be built slightly different. We continually improve our designs and have to adapt plans to fit the terrain of the Ozark Mountains that we call home. Our two new bear habitats were some of the most complex we have built to date.

The majority of our habitats have been designed to house big cats, but bears have their own unique needs and requirements. We wanted to give our bears the best natural environment we possibly could. We drafted the plans around our natural terrain since it is ideal for black bears.

It has taken us over a year to build these two one-of-a-kind enclosures. Along the way, we learned a lot about how to build habitats that adapt to our landscape and cover a larger area. We created special tools to help us hang fencing 16 feet in the air. It was definitely a learning experience for us.

These habitats sit on a combined 3.5 acres of land. The fences stand 16 feet high with electric at 3 feet, 8 feet, and 16 feet to prevent fence climbing. There is a 2-foot-wide by 2-3-foot-deep concrete trench around the parameter to stop digging. They are both filled with trees to climb, berries to forage, plenty of denning material, large pools to swim in, and lots of space to roam.

After over a year of fundraising and construction, the end is finally in sight. We hope to have the habitat opening in late July or early August. Please watch our website and social media for the official opening date. Donate today, with your help we can continue to create amazing dwellings for the animals that call Turpentine Creek home.

# Featured Animal: Izzy

TCWR received a call from the neighbor of a woman who had three tigers in Sperry, Oklahoma. The tigers were housed at a rural home just five miles outside of town. The cage holding them was of adequate size. Unfortunately, it was in serious need of upkeep: the grass was overgrown and unkempt, as was the cattle tanks. Due to the owner's stroke a year earlier followed by several foot surgeries, she could not properly care for the cats that she loved. Her neighbors tried to help by stepping in to feed and water the animals; however, they were finding that the overwhelming amount of work it takes to care for big cats was just too much for their schedules.

Turpentine Creek staff arrived on-site to formulate a solid plan to move these beautiful cats. It was the following morning, in the rain, that TCWR staff loaded the male tiger, Max, without any problems. The two girls, Izzy and Shasta, however would have nothing to do with the trailer and had to be sedated. Upon arriving at the Refuge, they were immediately welcomed into the Turpentine Creek family.

Shortly after her arrival, Izzy was found to be having problems with her feet, showing signs of a botched declaw procedure that had been performed prior to arriving at the Refuge, most likely during the first couple months of her life. A visit by the veterinarian was immediately scheduled. During this appointment, the veterinarian fixed three toes, which had claws growing under the skin causing her great pain. Each foot had similar problems and would need to be fixed over time.

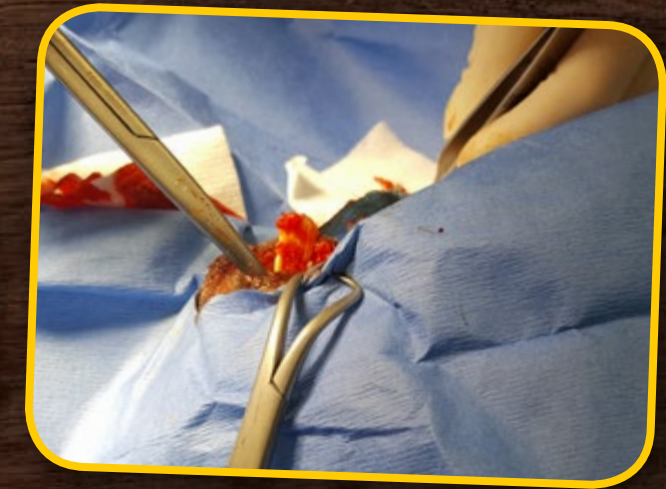
Izzy is doing well today, but will need more surgeries for these issues in the future. Your donations to help us build a veterinarian hospital are giving Izzy a better life. If she could, Izzy would thank you. Since she cannot, we will — thank you so much for supporting our animal friends.



**Species:** Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)  
**Sex:** Female  
**DOB:** December 10, 2002  
**Arrival Date:** September 14, 2012



Izzy's paw prepped and ready for surgery.



The surgery begins...



Claw pieces that were growing under the skin.



Izzy recovers nicely in our vet hospital.

## Izzy's Surgery

In September of 2016, Izzy was the first surgery performed in our completed Jackson Memorial Veterinary Hospital. Her previous owner had her declawed. "Normal" declawing surgeries are bad enough, causing issues like arthritis and pain, but Izzy's procedure was botched. Because of this, her claws are attempting to regrow inside her paws — which means that often the claws begin breaking through her skin causing terrible pain. Only 19 months later, in April of 2018, Izzy returned to the operating room for her fourth surgery to correct the issue. There is no way to completely stop the regrowth. For the rest of Izzy's life we will have to monitor her and remove claw shards and sheaths. Our amazing supporters came together to help us build our veterinary hospital, but our expenses didn't end there, we still need your help to pay for upkeep, supplies, and the extra utility expenses of the new space. Please donate now to help us maintain this state-of-the-art medical facility.

# Visitor Enrichment



The Education Department provides our visitors with a variety of fun, interactive programs for all ages throughout the week. We are excited to announce that TCWR will be providing more learning experiences through summer day camps and interactive workshops!

- Kids Summer Day Camps
  - June 6-8th – Explore Your Wild Side - 6-8-year-olds
  - June 27-29th – Wildlife Adventure – 9-12-year-olds
  - July 11-13th – Wildlife Adventure – 6-8-year-olds
  - July 25-27th – Explore Your Wild Side – 6-8-year-olds
- Fall Interactive Workshops – All Ages - Various Dates
- Enrichment Workshops – All Ages - Various Dates

Visit the Refuge and participate in a workshop, or register your child for one of our day camps - you will have a unique and memorable experience. For a complete schedule programs and activities and to sign your child up for day camp, please visit the "Education" tab on our website.

# The Cub Club Presents: Wild Child Activity Worksheet

Directions: Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge needs your help to unscramble these words and discover more about our furry friends! Use the word bank below as a hint, and explore your wild side!

### Word Bank:

Coatimundi, Big Cats, Brown Bears, Caroling, Cougar, Goober, Habitats, Laws, Leopards, Omnivore, Pets, Predators, Protect, Refuge, Stripes, Tiger

Somewhere that provides shelter, and keeps animals safe from danger is called a **gfuRee**  
 A \_\_\_\_\_ has a very long nose, and can smell 2 feet deep into the ground to find insects. **aComuindti**  
 The largest of the big cat family, a \_\_\_\_\_ can weigh up to 700 pounds! **egTir**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ have a large hump on their back, a specialized muscle for digging. **noBrw aresb**  
 Turpentine Creek provides large grassy \_\_\_\_\_ for their animals to be happy. **stahitba**  
 It is all of our jobs to \_\_\_\_\_ animals from abuse and neglect by respecting wildlife. **ortpctet**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ are not \_\_\_\_\_, and hunt for their prey for food by ambushing them. **redPrstoa, spte**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is how lions communicate with their families, and can be heard 5 miles away. **glCroina**  
 The cat of many names, a \_\_\_\_\_ can jump 15-18 feet vertically in the air! **gauroC**  
 The only primate at the Refuge's name is \_\_\_\_\_. **oerobG**  
 All tigers have different \_\_\_\_\_, like people have different finger prints. **stpirse**  
 Bears are an \_\_\_\_\_, eating a similar diet to what humans eat! **mnvovireO**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ can drag prey 3 times their body size up a tree. **adsLeorp**  
 We need more \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure big cats cannot be owned as pets. **slwa**  
 \*You can help \_\_\_\_\_ by teaching others about them! **gBi sCta**

And remember, you are never too small to make a BIG difference!  
 See the tear out form on page 11 to sign up for Turpentine Creek's Kid's Membership, the Cub Club, and help your cub become involved in solving the BIG problems facing BIG cats in the world today!



# Choose Your Giving Level Today!

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is thrilled to announce our new Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier Program! The program consists of four levels: the Friends of India, the Bam Bam Benefactors, the Kenny Fellowship, and the president's club - the Hilda Jackson Society. Each tier is its own exclusive community that allows for donors to engage with one another, take home fantastic sign-up gifts, and support the Refuge in the most effective way possible. This new program will allow for TCWR to respond more quickly to the needs of the survivors of the exotic pet trade, and enable us to budget for larger projects, and projects that will have the greatest impact in the years to come. By using a tier model, the program will not only allow for donors of all levels to become involved, but also, the membership donations themselves are funneled directly into our General Fund – allowing us to use funds where they are needed the most and when they are needed the most. Find out more about your tier options below!

## 1 The Friends of India annual donation of \$300 - \$1,249\*

Members of the Friends of India will receive the following sign-up gifts:

- Friends of India Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in the Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photograph of India
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 10% off Lodging\*\*
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet

## 2 Bam Bam Benefactor annual donation of \$1,250 - \$2,999\*

Members of the Bam Bam Benefactors will receive:

- Bam Bam Benefactor Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 15% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Photo of Bam Bam
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 25% off Lodging\*\*
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug

## 3 The Kenny Fellowship annual donation of \$3,000 - \$9,999\*

Members of the Kenny Fellowship will receive:

- The Kenny Fellowship Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of Kenny
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging\*\*
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Kenny Fellowship Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report

## 4 The Hilda Jackson Society annual donation of \$10,000+\*

Society Members will receive:

- The Hilda Jackson Society Membership Card
- Entrance into the Refuge
- Trolley Tickets
- 20% off in Gift Shop
- Big Cat Chronicles
- A Framed Photo of a Favorite Cat
- Recognition on our Website
- Exclusive Member E-mails
- Member Only Events
- 50% off Lodging\*\*
- Calendar
- Decals
- TCWR Species Fact Sheet
- Travel Mug
- Private Tours with Senior Staff
- The Hilda Jackson Society Shirt
- Recognition in and access to the Annual Report
- A Staff Liaison

\*To be part of a membership tier you must donate the amount required to be part of that specific tier level.

\*\*Limitations may apply.

**Yes, I will help the animals!**  
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

**Donations:**  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_  Repeat monthly.  
**2018 Calendars:** \$5 each X \_\_\_ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**First Edition Coloring Book:** \$5 each X \_\_\_ calendars + \$5 S/H = \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Wild About Wildlife Membership Tier

A membership with TCWR is the perfect opportunity to help support the amazing work that the Refuge does every single day and also gives the opportunity to visit multiple times a year!

- \$45 The Cub Club, Kid's Membership** – You are never too small to make a BIG difference in the Cub Club. A membership with the Cub Club includes entry into the park, a membership card and certificate, a coloring book, plush cat of your choice, sticker, and big cat photo.  
 Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite TCWR Animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please circle the plush cat you would like: **LION TIGER LEOPARD**
- \$50 TCWR's Single Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge, including free trolley tickets and 10% off in the Gift Shop.
- \$90 TCWR's Family Membership** – For a full year have access to the Refuge for two adults and all your children 19 years old and younger, including free trolley tickets, and 10% off in the Gift Shop.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$300+ Friends of India</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$3,000+ Kenny Fellowship</b>	} <b>Total 2018 Pledge:</b> \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,250+ Bam Bam Benefactors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$10,000+ Hilda Jackson Society</b>	

### Adoptions and Sponsorships

- Animal Adoption:**  
 \$100/yr - Small Mammal/Bird  
 \$100/yr - Small Cat/Monkey  
 \$125/yr - Cougar/Leopard  
 \$150/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear
- Animal Sponsor:**  
 \$700/yr - Small Mammal/Bird  
 \$1,000/yr - Small Cat/Monkey  
 \$2,200/yr - Cougar/Leopard  
 \$2,500/yr - Lion/Tiger/Bear

Monthly Payments Available For Sponsorships, See Website: [www.turpentinecreek.org](http://www.turpentinecreek.org)

Adoption / Sponsorship includes membership.  Membership Opt Out  
 Opt out to make donation 100% tax deductible.

Adopted/Sponsored Animal's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Total Contribution Today: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Input Credit Card below or make checks payable to TCWR.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this donation form, detach, fold as needed, and mail with included envelope. Thank You!

## Survey:

To help us understand you better, please consider taking the following survey. What would you be most excited to see at the Refuge?

- New Visitors' Education Center with wildlife exhibits, classrooms for children's day camps, adult seminars and private functions, restaurant and giftshop.
- Construct habitat space to accommodate future rescues.
- Sustainable landscape program -provide native groundcover for wildlife and enrichment plants for our animals.
- Handicapped accessible walkways.
- A Summer Sunset Safari Tour with dinner and entertainment/speakers (limited attendance).
- "Run for the Wild" event with family walk/run, and 5k running competition at TCWR.
- Pledge party luncheon for donors, to bring a guest and be honored for doing something special for the animals.

## A Moment With Cecil

Who is TCWR's oldest animal resident? Cecil the Macaw! He is a member of the Jackson family who founded the Refuge. Since 1992, he's held the position of "Chief Executive Show-Off" in the gift shop, where he flaunts his oratory skills and flashes his brilliant blue and yellow feathers for his admirers. His job description also includes "cardboard quality control." Boxes and packaging that he deems defective are destroyed by his mighty beak; he takes his job very seriously and has yet to discover any that is up to his standards!



## From Rags to Refuge: The Story of Tanya & Kizmin



**Tanya and Kizmin were only days old when we took over a facility in Colorado that used cubs for pay-to-play cub petting schemes. Growing up at Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, they've been allowed to mature into happy and healthy tigers. Tanya and Kizmin have very different personalities. Tanya is a rambunctious tiger that loves to stalk and pounce, while Kizmin is more laid back and willing to simply watch the world go by. We are very glad we could protect these girls from being exploited and offer them a forever home here with us at the Refuge.**

Marissa



## Cougar Habitats

Creating homes for the animals that we rescue takes time, a lot of energy, and help from our supporters. Our team does everything from driving pipe, cutting wire, and pouring concrete; they put their blood, sweat, and tears into each habitat that they build, all to make sure our animals have plenty of space to run, play, and live the best lives possible. Cougars offer a unique challenge when building habitats because of their ability to jump nearly 20 feet vertically. Our newest cougar habitat will offer our cougars more space so that they can enjoy their own piece of freedom.



Louisa



Nala

## Letter from the Curator

Emily McCormack

At Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, we always take as much precaution as possible to ensure optimal animal health care. Through multiple veterinary recommendations over the years, we use a specific vaccination protocol to protect all the rescued residents against common infectious diseases that are known to pose significant threats to them. Disease prevention is, of course, a much easier task than treating a sick animal.

Whether in captivity or the wild, big cats (like all animals) are susceptible to certain illness and disease. Of course, these diseases are more likely to be fatal for a wildcat in their natural habitat, since they do not have access to veterinary medicine and care. Tigers and all big cats can suffer from many of the same illnesses that are experienced by domestic cats, and treatment may be similar (if not exactly the same). Treatment for a big cat, of course, is not as simply administered compared to a domestic animal.

Due to Arkansas State Law and recommendation by our veterinarian we administer two vaccinations.

- 3-year rabies
- 10-month Fel-O-Vax PCT + CalicVax

To ensure that the vaccination process of our animals is safe as possible, we currently use a pole syringe to quickly inject them with medication. It is too dangerous for our team to inject animals using standard hand-held syringing methods. One of the goals of TCWR's Behavioral Management Training Program is to desensitize the cats to small "pokes" which are meant to simulate injections. Using a bridge and reward training method, every time the animal hears the whistle they associate the noise with a treat. This will ensure that vaccinations will be less stressful for the animals and safer for the team, because they learn to expect a treat. There are many steps to the training process, which in turn takes time for the trainer and the cat, so it will be a while before we see this goal come to fruition.

The health and safety of our animal residents is a top priority for the TCWR team. We hope through preventative vaccinations we can make sure that our animal residents can live long and happy lives here at the Refuge. Through your donations and support, we can continue to rescue big cats in need and provide the best possible care.



Chuff & Athena





Ty

## Crysta and Ty

**Tigers Crysta and Ty came to the Refuge in July of 2011 from a man in Kansas who could no longer afford to run his private sanctuary; the 11 big cats in his care desperately needed rehoming. Turpentine Creek was able to take in four of them and found accredited sanctuaries for the others.**

**Ty will turn 20 this July and Crysta 17, so we have moved them down to the flat ground and peaceful quiet of Rescue Ridge to lower both physical and mental stress. Here they enjoy splashing in their pool, attacking enrichment toys, and greeting animal care staff with friendly “chuffs.”**



Crysta

## Bear Food Forest

The enrichment of diet and experience for the animals here at the Refuge is always the highest priority for our team. With complex nutrition needs and an insatiable appetite for play, bears, in particular, have created unique challenges for us. We have been inspired by our natural landscape, and it's in looking to the indigenous species that we have found a way to provide nutrition for these animals from their native diet.

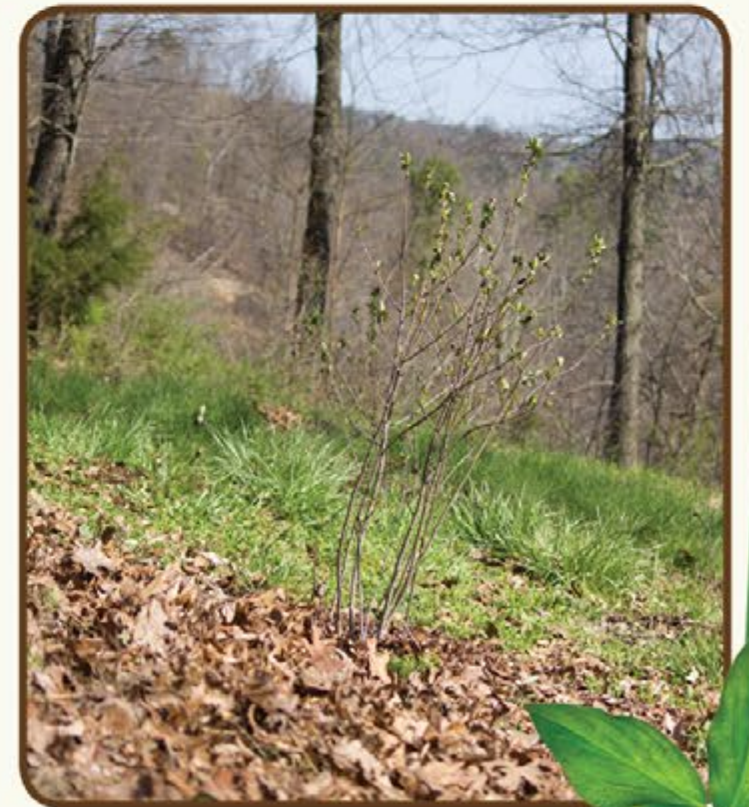
This spring, our Sustainable Landscape Management team, and local volunteer, Sean Evans, planted fifteen domestic Arkansas trees that will provide berries and nuts for the bears. The Bear Food Forest is located on our Guided Tour Loop, and will continue to grow it each year! We planted *Aronia melanocarpa*- Black Chokeberry, *Cornus amomum*- Silky Dogwood, *Amelanchier arborea*- Serviceberry, *Sambucus canadensis*- Elderberry, and *Corylus americana*- American Hickory. In addition to these trees, over 100 Paw Paw seeds were donated that will produce thousands of pounds of fruit a year when they mature.

Each tree species boasts a unique nutrient profile that will add essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants to our bear diets. After the initial planting and establishing the trees, they will be self-sustaining, requiring no other input from the staff aside from harvest. The “food forest” spans ¼ of an acre currently and will cover around 2 acres when the Paw Paw trees are planted!

Our team is committed to enhancing the lives of our animals along with the experience of the guests. We are continually finding ways to expand our green initiative program to make your donations go farther. Through this program, your donations will last a lifetime and not only help the animals that call the Refuge home today but also animals that we rescue in the future. Donate today to help us, help them.



Xena & Koda G



# TCWR Volunteers "Spring" into Action

During Spring Break most people head to their favorite destinations, which tend to include shorelines of white sand, waves of blue water, and as little "to do's" as possible. We are grateful for the students from the University of North Texas and the youth group from Oakley Chapel in Rogers that chose to spend one of their most coveted weeks of the year getting their hands dirty at the Refuge. Paint was spread over the bear habitats, supplies was sorted, and the Refuge had a nice spring spruce-up thanks to these hard-working individuals! Thank you!



# Splashing into Summer

Montana



Splish, splash! Our animals are keeping cool this season in their pools! Summer can be very warm in Northwest Arkansas, and we do our best to provide our animals with a variety of ways to keep cool during the heat.

Pool sizes vary depending on animal size – from small plastic kiddie pools for our servals to a large built-in swimming pool with a waterfall for grizzly bear Bam Bam.

Our tigers love their stock tank pools, which are durable enough to survive big cat claws, and are easy to clean. They are also very useful for "drowning" watermelons and enrichment. Donate today to help us provide cool pools for our animal residents!



Michael



Snowball





Turpentine Creek Foundation, Inc.  
239 Turpentine Creek Lane  
Eureka Springs, AR. 72632

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Print Group Inc.



No animal should suffer like I did.  
Be the difference.  
**Be an advocate!**

[www.turpentinecreek.org/HR1818](http://www.turpentinecreek.org/HR1818)



Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge  
239 Turpentine Creek Lane  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632  
Federal Tax/EIN: 71-0721742