



Serenity Springs
Wildlife Center

April, 2011

THE SCENE & HERD

Keep up with what's seen and heard at Serenity Springs, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

Tiger Conservation Update



An important meeting was held last Fall, vital to the survival of all tigers in the wild. On November 22, 2010 the International Tiger Forum was held in St. Petersburg, Russia. The meeting produced the Global Tiger Recovery Programme, a collaboration between 13 countries that still have wild tigers. They set a goal of doubling the population of wild tigers by the next Year of the Tiger, in 2022.

The good news is that this conference was held at all. There are many organizations around the world that are committed to keeping tigers from becoming extinct in the wild. They have incredible odds stacked against them, mostly in the form of poachers and loss of habitat, which have reduced tiger numbers from over 100,000 in the wild one hundred years ago, to estimates today of less than 3,000. Tigers now reside in just 7% of their historic range.

Today there are six species of tigers - Amur (formerly Siberian) with about 450 tigers, Bengal with around 1,850; Indochinese, 350; Malayan, maybe around 500; Sumatran, 400, and the South China tiger, with no firm numbers and no sightings of this tiger in more than 25 years. This no longer the world criteria for extinction. We lost three species, the Caspian, the Bali, and the Javan tiger, to extinction in the last century.

Although population numbers for all tiger species have continued to plummet, there are countries and organizations out there working towards saving these magnificent creatures. In late January, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) assisted the government of Nepal in the country's first successful relocation of an injured tiger to a new home in the one of the country's premier national parks. In Malaysia they have recently passed a conservation bill which increases the penalties for wildlife crime, with poaching of tigers and trading in their parts now receiving the maximum punishment. For many years, India has been in the forefront in both the poaching of and protection of, the Bengal tiger. But recently, India announced its 39th tiger reserve (Sahyadri), with another eight new reserves in development, proving their commitment to the conservation of the tiger in their country. Through these efforts, and many, many more, it is very possible to keep tigers where they belong - in the wild!

The Director's Chair



Hello Everyone,

Hope things are well for all of you! Well we are hanging in there this winter. We have two more hard months left to get through to summer time., when it picks up for us. The cats are all doing fine. We have taken in a few reptiles that needed a home, this will give us something new and exciting for our educational school tours and Birthday Parties. We just keep plugging away at some projects. We finished 3 more block dens and 3 new concrete decks, this will give us less repair costs and will last longer. The cats wont be able to tear them up!

We have had a few set backs: the septic systems and leach field caved in and need to be replaced. Both of our 4-wheelers that we use to feed the animals and also do repairs around the facility broke down and need to be repaired. Of course, these things would come up at the worst time of year for us! Enough of the negative things.

We are looking forward to Spring and have started planning the events for the year. Our very popular Family Fun Day is set for May 14th! We have Spring Planting Day on May 21st, which is always great fun and we appreciate all of you that come out and donate flowers to make the park look so beautiful! Keep an eye on our web site and newsletters for additional information on events and keep us in mind for family reunions, birthday parties, company BBQs, etc. We can make it happen for you and your family. We are looking forward to a busy year and seeing all of you out for a visit. I also want to thank all of the great animal lovers who continue to support these magnificent animals.

Sincerely,
NICK

THE ADVENTURES OF SYLVESTER THE CAT

Well hello again everyone, it's me Sylvester and I have a new story to tell you. As I was walking through Serenity Springs Wildlife Center one sunny day my friend Jeanne, who is a wonderful and caring volunteer here was taking her son on a tour of the facility so I decided to join them. We were having a wonderful time visiting all of the magnificent creatures out here and before long we were in front of Seth and Daisy's enclosure. Seth, who is ONE BIG TIGER came up to the fence for a visit, MY OH MY HE'S HUGE!!! We all decided to stop and visit with Seth since he came up and laid down right beside the fence and lo and behold, guess who got the attention from our guest... me me me (looks like my buddy Seth is a little bit jealous)!!!

After I received my pets from our guest I went up and had a chat with my buddy Seth. We talked about how much fun it is to have visitors come out and not just see us but hear the stories of how we all came to Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. Seth informed me that he is a little bit sad as he has not yet been adopted. Won't you please consider sponsoring my pal Seth, he is quite a character and is so much fun to be around!!! We the animals LOVE your visits so please keep them up!!!

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Janelle Phelps

a California
(no....wait....a Colorado)
girl!

Milestones:

- born in July (not so many years ago)
- married in January (7 years ago)
- stunned and amazed by the cats at Serenity Springs in February (one year ago).

In fact, Janelle, and husband Frank, (also known as Aragon's BFF: you might remember his mini-bio in the last newsletter), arrived at Serenity Springs in a fierce Eastern Plains snowstorm. But the horizontal blizzard and biting cold could not keep her away. Her favorite felines include spotted leopard Anthony (lanky beauty boy) and the magnificent lion Pharaoh (aptly named and he knows it). However, Janelle chose to adopt Jama: a playful black-spotted leopard. Jama is not on tour because he seems to be comfortable around girls only (or so we thought: since he had some dental work, Jama seems to like everyone...). Janelle chose Jama because he was not on tour and he was less likely to be adopted (and because she fell in love.....). Lucky Jama....and all the cats at Serenity Springs.



LOOK WHO'S BEEN SPOTTED...



Well hello everyone, unfortunately it has been a slow couple of months... we had a wonderful tour with Colorado Springs School, Pikes Peak Christian School and the Colorado School of Mines Teacher Class. We had one private tour with approximately 16 people, a Feeding Tour and a Photography Tour. We would love to have you come out and visit us. We are still on our winter hours and have tours on Saturday and Sunday starting at 11:00am and 1:00pm. Starting Memorial Day weekend we go to our summer hours Sat and Sun tours starting at 9:00am, 11:00pm and 3:00pm. We offer both Feeding and Photography tours that are set up through our website and if you would like to schedule a private tour during the week we can set that up as well with a minimum of 10 people (for less than 10 people a minimum charge of \$100.00.)

ADOPT ME SECTION



Hello my name is Nina, I am an Albino Burmese Python and I am about 3 ½ years old and lived with a very nice family in Pueblo, Colorado who had several reptiles. Unfortunately my family had to give me up when I started acting up and striking at the tank that I was housed in. My family decided the best thing for me was to go to Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. They treat me very well here I have a beautiful living space with lots of stuff to entertain me. I would really LOVE for someone to adopt me! My adoption fee is \$25.00 per month.

Hello my name is Sammy and I am an African lion. I was a trained Hollywood cat that was slated to be in the movie *The Ghost and the Darkness* starring Val Kilmer and Michael Douglas. My former owner clicker trained me for the movie, and I did really well. I was shipped over to Africa (wow what a long trip that was) and my first day on the set I broke training. Unfortunately in this line of work if you are trained for something and then break training you can no longer be trusted, so off I went back to the US. My trainer found this wonderful place called Serenity Springs Wildlife Center and I was retired (I can still GO BIG when I'm in the mood!! I am the first lion that you see on tour and would LOVE for someone to adopt me! My adoption fee is \$150.00 per month.



HEY EVERYBODY DON'T FORGET...

We are currently on our winter hours with Saturday and Sunday tours starting at 11:00am and 1:00pm. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, we will go to our summer hours, with tours starting at 9:00am, 11:00am and 3:00pm.

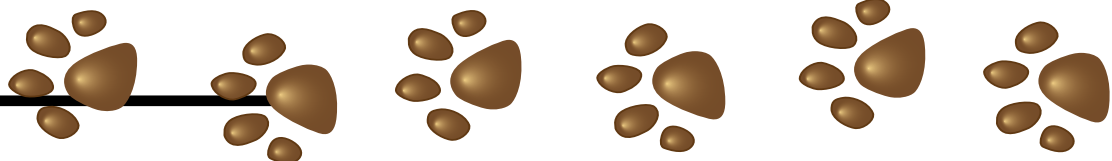
We also have our incredible Feeding and Photography tours that can be booked through our website at www.serenityspringswildlife.org. They are absolutely amazing and give you an experience that you will NEVER forget.

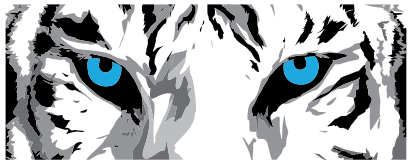
We offer tons of fun with our Birthday Parties! Come on out and let the kids experience something like never before. How many kids have the opportunity to celebrate their birthday with friends, family and our BIG CATS!!! Contact us at info@serenityspringswildlife.org.

Our Educational Programs and ART CLASSES!! (NEW!) are custom fit to the age group and are a wonderful learning experience for both teacher and students. Contact us at info@serenityspringswildlife.org

We have a BIG variety of individual, family and corporate memberships that we are now offering. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to receive year round discounts! You can apply for your membership on our website at www.serenityspringswildlife.org.

Hey do you have company picnics/BBQs/employee appreciation events?? Come on out and let us do all of the work!! We would LOVE nothing more than to entertain you and have you see what we're all about. There's nothing like enjoying a burger while in the company of our BIG CATS!! Contact us at info@serenityspringswildlife.org





**Serenity Springs
Wildlife Center**

P.O. Box 112

Calhan, CO 80808

www.SerenitySpringsWildlife.org

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Design by:

Matthew Camp, Student

Johnathan Dionne, Student



Don't Forget Serenity Springs Wildlife Center Offers Birthday Parties and Company Picnic/BBQs



SAFARI Birthday Party: For a birthday party like no other, celebrate at the Serenity Springs Wildlife Center! We've taken care of all the details - all you have to do is send the invitations and show up! Each package will include: Private Tour for your group, visiting our wonderful animals on tour up close and personal, (Animals are enclosed in USDA-approved cages). Your group receives: one-on-one attention from an experienced tour guide who tells each cat's story and educational facts; our Safari Cabin rental for the duration of the party; and an animal presentation. Your leader will bring out at least one educational animal for everyone to see during the party. All plates, cups, napkins, utensils, table cloth & decorations (crepe paper & balloons) and party favor bags filled with Safari goodies will be provided. **Company Picnic/BBQs:** For a company picnic-/BBQ that no one will forget, consider having it at Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. We offer different packages to meet your needs, so please email us with your requirements and we will assist you with the appropriate package. All packages include a tented area with tables and chairs, a tour of the facility for your group with your own private tour guide, all plates, cups, napkins and utensils. For more information please contact info@serenityspringswildlifecenter.org