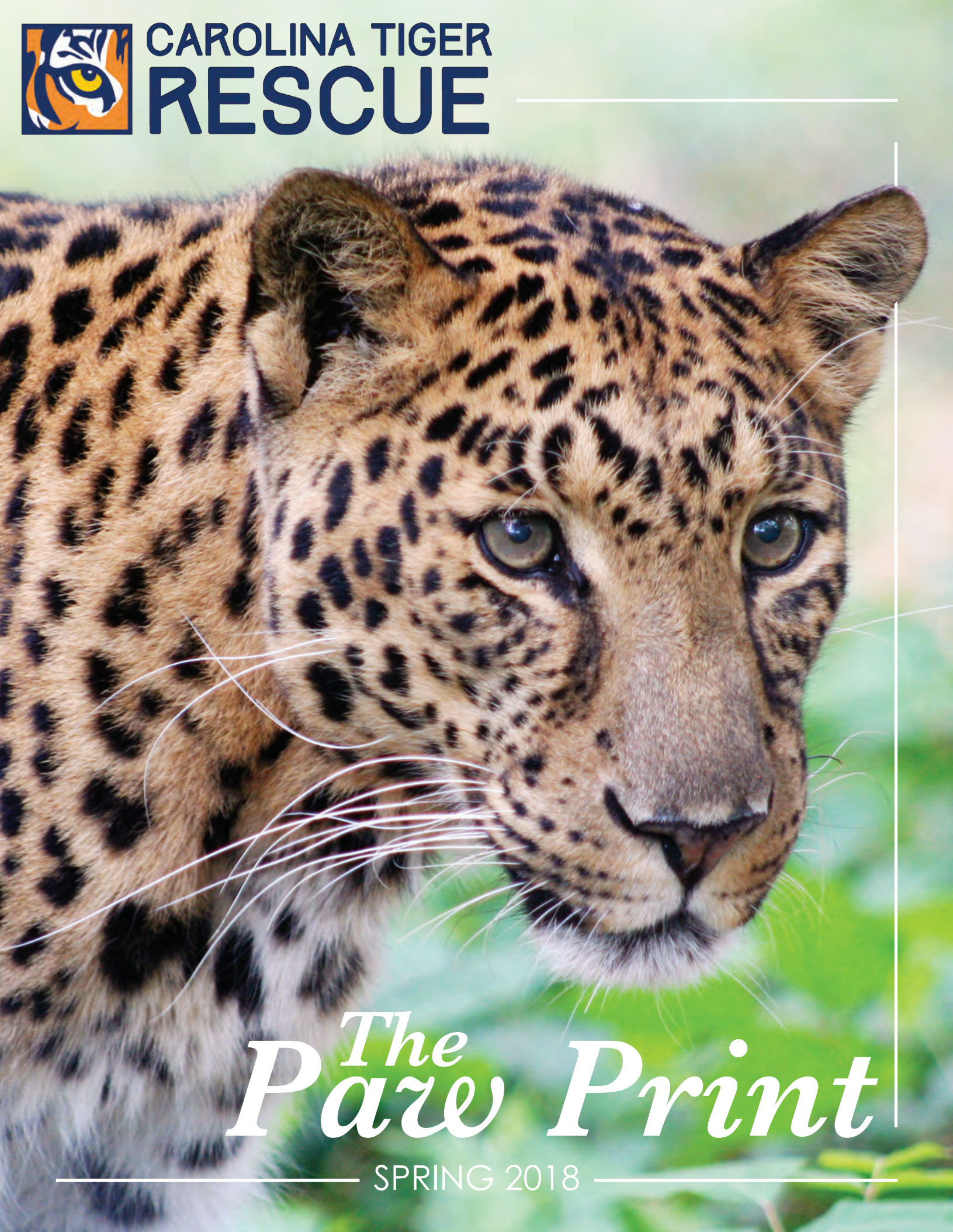
CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE



# The Paw Print

SPRING 2018

# The Director's Desk

**PAM FULK**
Executive Director

I try to keep in mind that even the most disconcerting questions or challenging situations are opportunities. They are opportunities to educate. One such question that I get is why is a federally-accredited sanctuary so important?

Sanctuaries are important for many reasons. For the individual animals who are confiscated, relinquished by their owner, or abandoned, we are their last hope for a truly decent life in captivity. If not for a sanctuary, these animals would be euthanized or sent to less-than-ideal situations, such as private owners who may or may not know how to care for them properly or have the necessary resources. Some realities are even worse: commercial opportunists who want to make money by using these wild animals in manners that include traveling circuses and photo ops. At a sanctuary, they live a peaceful life, in which their welfare drives every decision we make.

Sanctuaries have also played a strong role in shaping public sentiment regarding circuses, the continued breeding for color selection (white tigers and lions for example), buying and selling wild animals as if they are products — not beings — and private ownership of wild animals. Sanctuaries are often ahead of many accredited zoos in the way we think about how wild animals in captivity should be treated.

Many sanctuaries go beyond these important roles and have added education to our services, believing that we should do all we can to try to save the remaining wild animals in their native habitats. We inform the public about the most significant threats facing animals in the wild: poaching, habitat loss, and the pets and parts trade. We teach people how the loss of these species in the wild impacts their own lives and what they can do to make a difference.

Some sanctuaries are taking an even stronger stance in becoming advocates, both general and politically. From encouraging people to convince a local shopping mall or car dealership not to allow wild animal attractions to gathering support for bills, regulations, and policies that ban private ownership, accredited sanctuaries are leading the way toward a better future for wild animals.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer
Be a Member
Adopt an Animal
Be a Monthly Sustainer
Bring Friends for a Tour
Become a Business Sponsor
Attend the Black Tie & Tails Ball
Include the Cats in your Estate Plans
Donate Items on our Amazon Wish List
More information at CarolinaTigerRescue.org

# WILD CATS WE CAN'T TAKE

## *NORTH CAROLINA'S CLIMATE ISN'T FIT FOR SOME RESCUE CATS*

It's our obligation to make sure every rescue we accept is given the best care during their lives in captivity. It's our promise to them; they will spend the rest of their lives here.
Part of that responsibility is being realistic about which cats we can and cannot take. For instance — snow leopards.

Pena and Lapis were the last snow leopards to live at Carolina Tiger Rescue.
To accommodate for their climate needs, air conditioners were attached to their den boxes. But that wasn't enough.

"They certainly made it work, but they were not as active as they would have been had there been a temperature controlled area," said Kathryn Bertok, Carolina Tiger curator and assistant director. "They live in colder climates. North Carolina's climate gets too hot for them."

So, the rescue decided it couldn't take cat species, such as snow leopards and Canadian lynx, that require a cold climate. At least not right now.

**Pena Snow Leopard lived at Carolina Tiger Rescue until she died in 2006. It was the last time the rescue had this species.**

"Our primary motivator is being able to care for these cats for the rest of their lives," Bertok said. "We want to make sure every decision we make, including the species we bring in, holds true to that value. We want to provide everything they need to have a happy life in captivity. We don't want to have an animal that is uncomfortable just because that cat is very neat."

Carolina Tiger can't take in snow leopards, but it can teach the public about the species, their habitat and the plight of all big cats through the education program. That includes website development containing species that aren't Carolina Tiger residents, for example.

The last snow leopard lived at Carolina Tiger in 2006, when Pena died. Lapis died in 2003. The pair lived together. It doesn't mean the sanctuary can't ever have them again, though.

"We would need to have a very large spacious indoor area that we could temperature control," Bertok said. "It's not that this could never happen in our future, but it would require a different level of building that we had not done before."

## CELEBRATING WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

## *Carolina Tiger Rescue joined global celebration for Big Cats*

World Wildlife Day is a global celebration of conservation on our planet recognized annually on March 3. This year, it celebrated special stars: Big Cats.
World Wildlife Day focused on the plight of the Earth's magnificent wild cats, who face threats between climate change, habitat and prey loss, poaching and smuggling and conflicts with humans.
Carolina Tiger Rescue was proud to participate in raising awareness about wild cats in the global spotlight. We introduced some of our big cats, their stories and natural histories, charging people to act to help ensure survival of the world's fragile predators.
You can make a difference. Visit CarolinaTigerRescue.org/newsroom/worldwildlifeday2018 for more information.

**Carolina Tiger Rescue volunteer Macie celebrates World Wildlife Day with Caprichio Tiger**

# Curator's Corner

KATHRYN BERTOK
Curator of Animals

Our Mission: Saving and protecting wild cats in captivity and in the wild. That eleven-word statement dictates every decision we make at Carolina Tiger Rescue. Some of those decisions are easy to see. We raise awareness of ways captive cats are being abused and mistreated. We avoid movies and other commercial endeavors that exploit wild cats. We rescue and offer life-long homes to wild cats in need. But when it comes to the best place for wild animals to live, their native habitat is best!

Carolina Tiger Rescue works toward the day that wildlife can thrive in their native habitat. We educate the public about issues animals face in the wild and ways that they can help. No, we don't expect you to go stand guard over a tiger's territory, but you can help by not purchasing items made from tiger parts. No, we know that you cannot create new habitats for tigers, but you can help save their existing habitats by avoiding palm oil in their daily purchases.

As we have grown as an organization, so, too, has our education program. We have expanded our website presence. We have increased our tours. We have added more ideas and ways that you can help to everything we do. We are dedicated to making sure you know what the issues are and how you can help make a difference. Keep an eye on our website and in our gift shop. There are many more changes on the way!

## IN TRIBUTE

SAM OCELOT

Sam may not have been the most well-known ocelot at Carolina Tiger Rescue, but we had an appreciation for how much of a true wild cat he was.

He was born here in September 2000, when Carolina Tiger Rescue was still a breeding facility for endangered and threatened small cats. From the moment he came into this world, Sam, who eventually succumbed to kidney failure, was going to be his own ocelot. He did not seek out attention from his care takers, and he showed no interest in being on tour. Most of our cats would not ever do well in the wild because of how accustomed to humans they've become. Sam, on the other hand, would have probably figured it out quickly. Sam loved enrichment and eating and generally preferred to be left alone. He was most content sitting up in his tree.

It's hard to say goodbye to animals that many of us have known for our entire time at Carolina Tiger Rescue, and Sam will be greatly missed by those that loved him.

Millhouse Serval

Millhouse was known by many as kind of a cranky old man — he was 21-years-old when we had to say goodbye to him. He was quick to give a hiss when you came to visit. But bringing a favorite treat might help you become friends. Of course, he kept you on your toes about what that favorite treat might be!

Although we were incredibly impressed with how well Millhouse was doing toward the end of his life, we knew that we needed to keep a close eye on his health.

After he started leaving food behind, we were concerned about kidney failure but also noticed a sudden swelling on his jaw. We knew we had to anesthetize him for a possible tooth abscess. Sure enough, a tooth had to be removed. Unfortunately, his blood work showed end stage kidney failure.

Millhouse always found the best spots for a nap, particularly on those cold but sunny days. Even though his personality may not have always been the warmest, he held a special place in many hearts.

# LOLA KINKAJOU

## Animal Spotlight

Arguably the feistiest animal at Carolina Tiger Rescue is also the smallest. Lola Kinkajou was brought to us after Animal Control found her in a homeowner's backyard. How did she come to be in a residential area? That, we will never know for sure, but some may speculate that Lola was an escaped pet.

Although resembling a primate, kinkajous are a species related to raccoons. They have razor sharp canine teeth, which classifies them as carnivores. However, their diet consists mostly of fruit. Kinkajous have become more prominent in the pet industry, but they can be extremely aggressive. In fact, the kinkajous at Carolina Tiger Rescue receive the same safety considerations as our big cat species. Quick, agile and unpredictable, kinkajous attack without warning, using their piercing claws and teeth to inflict severe damage.

Lola demonstrates these characteristics often by launching herself at the walls of her enclosure and making hostile vocalizations to express her discontent. Being a nocturnal species, Lola spends her days inside the den box but at night she can be quite mischievous. On multiple occasions, she has attempted to tamper with the chains and latches on her enclosure, leading the keepers to take extra measures securing her food slot and water bottle. Despite her cantankerous attitude, we are pleased to have Lola as a resident here, where she can be respected like the wild animal she is.

# I AM NOT A PROFIT I AM WILD

A roadside zoo is a collection of animals in cages near a busy road to lure people into stopping. There is no database for roadside zoos so it is unclear how many there are in the U.S. What is clear is those who run them do not have the animals' best interests at heart. Animals in these tourist attractions spend most, if not all, of their lives in cramped concrete cages with little to no enrichment. Many of these places allow public contact with the animals which poses a danger to the humans and the animals, all in the name of profit.

# 11TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL

Thank You! Our 11th Annual Black Tie & Tails Ball took place on Feb. 24 at the beautiful Washington Duke Inn in Durham, N.C. Thank you to everyone who attended, bid on auction items, contributed to the Fund-A-Cause, and helped us to make the ball a success!

Spectacular! That's one word to sum up the 2018 Black Tie & Tails Ball. Honorary Chairs, Becky and Dan Naples, welcomed everyone with personal stories about how they got engaged with Carolina Tiger, growing to love and support all the cats. They encouraged ball guests to visit the sanctuary to see the magnificent animals. The auction was a smash hit raising a record breaking $37,550!

In addition to our auction, guests enjoyed Indonesian-inspired meals, appetizers, and décor of course! They played fun games, such as Volcano Putt Putt and Island Hopping. The Heads and Tails game was fun, as expected, with newcomer Olivia Marks winning the coveted $500 Amazon Gift Card! Total raised to support the cats was a record $122,506!

## SPONSORS AND PATRONS

### $5,000 Jaguar Premier

Vital Management Systems

### $1,000 Ocelot Elect

The Animal Hospital of Carrboro
Cambridge Hills Assisted Living
Petore Construction
Shine Shop Automotive
Twin Rivers (Silver Thread) Assisted Living
Hunter & Robert Goss
Sally Newman
Marshall Smith & David Hathaway
Mark & Elizabeth Zeringue

### $750 Caracal Class

Edward Jones, Office of Chad Virgil
Marks Consulting
Beverly Clapp
Becky & Dan Naples

### $500 Serval Circle

Blackman & Sloop
Brush Creek Marketing
Cats Love Housecalls Mobile Veterinary Service
Duke Energy
eTix
First Citizens Bank
Hill, Chesson, & Woody
Hopper Cummings PLLC
Jewelsmith

### $500 Serval Circle

Koonce Wooten and Haywood
Metal Impressions
Murphy's Naturals
Myriad Media Design
NC Signs
Pittsboro Drug
Starrlight Mead
State Farm, Pam Herndon
SunTrust Bank
Whole Foods
Jay & Janet Baas
Guy & Michelle Morency

### $300 Bobcat Club

Companion Camp

# THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the wonderful committee members who made this year's ball a HUGE success!

**HONORARY CHAIRS**
Becky & Dan Naples

Honorary Chairs, Becky and Dan Naples

Photographers, John Teague and Liz Slabodnick, helped guests capture the memories candidly during the event and at a fun Indonesian island photo booth (see photos posted on the Carolina Tiger Rescue website). During our cocktail hour, guests mingled and bid on items in our Silent Auction! Beautiful original artwork, fun baskets, gift certificates, and one-of-a-kind creations by Carolina Tiger's cats were snatched up quickly by guests at the Ball and bidders at home!!

We would like to offer a special thank you to the following individuals:
- Becky & Dan Naples, Honorary Chairs
- Kyle Berner, Carolina Tiger Rescue's Favorite Emcee
- Matt Holiday, Holiday Auctions
- Taylor Pittman, TaylorMade DJ Services
- John Teague, Tar Heel Photography
- Liz Slabodnick, Mint & Mustard Photography
- Alicia Springfield, Floral Expressions

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE**
Susan King Cope, Chair
Kyra Bucich
Pam Fulk
Dawn Friedel
Becky Naples
Sally Newman
Heidi Zangara

**AUCTION COMMITTEE**
Dawn Friedel, Chair
Susan King Cope
Brenda DeWilde
Ruth Stalvey

**SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**
Sally Newman, Chair
Susan King Cope
Pam Fulk
Barbara Millikan
Becky Naples

**SITE COMMITTEE**
Kyra Bucich, Chair
Kathryn Bertok
Susan King Cope
Pam Fulk
Amanda Henry
Maryssa Hill
Jessika Morgan
Heidi Zangara

## *It would not be the Black Tie & Tails Ball without the silent and live auctions*

Your generous donations are the key to this very special event. People at the auction and at home did their best to make 2018 a record breaking year. Our 2018 auction event raised more than $55,000, and every contribution helps the animals of Carolina Tiger Rescue. The annual cake and champagne, which kickstarts the live auction, went for a whopping $4,000 — many thanks to Maxie B's for the stunning cake! The jackpot live auction item was new this year: A Cat-Tastic Day at Carolina Tiger Rescue. That went for $6,500! Rounding out the evening was our annual Fund-A-Cause, which supports new small animal housing. It met its $25,000 goal!

### AUCTION DONATIONS

Afterschool Art & More
All-A-Flutter Farms, LLC
Angus Barn
Art Glass by Design
Joel Banks
Kathryn Bertok
Merle & Shirley Braley
Cafe Parizade
Carolina Brewery
Carolina Hurricanes
Carolina Panthers
Carolina Raptor Center
Carolina Tiger Rescue
Cary Pottery
Charlotte Motor Speedway
Corolla Wild Horse Fund
Diamonds Direct
Jan Dye
Fearrington House Inn
Fleet Feet Sports
Floral Expressions
For the Birds
Dawn Friedel
Fusion Art Company
Ginger Gehres
Glenwood Grill
Great Outdoor Provision Co.
Hand & Stone
Hewitt Pottery
Homeland Creamery
Shirley Horton
International Civil Rights Museum
Irregardless Café
JewelSmith
Jumpstreet
JW Image Co.
Laura Kania
Keepsakes Custom Picture Framing
Levandoski Family
Lindsey Alexander Yoga
Liquidamber Gallery & Gifts
Clare Matti
Maureen Brennan
Maxie B's Bakery
Museum of Life and Science
NC Museum of Art
NC Theatre
Nelly Baker
North Carolina Zoo
Gary & Rita Nunn
Chelsea Peedin
Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge
Pittsboro Roadhouse
Raleigh Little Theatre
Rey's Restaurant
Laura Ryder
Sanctuary Brewing
Nicole Schoepflin
Terry Seaks
Southern Peak Brewery
Spa at Bellhouse
Ruth Stalvey
Starrlight Mead
Beth Stutts
Renee Sweeley
The Charleston Inn of Hendersonville
The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co.
TickWarriors
Trilogy Edibles
Kerry Vail
Briony Voorhees
Kim Warren
Jean Whitfield

# SANCTUARY STEWARDS

**Donors, members, volunteers, adoptive parents, and friends who have included Carolina Tiger Rescue in their estate plans are invited to join our Sanctuary Stewards group. By including you as a Sanctuary Steward, we gratefully acknowledge your thoughtful planning for the future of the animals that have found a forever home at Carolina Tiger Rescue. Thank you!**

As a Sanctuary Steward, you will be invited to our special donor events, receive an annual calendar, and get public recognition for your meaningful gift. You may remain anonymous, if you wish.

We are honored to recognize and thank ten new Sanctuary Stewards:

Marilyn S. Bilpuch
Shirley and Merle Braley
Clyde and Eunice Crider
2 Anonymous Members
Kimberly F. Gilbert
Mary Phyllis Horn
Greg Puertolas

If you included Carolina Tiger in your estate and you would like to join the Sanctuary Stewards, please contact: Heidi Zangara, Planned Giving Manager
HeidiZangara@CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

For information on including Carolina Tiger Rescue as a beneficiary of your estate, contact Heidi or find information online: CarolinaTigerRescue.org/membership-giving/estate-giving.

## "KID FOR A DAY" ADULT CAMP

### *Carolina Tiger Rescue is a great place to learn something new*

Release your inner child at Carolina Tiger Rescue this summer. We're offering you a one-day opportunity to be a kid again through our adult camp. "Kid for a Day" gives you a special experience that differs from our tours. It gives you more time with the magnificent animals of Carolina Tiger and gives you a chance to really make a connection to us. How does painting with the tigers sound? We've got it! How about building enrichment for the cats? Yep, that, too! And what about feeding with the keepers? You can do it all at "Kid for a Day."

It's a fun way to learn about why we do what we do and ways you can get involved in making an immediate impact.

**WHAT:** "Kid for a Day" Adult Camp **WHEN:** Session 1, April 29; Session 2, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**COST:** $225, including a mid-morning snack and catered lunch
**WEBSITE:** carolinatigerrescue.org/learn/adult-camp for more information
**Have more questions?** Email Education Director Katie Cannon at katiecannon@carolinatigerrescue.org

# *YOU Make the Difference*

**Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month**

## ALEXIS COOKSLEY-Animal Care

*January 2018*

"Lex" is dedicated, reliable and knows the animals well. She is extremely vigilant and detail-oriented. Lex is also great at communicating possible animal health concerns and enclosure improvements. She never shies away from any project, showing her commitment to the animals.

## SALLY NEWMAN-Board Member

*February 2018*

Sally quickly became a wonderful asset in a short time. She's served on boards of numerous animal rescues, so she's brought a unique skill to the sanctuary. She has introduced us to new sponsors, and her willingness to share her knowledge has been greatly appreciated.

## KOBY SCHWARZKOPF-Animal Care

*March 2018*

We have really enjoyed Koby's enthusiasm during her animal care shifts. She is always excited to volunteer, and her positive attitude always shines. There is no activity she isn't eager about — even butchering! Koby has recently worked hard to complete the necessary training to bring out guests and on her way to Purple Tier.

# MEMBERSHIP

**Help support lions like Roman and Reina!**

Our membership program is new and improved this year! Your membership will now be more than just a ticket to visit Carolina Tiger Rescue with your friends and family. Now, we want you to partner with us to help save and protect wild cats in captivity and in the wild. There is more flexibility with the upgrade, too, so it's still a fun way to spend time with your loved ones. But our goal is to include you more in our important efforts. We hope to increase your awareness about ways to help. With a membership at Carolina Tiger, you'll receive expanded member communications, advocacy efforts and appreciation events.

Our New Membership Program also allows more flexibility so you can introduce even more guests to Carolina Tiger Rescue.

**Membership Levels**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| · Student | Students of any age | $35 |
| · Individual | One named adult | $55 |
| · Dual | One adult & one guest | $85 |
| · Tribe | One adult & 3 guests | $125 |
| · Tribe Plus | One adult & 5 guests | $150 |

Remember, your membership to Carolina Tiger provides valuable financial support to the magnificent animals in the sanctuary. We cannot do it without you.

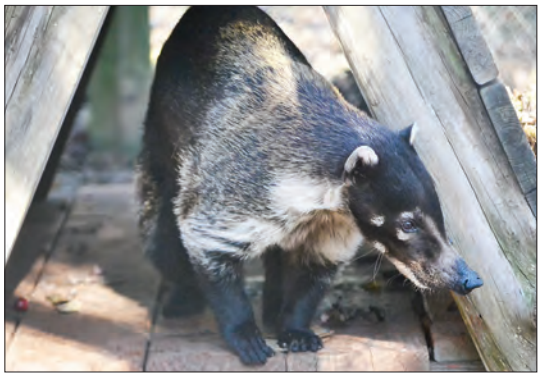
Memberships range in price from $35 to $150 and provide a major source of revenue. Your membership enables us to provide the best habitats, food, medical care, and enrichment possible! Become a member today!

**Please join us.**
Together, we can save and protect wild cats in captivity and in the wild.

# KEEPER'S LOG

***SPRING 2018***

From left, Carolina Tiger Rescue's three animal keepers are Cara Vitale, Larissa Keliher and Lauren Humphries



**Macano Coatimundi explores his enclosure**

As we head into spring, we look forward to moving the kinkajous to their outdoor habitats. The winter temperatures are too cold for kinkajous, who naturally live in warm climate rainforests. To adjust for this change, our kinkajous Albert, Lola and Wednesday live in our vet center inside cozy indoor enclosures during the winter. Their indoor enclosures are outfitted with all the same enrichments as their outdoor habitats: firehose walkways, climbing ledges, firehose hammock and platforms. Once the temperature stabilizes to a minimum of 50 degrees outside at night, we can move them back outdoors.

The coatimundis, another Central and South American species, do not particularly enjoy the cold weather. We have installed a winter house inside Lily's and Macano's enclosure with platforms, heaters and heat lamps. The winter house has a cat door to allow them to enter and exit as they please, so they can enjoy their enclosure on a nice day.

## #predatorsnotpets

#predatorsnotpets is Carolina Tiger Rescue's educational push to teach people about why wild cats should not be property or pets. Several of our rescued animals were former pets, and the scars of their past lives show. Some are declawed. Some have their teeth filed down. We believe their rightful place is in the wild, not someone's home.

Toby was a rescued pet before joining our family at Carolina Tiger Rescue. His rightful place is in the wild, but we're grateful to give him a great life in captivity.

**CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Marie Hopper, President
Chad Virgil, Vice President
Jay Baas, Secretary & Treasurer
Barbara Daniel | Laura Gasaway | Becky Naples
Kevin O'Dell | Paige Otos | Ruth Stalvey | Julia Wood

**STAFF**

Pam Fulk, Executive Director
Kathryn Bertok, Assistant Director & Curator
Tiffany Bernard, Construction Assistant
Kyra Bucich, Office Manager
Katie Cannon, Education Director
Nicola Goodman, Data Services Assistant
Roger Harvey, Site Manager
Amanda Henry, Gift Shop Manager
Maryssa Hill, Volunteer Coordinator
Lauren Humphries, Senior Keeper
Larissa Keliher, Keeper
Susan King Cope, Development Director
Angela Lassiter, Veterinarian
Jessika Morgan, Communications Coordinator
Karen Rafferty, Administrative Assistant
Cara Vitale, Keeper
Heidi Zangara, Planned Giving Manager

Carnivore Preservation, Inc.
DBA Carolina Tiger Rescue
1940 Hanks Chapel Rd.
Pittsboro, NC 27312

919.542.4684

info@carolinatigerrescue.org
www.carolinatigerrescue.org

Non-profit Org
Presorted
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 1910
Raleigh, NC

## *Tours and Important Dates*

**DAYTIME TOURS:** Year-round
Friday, Saturday and Sunday

**TWILIGHT TOURS:** April-October
Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Holiday tours, private tours, specialty tours, field trips, and volunteer opportunities available. Find more information at CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** June and July

**BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL:** Stay tuned for information about our 2019 Black Tie & Tails Ball and plan to join us at this formal evening to support the wild cats!

*Star Cougar thanks you for supporting her forever home at Carolina Tiger Rescue!*