CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE

The Paw Print

SPRING 2019

The Director's Desk

PAM FULK
Executive Director

It's hard to believe that we are celebrating 45 years of saving and protecting wild cats. We are extremely fortunate to meet this milestone. Many nonprofits who lose a founder or who go through a transformation the scope of ours do not survive the process.

Several of our sister sanctuaries also began differently, particularly regarding their philosophy toward the cats. The transition to a true federally-defined wild cat sanctuary meant not taking animals out into the community, not going in with animals or touching them, and no longer breeding among other things. These were hard changes for all of us and took time. I still miss binturongs (while not cats, they were originally part of our mission.) Now, every member of the new Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance subscribes to these values, as well as educating the public and advocating for change in the way wild cats in captivity are treated.

While we are not supposed to have favorites, just like we have different and deeper relationships with some people more than others, the same is true for me with the animals here at Carolina Tiger Rescue. My first love here was Elwood Jaguar. While he was naturally stand-offish and regal, the herb rosemary turned him into a pussycat. When he died, I was sad, not just because he was gone but because he was a beautiful jaguar and his genes would not live on in the wild.

There are so many more stories I could tell. So many lessons the cats teach us. This year we celebrate the memories of the past 45 years and as we move forward, we're committed to building a nationally-recognized education program. Change in the way we treat wild cats in captivity and in the wild will only come when enough people demand it.

Elwood would be pleased.

Elwood Jaguar

Romeo Tiger

Becky Binturong

45 YEARS OF SAVING WILDCATS

HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE CAUSE?

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Donate Items on our Amazon Wish List

More info: CarolinaTigerRescue.org

Cover Photo: Magoo Ocelot

45 YEARS OF MEMORIES

One of my most memorable days was when we put the roof on the outdoor home for Albert and Wednesday Kinkajou. That day, tall telephone poles had already been sunk into the ground to serve as corners and the side walls were mostly complete. Using the skytrak outside the enclosure, our plan was to roll the chain link fence roof from one wall across to the opposite wall. We heaved the very heavy roll of fence onto the skytrak bucket, a couple of volunteers climbed in, and Dr. Mike Bleyman raised the boom to roof level. Inside the enclosure, a row of volunteers on top of ladders raised their arms up to balance the fence as the edge was slowly pushed off the skytrak bucket. As one row of volunteers held the edge of the roll, the next row got on ladders and pulled the roll further across. Then the first row moved their ladders to the other side of the second row and pulled the roll edge. We kept repeating the maneuver until the entire, slightly sagging, roof reached the far wall. After a much needed break, we started attaching the roof with hog rings. The hardest part was over and the kink enclosure was on its way to completion.

Building the kinkajou enclosure, Jan. 1991

Genie Safriet
Volunteer since March 1990
Adoptive Parent to Albert Kinkajou

Beth Goodrich remembers Aria Tiger playing peek-a-boo in March 2014

I miss the binturongs like crazy, says Brett Williams. Disney used to throw a FIT at meal time.

After a tour with a NCSU Animal Science class, I signed up to volunteer. For the next ten years I cleaned, built, and repaired enclosures, went to the chicken plant to pick up the rejected chickens (possibly the worst smell ever), prepped meals, and chucked the chickens over the fences to big cats from the back of a pick up truck. I made enrichment toys, helped with the first summer camp, watched a tooth extraction, and mourned the loss of so many incredible animals.

Once I started teaching, I would bring my students to volunteer. A few of those students have gone on to pursue careers working in the conservation field. This is one of my favorite places in the world.

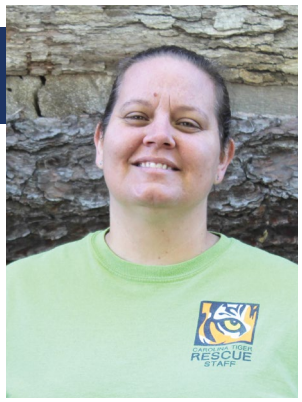
Danielle Melino
Volunteer from 2001 until 2011

Jellybean Tiger was certainly a favorite. Thanks to TJ Palazzolo, for sending in this fun photo!

Share your photos and memories: photos@CarolinaTigerRescue.org

The Curator's Corner

KATHRYN BERTOK
Curator



As we celebrate 45 years, it's rewarding to look back and see how far we have come. After our founder's death, there was so much uncertainty. A few short years later, we had spent all of our savings and were horribly in debt. My first memory was the day that it finally felt like we were going to make it.

Pam's arrival at Carolina Tiger marked the first step to turning things around. We had cut expenses and just needed a little more help to get things going in the right direction. That help would come in the form of an estate gift. When the check arrived, we opened it in the Carolina Tiger parking lot and DANCED! The check was for just over $90k and was the first move forward for us to becoming a very successful sanctuary!

My next memory was our first rescue. It had been several years since our last rescue, as we needed to get our house in order before accepting any more animals. When we got the call for Rajah and Kaela, we were finally in a position to give these amazing animals a home. As they ran out of their crate and into their new enclosure, it felt like a breath of fresh air. This is what we had worked so hard for. This is what we had suffered for. This would be the start of our legacy.

IN TRIBUTE

Kaari Tiger

Kaari came to us as part of a four-tiger rescue last year. We placed her and two other females, Shira and Yanaba, toward the back of the sanctuary to give them time to settle in.

When Kaari arrived at Carolina Tiger, she was very nervous. She was hesitant to accept treats from the staff and it took a bit before she settled in and let us get to know her.

Kaari, though the quiet one at the start, found her voice and made sure everyone knew that it was time to let her eat!

Max Tiger

Max had such a following of volunteers, adoptive parents, and staff. He was one of our tigers that was certainly considered an old soul, but he was always happy to come up for a treat and would readily offer chuffles in return. Many of us greatly enjoyed spending time with him, especially since he was in a very peaceful area of the sanctuary.

While we are sad to see him go, we are glad he is reunited with Kizmet and Christian, his long-time enclosure mates.

BEAU COUGAR

Animal Spotlight

Beausoleil Cougar (Beau for short) stands out as Carolina Tiger Rescue's first animal rescued from the wild. Wildlife officials in Washington State relocated him after he was spotted in a residential area multiple times without his mother. He was estimated to be just six months old. As cougar kittens usually stay with their mothers for up to two years, Beau likely would not have survived had he been left to fend for himself in the wild.

Beau is gray in color with a white spotted belly, which camouflages a cougar kitten, and disappears completely at maturity. Beau also has enormous paws, which show he still has quite a bit of growing to do. He is quick to show the keepers his teeth by giving them a hiss whenever they come near. Soon, all of Beau's baby teeth will be replaced by permanent teeth, as he's already lost a few.

Being that Beau has had minimal exposure to humans, he is exceptionally wary of visitors. In daylight, he stays in the safety of his den and will growl at passersby. However, during the cover of night, he lets his guard down and tears his enrichment boxes to shreds. We hope that Beau will continue to adjust to his new home, but we will always respect him for the wild cougar he is.

I AM NOT A PET
I AM WILD

Part of our mission is to educate the public on the plight of wild cats in captivity and in the wild. With urbanization, it is becoming more common that wild animals are losing their homes. It is up to humans to make the difference for them, to remember that wild animals have a place and their presence makes our lives richer and healthier.

The alluring scents of exotic spices filled the Washington Duke Inn on February 23 for Carolina Tiger Rescue's 12th annual Black Tie & Tails Ball, "The Mysteries of Morocco." Over 200 guests dined on delicious Moroccan dishes, played exciting games, and helped raise record amounts for the animals at Carolina Tiger Rescue.

There is never a doubt that the Black Tie & Tails Ball will be a fun and exciting event but this year, we proved that the Ball just keeps getting better – breaking every goal set! The Live Auction was a smash hit, raising a record-breaking $42,625! The Silent Auction raised $30,486 and the Fund-A-Cause raised $28,860 for lifesaving x-ray equipment.

Ovations to the Event Sponsors

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While it takes many volunteers to help us coordinate the Black Tie & Tails Ball, we would like to offer special thanks to the following individuals:

Taniya Wright, Emcee
Matt Holiday, Holiday Auctions
Taylor Pittman, TaylorMade DJ Services
John Teague, Tar Heel Photography
Liz Slabodnick, Mint & Mustard Photography
Themeworks, for always making our Ball look beautiful
Susan Holbrook, personal Moroccan décor items
Pam Earp, Basketmaker extraordinaire
Keepsakes Custom Framing, Pawcasso framing
JW Image Co., canvas donations

Honorary Chairs, Ruth Stalvey and husband Mark Phialas, welcomed Ball attendees with personal stories about how they became engaged with Carolina Tiger and highlighted a few of the many changes they have seen over the years.

In addition to the live and silent auctions, guests enjoyed Moroccan-inspired meals, appetizers, and exotic décor, of course! They played fun games, such as Ronda, Fez Tiles, and an all-time favorite, Camel Crossing!

Photographers Liz Slabodnick and John Teague helped guests capture the memories candidly during the event and at a fun Moroccan photo booth (see photos posted on the Carolina Tiger Rescue Facebook page). 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! Black Tie & Tails Ball veterans Beverly Clapp and Marshall Smith started an early bidding war for custom-made playing cards featuring Carolina Tiger animals. The energy and excitement only grew throughout the night.

Total raised to support the cats was a record $151,563!

Auction Donors

A Kitchen Must
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Colleen Black Semelka
Merle Braley
Shirley Braley
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Mark & Elizabeth Zeringue

Mark your calendar for the 2020 Black Tie & Tails Ball! On February 29, we will be traveling to Norway and celebrating the Eurasian lynx.

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 gift, 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:

Sharon M. Bass
Beverly Clapp
Harriette M. Frank
2 Anonymous Members
Janine M. Kushner
William and Virginia Ott
Renee McRogers and Joe Rogers

If you included Carolina Tiger in your estate and you would like to join the Sanctuary Stewards, please contact Heidi Zangara, Donor Engagement Director: 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.

Summer Camp

Summer is right around the corner, so don't miss out on camp!

Campers will visit the animals daily, learn about the essential role carnivores play in their natural habitats, find out what it takes to be a wild cat veterinarian, practice wildlife biology skills, and help some of the tigers express their creativity through painting!

Do you have a child that wants to learn more about carnivores? Get details: CarolinaTigerRescue.org/learn/camps

You Make the Difference!

Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month

LAURA WOLSKI

Tour Guide | *January 2019*

Laura has been a wonderful addition to our volunteer team. She is always eager to learn more about the animals and genuinely enjoys sharing her passion with tour guests. She holds herself to the highest standard and is always willing to help out - regardless of the task. She is one of our most dedicated volunteers and we are lucky to have her as part of our Carolina Tiger Family. Congratulations, Laura!

MOLLY GUMPERT

Animal Care | *February 2019*

Molly is passionate about all of the animals and is always willing to go the extra mile with their care. With her ever-positive attitude, she is not afraid to do the dirty work we have to get done for the animals. She has also volunteered for the Ball and was a huge help! Thank you so much for all of your hard work! We look forward to your future commitment with Carolina Tiger Rescue!

LARRY CONN

Tour Asst. + Ball Committee | *March 2019*

Larry has been a dedicated Tour Assistant and an incredible donation solicitor for the Ball. By sharing his passion about the animals and the sanctuary, he really sold in-kind donors on our mission. We not only received some great auction items, but introduced some new people to the organization. Thank you, Larry, so much for all you do!

OPEN YOUR EYES
TO THE WILD

JOIN TODAY

Become a member and score free tour tickets, gift shop discounts, insider information and lot of great perks- bonus points for supporting the fabulous wild cats at Carolina Tiger Rescue.

Visit the website for more information:
CarolinaTigerRescue.org/membership-giving

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989 (within North Carolina) or (919) 807-2214 (outside of North Carolina). Financial and other information about Carolina Tiger Rescue's purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by contacting Carolina Tiger Rescue at 1940 Hanks Chapel Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or 919-542-4684; www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org. Additional charitable solicitation disclosures may be found on our website.

Keepers: Cara Vitale, Larissa Hill, Lauren Humphries

KEEPER'S LOG

NEWS FROM THE SANCTUARY

Mornings are not for everyone...including the cats! Every morning, we are greeted with lion and tiger oofs and calls while clearing the sanctuary. We often see sleepy eyes and piles of cats on top of one another. Because we have to see every animal, when we see sleepy eyes, we have to count how many limbs belong to that tiger pile.

Another favorite sight is watching the cats stretch out and cool off in warmer weather. Nothing quite compares to seeing Caprichio Tiger sprawled out on his back, baring all to the sun with arms stretched wide. Occasionally if you are lucky, you might catch Roman and Reina Lions snuggling together in the same denbox. Though as soon as they hear the truck drive by, they jump apart as if they would never be caught sleeping next to each other.

Caprichio Tiger suns himself

Beth Lupold sent us this fun photo of Rotten Binturong.

45 years Celebrating CAROLINA TIGER RESCUE

Levra Leopard enjoyed rolling around and crushing flowers, recalls Danielle Melino.

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Tours and Important Dates

DAYTIME TOURS: Friday, Saturday, Sunday

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

Holiday tours, private tours, specialty tours, field trips, and volunteer opportunities available. More information: CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

SUMMER CAMPS: June + July 2019

BLACK TIE & TAILS BALL: Feb. 29, 2020: Join us and discover the northern lights of Norway.

To unsubscribe, please email *info@CarolinaTigerRescue.org*