



Issue

02

November
2013

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Photo courtesy of Brian Jones

Helping Sanctuaries Help Animals

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Welcome by Patty Finch, Executive Director of GFAS

Welcome to another edition of the GFAS newsletter!

This fall has been quite busy for our team! Amber Barnes, introduced as our intern in the last newsletter, is now working for us as a part-time employee as the Captive Wild Animal Protection Campaign (CWAPC) Coordinator and GFAS Assistant. She will be revitalizing the CWAPC and will continue to help tremendously in our rescue work. Check out the Facebook page at: Captive Wild Animal Protection Campaign (CWAPC) and for Twitter fans, look for GFAS@CWAPC. We would also like to introduce our new Indonesia regional representative Kinanti Wicaksono, who is featured in our GFAS Regional Representative Spotlight on page 4.

In October five out of seven GFAS staff members attended the Big Cat Sanctuary Workshop, in Durham, NC. Since the GFAS team works remotely, this was quite a special event! The workshop was co-hosted by GFAS and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. One of the nicest aspects of the workshop was the dispelling of myths! Rumors have a way of spreading on the Internet and phone. When these wonderful sanctuary directors were able to meet face-to-face, many for the first time, and talk to one another, they found out many things they had heard about one another were simply not true. The greatest thing to witness was the willingness of all to support each other and share best practices on a wide variety of topics. The openness and honesty was truly inspiring. Check out the article on page 2 for more information.



The GFAS team who attended the Big Cat Sanctuary Workshop, Oct. 25-27 in North Carolina. Left to right: Claire Koss, Jackie Beckstead, Patty Finch, Daryl Tropea, & Amber Barnes

November brought a tragedy at GFAS Verified Wildcat Haven, when beloved caregiver, Renee Radziwon-Chapman, was tragically killed in a cougar attack. Wildcat Haven has good safety policies in place, as verified at the GFAS site visit on May 4, 2012. As is true for most sanctuaries, those policies have improved over time. While redundancy and safety procedures can greatly reduce the possibility of a tragedy, none can completely guarantee safety. As stated in our press release, available on our website, "While our immediate focus is on this tragedy and the grieving process, one other fact is clear. Ultimately it is the breeding of these cats into a life of captivity that is to blame for this tragic death. Sanctuaries, relying on public donations, end up paying the price for this needless breeding. Tragically, Renee Radziwon-Chapman paid the ultimate price." Our hearts go out to Renee Radziwon-Chapman's family and all of the Wildcat Haven staff.

Featured Sanctuary: Foster Parrots

Hope Valley, RI

GFAS Accredited

Animals rescued:
Unwanted/abused
captive parrots and
other displaced exotics

Foster Parrots is the largest avian rescue organization in the Northeast U.S. region and they are one of the founding members of the Avian Welfare Coalition. On November 13th PBS Nature aired **Parrot Confidential**, which featured Foster Parrot's founders Marc Johnson and Karen Windsor. This show is now available for viewing online at PBS. Foster Parrots provides life-long care to over 500 displaced, captive birds and conducts local and national educational outreach programs about basic avian care and philosophical views on wild animals as pets.



Photo courtesy of Brian Jones

Recent GFAS Events

August:

- The ASPCA hosted the Equine Fund Workshop, also known as the Rosalind and Franklyn Schaefer Family Equine Welfare Professionals Workshop, in Billings, MT. This workshop enables equine professionals to network as well as meet the ASPCA Equine Fund Team and GFAS representatives. Daryl Tropea, GFAS equine consultant, spoke on best practices for managing an equine rescue/sanctuary and the benefits and importance of achieving national accreditation. Other vital topics included: effective fundraising, board development, using social media, and coalition building. Next issue we'll report on two more workshops that have taken place, and announce what is coming in 2014.

September:

- The second annual North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) workshop was held in Lexington, KY. NAPSA requires GFAS accreditation as a prerequisite to its membership. Jackie Bennett, GFAS Deputy Director, Great Apes and Regional Accreditation, attended and made two presentations at the conference: one describing the GFAS accreditation process, and one as part of a panel discussion on issues to consider when starting a sanctuary. Attendees at the conference included directors, caregivers and board members from ape and other primate sanctuaries throughout the United States and Canada.

- Patty Finch was interviewed by API Brazil for a story regarding a family living with 9 tigers. It was the second most-clicked story of the day on the iPhone Associated Press app. The message? This is a tragedy waiting to happen. Tigers are not pets.

GFAS Co-hosts the First-Ever Big Cat Sanctuary Workshop



Workshop participants put on their best big cat impression at Carolina Tiger Rescue

On the last weekend of October, GFAS and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) cohosted the first-ever Big Cat Sanctuary Workshop in Durham, NC. Twenty-one big cat sanctuaries from 15 different states attended this historic workshop, including seven GFAS accredited/verified sanctuaries: Big Cat Rescue, Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, In-Sync Exotics, Lions, Tigers, & Bears, Safe Haven Rescue Zoo, Wildcat Haven Sanctuary, and The Wildcat Sanctuary. The first two days were filled with informative and engaging lectures, such as disaster preparation, financial management, effects of the Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act, direct mailing, and effective and successful communications. The keynote speaker for the event was marine mammal and big cat field specialist for the USDA APHIS, Dr. Laurie Gage, who presented on caring for geriatric cats and hot topics such as metabolic bone disease, canine distemper, and much more. Executive Director of GFAS, Patty Finch, presented on a variety of topics that included: safety redundancy, how to approach donors, creating a strategic map, compassion fatigue, and board development. On the final day of the workshop, participants were given a tour of Carolina Tiger Rescue. This workshop provided a chance for these big cat sanctuaries to network for the first time. In fact, through this conference and the representatives of GFAS and IFAW, two lions and two tigers were placed into two sanctuaries. The success of the workshop was truly due to the sanctuaries' willingness to participate and engage with each other.

Special thanks to the Maria Norbury Foundation and AWOIP (Animal Welfare Organization Insurance Program) for their sponsorships!

Recent Events Continued

October:

- Jackie Beckstead, GFAS Director of Accreditation and Field Operations, was featured in a Forbes article about Mayor Michael Bloomberg's comment that New York City's working carriage horses would go to slaughter upon shut down of the carriage industry. Beckstead is quoted, "This isn't about politics. It's about finding homes for all of the horses, and there won't be a problem doing that... The equine community can easily absorb the small number of horses that are in need of homes if and when the carriage horse industry is closed" GFAS has been working to make sure that no NYC carriage horse faces the fate that the mayor is foreseeing.

November:

- Patty Finch attended the Animal Grantmakers Conference in Austin, TX. She moderated a two-hour panel session on sanctuaries! Speakers were: Dr. Kevin Dennison from the USDA, and Hal Morris, Assistant Attorney General & Managing Attorney, Bankruptcy Regulatory Section, both speaking on lessons learned from the Wild Animal Orphanage closure. Howard Baskin of Big Cat Rescue spoke on applying for-profit business practices in the nonprofit sector, and Cathy Willis Spraez spoke on transitioning to animal welfare after working in other nonprofit arenas. An update was given on the anticipated transfer of chimpanzees from NIH to Chimp Haven.

- Laura Maloney, Chief Operating Officer of The Humane Society of the United States, joined Jackie Bennett in presenting a webinar to sanctuaries on an overview of the roles of the board of directors and executive director in a nonprofit organization. Topics included the distinction between governance and management functions, the fiduciary responsibilities of boards, ways to avoid conflicts of interest, and ways for board and staff to define their respective roles and communicate more effectively.

- Jackie Bennett attended the WARN Conference in Malaysia. WARN stands for Wild Animal Rescue Network (Asia). A full report will be in our next newsletter.

GFAS Launches New Website Design

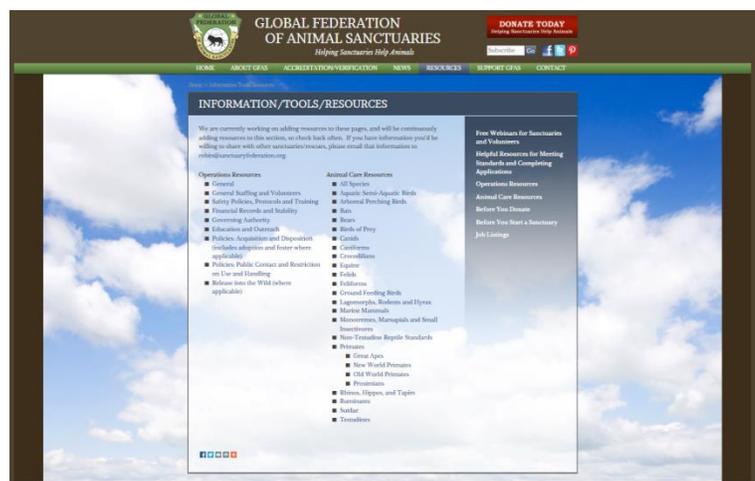


The new GFAS homepage!

Several weeks ago, GFAS launched our brand new website. The site is designed to be more visual and provide many more resources to sanctuaries/rescues around the world.

There are a couple of ways GFAS Accredited/Verified groups can help contribute to the website. On our home page, we have a place to spotlight GFAS Sanctuaries/Rescues. If you are interested in having your group be a featured organization, please feel free to email Robin Mason at robin@sanctuaryfederation.org, a short synopsis on your organization along with a link to a video clip we can use on the home page.

We are also hoping to build an extensive resource library for organizations. You can access these resources at: <http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org/gfas/information-tools-resources/>. We are currently in the process of adding more resources to this section and if you have any tools, resources or tips that you think would be helpful to other organizations, please feel free to email those to Robin.



Please let us know if you have any suggestions!

GFAS International Representative Spotlight: Kinanti Wicaksono, Indonesia



Wicaksono speaking about the history of GFAS and the accreditation program at the ProFauna conference in Malang, East Java in September 2013.

In addition to its staff, GFAS is assisted in its outreach efforts internationally by regional representatives, acting in a volunteer capacity to let organizations in their countries know about GFAS and be available to answer questions and connect sanctuaries to the GFAS staff. We have invited our representatives to share information about local challenges to caring for captive wildlife and to animal welfare generally. This issue's article is by our Indonesia representative Kinanti Wicaksono. Kinanti is a lecturer at the University of Indonesia and also heads the Indonesian Society for Animal Welfare.

Deforestation, wildlife trade, and small-scale conservation efforts in Indonesia

Indonesia is an archipelagic country with over 17,500 islands located along the equator that supports a unique marine and biological diversity. Each island in the archipelago hosts a different type of ecosystem, different biodiversity, and different culture. The country is home to over 300,000 different species of wildlife making it the second largest mega biodiversity in the world after Brazil. Unfortunately, Indonesia also ranks high on the number of critically endangered species. Below I discuss two of the main pressures on Indonesia's rich biological diversity.



The biggest threat for Indonesian wildlife is habitat loss and rampant illegal wildlife trade. Despite having ratified the Convention on the International Trade for Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the practice of illegal wildlife trade is still widespread. Indonesia also has an existing national law that prohibits the utilization and trade of protected species, Law No. 5/1990, but unfortunately it is still easy to buy an eagle, gibbon, or slow loris in Jakarta's public markets and then smuggle them out of the country. High and promising profits from the illegal wildlife trade business have greatly transformed the challenges faced in protecting endangered species. And the lack of enforcement from the authorities keeps this lucrative crime in motion.

Continued on next page



Photo courtesy of Center for Great Apes

Another major threat to Indonesian wildlife is the rate at which Indonesia's protected forests are being converted for mining or paper and palm oil plantations. With less and less area to roam, the wild animals face the threat of food scarcity which in turn forces them to wander into nearby populated villages to look for food. This causes more and more frequent incidents of human-wildlife conflicts in the country. Elephants, tigers, leopards, and orangutans are among a few of the animals people in villages often encounter and kill, whether it is through poisoning, setting traps, or even shooting as they are considered pests to the humans living in the area.

Logically, animals confiscated from trade or rescued from the effects of forest clearing need to be put in rescue centers and rehabilitation centers so that they may one day be released into the wild. Unfortunately, the lack of rehabilitation centers and sanctuaries available cause the number of Indonesian wild animals to continue decline. Funding is a persistent problem to the operation and sustainability of rehabilitation centers, and a main cause to why many have had to close down in the past several years. On top of everything, there is a lack of political will from the government to keep these centers in operation. Therefore, many wildlife protection organizations are unsure of what to do. If we work alongside the police to confiscate illegally traded animals, where will we send these living creatures so that we can ensure they receive the best of care to become rehabilitated and released into the wild? Some conservation groups have therefore decided to build their own wildlife rehabilitation centers, such as those set up for orangutans and gibbons. This may seem like a solution, but it is not one without hurdles to overcome. For such an initiative to pass the approval of the local government authorities and the Ministry of Forestry is itself a challenging task; let alone meeting the financial needs to set up a proper standardized rehabilitation center.

With these considerations in mind, concerned communities have tried to take on small-scale conservation efforts to curb the rate of species extinction. People are trying to help conserve endangered species by doing little things such as protecting sea turtle eggs until they hatch so that the hatchlings may live to swim out to the ocean. These are done by small turtle conservation groups in places like Bali, operating with a simple structure and procedure. They may lack the scientific standards and formal regulations, but they have the goodwill to take concrete action that many government bodies and larger formal groups lack. It is these small-scale conservation efforts in Indonesia that need our help and support the most.

80+ Wolves Rescued and Brought to Safety

The New England Wolf Advocacy and Rescue Center Forms to Help Rescued Wolves

In response to the increasing concern for the welfare of more than 100 wolves and wolf-hybrids held in two separate rescue facilities in New Hampshire, GFAS reached out to Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC). LARC, an animal sanctuary based in California, was asked to assess the conditions at the two failing facilities. In August, GFAS brought LARC co-founders, Matthew Simmons and Lorin Lindner, Ph.D., to New Hampshire to help save the lives of close to 100 wolves and wolf-hybrids at both the Loki Clan Wolf Refuge (Loki) and the Dancing Brooke Wolf Lodge (Dancing Brooke). About a year ago, GFAS worked to help Loki put in place a new board



Photo courtesy of Matt Simmons & Lorin Lindner

and write a strategic plan through a consultant; however not all recommendations were followed. Things went well for a while, but in August the board reached out to GFAS again for help. GFAS suggested that perhaps a friendly takeover by another nonprofit might be the answer.

LARC personnel, who are experienced and knowledgeable in the care of wolves and wolf-hybrids, found deteriorating conditions at Loki. Loki was willing to cooperate in a friendly takeover for the welfare of the animals. While recognizing the large amount of time and money that would need to be put into a failing sanctuary, LARC believed Loki held tremendous promise for becoming a quality sanctuary facility with the right leadership. Loki was spacious and had the potential to accommodate a large number of wolves and wolf-hybrids. After negotiations facilitated by GFAS, the leadership of Loki agreed to transfer its property, animals, and operational assets to LARC. After much time spent working with the Loki board members onsite and volunteers and assessing the needs of the animals, LARC agreed to take over Loki. LARC renamed the property the New England Wolf Advocacy and Rescue Center (NEWARC). With the support of the ASPCA, HSUS, PetSmart Charities, and other personal donors, NEWARC began new construction at the site, creating the start of a world-class center for wolf rescue, rehabilitation, and education.

Meanwhile, the wolves, wolf-hybrids, and untamed dogs at Dancing Brooke were still in need. LARC, working with GFAS and a team of people from many organizations, decided that the best approach would be to take the animals being evicted from the Dancing Brooke and bring them to NEWARC in October. All of the 59 animals from Dancing Brooke unfortunately had been living in very poor conditions for many years and were in horrific medical condition. LARC had agreed to help authorities by taking all of the wolves and wolf-hybrids, which was made possible by a grant given by the ASPCA for furthering the kennel capability of the new NEWARC. However, NEWARC only received 25 out of the 59 animals, due to the poor health and medical issues of the animals. Some animals were reported missing with the owner; and authorities, for humane reasons, euthanized other animals.

In preparing for the arrival of Dancing Brooke animals, LARC brought in six combat veterans as part of their "Warriors and Wolves" program. These volunteers assisted in the construction of large fenced enclosures, warm housing, and water lines to recreate natural habitats. Many of the new arrivals needed immediate medical attention, surgeries, neuters, vaccinations, and daily antibiotics. Undaunted, the veterans began building a new medical facility and additional staff members were brought in to care specifically for the wolves and wolf-hybrids. Thanks to the responsiveness and amazing work of the team, there was no further loss of life. Donations welcome!



Thank you to our funders!

