

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

January – February 2011

With more than 3,500 votes it's Official! The Perfect Name for the baby mountain lion is Cedar!

See Her in Living Color at folsomzoofriends.org!

Ode To Spring (?) Joy

The bluebird box that hangs in a tree adjacent to the **Zoo Ops** deck had hopeful tenants last year with mixed results. The first batch of bluebird eggs were laid in something other than an official bluebird box. Alas, the distance between the entry hole and the nest site was too shallow and a savvy blue jay reached in and ate the fledglings. After an official bluebird box was installed the next babies fledged successfully. Several weeks ago the gaggle of bluebirds checking out the house may have been part of last year's family. It's a hot property. The most recent visitors were three English sparrows. One of the females was bustling about proprietarily as the male, feathers fluffed, watched- possibly with a benign smile on his beak.

More Joy

Mature peacocks* are eyeing each other territorially, flapping up into the air in aggressive flurries of iridescent blue and green. Roosters and hens are paring up. Tigers are belly-up in the sun and the luxurious coats of foxes, wolves and coyotes are getting the slightly fuzzy look that presages shedding to come in April or May. *Males are *peacocks*. The rest of the family includes *peahens* and *peachicks*.

Plant Joy

In late fall the **Zoo Sanctuary** received many flats and boxes and bags of plants that had been trimmed back / divided at the famous **Sacramento Historic Cemetery**. Horticulture volunteers stored them out of the way on Zoo grounds until they could be transplanted in early February. Leafy signs of life were just beginning to show. Goldenrod, asters, sunflowers and salvia moved to the small garden areas in front of the **Zoo Classroom** and covered with wire to deflect chickens who dig for insect treats in newly planted areas. One entire flat of sedum was gone without a trace, having disappeared into free-roaming fowl. Other plants purchased from donations to the **Zoo Horticulture Fund** are now at home along the twisty **Lombard Street** ramp that leads to the **Canine Exhibits** area. Look for ceanothus and lovely lavender flowered hardenbergia vines.

Aviary Joy

The amazing ginormous new **Aviary** daily grows more stunning. Fifteen-feet at the front elevation, the four new exhibit areas provide added footage not only front -to -back but, appropriate for animals with wings, *up* as well. Funded by generous donations from the **Bosack & Kruger Foundation** and the **Friends of the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary, Inc.** this structure is a standout both in design and living space. Raptors and ravens have temporarily moved to other areas of the Zoo away from noise and construction.

Cement Joy

Take a stroll on the **Zoo Sanctuary's** handsome new cement walkways that start above **Fisher's Beastro**, move through new front gates past the monkey exhibit and down to the fox exhibits. Funded by a **Community Development Block Grant** the uneven asphalt that greeted visitors for nearly 50 years has been transformed into beautifully designed and, importantly, ADA compliant cement walkways.

B&M Builders dug up and moved out literally tons of rocks, asphalt, etc., built forms, poured cement and welded handrails. In an amazing feat of planning the Zoo has been open during construction due in part to ingenious ephemeral safari paths for visitor and baby stroller access that change hourly. In addition to the main concourse, a ramp with handrails conducts visitors down to the **Feral Cat House**. The **Gift Shop** is more accessible with a ramp and handrails. A prize goes to the possibly overweight peacock who landed hard and stalked elegantly across newly poured cement leaving his indelible signature forever.

Coyote Joy

A coyote pool has joined the landscape of the **Canine Exhibit** which currently is home to coyote **Maggie**. It's near her cave and the tall coyote howling rocks where Maggie often stands to better broadcast her yipiyipyps. The addition of a concrete staircase up the steep coyote hill has brought great joy to the knees of Zoo staff. These good things were funded by a generous donation by the **Macaw Foundation** to the **Friends of the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary**.

Cedar At Home

Baby mountain lion cub **Cedar** has moved to a roomy enclosed area at the back of the exhibit. She has big den for privacy with a sun-roof for lounging. Den furnishings change frequently: stuff like a big brown & tan plush throw, a truly giant soft furry Teddy, and a crispy green Christmas tree recycled from *Wild Nights, Holiday Lights* for lurking practice. There are lovely bowls of ground meat garnished with formerly frozen mice and quail. **Docents** have put in serious hours observing and writing journal entries about her behaviors. Others of her clan visit too. While young male **Rio** currently tends to avoid the area next to her space, young female **Flash** and mentor male **Ventura** seem to be curious about her. Ventura spends significant time lying against the gate of her enclosure. Cedar has been seen 1) hissing at Ventura, 2) lying against the gate next to Ventura, 3) sniffing and socializing when Ventura is available. Does Ventura visit as 1) an Official Mentor? 2) because she's cute? 3) is he really clandestinely visiting with the Docents? Or all three? Tell your friends: **Cedar is on public exhibit between 1 pm. & 2 p.m. but only if the adult lions agree to lock-up in back. And remember you can see her beautifulness at folsomzooofriends.org.**

Cedar & The Wolves

Cedar has a good view of the wolf exhibit. It's clear that the wolfy neighbors are fully enclosed by sturdy fences and Cedar seemed OK with this. Until the first time wolves engaged in one of their many-times daily howling sessions along with coyotes and wolf-dog hybrids. This was So - Not- OK.

Attendance for January 2011 was 5,295, one-thousand plus more visitors than the previous January!

Henry At Home

Smart bear cub **Henry** is a quick learner. While he's not yet on public exhibit he moves well between his big den and his sunny outside pool area. Play is an important part of growing up. For a bear cub it involves "*play fighting*" with siblings and mom which is essential to the learning process.

Currently Henry is the only bear cub at the **Zoo Sanctuary** and keepers try to fill this social / emotional gap. Henry had three Teddy Bears that provided comfort from his earliest days at the Zoo. He snuggled with the bears and carried them to bed for naps. But Henry has outgrown Childish Things. In two weeks of *play fighting* Henry annihilated two large Teddys, and was found one afternoon among piles of Teddy Bear fluff. Fluff in the pool, in his den, in his hair. The Teddys didn't stand a chance.

The Miracle Tree

Because the holiday spirits who decorated trees for *Wild Nights, Holiday Lights* very carefully observed the "no wire, no hooks" – only animal safe stuff – the still green trees had another life with Zoo animals. Bear cub Henry's tree was quite fine: big, sweet scented, filled with mysterious scents. Imagine a keeper's surprise when she came back to work after her days off and discovered that Henry had not only tidily clipped off all the branches on one side of the trunk, but arranged them in his den. This would not be an unusual expectation: bears do in fact manufacture beds out of plant materials. Shortly after bears moved into newly constructed **Exhibit III** they wore a muddy path along the back of the building hallway. Bales of straw were brought in and scattered. Several days later the bears had moved most of the straw to bed down the den at the front of the bear yard. Of *course* Henry could have clipped the branches and tucked them in his little bed. We *know* this is true. We have *faith*. The fact that the weekend keeper used clippers on the branches and arranged them in his little bed in no way suggests that Henry couldn't do it. If he really wanted to.

Good Day Sacramento

Ashley Williams and cameraman **Renee** were at the Zoo on a recent Saturday morning to check out Just The Facts about kitten **Cedar**. Zoo people, of course, had waxed eloquently about her charms, her brains, her astounding beauty, etc. **Good Day Sacramento** folks were stationed outside the gate of a long hallway that opens into a large completely enclosed holding pen. And there was Cedar at the end of the hall, cavorting beside a keeper who had a firm grip on a white towel she was flicking at her side. The towel was in a heap of trouble as Cedar pounced and wrestled, all sharp teeth & pounces & claws & snarls. One might expect her to be shy with strangers. Not so. Cedar danced up to the gate, checked out Ashley and Renee, went nose to lens with the scary camera – and skulked off to tackle some long branches on top of her den. Our thanks to **City of Folsom** Public Information Officer **Sue Ryan** for setting up these excellent visits from the good folks at Good Day Sacramento.

**New at Fisher's Beastro!
Mini-Buddy-Bergers
Delicious for kids and adults!**

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