

# KEEPING TRACK. FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

May / June 2010

## How Do We Love Zoo? Let Us Count The Ways

Late on a hot Wednesday afternoon a crowd of staff and volunteers organized themselves into work groups for a **Multi-Annual City Zoo Sanctuary Clean-Up Event**. **Heavy Lifters** did lots of prep work: moved corral pipe to the expansion area, prepared an off-exhibit site to which they then hauled heavy cage panels to for future assembly. HLs dug trenches and hefted sand bags to block water that runs downhill from the parking lot into the **Gift Shop**. Probably the best part was moving filled buckets of DG, two per person, up and down bear exhibit stairs and downhill to the mountain lion area to fill holes diligently excavated by animals. **Super Brushers** fought off chickens as they cleaned and stained Zoo safety fences starting at the Front Gate and moving down past the raccoons. The easily identified **Sticker Socks Group** hand-pulled nearly a dumpster full of foxtails from two bear exhibits. The Zoo provided hero sandwiches – veggie & turkey, cookies and lots & lots of fluids. Everyone is looking forward the next **M-ACZSCE**. (July 14, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

### Foxtails

Foxtails were introduced to the U.S. as livestock forage (or fell out of someone's sock) and thrive in areas that are overgrazed, cultivated or where Black Bear Exhibits are constructed. Veterinarians spend a lot of time removing these stickers from mouths, ears, and eyes of grazing animals as well as pets. Foxtails can pierce and burrow under skin and result in serious infections.

### Ninja Macaws

Twenty-six year old Green Wing Macaw **Bill** has been off exhibit in a large cage in the **Ops Building** for special care and medication. Since *psittacines* are very social, **Bingo** moved to an adjacent cage. Furnishings are changed daily and they listen to – and possibly even enjoy – country music on their little lavender radio. Meal time is popular, with the current *fave* food being part of a small taco spread with strawberry cream cheese which they clutch with their cleaver four-toed feet. During daily cleaning Bill & Bingo *step up* on a keeper's arm for a move to PVC perching stands. This provides Bingo with the opportunity to hop over to Bill's stand and execute perfect Ninja side-kicks which annoys Bill a lot. He'll kick back and try to bite Bingo. This goes on until a human intervenes.

**Cranky /Overheated? Take a Break!  
Heal your Weary Body!  
Fisher's Beastro to the Rescue!  
Fruit Ices & Ice Cream!**

### Ninja Tigers

On a recent warm summer morning tiger **Pouncer** tucked herself into a corner of the upper exhibit for a catnap when **Misty** slipped silently out of the tiger tunnel and took a swat at her dozing roomie with a big, well-armed paw. Pouncer swatted back, teeth bared, hissing. Misty retired – but came back for one more attempt, then stalked back through the tunnel to hug her big plastic tube for some timeout. On a happier note, Pouncer recently chased down and caught fast moving prey provided by a keeper: two cantaloupes which she devoured, delicately leaving skins behind.

### Mesa Whistles

Zoo resident **Education Animals** and Docents spend a lot of time together so both species will be comfortable working with each other and the public. Llamas, pony **Sterling** and mini-donkey girls **Jalapena & Rosarita** are brushed and haltered and walked so they will learn to meet & greet visitors safely and comfortably. Several Docents spend up-close personal time whistling to parrot **Mesa**. She listens attentively but absolutely, positively does not whistle back. Not a peep. But apparently she's listening. Later in the day you can hear Mesa as she whistles the whole repertoire to herself for hours.

### More Mesa

African Gray Parrots like **Mesa** are renowned for intelligence. Naturally Mesa uses this to her advantage. Not surprisingly she's a **Zoo Camp** star. She visits, standing on a whole table full of stuff, which she may, or may not, pick up, put down or totally ignore. Early on one of the objects on the table was a capped water bottle. Mesa cocked her head – possibly in thought – and knocked the bottle over. Mesa's assistant Docent left the bottle where it lay to see what she had in mind. Naturally she had a Plan. She beaked a hole in the bottletop and stood back. The Docent (on cue) picked up the bottle and held it patiently while Mesa took a long drink.

### Poodl llama

A few months ago llama friend **Tom Smeltzer** spent the better part of a day trimming **Dolche** and **Palino**, so although they are undeniably handsome, thoughts of big dark long-necked poodles do come to mind. Llamas have been around for a very long time and have learned a few things about survival. As prey animals, llama's eyes are on the side of a head that's atop a very long neck, the better to see predators. Llama watchers will notice that they're constantly alert which is one reason they're valued as guards in flocks of other domestic livestock. On walks with Docents D&P clearly are aware of zoo animals or what appear to be animals: it took serious persuasion to get them to be led anywhere near the lifesize

Marshall Farley's bronze dog near Folsom Library. **Do not! Go! To!** [www.albinoblacksheep.com](http://www.albinoblacksheep.com) for the Llama Song.

### Raven Puzzle Toy

There's a new structure in the Zoo Sanctuary Raven Exhibit consisting of a wooden frame approximately 3 feet high and a little wider. Clear plastic tubes the circumference of a silver dollar fit into top and bottom crosspieces and are open at each end. The bottoms of all tubes have a cover with a hook latch: if a raven pulls up the hook whatever is in the tube (think formerly frozen mouse) falls out. This nifty invention is the project of Metro Sacramento High School student and Zoo volunteer / intern Sarah Brower. So far the ravens will work for mice but not for walnuts.

### Remembered With Affection

The Little Black Hen was found, rescued and donated to the Zoo in 1995. She moved into the chicken pen with handsome and famous rooster Baby Girl's Baby. Recently Little Black Hen was treated on multiple occasions for what became a chronic, untreatable sinus infection. She was gently euthanized and is greatly missed.

A life story. Baby Girls Baby is the son of a hen who was living in a Folsom home. Not surprisingly, BGB's mother was named Baby Girl. The homeowner loved the hen and her chick and all was well until neighbors complained because when Baby Girl's Baby grew up he started greeting every dawn by crowing. One day a Code Enforcement Officer knocked on the door and BGB found a new home and an amazing career. Thousands of young children have met the star rooster during Outreach Presentations: kids will sit ever so still in a circle on the floor, holding out bits of graham cracker in one hand. Then, conscientiously, the little golden rooster walks the circle gently pecking treats out of each child's hand.

The rooster and the lovely Little Black Hen got along quite well until the arrival of hen Barb. BGB liked Barb. The Little Black Hen did not. It was common to see the three birds together, but most of the time the Little Black Hen was between BGB and the interloper hen.

Attendance for May / June was an exciting 25,248 with lots and lots of families in attendance.

### Exactly The Right Word

This summer Docents are teaching four sessions of ABC Zoo for little kids ages 4 to 7 and four, week-long Summer Zoo Camps for older kids ranging in age from 7 to 11 with give or take, 15 campers each. In addition to classroom work, older Campers, with supervision, prepare big bowls of animal food, clean selected exhibits and learn a lot. Recently Campers marched through the Zoo bearing buckets of deer chow, rakes,

big plastic bags, etc. on their way to feed and clean at the Deer Exhibit. The friendly deer are favorites with visitors so a sizeable crowd had gathered, which was great for the Campers. Yes, they were up to the challenge, Cool and Professional and Steely Eyed as they lined up and prepared to enter the exhibit. A Camp Counselor separated camp kids from visitor kids and carefully opened the gate. The deer backed off, campers and Counselors went in and locked the gate behind them. The deer, recognizing feed buckets surged forward. One camper was heard to exclaim, "Wow, a whole swarm of deer!" Indeed it was.

### Does Not Share Well With Others

A wholesome treat for many Zoo Sanctuary animals is road-killed deer. The deer goes in the freezer for a month to get rid of parasites and then is either cut into portions or served whole. Being somewhat less robust than a bear, a zookeeper hauled a whole deer to the Gator and dropped it off inside Bear Exhibit #3. Released from lockup, bear Marty headed for the front of the exhibit looking for scattered chow. Woody spotted the deer and preemptively dragged it back into the den. He and the deer weren't alone for long. The ensuing tussle ended with Woody and the deer in a bear pool and Marty stalking off. While Woody's ploy was shrewd, there was a downside: it's nearly impossible to eat a deer with your head underwater. So Woody laboriously dragged the deer back into the den. Just in time for Marty's return. A squabble ensued with Marty dragging the several hundred pound deer and attached Marty (weighing in at a muscular 486) across the den floor. For bears, some days are better than others.

### The Friends of the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary

Rogers Jewelers presents

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

### Wild about the zoo

SATURDAY AUGUST 28 2010

5:30pm 8:30 pm

Admission FREE at

ROGERS JEWELERS 965 EAST BIDWELL

Raffle & Silent Auction & Live Music

Food & Wine & Beer Tasting

Animal Presentation

Henna/Airbrush Tattoos & so much more!

[www.folsomzoofriends.org](http://www.folsomzoofriends.org)

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