

KEEPING TRACK . FOLSOM CITY ZOO SANCTUARY

September – October 2013

Looking Ahead To The Next 50 Years

September – October 2000

Bumpy's Hotel: Gray squirrel **Bumpy** is greatly loved and admired by visitors and Zoo Crew alike. When he was a baby Bumpy apparently took a header out of his nest high in a tree and is not releasable because of neurological damage. Bumpy's name comes from the fact that his personal computer doesn't always work as fast as his feet and he bumps into things. However, he rises above these difficulties. Bumpy is spunky. He clings upside down from cage wire to drink from his water bottle when he could just as easily stand on the cage floor. He extravagantly paws food out of his bowl, tossing aside The Unacceptable, which he often eats after finishing The Favorites. Unable to crack nuts, he receives two tablespoons of nutritious peanut butter daily, which he usually smears on everything. Bumpy often has endearing little pink bald spots on muzzle, arms and chest from "over cleaning" fresh p.b. from his luxurious gray fur. Sometimes elusive and skittish, recently Bumpy's real estate holdings increased with the addition of **Bumpy's Place**, an ice cream parlor complete with a little sign, a hotel, and a nifty white stucco cottage, all built by a volunteer. These buildings are part of cage furnishing and provide shelter for the squirrel and delight for human kids.

Meant To Be

Wild Barn Owl **Guinevere** was found with a broken leg and dropped off at **Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center** where she worked as a nanny caring for young owls. Male **Grayson** fell out of his nest in a palm tree and was apparently blind when rescued. Although his vision has been restored, like Guinevere he is accustomed to humans and lacks wild skills.

Fortuitously, the owls were off-exhibit for some getting-to-know-you-time when construction began at their **Red Barn** converting the large space next door to owl living quarters into a warm home for Zoo reptiles.

Meanwhile it was instant love for Grayson. He hung out. He delivered formerly frozen mice to Guinevere. She hissed. Day after day (and probably night after night). Grayson sat where he could see his darling. She hunkered down, wings spread, and ran at him. Discouraging. But eventually keepers would see the two owls sitting side by side. Affectionately?

Meanwhile, the snake exhibit progressed. Two reptile exhibit areas appeared behind big double-paned windows enhanced with tropical greens and climbing limbs which currently are home to skink **Solomon** and Royal Ball Python **Lucy**. Visitors are learning all by themselves that tropical forests provide camouflage for animals like skinks and pythons. As they move on to visit with mountain lions they can pick up lots of snake facts from signs.

From The Hungry Owl Newsletter

"As chilly fall nights darken, Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls are particularly busy. They're the first to nest each year, and begin courting as early as November. Owl courtship begins with calling to your beloved and presenting a big, fat rodent. Male Great Horned Owls woo their mates with soft low hoots. The female will respond with slightly higher pitched hoots. The Barn Owl's less romantic calls consist of screams, metallic clicks and other unearthly vocalizations. Hearing these sounds at night could mean an owl couple has moved into the neighborhood."

"This early nesting is timed well for the spring peak in rodent populations, so food is abundant for their voracious young. Being first to raise chicks has the advantage of having a little less competition with other species. Some smaller local owls, such as the Western Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl breed later in the year. They depend on insects as well as rodents to feed their young, so with nature's perfect plan, the smaller insect eating owls have plenty of insects at the most crucial time to feed their young in late spring to early summer. *The Hungry Owl Project is in Novato.* www.hungryowl.org

Animal Travelers

Mini-donkeys **Jalapeña** and **Rosarita** were stars at **Folsom Prison Family Day** where they were brushed and greatly admired by kids. **Capital Christian Center** was a recent destination for **Docents**, snake **Lucy**, Solomon

Island Skink **Solomon** and **Hissing Cockroaches**, where they were introduced to an enthusiastic crowd of nearly

100 youngsters. The Zoo's cockroaches presumably had a good time at **Karen's Bakery** being admired by more than 30 savvy little kids. (Parents Not So Much.)

Moving A Donkey Into A Stall

Those less acquainted with their ways would simply grasp the donkey's halter and with a friendly little go-ahead everyone would be where they were meant to be. The experience is quite different with Zoo donkeys. Recently at **Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center Dr. Eduardo De La Cruz** was engaged in an annual check of a lump in **Rosarita's** neck. She needed to be in an exam room. She disagreed. Fine then. He and a Zoo Staffer simply joined hands between her hind legs and gently wheel-barrowed her into the exam room and shut the door. Both donkeys are healthy and still endowed with Attitude.

Moving A Domestic Feral Pig Into A Stall

First of all, you set aside the word, *domestic*. It's true that feral pigs **Templeton & Wilber** are pleased to see Zookeepers every morning. Zookeepers carry buckets of veggies and fruit and measure out nutritious pig chow. And they examine the pigs from snout to curly tail for any problems. And if there is a problem, veterinarians do a house (sty?) call. Templeton had a sore front left foot that needed a vet evaluation / care. **Loomis Basin** Vets were able to inject Templeton with a sedative drug. Since he's one tough pig there was a second injection but Templeton was still *-um* – restless. How was he injured? His friend Wilber probably tusked him.

Attendance: September: 8,929: It's All Good!

The Rabbit & The Tiger

Let us consider the unfortunate phrase "dumb bunny". You may recall that on a recent **Docent** walk rabbit **Kevin**, having spotted a hawk circling high in the sky placed himself under a bench. Smart. More recently he was having another walk in the upper Zoo in front of the duck exhibit. Suddenly he executed a mighty leap toward one of the tigers, who was apparently resting and possibly eyeing Kevin when she was suddenly confronted with an attack rabbit. Yikes! The tiger rolled over and fled. At her request, the tiger's name is not available at this time but undoubtedly she was grateful for the two fences that separated rabbit and tiger. And yes, wild and domestic male rabbits engage in battle with each other, and possibly, if available, tigers.

We Can't Say It Enough.

To keep everyone all on the same page, each the day's activities are noted in the **Keeper Journal**. A good example was Monday, October 21. There was Zookeeper animal information and 17 Docent notations about animal activities: brushing, walking on a leash, setting up the circular "animal play pen", scratching prairie dog **Holly's** back with a backscratcher, brushing and foot-picking hoof stock, TLC for ferrets and guinea pigs, working with chickens and ducks and, of course, some loving attention for the cockroaches. **Thanks Docents!**

Speaking Again Of Cockroaches

Over the years the Zoo has replenished the amazing Outreach Cockroaches. Currently there are four newbies, and possibly the world's oldest living cockroaches, **Beatrice & Bob**. Sometimes there's trepidation when checking the older couple when only one antennae is moving, but they power on.

The Annual Holiday Party for the Animals

Saturday December 14th

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Santa Arrives by Firetruck

Animals Open Festively Wrapped Gifts!

Whisper Holiday Wishes to Santa!

Holiday Shopping in the Zoo Gift Shop!

A Perfect Family Event!

WILD NIGHTS, HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The Zoo Sanctuary Transformed'

**Thousands of Efficient LED Lights Create a Memorable
Holiday Experience.**

Holiday Carols! Holiday Goodies & Drinks

Special Visitors from the North Pole

December 7 -8, December 13 - 23

5 to 8 p.m.

5 per person (ages 2 & under free)

Information: (916) 355-7285

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