

Animal Tracks[®]

The Newsletter of
The Wildlife Sanctuary
435 Cougar Lane
Ellijay, GA 30540



December 2010

Volume 1 - Issue 12

A Bear-y Merry Christmas

The Wildlife Sanctuary was blessed recently with enough donations to stockpile food for the bears. They all wanted to express their thank you by wishing all our wonderful supporters a Bear-y Merry Christmas.

Perhaps you have met Annie, one of our permanent residents. She is very grateful to have food to eat all winter long. Annie is totally dependent on humans for her care. You see, when Annie was just a cub, her mother was shot and killed by poachers right before her eyes. There are still those who believe that bear organs are aphrodisiacs or have medicinal value. While they would be wrong, it doesn't stop bear poaching here. But it was Annie who paid a double price.

As one of the poachers cut up her mother, the other discovered the cub about 8 weeks old nearby. Wanting to keep it until it was older for its parts, but recognizing that a bear has sharp claws and powerful paws, the poacher ripped Annie's front claws out with a pliers as the cub screamed in horror and pain. They even videotaped themselves.

That proved useful a little while later when they showed the exploits to others. Well, a right-hearted person turned them in. They got five years in prison, and we got Annie. While she can never be released to the wild, she would like to get back into her 1/2 acre playground with two dens and a 1,500 gallon pool. However, fallen trees damaged the safety and electrical fencing, and it will take about \$4,000 to fix it all.

If you would like to contribute to the bear half acre playground, just send us a check marked Bear 1/2 Acre. We will hold it aside until we have the necessary funds to fix their exercise area, and then Annie and her pals can safely rough house outside their cages.

Sponsor an Animal - Support the Sanctuary

The Wildlife Sanctuary has added a new area in its website where you can support our efforts and get cool stuff in return. Click on our [Animal Sponsors](#) link and select an animal and a sponsorship level. You can get Private Tour Passes, T-shirts, and an 8x10 photo of the animal with a description of the species, habitat, range, and foraging habits of the animal, depending on the level you have chosen.

These make excellent gifts, too. However, we cannot guarantee that the goodies from a sponsorship will arrive in time for Christmas. We can send a Gift Certificate acknowledging that the goodies will arrive in a few weeks if you want to put that under the tree or in a stocking! Don't forget birthdays or other special

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Channel 11 - 11Alive News

On Tuesday night, December 7th, The Wildlife Sanctuary was featured in a story. If you would like to see it, please go to our home page and click on the link to the most recent news on Channel 11 - 11Alive Nightline.

One of the best ways to help the sanctuary beyond a donation is to encourage people to sign up for our newsletter. The further the word spreads, the more we can educate people about wildlife conservation and habitat preservation.

We Need Your Vote!

Simple: text 103289 to 73774 once each day and help us win this vital funding.



Send to a Friend: Our sanctuary could use lots of supporters. Please encourage your friends to visit our web site and...

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

occasions to give something unique and special to that animal lover.

This is an exciting new way to support wildlife in the Southeast. In the Southeast?!? Yes!!! Wildlife doesn't know where a state line is and they will boldly cross from state to state as they look for food or a place to live. While maps show that black bears have barely entered our state, we know they have migrated south of Atlanta. We suspect that the Florida panther is migrating north into Georgia in search of deer and areas where they don't have to compete with other panthers.

So learn about our wonderful wildlife. Get a picture for your wall. And come up to visit our furred and feathered friends next spring!

Be a Sign Sponsor - \$250 - another way to help!

The Wildlife Sanctuary is creating signs to post in front of habitats for every species, both permanent residents and temporary guests. We would like to invite donors to contribute \$250 and tell us the name they want on the sign. It will read as: "This sign sponsored by _____"

Sponsors can be businesses, associations, groups, schools, a high school, middle school, intermediate school or elementary school class, a family, foundation, or "in remembrance of". If you have any question about sign sponsorship and wording, please contact us.

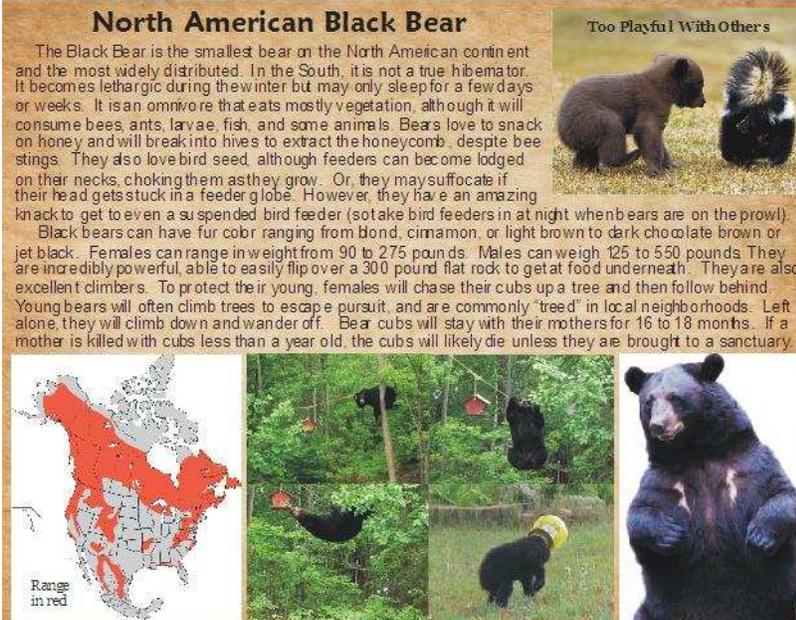
These new 8 x 11 signs will go up this spring before we open to the public. However, we need to get this project underway right now, and these tax-deductible donations will help put some

North American Black Bear

The Black Bear is the smallest bear on the North American continent and the most widely distributed. In the South, it is not a true hibernator. It becomes lethargic during the winter but may only sleep for a few days or weeks. It is an omnivore that eats mostly vegetation, although it will consume bees, ants, larvae, fish, and some animals. Bears love to snack on honey and will break into hives to extract the honeycomb, despite bee stings. They also love bird seed, although feeders can become lodged on their necks, choking them as they grow. Or, they may suffocate if their head gets stuck in a feeder globe. However, they have an amazing knack to get to even a suspended bird feeder (sotake bird feeders in at night when bears are on the prowl).

Black bears can have fur color ranging from blond, cinnamon, or light brown to dark chocolate brown or jet black. Females can range in weight from 90 to 275 pounds. Males can weigh 125 to 550 pounds. They are incredibly powerful, able to easily flip over a 300 pound flat rock to get at food underneath. They are also excellent climbers. To protect their young, females will chase their cubs up a tree and then follow behind. Young bears will often climb trees to escape pursuit, and are commonly "treeed" in local neighborhoods. Left alone, they will climb down and wander off. Bear cubs will stay with their mothers for 16 to 18 months. If a mother is killed with cubs less than a year old, the cubs will likely die unless they are brought to a sanctuary.

Too Playful With Others



operating cash into our bank account, as well. We still have to pay over \$6,000 in monthly bills to heat facilities, keep light on, provide animal insurance, pay for vet bills, and lots of other expenses to run The Wildlife Sanctuary.

We don't have a form, so please send your donation to our address along with a note that says, "Please list _____ as the sign sponsor." Be sure to include your return address so we can mail your receipt for your taxes.

You can also select one of these, but hurry if you want to designate your donation for a specific species sign: Western Cougar,



T-Shirts

Support us by purchasing from over 40 T-shirt selections at our website!

Profits go to help us rescue, raise and release wild animals, and educating the public about the importance of wildlife conservation and habitat preservation.

If you would like to submit a design for consideration, please e-mail a hi-res .jpg image to us. If your design is selected, it will be shown on our Contributors page with your name as the designer!

All designs submitted to us become the property of The Wildlife Sanctuary. All profits from the sale of t-shirts showing your design become funds of The Wildlife Sanctuary - but you get the bragging rights for supporting wildlife!!

Contact Us:

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Thank you for your
support to
Save our Wildlife.

Sincerely,
Debbie Cylke
Wildlife Director
and
Tim Grady,
Executive Director

Note: If you would like to be a Founding Member of the Sanctuary Endowment Trust, please call the Executive Director in confidence at 404-574-8119.

Eastern Panther (3 locations), North American Black Bear, White-tailed Deer, Bobcat, Red Fox, Skunk, Raccoon, Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Opossum, Ferret, Groundhog, Chinchilla, Screech Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Red Tail Boa, Burmese Python, Rattlesnake, Reticulated Python, or Tarantula.

You may also sponsor one of the animal story signs, like Annie's story, our black bear who had her claws ripped out by poachers when she was a cub after they shot her mother, or Hercules, Seymour and Jake who's mother was shot and killed for "trespassing." We will be happy to pick a sign if you don't designate one. Sign sponsorships will be for one full year and be read by each tour through the sanctuary.

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