

# Animal Tracks<sup>(TM)</sup>

The Wildlife Sanctuary - Ellijay, GA

May 2010

## A Farewell to Taz - our beloved Canadian Lynx



There is something about a cat - some call it aloof, others call it majestic. We just called her Taz, our very special Canadian Lynx.

Taz was born in a captive breed and release program in Wisconsin in 1993. Within a year, breeders noticed she was having difficulty. Tests revealed that Taz was born without inner ear drums - she was totally deaf. She could not be released to the wild or kept for breeding. Rather than destroy her, the program looked for a facility that would house and care for her for the remainder of her natural life. In 1994, Taz moved into her habitat at The Wildlife Sanctuary in Ellijay, GA.

Canadian lynx generally live 8 to 12 years in the wild, and up to 14 in captivity. Lynx have dense fur that is silvery brown and may bear blackish markings. In summer, its coat takes on a more reddish brown color. It has a furry ruff resembling a double-pointed beard, a short tail with a black tip, and long furry tufts on its ears. Its long legs with broad furred feet aid in traveling through deep snow. In the wild, their main food is the snowshoe hare and birds.

Taz was 17 years old, a testament to the love and care all the animals receive at the sanctuary. In captivity, Taz ate chicken. Over the years, she had beaten several bouts of pneumonia as she got older. However, in April her breathing became labored. X-rays revealed an aggressive cancerous growth wrapped around her esophagus. Although surgery was considered, it became obvious that she wouldn't have much time even if she survived.

Taz was used in educational programs all over the country, so that young and old alike could come in actual contact with a 60 pound wild animal. However, due to her deafness, Taz was totally dependent on human care, and as docile as a house cat. Literally tens of thousands of school age children were able to pet Taz without a single scratch or bite.

In her later years, Taz began to lose her eyesight, and was walked

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**Send to a Friend:** Our sanctuary could use lots of supporters, so please send this to an animal lover on Facebook, MySpace, or in your e-mail list, and have them...

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### 1,000 Points of Light Contributors



The Wildlife Sanctuary's income is mostly from donations. It takes more than \$250,000 to run the sanctuary each year.

We are looking for 1000 people with a heart for saving wild animals to make a donation of \$250 or more. We will honor these donors with very special certificates or plaques for their gift.

This tough economy makes it a difficult year for us, too, so every gift, large or small, is much appreciated. The need is urgent - please donate today.

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### Quick Links

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on a leash to ensure her safety. She was still the star of the nature shows in schools, at corporate events, and at the sanctuary's outdoor amphitheater. Because she could not hear, she had what was called a purr growl - something she could feel instead of hear. However, many a would-be pet was quickly withdrawn when Taz purred. Yet no one was ever harmed.

The Wildlife Sanctuary is dedicated to the love and care of injured or orphaned wild animals. When possible, the animals are nursed to health and released. When this isn't possible, they are housed, fed and loved at the sanctuary. And, just as with our beloved house pets, a day comes when extending their life would only extend their suffering, and a tough and emotionally painful decision has to be made.

That day has come for Taz. She will be laid to rest on the grounds of the sanctuary near her beloved caretaker, Craig "Grizzly" Cylke, where future visitors can come and learn her story, along with the many other animals that have passed through the loving hands at The Wildlife Sanctuary.

Gifts in her memory should be made to The Wildlife Sanctuary and mailed to 435 Cougar Lane, Ellijay, Ga 30540. Or, you can make a donation online so that we may continue to care for over 40 other permanent residents and the many animals that will be nursed and released in the years to come.

### The Grizzly Golf Tournament - Register NOW!



In memory of Craig "Grizzly" Cylke, Founder, The Wildlife Sanctuary will hold its first-ever golf tournament in May 2010. The date has been rescheduled to Friday, June 25th in a scramble format at Eagle Watch Gold Club in Woodstock, GA. There are prizes on all Par 3's for a Hole-in-One including a \$5000 cash prize, plus some great auction items, a neat Goodie bag,

and part of the entry fee is tax-deductible! Prizes and awards for the finalists in several categories! If you are interested in playing, send an e-mail to [timgrady@comcast.net](mailto:timgrady@comcast.net). If you have a foursome, let us know the names of your players. \$125 per golfer with a 10% foursome discount.

**SPONSORS** - There are several levels of sponsorships for tees, greens, the driving range, putting green, longest drive and closest to the pin. All proceeds over costs will go to benefit the animals at The Wildlife Sanctuary. Interested sponsors should send an e-mail to [timgrady@comcast.net](mailto:timgrady@comcast.net) with Sponsorship in the subject line. We'll meet with you and show you some beneficial options, even in these tough-to-justify economic times. See you on the links!

### Quick Disconnect Bird Feeders



They are nocturnal, feeding at night on almost anything they can find. One of their favorite snack foods is bird feed. And, they will do almost anything

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[Directions to the Sanctuary](#)

#### Contact Us:

wildlife@ellijay.com  
PH: 706-276-2980

#### Featured Article



The second Sunday of each month is our Family Day at the Sanctuary. For \$10 per adult, \$7.50 for teens, \$5.00 for 5 to 12 year olds and just \$1.00 for toddlers, you can hike around our sanctuary and see cougars, bears, opossums, squirrels, snakes, spiders, and other critters indigenous to Georgia and the Southeast. These tours are full of fun education led by one of our special tour guides. Go home with one of our super T-shirts, or order one online from our website. Wear your new 2010 Sanctuary T-shirt when you come and get in for free!!

Our May Family Day will be celebrated at Boling Park in Canton at the Rolling Thunder Indian Pow-Wow and Mother's Day celebration, May 8 from 11 am - 9 pm, and Sunday from 11 am - 7 pm. Don't miss this special event honoring your mom. Be sure to bring her! Stop by our booth to see the animals and learn what the Native American Indians knew about the wildlife they hunted and cherished.

*Thank you for  
your support.*

Sincerely,  
Debbie Cylke



to get to it. It is amazing that a black bear weighing more than you or me can be so agile. It can also be deadly. Bears can be injured by falling, cut by broken glass, or get their head stuck in the feeder and suffocate. Even if they break the globe, the bottom ring around their neck will choke them to death or prevent them from swallowing as they grow, so they can slowly die from starvation. Think a bear can't get to a suspended feeder?



This is a young, hungry female that weighs about 200 pounds. That is a birdfeeder suspended from 300 pound strength nylon rope. So, we recommend quick disconnect bird feeders. One place you can get them is at [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) in Woodstock, GA. Take them in at night so the bears don't stake them out for an early morning raid.

### Who Do You Know Who Could Help?



The Wildlife Sanctuary is looking to upgrade all of its animal habitats, buildings, roads, pathways, signage and grounds. We need lots of supplies to do this.

You can help by e-mailing us if you have contacts who can provide lumber, marine plywood, gravel, sheetrock, wood molding, marine grade paint (for outdoor cages), road grading equipment, planting soil, flowers or bulbs, bags of cement or concrete, aluminum bleacher seating, 4"x4" square tubing - you name it. We'll also be putting a list of items we need online. Donate what you can, or forward the list to someone you know who might just have (and be willing to donate) something for a sanctuary project. We are also looking for a 30'x60' two-story metal building to assemble on our 40'x80' concrete pad.

You may e-mail us at [wildlife@ellijay.com](mailto:wildlife@ellijay.com) and let us know what you have in mind or on hand. All donations in kind are greatly appreciated.

Wildlife & Program  
Director, and  
Tim Grady,  
Executive Director

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