

# Advancing Bear Care 2011

6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Banff, Canada



**Bear Care**  
GROUP



## Welcome

Dear Bear Care Delegates,

Welcome to one of the most beautiful and significant bear habitats in the world, the Canadian Rocky Mountains. ABC 2011 is a teaching and problem solving conference where we are fortunate to be learning from world renowned wild bear biologists and problem solving with captive bear husbandry experts. The Bear Care Group wants to thank each of you for participating and making this the third international bear husbandry conference that has sold out. These next few days you will be immersed in wild bear habitat, alongside other enthusiastic bear care professionals just like you. Enjoy the western Canadian hospitality and excellent dining options in Banff's friendly atmosphere. Become a part of it.



Else Poulsen  
President, BCG

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## Bear Care Board of Directors

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## Bear Care Mission Statement

The Bear Care Group creates and enhances communication, cooperation and education among international bear care professionals by organizing bear care programs, publications and resources focused on advancing and sharing information on bear behavior, husbandry, enrichment, training, veterinary care and other topics to further global bear welfare and conservation efforts.

Check out [www.bearcaregroup.org](http://www.bearcaregroup.org) for post conference wrap up and photos  
Continue networking with colleagues at [bearcare@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:bearcare@yahoogroups.ca)

## Sponsors

Active Environments	McCrary Wildlife Services Ltd.
Animals Asia Foundation	Mo Brown
Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre	Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter
Calgary Zoo	Polar Bears International
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Great Bear Foundation	Shape of Enrichment
Hauser Bears	Spectacled Bear Conservation-Peru
Kalahari Management	Whistles for Life
The Kerulos Center	Wildlife SOS
Live Your True Nature	World Society for the Protection of Animals
Mazuri	

## Many, Many Thanks

The Bear Care Group wishes to thank all of the tireless volunteers and sponsors who helped to organize ABC 2011 and make it happen. We are grateful to the wildlife biologists who have come on their own time and at their own expense to share their knowledge of how wild bears use their habitat for daily and seasonal living. As always we appreciate the dedicated captive bear care professionals who return conference after conference to pass on their expertise and experience. We welcome and thank our many new volunteers and supporters, and look forward to your further participation as our group and efforts grow with the years. Finally thank you to the many supporters who have donated items for both the goody bags and the Silent Auction.

Special acknowledgement to Polar Bears International for their support with the proceedings printing and production costs.



## Name Badges

All delegates will be provided with a name badge upon registration. Please wear it as it acts as your pass to all sessions, functions and transportation. This will help to introduce you to other delegates.

## Registration

The Registration Desk is in the Glacier Salon - Mezzanine Level, Banff Park Lodge.

Thursday October 6, 2011

3:00 - 8:00 PM

## Poster Sessions

Poster presentations will be in the Alpine Meadows Reception on:  
Friday October 7 from 3:00 - 3:20 PM, 5:20 - 6:20 PM & 9:20 - 9:40 PM.  
Saturday October 8 from 3:00 - 3:20 PM & 7:40 - 8:00PM. Posters will stay up for the duration of the conference.

## Speaker Presentations

Speakers using computer data projection (PowerPoint) are asked to meet with Kent Hedberg during registration to download and test their presentation.

## Interpreted Hikes into Bear Habitat

Each delegate will have the opportunity to choose three interpreted hikes into bear habitat out of four possible trails. There will be one early morning hike per conference day. The hikes will be lead by Dr. Chuck Jonkel, Dr. Mike Gibeau, Wayne McCrory, and Charlie Russell.

### TRAILS:

1/ Cascade Fire Road: This trail was formerly a fire access road leading into the wild Cascade Valley. The trailhead is located at the Upper Bankhead parking lot just outside of Banff on the Lake Minnewanka Loop Road. It is rated as a beginner hike.

2/ Healy Creek Trail: This trail starts at the west end of the Sunshine Ski Resort parking lot (about 8 kilometres west of Banff) and travels through a steep sided valley. The trail gradually works its way up the valley to the tree line but the group can stop at any point and return.



3/ Forty Mile Trail: This trail starts at the Mt Norquay Ski Resort just outside of Banff and is a loop following the Elk Lake Trail first, then cutting left along Forty Mile Creek, eventually hitting the Forty Mile Trail, and then returning to the ski area. It offers a good overview of the valley. The hike is a bit up and down and is slightly more strenuous than the Cascade Fire Road or Healy Creek Trail.

4/Redearth Creek Trail: The trailhead is approximately 19 km west of Banff. The trail is an old fire road that steadily climbs out of the main valley into a side valley with views of avalanche slopes. It is only reasonably steep.

### ON THE HIKES

1. ALWAYS follow your Guide's instructions and stay with your group!
2. Dress in layers. In general you will be comfortable with a T shirt, warm long sleeve shirt, fleece, water & wind proof shell, thin gloves, soft socks, and worn-in hiking boots.
3. Roll up unused clothes, store in your day pack.
4. Bring water, energy bars, fruit, tissue, small zip lock plastic bag for garbage.
5. Bring chapstick, sunscreen, and sunglasses.
6. Bring a small pocket camera, and bear whistle.

## Banff Park Lodge Convention Center

Our Conference meeting rooms are located on the mezzanine level.

Registration: Glacier Salon

Workshops/Presentations:  
Summit, Assiniboine,  
Castle, Alpine Meadows

Egg Breaker - Breakfast:  
Glacier Salon

Poster Presentations,  
Coffee, Bear Book & Art  
Den: Alpine Meadows  
Reception Area

Farewell Lunch, Silent Auction:  
Summit Room

### MEETING ROOM FLOOR PLANS





## Workshops

Delegates will have the opportunity to share their current bear husbandry challenges with their colleagues for discussion and problem solving. These two hour sessions will provide the opportunity to utilize the problem solving skills taught by Gail Laule of Active Environments on Thursday evening October 6th.

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TOPIC	MODERATOR
American Black Bear	Christine Fenwick
Andean Bear	Robyn Appleton, SBC-Peru
Asian Bear	Jill Robinson, AAF
Brown Bear	Heather Bacon
Giant Panda	Jason Pratte
Polar Bear	JoAnne Simerson, PBI
Sloth Bear	Kartick Satyanarayan & Geeta Seshamani Wildlife SOS
Sun Bear	Siew Te Wong, BSCC
Raising Neonates	Gail Hedberg
Bear Rescue, Rehab & Release	Angelika Langen, NLWS
Developing a Bear Training Program	Jason Pratte
Developing Problem Solving Skills	Gail Laule, Active Environments
Developing People Skills	Judy Willard



Thursday October 6, 2011 Evening

3:00 - 8:00 PM	Registration Glacier Salon-Mezzanine Banff Park Lodge
5:45 - 6:00 PM	Welcome Address & Introduction of Key Note Speakers Summit Room Else Poulsen
6:00 - 6:45 PM	Key Note Speaker Charles Jonkel- HOW DO BEARS ADAPT TO LIFE IN CAPTIVITY AND HOW ARE THEY PRE-ADAPTED IN WAYS THAT ENHANCE THEIR ZOO LIFE
6:45 - 7:30 PM	Key Note Speaker Ian Stirling- POLAR BEARS, SEALS AND CLIMATE WARMING IN THE ARTIC
7:30 - 8:00 PM	Carol Patterson- ACCOUNTANTS AND OTHER DAREDEVILS: UNLOCKING YOUR INNER SUPERHERO
8:00 - 8:20 PM	Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception Book Sale and Signing: Indigo Books
8:20 - 8:50 PM	Gail Laule- PROBLEM SOLVING
8:50 - 9:10 PM	Else Poulsen- THE SENTIENC OF BEARS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOR-BASED BEAR HUSBANDRY
9:10 - 9:30 PM	Val Hare & Karen Worley- ENRICHMENT BASICS: BEHAVIOR- BASED, GOAL-ORIENTED, HOLISTIC, ASSESSED ENRICHMENT
9:30 - 9:50 PM	Jason Pratte- TRAINING BEARS 101
10:00 PM	Book Sale and Signing: Indigo Books Alpine Meadows Reception



## HOW DO BEARS ADAPT TO LIFE IN CAPTIVITY AND HOW ARE THEY PRE-ADAPTED IN WAYS THAT ENHANCE THEIR ZOO LIFE

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Chuck Jonkel

All eight bear species share ranges and compete with people for foods, space, shelter, sanctuary, and many other needs. Highly social, they broadly overlap with other bears and humans alike. They share many habitats and foods people use. Long-term, this preconditions bears to life in captivity. Some are exploitive even of *new* space, human-created foods, cover, and habitat. Learning to share and to tolerate is imperative for both bears and people; a relationship enhanced in captive programs.

Ancient bear/people trails on salmon streams further show common needs and habitat uses. Bear behaviors, anatomy, particular foods, elaborate family life, diets, sharing of space and foods, and their extensive courtship and teaching of the young, all closely parallel human behaviors and uses. Such understandings of bears' needs for food, sleeping, winter shelter, courtship, "play space", teaching the young and large ranges are all vital to good bear/people coexistence.

In total, zoo and sanctuary life come relatively easy for bears. The bear/people *learning experiences* with captive animals thereby solves many wildlife problems before they develop. Summarily, bears can be an excellent species to justify captive animal programs, rather than death.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHARLES JONKEL "Chuck" is President of the Great Bear Foundation. For over 50 years he has devoted his life to the study and conservation of wild bears and their habitat. A pioneer of bear biology, Chuck was one of the first four researchers to study black bears in the field after the invention of the dart gun, and the Canadian government sought him out to lead their groundbreaking research on wild polar bears. Chuck compiled the first reliable, comprehensive scientific data-base on wild polar bears. He and others set up the Polar Bear Specialist Group in the IUCN [International Union of Conservation of Nature] creating a framework of co-operation among the five countries with polar bear populations. This became a model for all IUCN specialist groups.

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## POLAR BEARS, SEALS AND CLIMATE WARMING IN THE ARTIC

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### Ian Sterling

Polar bears, and their primary prey, ringed seals, are highly evolved to survive in the Arctic, and with each other. Polar bears depend on ice as a platform from which to hunt seals. The seals depend on sea ice with drifted snow to give birth to their young. The climate is now warming rapidly in the arctic, resulting in earlier breakup in most areas and reduced amounts of sea ice remaining at the end of the summer. In western Hudson Bay, climate warming is causing the sea ice to break up earlier, with negative effects on polar bears. The average date of breakup is already three weeks earlier than it was only 30 years ago. The condition of adult male polar bears and females accompanied by dependent young has declined significantly, reproduction has been reduced, and the population has declined. Changes in ringed seals and other species of seals also appear to be underway but are not well understood. This talk will outline how polar bears and seals have adapted to arctic conditions and how they make a living there in order to explain why climate warming is having significant negative effects on these species.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

IAN STIRLING is a Research Scientist Emeritus with Environment Canada and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton. He has done research on polar bears and polar seals (Arctic and Antarctic) for 45 years. Particular areas of research interest include; ecology, behavior, evolution, relationships between polar bears and seals, the biological importance of polynyas, and the conservation and management of polar marine mammals and ecosystems. For his work, he has won several awards, including the Canadian Northern Science Award and the National Conservation Award in the Special Achievement Category of the US National Wildlife Federation. He was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Canada by the Governor General, and elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the primary scientific body of that country. He participates in a number of national and international committees on polar bears and marine mammals and has authored or coauthored over 250 scientific articles and written five books on bears and their ecology for the general public.

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## ACCOUNTANTS AND OTHER DAREDEVILS: UNLOCKING YOUR INNER SUPERHERO

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Carol Patterson

Many people, daredevils if you will, have overcome tremendous obstacles to live the kind of lives that have people saying, "I wish I could do that!" How to walk away from a successful career can be daunting.

"Scratch the surface of every worthwhile wildlife organization and you'll find one slightly-crazed zealot who started it (or is keeping it going)."

Learn how an unconventional approach can help you break from the crowd and create unique opportunities for yourself and others with only a change in perspective.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CAROL PATTERSON is president of Kalahari Management Inc., a strategic planning firm. Carol helps people identify what they can offer tourists and the steps needed before welcoming the world. Carol has captured true stories in her latest book, *Accountants and Other Daredevils: Unlocking Your Inner Superhero*. She started as a Calgary Zoo docent, creating a Flying Zoo program. She took whatever animals would fit into a Cessna 172 to visit children in rural communities. Carol's life lessons as the Calgary Zoo's first pilot eventually led to her role as their Chairman of the Board and a new career as a tourism consultant and professional speaker.

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## PROBLEM SOLVING

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Gail Laule

Optimum care and management of captive bears includes the ability to effectively address behavioral problems when they occur. These problems include a wide array of management and animal welfare issues such as refusal to shift between enclosures, heightened aggression toward caregivers and/or conspecifics, sustained levels of fear and discomfort, and stereotypic and abnormal behaviors. All of these behaviors are of concern because they inhibit caregivers from providing the level of care we strive for and may be indicators of diminished well-being. Therefore it is important to address behavioral problems proactively. The problem solving process provides a framework to examine behavioral problems, assess associated circumstances, and develop strategies to mitigate and diminish the occurrence of these behaviors. This process is an exercise in the scientific method and involves the following steps; 1) identify specific behavioral objective(s), 2) assess the situation, 3) develop the hypothesis or educated guess as to why the behavior is occurring, 4) develop methods to address the reasons why, 5) implement methods, 6) evaluate results, and 7) if desired results are not achieved, go back in the process as far as necessary and repeat steps. This presentation will walk through the process with examples from real situations.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GAIL LAULE has been an animal welfare advocate since she began her animal training career at Marineland in California. For the past 19 years, she has been an animal behavior consultant working with zoos, sanctuaries, and biomedical facilities, through her consulting company, Active Environments. Gail has focused on developing and teaching techniques to enhance the care and welfare of captive animals including; protected contact - a positive reinforcement based system for managing elephants, cooperative feeding - a technique for enhancing positive social interaction in groups of animals, and behavioral management - an integrated systems approach to optimal care for all captive species. Gail divides her time between consulting work, and Ocean Adventure, an open water marine park in the Philippines. Here she provides technical direction for the management, training, presentation, and welfare for all marine and terrestrial animals at the park. She also serves as President of Wildlife in Need, a U.S. nonprofit organization operating a rescue center for wildlife, and conducting conservation and animal welfare projects in the Philippines. Gail has been an invited speaker at conferences and events including; the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, the National Research Council, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the International Society of Primatologists.

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## THE SENTIENCE OF BEARS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOR-BASED HUSBANDRY

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Else Poulsen

Bears are fully sentient animals with the ability to have subjective experiences relative to his/her internal and external environment. Like other sentient creatures each bear has expectations derived from his/her genetics, personal history, and current circumstances. Meeting those expectations reduces stressors inherent in captive living and promotes physical and mental well-being. The deliberate provision of species-specific care protocols to captive animals is called behavior-based husbandry. Bears living in wild environments express daily and seasonal routines. In captivity bears experience the same drives to express these behaviors and will set up their own routines when given the internal and external elements required. The process of identifying and offering life's constituents to bear species will be the subject of this presentation.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ELSE POULSEN holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, and a four-year zookeeper apprenticeship diploma. Among other institutions, she has worked at the Calgary and Detroit zoos, and is known internationally for her captive bear husbandry and rehabilitation. In 2000 she won the Zookeeper Research Excellence Award from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Bear Taxon Advisory Group. She works as an animal management consultant for zoos, sanctuaries, wildlife rehabilitators, and other animal welfare groups and lives in southern Ontario, Canada. Else has published numerous technical and scientific papers, was a contributing author in the textbook *Stereotypic Animal Behavior - Fundamentals and Applications to Welfare* [2<sup>nd</sup> edition], and also writes for the mass media. She has raised bears, comforted bears, taught bears, learned from bears, had bears communicate their needs to her, and nursed bears back to health. In May 2009, Else published *Smiling Bears - A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Life of Bears* revealing her insights about bears and their lives that she has gained through her work. She is the President of the founding Board of Directors for the Bear Care Group, and has cochaired BIERZS 2007, Advancing Bear Care 2009 and 2011. She is currently working on her second bear behavior book.

For details of projects and publications:

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## ENRICHMENT BASICS: BEHAVIOR-BASED, GOAL-ORIENTED, HOLISTIC and ASSESSED ENRICHMENT

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Valerie J. Hare and Karen Worley

For the last 12 years The Shape of Enrichment has incorporated the following proven strategies for effective and efficient enrichment planning:

**BEHAVIOR-BASED.** Enrichment should be based on the animal's behavioral biology, targeting behaviors and abilities appropriate for the species. Successful enrichment planning considers an individual's personal preferences, history, physical fitness, etc.

**GOAL-ORIENTED.** Identify behavioral, biological, or logistical goals. Should the animal be encouraged to express a specific natural behavior? Exhibit a greater variety of behaviors? Exercise more to promote physical fitness?

**HOLISTIC.** To ensure consideration of all *enriching* aspects of the animals' environment, Shape recognizes five categories of enrichment; Social, Cognitive, Physical Habitat, Sensory, and Food.

**ASSESSED.** Once an enrichment strategy is developed and implemented, it is imperative that its effectiveness be assessed. Simply put, has the idea safely met the enrichment goals? If so, the strategy can be accepted as is for continued use. If not, revision of the idea or its design may be required.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

VALERIE HARE and KAREN WORLEY cofounded The Shape of Enrichment, Inc. in 1991 and have been principals ever since.

Beginning in 2000, Valerie has been instructing The Shape of Enrichment Workshops in countries on five continents. Valerie has worked with a wide variety of species including; giant pandas, polar, brown, spectacled, and sun bears. Valerie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a Zoology emphasis and an Associates Degree as a Veterinary Technician. She has served on the International Conference on Environmental Enrichment Committee since 1997 and has been a director on the founding Board of Directors for the Bear Care Group since 2007.

Karen currently serves as President for The Shape of Enrichment, Inc. and holds the position of Editor with primary responsibility for The Shape of Enrichment quarterly publication. She has served on the International Conference on Environmental Enrichment Committee since 1997. Karen has worked for the San Diego Zoo since 1989, and her current position is Creative Content Manager in the Marketing Department. Karen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature from U.C. Berkeley.

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## TRAINING BEARS 101

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Jason Pratte

Most bear caregivers are interested in using operant conditioning (training) techniques to better manage the bears in their respective facilities. This presentation outlines the basics of training from choosing appropriate behavioral goals based on your animal(s)' natural history to the individual components that comprise a training program. Examples of specific components discussed are; selection of cues, use of bridge, appropriate rewards and reinforcement schedules, and safety. Goal setting and the value of record keeping will be discussed. The presentation is based around managing bears through behavioral husbandry, and will complement the training workshops. Training resources (sample logs, cue lists, relevant published papers) will be made available to attendees. Delegates will hopefully leave the presentation with a greater understanding of the key components to successfully training the animals in their care.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JASON PRATTE 'Jay' is internationally known for his training and enrichment work excellence with large carnivores. He has been an animal caregiver for almost two decades, and feels privileged during his tenure to have worked with all eight extant bear species. His primary focus is the training of both the animals in his care as well as of their caregivers. Behavioral husbandry training of bears and carnivores is his specialty, focusing on complex medical behaviors. The past several years has seen Jay involved with training animal keepers and caregivers around the world in operant conditioning techniques, with one of these adventures showcased on Animal Planet's "Growing Up Panda". Jay is on the AAZK National Behavioral Management Committee and the AAZK Grants Committee. He has been a founding director on the Bear Care Group Board of Directors since 2007. Jay is the Behavioral Husbandry Manager for Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. In April he earned his Master's degree in Zoo and Aquarium Management.

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**Friday October 7, 2011**

- 7:00 - 7:45 AM      Registration- Alpine Meadows Reception, Banff Park Lodge  
 Egg Breaker- Glacier Saloon, Banff Park Lodge  
 Sponsor: Polar Bears International
- 7:30                      Housekeeping - Else Poulsen
- 7:45 - 8:00 AM      Board Buses - Hotel Lobby
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM      Transportation to Trail Heads
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM     Interpretive Hikes
- 11:00 - 11:15 AM    Meet Buses at Trail Heads
- 11:15 - 12:00 PM    Transportation to Banff Park Lodge
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM     Lunch - Banff Restaurants
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM      **WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS**  
 SUMMIT, ASSINIBOINE AND CASTLE ROOMS
- Polar Bear Workshop- Moderator: JoAnne Simerson  
 Sponsor: Polar Bears International
- American Black Bear Workshop I  
 Moderator: Christine Fenwick
- Brown Bear Workshop I  
 Moderator: Heather Bacon
- Developing a Bear Training Program Workshop I  
 Moderator: Jason Pratte
- 3:00 - 3:20 PM      Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception  
 Poster Presentations  
 Bear Book & Art Den
- 3:20 - 5:20 PM      **WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS**  
 SUMMIT, ASSINIBOINE AND CASTLE ROOMS
- Giant Panda Workshop  
 Moderator: Jason Pratte
- Developing a Bear Enrichment Program Workshop I  
 Moderators: Val Hare & Karen Worley  
 Sponsor: Shape of Enrichment
- Developing Your Problem Solving Skills Workshop I  
 Moderator: Gail Laule  
 Sponsor: Active Environments
- People Skills Workshop  
 Moderator: Judy Willard



- 5:20 - 6:20 PM      Dinner - Summit Room  
Poster Presentations - Alpine Meadows Reception  
Bear Book & Art Den
- 6:20 - 6:50 PM      Mike Gibeau  
THE GRIZZLY BEARS OF BANFF NATIONAL PARK
- 6:50 - 7:20 PM      Wayne McCrory  
ON THE TRAIL OF WILD BEARS
- 7:20 - 7:40 PM      Gail Hedberg  
IMPLEMENTING AN URSID NEONATAL CARE PROGRAM
- 7:40 - 8:00 PM      Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception  
Poster Presentation  
Bear Book & Art Den
- 8:00 - 8:30 PM      Angelika Langen- ARE ALL BEARS CREATED EQUAL?  
REHABILITATING BLACK BEARS VS. GRIZZLY BEARS
- 8:30 - 9:00 PM      Heather Bacon & Brigitte Mercier  
BEHAVIOUR-BASED NUTRITION FOR BEARS
- 9:00 - 9:20 PM      Heather Bacon & Else Poulsen  
PHYSIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR-BASED MANAGEMENT OF  
DENNING BEARS
- 9:20- 10:00 PM      Poster Presentation - Alpine Meadows Reception  
Bear Book & Art Den



## THE GRIZZLY BEARS OF BANFF NATIONAL PARK

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### Mike Gibeau

This presentation is an overview of the grizzly bear research and management program spanning the last 30 years in Banff National Park. Highlights from a decade long telemetry study are discussed as well as more recent noninvasive research and monitoring. The evolution of bear management in the National Parks has highlighted the importance of sanitation as the cornerstone of the current program. Facility and campground design, use of electric fencing, as well as the bear warning and enclosure system are all crucial elements of today's management programs. The way we handle bears has changed over time, along with the rationale for why bears are captured or handled. Lastly, even the challenges facing bears have changed in the last 30 years. The grizzly bear population's continued existence in Banff National Park depends on resolving human caused mortality.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MICHAEL GIBEAU 'Mike', a renowned bear biologist has spent close to 30 years working in Canadian National Parks, originally as a Park Warden and then as a biologist. He is the recently retired Carnivore Specialist for Parks Canada and an Adjunct Professor in the Geography Department at the University of Calgary. Mike has extensive experience in the ecology and management of large carnivores including research on grizzly bears, black bears, coyotes, and wolves; with a decade of research dedicated to investigating the impacts of human activity on grizzly bears. Much of his time has been spent coordinating grizzly bear conservation and policy programs in the mountain National Parks. He also advises decision makers on management of large carnivores in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

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## ON THE TRAIL OF WILD BEARS

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### Wayne McCrory

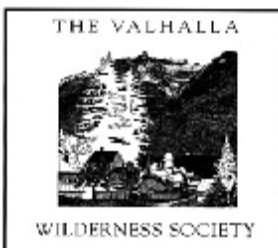
Bear biologist Wayne McCrory discusses the natural history of wild black and grizzly bears in western Canada, based on his 30 years of research experience on their habitats and habits in provincial parks and other protected areas, from the spirit bear of the BC coast to the grizzly bear of the northern Rockies. He will cover such topics as diet, movement corridors, denning habitats and differences between ecosystems, use of bear mark trees, and his research on their relationship to bear movements and travel corridors. Wayne started his research on grizzly bear habitats in Yoho National Park in 1975 but his biggest learning curve was working under Dr. Stephen Herrero on a bear risk management study in Kananaskis Country in 1982. Much of his habitat work and other research has been involved with bear risk assessment and mitigation in numerous protected areas in western Canada, municipal Bear Smart programs in BC, or work related to mapping of critical bear habitats as part of conservation design programs for new protected areas proposals such as the spirit bear conservancy on the BC coast.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

WAYNE McCRORY, a renowned bear biologist, is one of the original founders of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Wayne's career as a bear conservationist began in 1983 with the successful campaign to protect the Valhalla Range. He led the charge to save the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary in 1993 and the White Grizzly (Goat Range) Provincial Park in 1995. Collectively, these areas represent almost half a million acres of protected habitats for bears in the Interior and Coastal Temperate Rainforests. In 2009, the Government of British Columbia announced the protection of 135,000 ha called the Spirit Bear Protection Area, which Wayne spearheaded to protect the coastal rainforest home of the white spirit bear, grizzly bears and over 60 salmon streams.

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## IMPLEMENTING AN URSID NEONATAL CARE PROGRAM

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### Gail Hedberg

The normal development and eventual socialization of a hand-reared bear cub is solely dependent on the quality and consistency of care received from well-trained, professional handlers. Adequate staffing is the basis for a well-defined neonatal care program. The developmental stages of ursids dictate the skill criteria required to provide adequate care. Bear cubs progress through three generalized developmental phases following birth which are; the neonatal phase, the growth phase, and the weaning phase. Four levels of care may be utilized in designing a system which takes into account these stages of development. Hand-rearing teams should be identified from a pool of trained professionals with skills to match the required care criteria for a neonate at specific developmental levels.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GAIL HEDBERG has 35 years of experience as a registered zoo veterinary technician. Gail's job has included but has not been limited to assisting with anesthesia, surgical nursing, radiography, maintaining the clinical pathology lab, pharmacy and assisting with medical procedures on zoo, aquatic and wildlife species. She is well versed in preventive health care, husbandry and nutritional programs. Gail's true avocation is exotic neonatal care, the hand-rearing of exotic animals. She has developed this specialty with all of her vast experiences hand-rearing exotics. Gail is a well known international consultant for hand-rearing. In October 2008 the founding members of the Bear Care Group went to China. Gail was invited to speak to senior staff members at the Research Base for Giant Panda in Chengdu, China on techniques for neonatal care for Giant panda cubs. This was due to her work in 2004 as Zoo Atlanta's neonatal care specialist and on-site work with the Chinese delegates. The success of BIERZS 2007 (*Bear Information Exchange for Rehabilitation Facilities, Zoos and Sanctuaries*) meeting was thanks to Gail's participation as a member of the planning team. Her leadership and contributions as the proceedings editor, moderator, sponsor, and presenter have set the foundation for her role as Vice President of the Bear Care Group and Cochair for Advancing Bear Care 2009 and 2011.

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## ARE ALL BEARS CREATED EQUAL? REHABILITATING BLACK BEARS VS. GRIZZLY BEARS

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Angelika Langen

Bear rehabilitation is far more diverse than most people realize. Not only do black bears and grizzlies differ in size but also in the demands they place on rehabilitation centers such as the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter in Smithers, British Columbia. Rather than taking a blanket approach to bear rehabilitation, the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter differentiated the vast needs of black bears versus grizzlies. Through innovative enclosure design and construction the shelter has identified and addressed the individual needs of these two bear taxons.

This presentation will highlight the enrichment program and demonstrate how both species can be rescued and temporarily housed in captivity and go on to thrive in the wild. The Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter continues to explore best practices in rehabilitating black and grizzly bears.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ANGELIKA LANGEN was born in Bonn, Germany, and has dedicated much of her life to the care and well-being of animals. Trained as a zoo keeper in Cologne, Germany, Angelika used the skills she gained there to take on the challenging task of wildlife rehabilitation. Together with her husband Peter, they have built a haven for injured and orphaned wildlife in northern British Columbia. To date they have rehabilitated over 150 black bears and spearheaded the world's first official Grizzly Cub Rehabilitation Project. Much of the knowledge they have gained is being used to help other rehabilitation projects around the world as well as those closer to home.

For details of projects and publications:

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## BEHAVIOUR-BASED NUTRITION FOR BEARS

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Heather Bacon and Brigitte Mercier

The nutritional requirements of an animal vary according to the species, age, physiological stage, medical history, and current health condition. Inappropriate nutrition can have wide-ranging impacts in terms of both physical and behavioral health. Nutrition is indeed the key to preventative medicine. Behavior-based dietary planning considers not only the nutritional aspects of diet, but also the behavioral needs of an animal in relation to activity budgets, seasonality, reproductive status and behavioral drives. Wild and captive diets of several bear species will be discussed including a brief review of the implications of inadequate nutrition. Emphasis will be put on how to mimic a wild bear diet in a captive setting.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**HEATHER BACON** graduated with degrees in Conservation Medicine (BSc Hons) and Veterinary Medicine (BVSc / DVM). She has obtained her postgraduate Certificate in Zoological Medicine from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Heather has worked with a large variety of captive and free-ranging wildlife both in the UK and overseas as well as numerous domestic animal species. Heather previously worked in China and Vietnam for several years as the Veterinary Director of the Animals Asia Foundation, a charity committed to improving standards of animal welfare. She is currently working as Veterinary Welfare Education and Outreach Manager in the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE) at the University of Edinburgh, responsible for developing continuing education programs for zoo, wildlife, and domestic animal veterinarians in Europe and Asia. Heather's main interests are in veterinary education, anesthesia, infectious disease prevention, and captive wildlife management.

**BRIGITTE MERCIER** obtained her physical therapy degree and her veterinary medicine degree with a concentration in zoological and wildlife medicine at Université de Montréal. She practiced as a veterinarian in a few zoological institutions and currently works at Zoo Sauvage de Saint-Félicien. Besides bears and nutrition, her main interests include emergency preparedness and rescue, veterinary field work, conservation medicine and humanitarian projects.

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## PHYSIOLOGY and BEHAVIOR-BASED MANAGEMENT of DENNING BEARS

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Heather Bacon and Else Poulsen

Denning and hibernation in bears have always generated a broad spectrum of opinion. There is still some disagreement over whether bears really do hibernate (as they do not drop their body temperature like 'true' hibernating species), and because of this, some scientists have redefined hibernation as a specialized, seasonal reduction in metabolism concurrent with scarce food and cold weather (*Watts et al. 1981*). Hibernation in bears is characterised by a shallow torpor in which they readily respond to external disturbances, a body temperature slightly below the normal of 37°-38°C (31.2°- 36°C), and a resting metabolic rate approximately 73% of the site-specific basal metabolic rate (*Hershey et al, 2008*). Although we do not know exactly what triggers hibernation in bears or the complex neurochemical mechanisms involved, it is apparent that bear species that normally hibernate in the wild also exhibit those tendencies in captivity. Behavior-based husbandry practises dictate that bears must be offered the criteria for denning. This requires caregivers to offer food amounts and types as is seasonally appropriate, a selection of denning spaces, privacy, darkness, and lowered ambient temperatures.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

HEATHER BACON graduated with degrees in Conservation Medicine (BSc Hons) and Veterinary Medicine (BVSc / DVM). She has obtained her postgraduate Certificate in Zoological Medicine from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Heather has worked with a large variety of captive and free-ranging wildlife both in the UK and overseas as well as numerous domestic animal species. Heather previously worked in China and Vietnam for several years as the Veterinary Director of the Animals Asia Foundation, a charity committed to improving standards of animal welfare. She is currently working as Veterinary Welfare Education and Outreach Manager in the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE) at the University of Edinburgh, responsible for developing continuing education programs for zoo, wildlife and domestic animal veterinarians in Europe and Asia. Heather's main interests are in veterinary education, anesthesia, infectious disease prevention and captive wildlife management.

ELSE POULSEN holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, and a four-year zookeeper apprenticeship diploma. Among other institutions, she has worked at the Calgary and Detroit zoos, and is known internationally for her captive bear husbandry and rehabilitation. In 2000 she won the Zookeeper Research Excellence Award from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Bear Taxonomic Advisory Group. She works as an animal management consultant for zoos, sanctuaries, wildlife rehabilitators, and other animal welfare groups and lives in southern Ontario, Canada. Else has published numerous technical and scientific papers, was a contributing author in the textbook *Stereotypic Animal Behavior - Fundamentals and Applications to Welfare* [2<sup>nd</sup> edition], and also writes for the mass media. She has raised bears, comforted bears, taught bears, learned from bears, had bears communicate their needs to her, and nursed bears back to health. In May 2009, Else published *Smiling Bears - A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Life of Bears* revealing her insights about bears and their lives that she has gained through her work. She is the President of the founding Board of Directors for the Bear Care Group, and has cochaired BIERZS 2007 and Advancing Bear Care '09 and 2011. She is currently working on her second bear behavior book.

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**Saturday October 8, 2011**

7:00 - 7:45 AM	Breakfast - Glacier Salon
7:30	Housekeeping - Else Poulsen
7:45 - 8:00 AM	Board Buses - Hotel Lobby
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Transportation to Trail Heads
9:00 - 11:00 AM	Interpretive Hikes
11:00 -11:15 AM	Meet Buses at Trail Heads
11:15 - 12:00 AM	Transportation to Banff Park Lodge
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch - Summit Room - Mezzanine Level
1:00 - 3:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS                      SUMMIT, ASSINIBOINE, AND CASTLE ROOMS</p> <p>American Black Bear Workshop II-Moderator: Christine Fenwick</p> <p>Raising Neonates Workshop I-Moderator: Gail Hedberg</p> <p>Developing a Bear Enrichment Program Workshop II                      Moderator: Val Hare &amp; Karen Worley                      Sponsor: Shape of Enrichment</p> <p>Developing Your Problem Solving Skills Workshop II                      Moderator: Gail Laule                      Sponsor: Active Environments</p>
3:00 - 3:20 PM	<p>Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception                      Poster Presentations, Bear Book &amp; Art Den</p>
3:20 - 5:00 PM	<p>WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS                      SUMMIT, ASSINIBOINE, AND CASTLE ROOMS</p> <p>Asian Black Bear Workshop-Moderator: Jill Robinson                      Sponsor: Animal's Asia Foundation</p> <p>Brown Bear Workshop II-Moderator: Heather Bacon</p> <p>Developing a Bear Training Program Workshop II                      Moderator: Jason Pratte</p> <p>Bear Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release Workshop I                      Moderator: Angelika Langen                      Sponsor: Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter</p>



Saturday October 8, 2011 (cont'd)

- 5:20 - 6:20 PM Dinner - Banff Restaurants
- 6:20 - 9:30 PM PRESENTATIONS IN SUMMIT ROOM
- 6:20 - 6:50 PM Robyn Appleton  
ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF SPECTACLED BEARS  
(*TREMARCTOS ORNATUS*) IN LOW-LYING DESERT HABITAT IN  
NORTH-WESTERN PERU
- 6:50 - 7:20 PM Jill Robinson  
HEALING WITHOUT HARM - ENDING BEAR FARMING IN CHINA AND  
VIETNAM
- 7:20 - 7:40 PM Nicola Field  
ACCOMMODATING BEAR BEHAVIOUR IN A CAPTIVE SETTING:  
CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED
- 7:40 - 8:00 PM Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception  
Poster Presentations  
Bear Book & Art Den
- 8:00 - 8:20 PM Siew Te Wong  
THE TRANSITION OF CAPTIVE SUN BEARS FROM SMALL CAGES TO  
NATURAL FOREST ENCLOSURES IN BORNEAN SUN BEAR  
CONSERVATION CENTRE
- 8:20 - 8:50 PM Kartick Satyanarayan  
SOCIAL GROUP HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT OF SLOTH BEARS  
IN INDIA
- 8:50 - 9:10 PM Geeta Seshamani  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF RESCUED SLOTH BEARS THROUGH  
SIMULATING NATURAL BEHAVIOR
- 9:10 - 9:30 PM Wayne McCrory  
SAVING WILD PLACES FOR BEARS



## ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF SPECTACLED BEARS (*TREMARCTOS ORNATUS*) IN LOW-LYING DESERT HABITAT IN NORTH-WESTERN PERU

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Robyn Appleton

It has been over twenty years since the first published call for an ecosystem approach to the conservation of spectacled bears (*Tremarctos ornatus*). However, over that period the conservation outlook for this species has grown bleaker, as its habitats have been converted or fragmented by humans, diminishing and isolating wild bear populations. As a wide-ranging, long-lived mammal with a relatively low reproductive rate, the continued existence of these bears requires long-term, large-scale conservation actions.

The relatively open terrain of Peru's dry forest provides excellent visibility and unparalleled opportunity to observe wild spectacled bears. Using visual observation, remote cameras, and GPS collars, we have studied bear behavior, movements, and habitat use since 2006. Unique facial markings and human-tolerant behavior of some bears has enabled us to identify 37 individuals and highlight how key resources for the bears, such as critical forage plants or water sources, may be separated in both space and time, requiring the bears to focus on specific critical locations while moving through a heterogeneous landscape.

Our observations suggest a seasonal influx of bears to our study area during summer from December to March coinciding with the ripening of the sapote fruit (*Capparis angulata*). Pairings of bears, breeding, vocalizations and other behaviors, were also observed during this time. We suspect that timing of bear reproduction may be closely linked to availability of this key fruit.

From 2009 to 2011, five maternal den sites active between August and October suggest a gestation period of 240 days. To our knowledge, these are the first observations of mating and denning in this species in the wild, with the exception of a natal den discovered in 2010 in Ecuador's cloud forest. That den contained a newborn cub in March, suggesting that timing of reproductive events may be keyed to local cues, rather than genetic or circannual patterns.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ROBYN APPLETON is the founder and research director of the Spectacled Bear Conservation - Peru (SBC), a Canadian registered nonprofit organization. Through scientific research, environmental education and community outreach SBC was established in 2007 to ensure the conservation of the spectacled bear in the equatorial dry forest of northern Peru. Robyn holds a professional Master's degree from Simon Fraser University and is currently a PhD student in the Applied Conservation Biology department at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Since Robyn began her research in Peru in 2006 she and her team have conducted the first observation study on wild spectacled bears, discovered the first active maternal den site, and fitted the first wild Peruvian spectacle bear with a GPS collar. Robyn has presented her findings around the world, and hopes to continue increasing the awareness for spectacled bears and bring their plight to the world.

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## HEALING WITHOUT HARM - ENDING BEAR FARMING IN CHINA AND VIETNAM

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Jill Robinson

Fighting an industry that survives on deceit will never be an easy battle to win. For over 20 years, support for the bear farmers' claims of a potion promoted to have almost magical proportions, has seen the abject misery and suffering of the animals providing it largely ignored. However, in an extraordinary example of compassion conquering commercialisation, the tide is now beginning to turn and bears are at last being seen as the victims of an industry too cruel and horrible to justify. Years of work and research by government and nongovernment organisations, including Animals Asia, has generated convincing arguments against an industry previously promoted as fundamental in benefiting healing and health. Today, irrefutable evidence surrounding the contaminated bile, together with conservation concerns and the sickening exposure of the physical and psychological health of the bear farming victims, is now seeing increasing waves of public sympathy in support of closing the industry down. As people acknowledge unparalleled suffering towards an endangered species *milked* of a substance that can be so cheaply and reliably replaced, Animals Asia continues in a strategy that covers components of welfare, politics, education, public health, conservation, disciplines of traditional medicine - and basic ethics. Jill summarises nearly two decades of a campaign against bear farming which began in the early 1990's, and exposes a practice so morally bankrupt and corrupt that only one conclusion can, and is, finally being reached.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JILL ROBINSON arrived in Hong Kong in 1985 and worked with IFAW, founding Asia's first "Dr Dog" animal therapy program. Visiting a Chinese bear farm in 1993, Jill exposed the plight of endangered bears cruelly exploited for their bile. In 1998, she founded Animals Asia and the "End Bear Farming" Campaign which has seen sanctuaries in China and Vietnam, and freedom for over 360 bears. In 1995, Jill received the Readers Digest "Hero for Today" award and in 1998 she was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth for services to animal welfare in Asia. Awards include the USA Genesis Award, Marchig Animal Welfare Award, and the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust Gold Medal. In 2008, Jill was named Hong Kong's "Outstanding Earth Champion", and was appointed Asia World Animal Day Ambassador. In 2009 Jill was elected as Council Member of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies Herbal Committee, and Member of the USA Society of Woman Geographers. In 2011 Jill was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Zurich.

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## ACCOMMODATING BEAR BEHAVIOUR IN A CAPTIVE SETTING - CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

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Nicola Field

At Animals Asia Foundation's bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam, our goal is to provide our rescued bears with a safe, comfortable and stimulating environment. Our facilities allow these bears to extend their lives, free of the fear and pain associated with their previous lives on bile farms.

Since the opening of the China sanctuary in 2000, we have rescued nearly 400 bears at our two centers where they are managed in social groups. An extensive management program has been developed which plays an integral role in the bears' recovery and provides a stimulating and ever-changing environment. Extensive environmental enrichment, training programs and observational work all play a part in the management of our bears and enhancing the quality of their lives.

For the last decade, our team has learned about accommodating bear behavior in a captive setting, especially those with special needs and those that have endured deplorable physical and psychological suffering. We have seen our management program evolve and develop alongside enclosure and den designs, and veterinary care. We have celebrated many successes in bear management and faced many challenges.

This presentation will examine methods adopted by the Animals Asia Foundation of managing bears, the lessons learned, and the challenges we have faced. Looking toward the future; what are the considerations in further developing and enhancing bear management at our center?

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

NICOLA FIELD is the Veterinary and Bear Team Manager at Animals Asia Foundation's Moon Bear Rescue Centre, China, where she has worked for nearly five years. She heads up the veterinary and caregiver staff taking care of the bears, dogs, cats and macaques on site. Her main role is ensuring optimum care of all the animals on site with the support of a fantastic team, as well as promoting the work of the organization and bear care. She has an MSc in Wildlife Biology and Conservation, as well as animal management qualifications. Nicola worked for nearly 10 years as a keeper in the UK, taking care of a variety of species, including North American black bears. She spent two years in education in the UK working as an animal care assessor. Nicola has also spent time working in Uganda and Vietnam as a researcher on conservation projects and at the Colobus Trust in Kenya.

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## THE TRANSITION OF CAPTIVE SUN BEARS FROM SMALL CAGES TO NATURAL FOREST ENCLOSURES AT THE BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE

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Siew Te Wong and Wai Pak Ng

In the Malaysian state of Sabah, Borneo Island, sun bears continue to be threatened by forest degradation, habitat loss, and illegal hunting for bear parts. Poaching to protect crops and supply young cubs for the pet trade is impacting the species. Many young orphaned sun bears throughout Sabah are kept as pets and live in unsuitable solitary captive conditions with no access to outdoor areas. The Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC) is being developed to promote sun bear conservation by; (1) creating the capacity to confiscate, rehabilitate and release suitable orphaned and ex-captive bears back into the wild, (2) providing an improved long-term living environment for captive bears that cannot be released, (3) educating the public and raising awareness about this little known species through visitor and education outreach programs, and (4) conducting research on captive and wild sun bears. BSBCC's facilities include a bear house with 20 dens and six forest enclosures from 0.13 ha to 0.32 ha. To date, a total of 25 sun bears are being rescued and sent to the center.

Progress continues at the facility as new forest enclosures provide a more natural environment for the recovering sun bears. Details of the rehabilitation program, facility site plan, and the bears' acclimation to the forest enclosures will be presented. The welfare and health of rescued sun bears has significantly improved at the BSBCC with the newly constructed forest enclosures.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

SI EW TE WONG is a Malaysian wildlife biologist and sun bear expert. For the last 13 years, he has studied the ecology of the sun bear. As a leading conservationist he is one of the few Malaysian wildlife biologists trained in a western country. He completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc., and is working on his Ph.D. at the University of Montana. His pioneering studies of sun bear ecology in the Borneo rainforest revealed the elusive life history of the sun bear in the dense jungle. Wong is the CEO of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, which he founded in 2008. He was also a fellow of the Flying Elephants Foundation, which awards individuals from a broad range of disciplines in the arts and sciences. Wong is the former cochair of the Sun Bear Expert Team, under the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group and a current member of three IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups.

For details of projects and publications:

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## SOCIAL GROUP HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT OF SLOTH BEARS IN INDIA

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Kartick Satyanarayan

Exploiting sloth bears in India has been a cultural practice for over three centuries. When Wildlife SOS started rescuing sloth bears from the nomadic kalandar community, little was known about housing sloth bears in large numbers. The challenge of housing over 600 sloth bears was overwhelming! Wildlife SOS's biggest bear rescue and rehabilitation centre is 160 acres in Agra and currently houses over 270 sloth bears. In the wild, sloth bears are known to be solitary, though group feeding and display of tolerance among unrelated individuals has been observed when food supply is abundant. Further, most rescued and previously traumatized sloth bears displayed preference for social housing and several individuals stopped food intake in the absence of other bears in their line of sight. Wildlife SOS used tempered and calibrated socialization to test group housing, to eventually achieve the successful housing of sloth bears extending to numbers of 33 bears and over for management of this magnificent and endangered species in captivity.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

KARTICK SATYANARAYAN founded Wildlife SOS in 1995 with cofounder Geeta Seshamani. Wildlife SOS changed Indian history by establishing India's largest bear sanctuary and rescuing over 600 sloth bears in less than a decade bringing an end to the century's old barbaric practice of bear dancing across India. Wildlife SOS also runs several rehabilitation centers for sloth bears and Asiatic black bears. Kartick heads Forestwatch which is Wildlife SOS's antipoaching division and works with government enforcement agencies across India to help control poaching of bear cubs and other wildlife. He is an Honorary Wildlife Warden for Delhi Government, a member of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group, and a member of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Central Zoo Authority. He is a TED fellow and an invited speaker at national and international venues including the Royal Geographical Society in London and several international zoos.

For details of projects and publications:

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## ENRICHING THE LIVES OF RESCUED SLOTH BEARS THROUGH SIMULATING NATURAL BEHAVIOR

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Geeta Seshamani

Sloth bears are differentiated from all other bears by their foraging behavior as well as natural habitat and ability to range in extremely hot temperatures. Their foraging activities include digging for termites and climbing behavior. Their mouth parts and claws are uniquely designed for sucking termites out of mounds and for expertly excavating dung beetle larvae pods from under the ground. In order to simulate a natural habitat for previously abused sloth bears rescued from nomadic kalandar gypsy owners who used them for performances, Wildlife SOS introduced a variety of enrichment mechanisms to enable sloth bears to indulge in and display natural behavior. The sloth bears we rescue from the brutal practice of bear dancing come in with a history of severe trauma, and display extreme stereotypic behaviors. We combine methods of observation, reconditioning, socialization, and calculated introduction of enrichment devices to gradually reduce the stereotypic behaviors displayed by the bears. Wildlife SOS has four sloth bear rescue centers housing over 470 rescued sloth bears. The use of these methods has resulted in a phased reduction of stereotypic behavior while younger bears who were not exposed to a reduced level of past trauma displayed natural behavior. In the case of sloth bears, to achieve the desired results we have found that enrichment needs to be adapted, regulated and introduced in a phased manner. Pre and post monitoring and observations are also incorporated

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GEETA SESHAMANI's involvement in wildlife conservation started in 1979 when she started working with the animal rescue organization Friendicoes SECA in New Delhi. Geeta is a Delhi University English Professor by day and her passion is wildlife conservation and research. Geeta has been a member of the Central Zoo Authority and the Animal Welfare Board of India. She has received several life time achievement awards and felicitations. Geeta cofounded Wildlife SOS with Kartick Satyanarayan and spearheaded the Kalandar Rehabilitation Project which successfully reduced demand for bear cub poaching through education and alternative livelihoods for the community thus creating a sustainable solution to achieve sloth bear conservation. This helped bring an end to the brutal practice of bear dancing in India. Geeta's area of interest is the fostering of sloth bear and Asiatic black bear cubs, and exploring practical solutions for reintroducing them into the wild.

For details of projects and publications:

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## SAVING WILD PLACES FOR BEARS

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Wayne McCrory

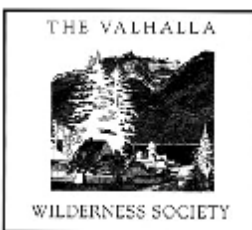
Using stunning and everyday images, bear biologist and conservationist Wayne McCrory will give a personal narration about his experiences, challenges in research and advocacy work with the Valhalla Wilderness Society in spearheading programs that have set aside over one million acres of parkland in British Columbia for bears. These include the Valhalla and Goat Range Provincial Parks, Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary, Dundas Archipelago, Spirit Bear Conservancy Complex and others, including western Canada's first wild horse preserve in the B.C. Chilcotin where grizzly and black bears and wolves live with these large wild equids that were in the region before the white man. This presentation will close with the Valhalla Wilderness Society's latest proposal; the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal, just south of Glacier Park (B.C.). Its objective is to protect major habitats for grizzly and black bears, with a focus on connectivity and bottomlands.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

WAYNE McCRORY, a renowned bear biologist, is one of the original founders of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Wayne's career as a bear conservationist began in 1983 with the successful campaign to protect the Valhalla Range. He led the charge to save the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary in 1993 and the White Grizzly (Goat Range) Provincial Park in 1995. Collectively, these areas represent almost half a million acres of protected habitats for bears in the interior and coastal temperate rainforests. In 2009, the Government of British Columbia announced the protection of 135,000 ha called the Spirit Bear Protection Area, and as Coordinator of the Spirit Bear Project, Wayne spearheaded to protect the coastal rainforest home of the white spirit bear, grizzly bears, and over 60 salmon streams.

For details of projects and publications:

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**Sunday October 9, 2011**

7:00 - 7:45 AM	Breakfast - Glacier Salon
7:30	Housekeeping - Else Poulsen
7:45 - 8:00 AM	Board Buses - Hotel Lobby
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Transportation to Trail Heads
9:00 - 11:00 AM	Interpretive Hikes
11:00 - 11:15 AM	Meet Buses at Trail Heads
11:15 - 12:00 AM	Transportation to Banff Park Lodge
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Farewell Lunch - Summit Room Silent Auction
1:30 - 3:30 PM	<p><b>WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS</b>  <b>SUMMIT, ASSINIBOINE, AND CASTLE ROOMS</b></p> <p>Andean Bear Workshop-Moderator: Robyn Appleton  Sponsor: Spectacled Bear Conservation-Peru</p> <p>Sloth Bear Workshop-Moderator: Kartick Satyanarayan &amp;  Geeta Seshamani Sponsor: Wildlife SOS</p> <p>Sun Bear Workshop-Moderator: Siew Te Wong  Sponsor: Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre</p> <p>Raising Neonates Workshop II-Moderator: Gail Hedberg</p> <p>Bear Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release Workshop II  Moderator: Angelika Langen  Sponsor: Northern Lights Wildlife Sanctuary</p> <p>Coffee - Alpine Meadows Reception  Poster Presentations Awards  Bear Book &amp; Art Den  Silent Auction Winners</p>
3:30 - 5:00 PM	
4:00 - 4:15 PM	Concluding Remarks-Else Poulsen Thank You To All Safe Trip Home



## Workshops

### AMERICAN BLACK BEAR WORKSHOP

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Christine Fenwick

This session will provide the opportunity to discuss current husbandry and exhibit issues.

- Behavioral problems such as boredom, pacing that leads to disputes with other bears that share the same enclosure.
- Bear handler trust issues.
- Successful features of black bear enclosure design.
- Understanding bears vocalization and body language.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHRISTINE FENWICK has been a zoo keeper for the past ten years, with eight years of captive bear experience with adult and juvenile brown bears and black bears. She worked as the bear point person and Bear TAG representative at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon for two and a half years. She also worked as the Bear Manager at Fortress of the Bear in Sitka, Alaska for two years. Her current position is at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park working with lions and tigers, and other species (unfortunately no bears). She is actively involved in the local AAZK chapter. Christine is a student at American Military University, finishing a Master's degree in Environmental Management and Policy with a concentration in fish and wildlife management. Her Master's thesis is a qualitative case study of black bear rehabilitation regulations.

For details of projects and publications:

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## ANDEAN BEAR WORKSHOP

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### Robyn Appleton - Spectacled Bear Conservation - Peru

This session will provide the opportunity to share many common husbandry concerns.

- Current feeding strategies and ways to improve.
- Enrichment options.
- Caring for geriatric bears.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ROBYN APPLETON is the founder and research director of Spectacled Bear Conservation - Peru (SBC) which is a Canadian registered nonprofit organization. Through scientific research, environmental education and community outreach SBC was established in 2007 to ensure the conservation of the spectacled bear in the equatorial dry forest of northern Peru. Robyn holds a professional Master's degree from Simon Fraser University and is currently a PhD student in the Applied Conservation Biology Department at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Since Robyn began her research in Peru in 2006 she and her team have conducted the first observation study on wild spectacled bears, discovered the first active maternal den site, and fitted the first wild Peruvian spectacle bear with GPS collars. Robyn has presented her findings around the world, and hopes to continue increasing the awareness of spectacled bears and bring their plight to the world.

For details of projects and publications:

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Telephone: Canada (778) 855-2670 Peru 51-74-699870  
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## ASIAN BEAR WORKSHOP

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Jill Robinson - Animals Asia Foundation

Participants are interested in learning about specific husbandry practices and what other facilities do to maintain weight, enrichment options, feeding strategies, and veterinary care for Asian bears. Common concerns about introductions, behavioral problems, and management of large groups of bears in enclosures will also be shared.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JILL ROBINSON arrived in Hong Kong in 1985 and worked with IFAW, founding Asia's first "Dr Dog" animal therapy programme. Visiting a Chinese bear farm in 1993, Jill exposed the plight of endangered bears cruelly exploited for their bile. In 1998, she founded Animals Asia and the "End Bear Farming" Campaign which has seen sanctuaries in China and Vietnam, and freedom for over 360 bears. In 1995, Jill received the Readers Digest "Hero for Today" award and in 1998, she was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth for services to animal welfare in Asia. Awards include the USA Genesis Award, Marchig Animal Welfare Award, and the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust Gold Medal. In 2008, she was named Hong Kong "Outstanding Earth Champion", and appointed Asia World Animal Day Ambassador. In 2009 Jill was elected as Council Member, World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies Herbal Committee, and Member of the USA Society of Woman Geographers. In 2011 Jill was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Zurich.

For details of projects and publications:

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Fax: 852.2791.2320

Phone: 852.2791.2225

Email: [jrobinson@animalsasia.org](mailto:jrobinson@animalsasia.org)



## BROWN BEAR WORKSHOP

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Heather Bacon

This workshop will cover a number of issues affecting brown bears in captivity including management of geriatric issues affecting mobility and dental health, plus hibernation and the impact on husbandry routines for the species in captivity.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

HEATHER BACON graduated with degrees in Conservation Medicine (BSc Hons) and Veterinary Medicine (BVSc / DVM). She has obtained her postgraduate Certificate in Zoological Medicine from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Heather has worked with a large variety of captive and free-ranging wildlife both in the UK and overseas as well as numerous domestic animal species. Heather previously worked in China and Vietnam for several years as the Veterinary Director of the Animals Asia Foundation, a charity committed to improving standards of animal welfare. She is currently working as Veterinary Welfare Education and Outreach Manager in the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE) at the University of Edinburgh, responsible for developing continuing education programs for zoo, wildlife and domestic animal veterinarians in Europe and Asia. Heather's main interests are in veterinary education, anesthesia, infectious disease prevention and captive wildlife management.

For details of projects and publications:

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## GIANT PANDA WORKSHOP

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Jason Pratte

This workshop will focus on various aspects of caring for giant pandas in captivity. Few facilities house these amazing bears outside of China, and several years of observations will be shared both on the husbandry of pandas in American zoos as well as observations of their care in Chinese facilities.

Components addressed will be (but are not limited to): natural history, feeding, and bamboo management. The importance of strong training and enrichment programs to support medical, research, and reproductive considerations will be emphasized. Additional discussions will cover the public perception and our role in education and collaboration with China and their facilities. Workshop will be interactive. Delegates with specific concerns will be able to present their issues and work with the team of attendees to propose various potential solutions.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JASON PRATTE 'Jay' is internationally known for his training and enrichment work excellence with large carnivores. He has been an animal caregiver for almost two decades, and feels privileged during his tenure to have worked with all eight extant bear species. His primary focus is training, animals in captive facilities, as well as their caregivers. Behavioral husbandry training of bears and carnivores is his specialty, focusing on complex medical behaviors. The past several years has seen Jay involved with training animal keepers and caregivers around the world in operant conditioning techniques, with one of these adventures showcased on Animal Planet's "Growing Up Panda". Jay is on the AAZK National Behavioral Management Committee and the AAZK Grants Committee. He has been a founding director on the Bear Care Group Board of Directors since 2007. Jay is the Behavioral Husbandry Manager for Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. In April 2011 he earned his Master's degree in Zoo and Aquarium Management.

For details of projects and publications:

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Email: [jayp@omahazoo.com](mailto:jayp@omahazoo.com)



## POLAR BEAR WORKSHOP

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JoAnne Simerson - Polar Bears International

This workshop will focus on various aspects of caring for polar bears in captivity. Topics will include such pertinent subjects as assessing and developing a psychologically positive environment for polar bears. Ideas on exhibit, enrichment, stereotypies, and management of polar bears in zoo environments will be exchanged.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JOANNE SIMERSON has an impressive 32 years of animal behavior management experience in aquariums and zoos. She is currently a behaviorist at the San Diego Zoo. JoAnne sits on the Polar Bears International Advisory Council, the PBI Sustainability Alliance Team and on their Polar Bear Well Being Committee.

For details of projects and publications:

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Email: [jsimerson@msn.com](mailto:jsimerson@msn.com)



## SLOTH BEAR WORKSHOP

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Katricks Satyanarayan & Geeta Seshamani - Wildlife SOS

This workshop will allow delegates to present, investigate and problem solve captive sloth bear husbandry issues with their colleagues from the rehabilitation, sanctuary and zoo organizations.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

KATRICK SATYANARAYAN started his wildlife conservation work on Tiger Ecology Research while attending college. In 1995, he founded Wildlife SOS with co founder Geeta Seshamani. Wildlife SOS changed Indian history by establishing India's largest bear sanctuary and rescuing over 600 sloth bears in less than a decade bringing an end to the century's old barbaric practice of bear dancing across India, which had started as an entertainment for Mughal emperors! Wildlife SOS works across India with an intelligence network of informers and with enforcement authorities to tackle wildlife crime. Wildlife SOS also operates four rehabilitation centers for sloth bears and two rehabilitation centers for Asiatic black bears. Kartick heads Forestwatch which is the antipoaching division of Wildlife SOS and has his share of dangerous encounters with poachers and wildlife criminals as he works with government enforcement agencies across India to help control poaching of bear cubs. He is an Honorary Wildlife Warden for the Delhi Government and a member of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group. Kartick is also a member of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the Central Zoo Authority, and the National Tiger Conservation Authority Leopard Conflict committee. He is a TED fellow and an invited speaker at national and international venues including the Royal Geographical Society in London and the Miami, Seattle, Perth, and Singapore zoos.

GEETA SESHAMANI's involvement in wildlife conservation started in 1979 when she started working with the animal rescue organization Friendicoes SECA in New Delhi. Geeta is a Delhi University English Professor by day and her passion is wildlife conservation and research. Geeta has been a member of the Central Zoo Authority and the Animal Welfare Board of India. She has received several life time achievement awards and felicitations. Geeta cofounded Wildlife SOS with Kartick Satyanarayan and spearheaded the Kalandar Rehabilitation Project which successfully reduced the demand for bear cub poaching through education and alternative livelihoods for the community thus creating a sustainable solution to achieve sloth bear conservation. This helped bring an end to the brutal practice of bear dancing in India. Geeta's area of interest is the fostering of sloth bear and Asiatic black bear cubs, and exploring practical solutions to reintroducing them in the wild.

For details of projects and publications:

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## SUN BEAR WORKSHOP

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### Siew Te Wong - Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre

Sun bears remain the least known bear in the world. To date there has only been a dozen research projects studying sun bears in the wild. Sun bears are commonly kept in captivity across Southeast Asian zoos but in North American, there are only about 25 zoos that keep the sun bears. With the limited knowledge of sun bear ecology and behavior, the husbandry of caring for sun bears in captivity pose potential challenges to the caregivers and managers. In this workshop, participants will discuss the problems, questions, and challenges of sun bear husbandry in captivity. We will use the problem solving methods presented by Gail Laule problem resolution.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

SIEW TE WONG is a Malaysian wildlife biologist and sun bear expert. For the last 13 years, he has studied the ecology of the sun bear. As a leading conservationist he is one of the few Malaysian wildlife biologists trained in a western country. He completed his B. Sc. and M. Sc., and is currently working on his Ph. D. at the University of Montana. His pioneering studies of sun bear ecology in the Borneo rainforest revealed the elusive life history of the sun bear in the dense jungle. Wong is the CEO of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, which he founded in 2008. He was also a fellow of the Flying Elephants Foundation, which awards individuals from a broad range of disciplines in the arts and sciences. Wong is also the former cochair of the Sun Bear Expert Team, under the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group and a current member of three IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups.

For details of projects and publications:

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## RAISING NEONATES WORKSHOP

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### Gail Hedberg

Hand-rearing is as much of an art as it is a science. These two hour sessions will provide the opportunity to talk about important issues to ensure successful outcomes when faced with care and feeding of orphaned cubs.

- Critical care in the first few days of life.
- Imprinting.
- How much hands-on?

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GAIL HEDBERG has 35 years of experience as a registered zoo veterinary technician. Gail's true avocation is zoo and wildlife neonatal care, the hand rearing of exotic animals. She has developed this specialty with all of her vast experiences in zoo veterinary medicine. She is frequently called upon for advice by other zoo animal health care professionals. As a neonatal care specialist, Gail is a well known international consultant for hand rearing wildlife. For the last 10 years she has been the lead researcher in a nutritional study for polar bears. Gail has gained the respect and secured financial support for this study from Polar Bears International. Collaborating with experts and the unique results of her ground breaking work have been published and presented at international seminars.

For details of projects and publications:

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Website: [www.gailhedberg.com](http://www.gailhedberg.com)



## BEAR RESCUE, REHABILITATION and RELEASE WORKSHOP

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Angelika Langen - Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter

This workshop will discuss questions and concerns for species specific bear rescue, rehabilitation, and release criteria. Insights into working with state wildlife agencies to utilize lower human impact areas for release, and the difficulty of gaining licensing approval will be shared.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ANGELIKA LANGEN was born in Bonn, Germany, and has dedicated much of her life to the care and well-being of animals. Trained as a zoo keeper in Cologne, Germany, Angelika used the skills she gained there to take on the challenging task of wildlife rehabilitation. Together with her husband Peter, they have built a haven for injured and orphaned wildlife in northern British Columbia. To date they have rehabilitated over 150 black bears and spearheaded the world's first official Grizzly Cub Rehabilitation Project. Much of the knowledge they have gained is being used to help other rehabilitation projects around the world as well as those closer to home.

For details of projects and publications:

Mailing Address: Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter  
17366 Telkwa High Rd Smithers BC OJ 2N7 CA  
Telephone: (250) 847-5101, (250) 877-1181  
Email: [info@wildlifeshelter.com](mailto:info@wildlifeshelter.com)



## DEVELOPING A BEAR ENRICHMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

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### Valerie J. Hare and Karen Worley - Shape of Enrichment

The most successful enrichment plans are behavior-based, goal-oriented, holistic, and assessed. At Shape, we have used these concepts for over 10 years, in a variety of situations around the world, and have found them to be an excellent mechanism to ensure effective and efficient enrichment planning.

During this interactive workshop, we will use Shape's enrichment planning process to devise strategies that address enrichment challenges presented by workshop participants.

Do you have a bear who presents an enrichment challenge? Doesn't shift well? Is bored? Stereotypies? Is aggressive? Hides from visitors? Is overweight?

If so, we'd love to hear about it - and we'll do our best to create an enrichment plan tailored to your bear!

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

VALERIE HARE and KAREN WORLEY co-founded The Shape of Enrichment, Inc. in 1991 and have been principals ever since.

Beginning in 2000, Valerie has been instructing The Shape of Enrichment Workshops in countries on five continents. Valerie has worked with a wide variety of species including giant pandas, polar, brown, spectacled, and sun bears. Valerie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a Zoology emphasis and an Associates Degree as a Veterinary Technician. She has served on the International Conference on Environmental Enrichment Committee since 1997 and has been a director on the founding Board of Directors for the Bear Care Group since 2007.

Karen currently serves as President for The Shape of Enrichment, Inc. and holds the position of Editor with primary responsibility for The Shape of Enrichment quarterly publication. She has served on the International Conference on Environmental Enrichment Committee since 1997. Karen has worked for the San Diego Zoo since 1989, and her current position is Creative Content Manager in the Marketing Department. Karen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature from U.C. Berkeley.

For details of projects and publications:

Email: [shape@enrichment.org](mailto:shape@enrichment.org)

Website: [www.enrichment.org](http://www.enrichment.org)



## DEVELOPING YOUR BEAR TRAINING PROGRAM WORKSHOP

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Jay Pratte

These workshops are designed to help delegates develop bear training programs at their facilities. Program management will focus on goal setting, behavior management, and operant conditioning techniques. Delegates will be provided ample time to ask questions about materials presented, and specific issues that were submitted for this workshop will be addressed. Focus of the workshops will be to allow delegates to appropriately manage their own programs, while providing materials, resources and contacts to assist with their efforts.

Training logs, sample cue lists, and published papers relevant to training program development and management will be made available to delegates. Training presentations and discussions will cover all extant bear species. By popular demand, a specific discussion on training bears for voluntary blood collection will be presented.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JASON PRATTE 'Jay' is internationally known for his training and enrichment work excellence with large carnivores. He has been an animal caregiver for almost two decades, and feels privileged during his tenure to have worked with all eight extant bear species. His primary focus is the training of both the animals in his care, as well as of their caregivers. Behavioral husbandry training of bears and carnivores is his specialty, focusing on complex medical behaviors. The past several years has seen Jay involved with training animal keepers and caregivers around the world in operant conditioning techniques, with one of these adventures showcased on Animal Planet's "Growing Up Panda". Jay is on the AAZK National Behavioral Management Committee and the AAZK Grants Committee. He has been a founding director on the Bear Care Group Board of Directors since 2007. Jay is the Behavioral Husbandry Manager for Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. In April 2011 he earned his Master's degree in Zoo and Aquarium Management.

For details of projects and publications:

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Email: [jayp@omahazoo.com](mailto:jayp@omahazoo.com)



## PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP

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### Gail Laule - Active Environments

These two hour sessions will provide the opportunity to practice the problem solving process. Real behavioral problems of bears from participants' facilities will be used for each session. Problems will be chosen that are representative of the issues most prevalent in the daily management and care of bears.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

GAIL LAULE has been an animal welfare advocate since she began her animal training career at Marineland in California. For the past 19 years, she has been an animal behavior consultant working with zoos, sanctuaries, and biomedical facilities, through her consulting company, Active Environments. Gail has focused on developing and teaching techniques to enhance the care and welfare of captive animals including; protected contact - a positive reinforcement based system for managing elephants, cooperative feeding - a technique for enhancing positive social interaction in groups of animals, and behavioral management - an integrated systems approach to optimal care for all captive species. Gail divides her time between consulting work, and Ocean Adventure, an open water marine park in the Philippines. Here she provides technical direction for the management, training, presentation, and welfare for all marine and terrestrial animals at the park. She also serves as President of Wildlife in Need, a U.S. nonprofit organization operating a rescue center for wildlife and conducting conservation and animal welfare projects in the Philippines. Gail has been an invited speaker at conferences and events including; the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, the National Research Council, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the International Society of Primatologists.

For details of projects and publications:

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Telephone: (805) 737-3700, (805) 350-2655  
Email: [moonshadowe@earthlink.net](mailto:moonshadowe@earthlink.net)



## PEOPLE SKILLS WORKSHOP

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### Judy Willard

This session will provide the opportunity to talk about current concerns when communicating with other professionals in the daily management and husbandry of bears in rehabilitation facilities, sanctuaries and zoos.

- Educating curators.
- Bear keepers that continue to tease bears, after they have been told that it is wrong.
- Building trust with Zoo nutritionist's and State Wildlife Agencies.
- Engaging and maintaining employees and volunteers in a nonprofit bear rehab setting.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JUDY WILLARD volunteered to help Else Poulsen, Gail Hedberg and others in 2007 to create The Bear Care Group. As a founding board member of the BCG and secretary/treasurer, she has been instrumental in incorporating the BCG and securing its nonprofit status. Judy is a long time Detroit Zoo supporter, and AZA, AAZK and AZAD member. Her commitment to animal stewardship, conservation, and education took on new meaning when she joined the zoo's docent team. In addition to her regular docent duties, as a senior docent she mentors other aspiring docent students. She has been active in the zoo's Enrichment Workshop following its successful pilot program. Judy has traveled to Kenya, China, and within the United States to volunteer at various sanctuaries, and to expand her knowledge of animals, and the challenges they and their stewards face. She attended BIERZS 2007 The Symposium and spoke on Improving Bear Care through Employee Engagement. At Advancing Bear Care '09 in San Francisco, Judy acted as the resident human resources expert for an evening problem solving session.

As a business executive with extensive human resources expertise, Judy has a proven track record providing strategic H.R. solutions and coaching that promotes sustainable profitable growth for individuals and organizations of various industry types. In addition, Judy has held leadership positions in professional associations and the nonprofit sector. As mentor for TechTown, an entrepreneur business incubator organization located in Detroit, Michigan she conducted workshops and supported new entrepreneurs in launching their business. In addition, Judy, colead and coached a job search networking group in her community. Currently, she holds the position of Human Resources Director for Vista Maria and is a member of the Girls Scouts of Southeastern Michigan Board of Directors. Judy holds a Master's of Business Administration and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree magna cum laude, from the University of Detroit.

For details of projects and publications:

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## 2011 Poster Presentations

### REGULATION OF AMERICAN BLACK BEAR (*URSUS AMERICANUS*) REHABILITATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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Christine Fenwick

State agencies are tasked with the regulation of wildlife rehabilitation, and regulations vary greatly among states. Black bear rehabilitation is restricted, and the regulations are variable. In order to address animal welfare concerns as well as public safety concerns associated with black bear rehabilitation, it is necessary to understand the state regulations that govern the process. State regulations, administrative codes, and management plans addressing wildlife rehabilitation and black bear rehabilitation were reviewed in order to identify; 1) How many states allow black bear rehabilitation, 2) how the stages of rehabilitation are regulated for black bears, 3) how states address safety concerns within regulations, and 4) the role of wildlife managers and rehabilitators as outlined in the regulations. Previous research pinpoints best practices to ensure successful rehabilitation, and state regulations should implement these practices within their bear rehabilitation programs and policies.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHRISTINE FENWICK has been a zoo keeper for the past 10 years, including eight years of captive bear experience with adult and juvenile brown bears and black bears. She worked as the bear point person and Bear TAG representative at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon for two and a half years. She also worked as the Bear Manager at Fortress of the Bear in Sitka, Alaska for two years. Her current position is at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park working with lions and tigers, and other species (unfortunately no bears). Christine is actively involved in the local AAZK chapter. She is a student at American Military University, finishing a Master's in Environmental Management and Policy with a concentration in fish and wildlife management. Her Master's thesis is a qualitative case study of black bear rehabilitation regulations.

For details of projects and publications:

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## ACRES FOR ATMOSPHERE: BUY IT OR DO IT!

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### Christy Mazrimas-Ott, Marissa Krouse and Heather Kalka

Acres for the Atmosphere is a roll-up-your-sleeves tree planting and educational effort involving chapters of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, zoos throughout North America, Polar Bears International (PBI) Arctic Ambassador Centers and leadership camp graduates. It was started by graduates of the 2009 PBI Zoo Keeper Leadership Camp. With a Do-It approach, we intend to offset the effects of climate change and help to save polar bears. Working together, we create carbon sinks by organizing tree planting events within our communities as well as carrying out energy conservation campaigns to help reduce carbon emissions. The community events focus on local environmental concerns, promoting respect for the global environment issues.

We are eager to help you start your own green initiative in your community or have you join one that may already be in place. For those unable to plan a community event, we are pleased to announce the opportunity for you to "Buy it" through a new collaboration with the program formerly known as Trees for You and Me. With our "Buy it or Do it!" approach we are certain that we can find the perfect fit for you within Acres for the Atmosphere!

Poster content provides an updated list of 2011 projects and sponsors within our 15 community branches as well as a recap of this year's Trees for You and Me program successes.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHRISTY MAZRIMAS-OTT is currently a Senior Zookeeper, who has been a keeper for 25 years, 20 of which were at the Brookfield Zoo. Over the last 18 years she has worked with five of the eight species of bears. In 2008 Christy became a volunteer for Polar Bears International as a Field Ambassador to help polar bears. In 2009 she launched the "Trees for You and Me" competition amongst AAZK chapters to donate money to plant trees to help polar bears. Currently Christy is working on a Master's of Arts degree in Zoology through Miami University.

For details of projects and publications:

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## TRYING TO REDUCE STEREOTYPIC PACING BEHAVIOR IN AN ADULT MALE SLOTH BEAR: AN ASSESSMENT OF ENRICHMENT STRATEGIES

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Erika Bauer and Heidi Hellmuth

Once established, stereotypic behaviors such as pacing become more and more difficult to discourage or interrupt as time goes on. An adult male sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park exhibited stereotypic pacing behavior for many years in his original exhibit. After a move to a new and more complex habitat, with permanent enrichment features built into it, he continued to pace. To address this issue and attempt to reduce this unwanted behavior, staff developed a plan to implement new management strategies. A study was initiated to collect baseline data prior to intervention, and then assess the effect of each of five proposed enrichment strategies on the bear's pacing behavior. These five strategies were implemented in successive phases, for two weeks each. First, holes were drilled into logs within the exhibit and honey was inserted into these holes to elicit the natural suction-feeding behavior exhibited by sloth bears. Second, the bear was offered more choice and control over his environment, keepers let him decide which exhibit yard he would go into each day. Third, two extra training sessions were added to his daily routine. Fourth, feeder devices were provided on exhibit, which had to be manipulated to obtain the food within. Fifth, large mulch pits were installed in the exhibits and staked with food each day to promote digging, which is a typical behavior exhibited by this species. Staff and volunteers contributed over 500 hours of observations and data collection. Although none of the results were statistically significant, the strategy with the most promise in reducing pacing behavior was the mulch pits. We also investigated the effects of time of day, the exhibit yard (there were two options) and crowd density.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ERIKA BAUER is a biologist and behavioral researcher at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, DC. Her current position at Asia Trail involves managing several species of Asian carnivores, including sloth bears and giant pandas, and she facilitates research throughout the zoo for all sorts of species from cuttlefish to great apes. She completed her BS at John Carroll University and her MS and PhD at the University of Michigan, where the focus of her research was social play behavior in dogs, chimpanzees and bonobos.

HEIDI HELLMUTH coordinates the zoo-wide training and enrichment programs, and manages the American Trail exhibits at Smithsonian's National Zoological Park. She has over 20 years of experience working with animals as a zoo keeper, marine mammal trainer, wildlife educator, and now curator. Heidi is also the current president of the Animal Behavior Management Alliance, of which she is also a founding director. She completed her BS at the University of Cincinnati.

For details of projects and publications:

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## THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL COMPANIONSHIP AND SEASONALITY ON PACING BEHAVIOR IN AN ADULT MALE SLOTH BEAR: A CASE STUDY

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Erika Bauer and Mindy Babitz

Animal care staff at the Smithsonian's National Zoo sought to develop appropriate strategies to reduce pacing behavior in an adult male sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) with an 18 year history of stereotypic pacing. The presence of an adult breeding female (14 years old), an adult female given contraception (10 years old), and a 2 year old male (the study subject's offspring) offered an opportunity to assess the effects of social companionship on the subject's pacing behavior. Behavioral observations of the focal male were conducted over the course of two years. Observations took place three days per week, twice per day in two hour sessions from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Data were recorded using the instantaneous time sampling technique at five minute intervals. This case study allowed us to assess the effects of social companionship in general, the effects of different types of social partners, and the seasonal fluctuations on this individual's pacing behavior. We found that independent of social companionship, the effect of breeding season on the pacing behavior was negligible, although the proportion of the subject's time spent resting decreased during the breeding season. This behavior was replaced by more active behaviors such as; i/ investigation/exploration, ii/ traveling, and iii/ being alert. Independent of breeding season, the pacing decreased significantly when he was housed with a social partner. The proportion of the subject's time spent pacing was lowest when he was housed with the female given contraception. Results offer valuable insights into potential strategies which could be applied in the management of sloth bears (and potentially other species of bears) which exhibit stereotypic pacing in captivity.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ERIKA BAUER is a biologist and behavioral researcher at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, DC. Her current position at Asia Trail involves managing several species of Asian carnivores, including sloth bears and giant pandas, and she facilitates research throughout the zoo for all sorts of species from cuttlefish to great apes. She completed her BS at John Carroll University and her MS and PhD at the University of Michigan, where the focus of her research was social play behavior in dogs, chimpanzees and bonobos.

MINDY BABITZ is a senior animal keeper at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park where she has worked since 1998. She has worked with primates, big cats, bears, hoofstock, and a variety of small carnivores. Since the opening of Asia Trail, Mindy has been primarily responsible for a variety of Asian carnivores including the sloth bears. She is currently the National Zoo's institutional representative to the Sloth Bear SSP. Mindy has a background in animal cognition, completing a BA from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of St. Andrews in Psychology.

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## MANAGING WILD BEARS IN A ZOO SETTING

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### Kimberly Warren, Emily Davidson and Mary Gentile

The Bronx Zoo currently maintains a collection of six brown bears ranging in age from 2.5 to 18 years of age. Our main goal was to create a compatible group with our four orphaned cubs (three of which are siblings) as well as maintaining our two adult females as a second group. The husbandry management goals were outlined before implementing physical introductions, exhibit trials, and training sessions. The introduction trials were accomplished within a six month period. A basic training program had been established with the resident adult female which was extended to the four cubs. The older male cub was most eager to participate in training sessions, but the three sibling cubs proved to be more challenging to train. As we continue to expand our program we are in search of innovative ways to meet some of the challenges they present. We also want to explore other means of positive reinforcement in addition to varying food items.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**KIMBERLY WARREN** graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Animal Science. Working throughout her college years as an animal keeper at the Long Island Game Farm afforded the opportunity to have hands-on animal care experience, give daily educational presentations, and to develop educational programs for children. It is there that she had her first up close encounter with bears. Kimberly hand-reared two orphaned black bear cubs and presented public educational programs with the pair. After graduating college she moved to Virginia to work on a 180 acre park as a lead keeper and worked in a free contact setting with a large collection of exotic animals. Kimberly has been an Animal Keeper at the Bronx Zoo since 2008 working with a wide variety of species including carnivores and hoofstock. As a zookeeper at the Bronx zoo she continues to work on an array of training and enrichment projects while honing her animal husbandry skills.

**EMILY DAVIDSON** has been a mammal keeper for nine years at the Bronx Zoo. In the first four years, she worked mostly with primates and sea lions. In the past 5 years she has been working with polar and grizzly bears, snow leopards, tigers, and variety of hoofstock species. Emily's passion for nature and animals stems from growing up in the Adirondacks.

**MARY GENTILE** has been a zookeeper for eighteen years, working with a wide variety of animals in three different zoos. She has participated in various training and enrichment programs. For the last ten years Mary has been a zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo working with carnivores and hoofstock species. Currently she is involved with several training programs for grizzly and polar bears.

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## USE OF FLUOXETINE TO TREAT STEREOTYPICAL PACING IN A CAPTIVE SLOTH BEAR (*MELURUSUS URSINUS*)

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Mindy Babitz, Erika Bauer, and Nancy Boedeker

One of the most common stereotypic behaviors exhibited by carnivores in captivity is pacing (Clubb & Mason 2003), which can be triggered by stressful events and sometimes appears to be an expression of anxiety or frustration (Mason 1991). A 19 year old, 130 kg male sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) with a chronic history of stereotypic pacing was transferred to the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in early 2010 and exhibited intensified and excessive pacing behavior shortly after arrival. Management strategies (e.g. increased enrichment and training) were immediately employed with no effect. The stereotypic pacing exhibited by this sloth bear showed similarities to that of the polar bear described in Poulsen's case report (Poulsen *et al* 1996) - the pacing behavior included a motor tic (a huff at the end of each pacing cycle when changing direction), a glazed look in the eyes, an apparent inability to break from the behavior, as well as an apparent limit to the number of enrichment or training activities the bear would participate in before returning to the stereotypy. An extreme startle response to the movement of objects outside the enclosure was also noted. After a short oral course of the benzodiazepine midazolam, long term pharmacological treatment was initiated by zoo veterinarians in the form of fluoxetine, a selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SSRI) which has been infrequently reported for treatment of this behavior in other species of bears (Poulsen *et al.* 1996, Yalcin & Aytug 2007). To the authors' knowledge there are no previous published reports of the use of fluoxetine in sloth bears. This individual was observed closely for over a year as the drug dosage was adjusted based on clinical condition. Pacing status was recorded every 30 minutes for 12 hours per day from 06:30 - 18:30 and qualitative notes were recorded daily by keepers. While pacing was not entirely eliminated in this individual, the drug appeared to have significant dose-dependent effects on his pacing behavior. At the highest dose administered (120mg SID), the glazed look disappeared and the bear's ability to break from the pacing behavior increased. In addition, more time was spent on normal bear behaviors (resting, exploring, foraging) and engaging in enrichment activities. The startle response at the movement of inanimate objects also decreased. This study suggests that when no pharmacological behavioral strategies alone do not impact pacing behavior, fluoxetine may be an effective adjunct treatment option for management of this condition in sloth bears.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MINDY BABITZ is a senior animal keeper at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park. She is also the zoo's representative to the Sloth Bear SSP.

ERIKA BAUER is a biologist and behavioral researcher and  
NANCY BOEDEKER is a staff veterinarian, both with the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park.

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## A NATURAL FIT - INCORPORATING NATURAL BEHAVIORS INTO BEAR TRAINING DEMONSTRATIONS

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### Rebecca Zwicker

In the spring of 2008 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo partnered with Steve Martin from Natural Encounters Incorporated to develop new training programs that would exhibit cued species-appropriate natural behaviors as a part of our keeper talks and presentations. In the Rocky Mountain Wild exhibit our two wild-born grizzly bears; have been wowing guests daily with a combination of cooperative husbandry and natural behaviors demonstrated in various locations throughout the exhibit. Through the use of positive reinforcement our bears have blossomed in their training and behavior repertoires. We have seen an increase in exhibit use, activity, improved keeper/bear relationship and marked improvement in husbandry training. Instead of just standing next to an exhibit talking about what makes grizzly bears great, we can now show our guests. Emmett and Digger have been amazing ambassadors for their wild counterparts.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

REBECCA ZWICKER is the Zookeeper IV at the Rocky Mountain Wild and Asian Highlands in the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Bears have been her favorite species for a very long time, but her love of bears increased dramatically three years ago when she started working with two male grizzly bears. During her eight years at the zoo she has had the pleasure of working with Asiatic black, Andean, and grizzly bears. Rebecca looks forward to many more years filled with bruins.

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## 22 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN BLACK BEAR REHABILITATION

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### Valerie Stephan-LeBoeuf

The American black bear can be successfully rehabilitated at facilities near urban areas. Essential to success is the opportunity to socialize with other cubs, good body weight and condition at time of release, release into sustainable bear habitat, and low potential for human interactions during the first thirty (30) days post-release.

At Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. (IBBR), additional methods include a variety of enclosure designs, customization of dietary and medical protocols, remote observation tools, and cub-appropriate caregiver techniques.

Over the past 22 years, radio collar tracking and post-mortem retrieval of ear tags have shown that few IBBR bears (< .022) have become involved in nuisance situations within one year of release, and most bears (> .96) are considered successfully released. Based on recovered data, IBBR bears have survived, on average, more than 10 months (> 10.94) post release.

Despite release success, differing ideas in wildlife agency policy often impede the effectiveness of black bear rehabilitation. Ethical and science-based protocols for rehabilitation need to be incorporated into regulations and management plans. Agencies should integrate the fluid nature and adaptive needs of rehabilitation when drafting policies and procedures. Black bear rehabilitators should be a major contributor to black bear management policies as they affect black bear rehabilitation.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

VALERIE STEPHAN-LEBOEUF, began working with wildlife as a zookeeper. She spent ten years as a wildlife rehabilitator, during which time she also designed and implemented a humane population control program for beavers living in an urban area. Valerie continues to advocate for wildlife, including her work as an active board member of Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.

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## BUILDING THE IGLOO: TWO RECENT PGAV PROJECTS THAT CREATE PERMANENT HOMES FOR POLAR BEARS

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Stacey Tarpley and Rosey Masek-Block

PGAV Destinations has recently worked with two separate zoos, Louisville and St. Louis, to create two varied bear habitats that address the differing needs of the institutions. Louisville Zoo's focus was primarily on a thematic and educational guest experience and creating enriching connections between the bear's habitat and the guest. St. Louis Zoo's primary concern was to create the most enriching bear habitat possible within the constraints of the existing historic structure. By working closely with the zoos' staffs, the design teams found solutions intrinsic to the individual institutions. Louisville Zoo incorporates enrichment through keeper-initiated elements on display to the public, like multiple training panels and separate enrichment room. St. Louis Zoo's design focuses on habitat enrichment, including minimal rock and several permanent enrichment devices. The design teams found solutions that ultimately create two very different world-class habitats with incredible guest experiences.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

STACEY TARPLEY has a background in both landscape architecture and zoology, Stacey has been designing for zoos for nearly 10 years. She has been involved on some level in most of the projects involving animals at PGAV for the last 8 years, and was intimately involved in a wide range of projects from zoo master plans to the river otter exhibit at Kansas City Zoo to the recently opened Glacier Run at Louisville Zoo. In addition to her professional pursuits, Stacey has traveled the world, having visited six of the seven continents and is the author of a design website, [www.designingzoos.com](http://www.designingzoos.com).

ROSEY MASEK-BLOCK began her career in animal design with a thesis project providing a hypothetical Panda exhibit for the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE. Upon completion of this she graduated with a Masters in Architecture from University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Since then she has been on the zoo design team for PGAV. She has been involved in the design for the St. Louis Zoo Bear and the Sea Lion Exhibit from Schematic Design to Issue for Bid. She is currently in charge of Construction Administration for the St. Louis Zoo Sea Lion Sound Exhibit.

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AMERICAN BLACK BEAR REHABILITATION, RELEASE AND RESEARCH: A 15 year update on a successful project in New Jersey, the most densely human populated state in the USA

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Tracey Leaver

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge has rehabilitated and released more than 60 bears since 1995. This presentation will update a program that continues to be successful in the midst of great controversy. With the help of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Black Bear Research Program we have tracked and documented the success of our released bears in a very small state that is home to more than 8 million people.

Each year brings new opportunities and as always, we hope by sharing our techniques, our stories and our statistics, that black bear rehabilitation can become more widely accepted and possible. The statistics include both long term tracking for released bears as well as their offspring - showing multi-generational success. We feel strongly that if this can be a successful program in New Jersey than it can be elsewhere.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

TRACY LEAVER Founder and current Executive Director of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc. Woodlands is a 501c3 organization dedicated to the care and release of orphaned and injured wildlife and educating the public about NJ's wildlife since 1986. Tracy is a New Jersey permitted wildlife rehabilitator and holds the following permits: Rehabilitation permit, Captive Game permit for Education Animals, Scientific Holding permits for both Exotic and Non-game as well as potentially dangerous species and USDA Aphis Animal Care exhibitors permit for Education Animals. In 1995 Tracy began the first black bear rehabilitation program in New Jersey. As founder of the New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators Tracy has as served as a Board member, President, Vice President and is currently serving as President. She also served 6 years on the Board of Directors of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. Tracy gives numerous presentations on wildlife presentation topics.

For details of projects and publications:

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2011 CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORM

Thank you for your attendance. Your feedback is extremely important. Please complete this evaluation form by circling your response and return it to a conference staff member.

Scale

- 1) Strongly Disagree or Poor                      2) Disagree or Fair                      3) Neutral  
 4) Agree or Good                                      5) Strongly Agree or Excellent

Pre-Arrival

Registration was simple, fast and efficient	1	2	3	4	5
Payment options/policies were clear and fair	1	2	3	4	5
Advertising/on-line information was adequate	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness of conference staff to questions	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Arrival

Check-in procedure was simple, fast and efficient	1	2	3	4	5
Registration materials were informative	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunity to connect with colleagues & friends	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Conference Location/Facility

Accessibility of location	1	2	3	4	5
Size of facility was suitable	1	2	3	4	5
Hotel accommodations/guest rooms	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of the lodging was reasonable	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Poster Presentations

Educational content	1	2	3	4	5
Handouts/take home materials	1	2	3	4	5
I learned something new/helpful/useful	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:



Speakers

Knowledge of subject matter	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of presentation/delivery	1	2	3	4	5
Use of audio/visual equipment	1	2	3	4	5
Comments:					

Workshops

Sessions met my expectations (If No; Please comment below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	YES	NO

Please evaluate each session that you attended

American Black Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Andean Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Asian Black Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Brown Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Giant Panda Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Polar Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Sloth Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Sun Bear Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Raising Neonates Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Bear Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Developing a Bear Enrichment Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Developing Your Problem Solving Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
People Skills Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
Comments:					

Social Activities

There was sufficient time to meet other delegates on trails, in workshops, at mealtimes?	1	2	3	4	5
Conference encouraged social interaction/networking	1	2	3	4	5
Friday morning opening "Egg Breaker" yielded new friends	1	2	3	4	5
Comments:					



Food  
 Snack Breaks (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)      1   2   3   4   5  
 Meals Provided      1   2   3   4   5  
 Comments:

Interpretive Hikes  
 Hikes were informative      1   2   3   4   5  
 Transportation to the hiking trails      1   2   3   4   5  
 Comments:

Overall Conference  
 The schedule was full and there was plenty to do      1   2   3   4   5  
 There was ample downtime/breaks      1   2   3   4   5  
 Conference staff was helpful and responsive      1   2   3   4   5  
 The cost with respect to the experience was worth it      1   2   3   4   5  
 I feel my attendance was worthwhile      1   2   3   4   5  
 I would attend future conferences      1   2   3   4   5  
 I would recommend future conferences to others      1   2   3   4   5  
 Comments:

Is there anything you would like to see at future conference that was not included in this year's conference? Please list.

How much extra might you be willing to spend on registration fees?

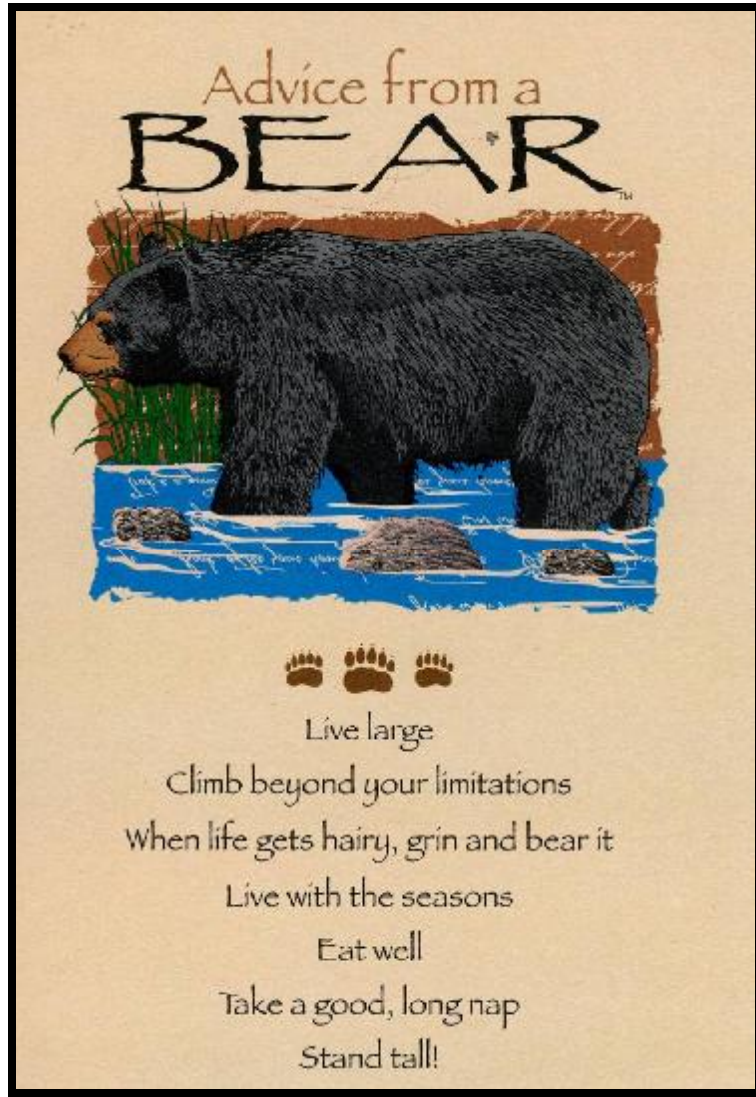
Any additional comments/suggestions/constructive criticisms? Please let us know.

If you would like to volunteer and help at the next conference- Please mark

Name:

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Please mail completed form to:  
 Bear Care Group, c/o Gail Hedberg, 1448 Gilbert Ave., Fremont, CA 94536



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See you in 2013!

