



# The Wild Side

Quarterly newsletter of  
Peace River Refuge & Ranch  
- Forest Animal Rescue

March 2011  
Volume 2011 No. 1

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

## Sumter Disaster Animal Response Team

### Inside this issue:

Event Information	2
Tigers left to starve in the Texas heat— cont.	2
Are you a member of our Legacy Society?	3
Earn money for the animals while browsing and shopping online	3
Progress report: Moving the sanctuary—continued	4
Halloween fun!	4
Why doesn't the sanctuary have regular visiting hours?	5
How you can help	5

We are so lucky to be affiliated with some of the most fantastic animal rescue teams in the country. Ronnie Graves, Founder of the Sumter Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), brought several team members and friends to the new property in the Ocala National Forest to assist with site preparation.

With a great selection of Kubota equipment and sufficient camping gear, water and supplies, the team was an impressive sight as they made their way to help in preparation for the sanctuary's future.

With each weekend visit of this fantastic team, we

make progress that would take months for us to accomplish on our own. Ronnie, thank you so much for your generosity, friendship and never ending compassion for all

animals. With help like this, the big move doesn't feel so far away.

To learn more about what Ronnie and his crew, please visit their website at [www.sumterdart.org](http://www.sumterdart.org)



### Peace River Refuge & Ranch — A True Sanctuary

- \* Fully licensed by state and federal authorities
- \* Accredited by the American Sanctuary Association (ASA)
- \* Recognized as a World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) *Member Society*
- \* Animals receive *lifetime care* and are never bred or exploited
- \* **Guided tours offered only twice a month by reservation**

## Alternative Spring Break volunteers need your help

Every Spring we are fortunate to host up to five "Alternative" Spring Break groups in Florida as they volunteer to help the animals. Instead of partying with the rest of their classmates, these big-hearted students take a pledge to set a good example and help make the world a better place.



The first two groups that  
(Continued on page 2)

## Would you (or your business) like to be recognized?

As we begin the construction of our new facility, we have a unique opportunity to offer our initial donors. For donations of \$5,000 or more, you can become a "Wildlife Champion" and have an animal habitat, a building or other structure *permanently* named in honor of you, your business or a loved one at the new sanctuary in the forest.

Show others your level of dedication to preventing cruelty to animals while helping the sanctuary move to a safer location.



This is a *fantastic* opportunity to be an integral part of moving the animals to safety. By helping with the ground-breaking construction needs, you will be among our most valuable supporters.

---

## Alternative Spring Break volunteers need your help (continued)

(Continued from page 1)  
are coming this spring are Ohio State University and the University of Vermont

You can be a valuable part of this project by donating toward the purchase of materials for the students to work with. Please help them accomplish their goal of building an animal habitat during their stay with us.

What a fantastic opportunity for

everyone to help guarantee the safety of the animals!

*You can be a valuable part of this project by donating toward the purchase of materials for the students to work with. Please help these dedicated volunteers to reach their goal and help the animals*

Donations toward this project can be made on our website at [www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org](http://www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org) or by mail to:

Peace River Refuge & Ranch  
PO Box 1127  
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

*Thank you!*

---

## Progress report: Moving the sanctuary to Marion County

When a huge housing development was approved near the sanctuary, we realized that a fight would eventually begin and we would be forced to move.

We made our plan to secure the future of the animals by making a commitment to move them to a new location sooner, rather than waiting until we were forced to spend money on legal battles only to prolong the inevitable.

We have 80 acres of heavily wooded land in the Ocala National Forest, surrounded on three sides by federally protected land. The animals will no longer be at risk of losing their home to development.

With necessary zoning and permits in place in the forest, we are working on site preparation while we strive to raise the money needed to build.



Before the animals can be moved to safety, we must construct all of the habitats needed as well as sufficient

infrastructure to move the entire sanctuary at once.

Without paid staff, it is impossible for us to slowly move one group of animals at a time while maintaining proper levels of care and security at two facilities at once.

The only option we have is to build first, move all of the animals at one time and get them settled. Only after that is accomplished, can we go back to the old property and tear down the empty habitats, salvaging most of the materials for re-use in the forest.

The difficulty that we have is raising the funds needed to carry the expenses of the construction while

## You can earn money for the animals while browsing and shopping online

the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you download the GoodSearch – Peace River Refuge and Ranch toolbar, our cause will earn money



What if Peace River Refuge and Ranch earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch

**If you do your holiday shopping online, remember to visit [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) first!**

every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first!

Add the Peace River Refuge and Ranch toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/peace-river-refuge-and-ranch>

# Progress report: Moving the sanctuary to Marion County (continued)

*(Continued from page 3)*

still paying all of the expenses for the sanctuary in Zolfo Springs.

With the economy in its current state, we know it will be an uphill battle to make this happen.

We were the last hope for the animals when they came to the sanctuary. Please don't let them lose their hope.

We welcome any support to help with the construction. The sooner we can move, the sooner we can sell our old land and pay off the debt that we are carrying while we struggle to maintain two locations.

The animals must be moved to safety—and the Ocala National Forest is the perfect location for them



All of the permits are in place!  
Now we just need to build!



What a great bunch! *Thank you!*



**Yes!! I will help!!**

Mar 2011

I know the need is great and I want to support the animals at Peace River Refuge & Ranch

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

-OR-

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my Visa\_\_\_ or MasterCard\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My card number is: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send instructions for me to set up regular monthly gifts from my bank account or credit card

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**The animals can count on me!!**

## Why doesn't the sanctuary have regular visiting hours?

As a true accredited sanctuary, our concern for the well being of the animals will always come first.

As many of you already know, most of the animals at the sanctuary have suffered at the hands of humans before their arrival here.

As a result, it is not in line with the definition of 'sanctuary' if we allow our need for funding to override the right that the animals have to a stress-free environment.

The compromise that we have found

**If you would like to visit the sanctuary, please call us at 863-735-0804 or contact us through the website at [www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org](http://www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org) to schedule a guided tour**

is to offer exclusive guided tours twice a month, led by one of our founders.

By limiting the frequency of tours and ensuring that the people are accompanied by someone that the animals all know and trust, we can satisfy everyone.

We are still mindful of the privacy that the animals require and the animals are confident that the visitors will maintain a respectful distance because they are accompanied by someone they have grown to trust.

We request a minimum donation of \$15 per person for a 2-hour guided tour, to help with the care of the animals.

The more notice you allow, the more likely we are to be able to accommodate your requested date. To request a tour, contact us at 863-735-0804 or through our website [www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org](http://www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org)

## On any given day, there are almost 200 animals at Peace River Refuge & Ranch Here's how your donations help with their care:

- **\$ 15** gives a rescued monkey the wholesome food he needs each week
- **\$ 25** buys the fresh produce a fruit bat needs for one whole month
- **\$100** feeds a rescued tiger the best nutrition possible for a whole week
- **\$500** pays for the lounging platforms, toys and necessities for a new home in the forest
- **\$5,000** buys enough materials to have an animal habitat at the new property named in your honor!

**Peace River Refuge & Ranch**

PO Box 1127

Zolfo Springs, FL 33890-1127

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAKELAND, FL  
PERMIT NO. 376



**The Wild Side**

Peace River Refuge & Ranch  
*Forest Animal Rescue*  
PO Box 1127 - 2545 Stoner Lane  
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

Phone: 863-735-0804

Fax: 863-735-0805

E-mail: [info@PeaceRiverRefuge.org](mailto:info@PeaceRiverRefuge.org)

Nonprofit wild animal sanctuary  
and educational facility



Dear Friends,

We did it together! We made it all the way to Texas to rescue two tigers, Tony & Roy, who were left to starve when their owner died. We took a leap of faith that it would all come together and made the commitment.

We built their quarantine enclosure, their veterinary needs have been met and they are learning to trust their caregivers in the safety of the sanctuary.

We have all of our permits in place and are making steady progress on the new facility in the forest so that we can move all of the animals to safety before that housing development pushes us out.

*We couldn't do this without help like yours! Happy fall!*

Lisa Stoner, VP  
Peace River Refuge & Ranch