



The Wild Side

Quarterly newsletter of
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

March 2010
Volume 2010 No. 1

www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

We have land! The animals will be safe!!

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When a huge housing development was approved near the sanctuary, we realized that a fight would eventually begin.

Similar situations across the country have proven that the animals always lose when large numbers of people move in, forcing them to move with very little notice.

We made our plan to secure



This thick, native land will make a beautiful site for the new facility

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.

Thanks to your support, we have finally acquired a beautiful piece of land in the Ocala National Forest, surrounded on three sides by federally protected

land. The animals will no

the future of the animals
by making a commitment

(Continued on page 2)

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

Printed on recycled paper

New Arrivals—Kito & Saka

The new year began with the arrival of two more animals at the sanctuary—

Kito & Saka, two male African servals. They were taken in by a wolfdog rescue group up north and desperately needed to live in a warmer climate. Of course, this winter was not a good example of a balmy Florida winter, but at least there was no snow!

Kito and Saka have moved in with Kenya, our solitary serval.

Now they all have lifetime friends!



*African Serval: Felis
Lepatilurus*

The African Serval is a peculiar looking smaller cat, built to hunt in the grassy plains of Africa. They have very long legs, a small head with large ears, that have long ranging auditory capability. Males can weigh anywhere between 9 to 19 kilograms, females between 9 and 13 kilograms. Their coat is pale yellow with solid black spots. The tail of the serval is short, and has a black tip and black rings and spots. A serval's ears are black with central white large spots.

Its name is derived from a Portuguese word "Serval" that means "wolf deer".

Upcoming Events

Golf Tournament

Saturday, March 20

8:30am shotgun

Country Club of Sebring

4800 Haw Branch Rd
Sebring, FL 33872-4706

Phone 863-382-3500

\$55 per person includes lunch, raffles and more!

This course is noted for its outstanding natural beauty and wildlife. It was built in the Highlands Hammock State park and is bordered by woods.

To sign up, please call or email us at RSVP@PeaceRiverRefuge.org



Questions? Please call Peace River Refuge & Ranch at 863-735-0804 or the Country Club of Sebring at 863-382-3500

Your regular online shopping can help the animals

What if even a fraction of the money generated by online shopping was directed towards rescuing abused or neglected animals?

That is the concept behind [GoodShop.com](http://www.GoodShop.com), consumers are helping their favorite causes by shopping at hundreds of well known retailers including Amazon, Target, Apple, Macy's, Best Buy, Orbitz, eBay, OfficeMax, Staples and others.

The shopping experience and the prices are exactly the same as going to the retailer directly, but by going

through GoodShop, up to 37% of the purchase price is donated the user's favorite cause!

Simply visit www.GoodShop.com and choose Peace River Refuge & Ranch as the charity you support

Every penny helps...while shopping online why not raise money for the animals? There is absolutely no reason not to use GoodShop - it's so easy!

Once you visit the GoodShop website

and select Peace River Refuge & Ranch as your favorite charity, that information will be stored for future online shopping.

Later, when you go to the GoodShop site and then click through to your favorite store, a percentage of your online purchases will automatically be donated to the animals.

If you download the GoodShop toolbar, your shopping experience is even more streamlined and that helps to ensure that the animals never miss a cent!

We have land! The animals will be safe!!

(Continued from page 1)

longer be at risk of losing their home to development.

It will take us *years* to complete the construction and move the animals all at once, but with your help, we are confident that we can accomplish the move before the population increase will pose a threat to the sanctuary where it is now.

The new location is beautiful native land and is 10 acres larger than where we are currently located.

We have the fantastic opportunity to map everything out so that we impact the native wildlife as little as possible

and utilize as much eco-friendly construction and alternative power as possible.

We are already working with U.S. Forest Service to ensure that we make the most ecologically sound decisions as we proceed.

We have volunteers working hard every day to raise money and build the new facility.

We need your help to build as quickly as possible so that we can move the animals to safety and sell the old land to pay for the new property.

Your gift now will help to ensure a lifetime of protection for all of the animals at the sanctuary.

Please donate today.

Charitable contributions may be mailed to:

Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Inc.
PO Box 1127
2545 Stoner Lane
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

Gifts can also be made securely through our website at www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Thank you for helping the animals!

Moving the sanctuary —the next steps

How do you take a large piece of heavily forested land in the middle of a National Forest and turn it into a sanctuary for wild animals on a shoestring budget?

Good question—

The answer is to plan carefully and do everything in stages, utilizing donated labor and materials as much as possible. The problem with that plan is that it takes a long time to do it that way.

We hope to utilize a combination of that plan as well as some innovative grants toward building an eco-friendly sanctuary and, hopefully, with some extra donations, we will have the move accomplished before the housing market is back in full swing and the animals are pushed out of their current location by human encroachment.

The first step is habitat restoration, since it will take a long time for the flora and fauna to recover from the poor management of the land in the past.

- We have already hauled several flatbed trailers *full* of trash, tires and recyclables out of the woods. The property was (literally) littered with evidence of the fact that the land had been leased to hunting clubs for many years before we purchased it to turn it into a sanctuary.



- With the litter cleaned up, now we are focusing on the removal of nonnative plants, removing trees and plants that are improper for that sensitive ecosystem and replacing them with their appropriate native cousins.
- We are using our GPS to mark the edges of wetlands and areas sensitive of trees and plants that will need to be protected throughout the construction process.



- We are clearing many years of debris and underbrushing to reduce the amount of fuel on the ground in the event of a forest fire.



- We are currently working on a written land management plan to ensure that everything we do utilizes the best practices for preservation of the native ecosystem.

How you can help:

- If you have equipment in your garage that you are not using, we need donations of rakes, shovels, pruners, work gloves, safety glasses, chain saws and more
- If you are over 18 and would like to volunteer, please email us at volunteer@PeaceRiverRefuge.org —we would love to meet you!
- Can you or someone you know help us with surveying, architecture, site planning, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering or any construction-related skills? Please call or email with any suggestions you may have.
- This project will not be possible without the use of heavy equipment. The use of stump grinders, trenchers, a bull dozer, a track hoe and other heavy equipment is desperately needed—with or without operators.
- You can have an animal enclosure or building permanently named in honor of you or a loved one. A gift of \$5,000 or more will dedicate an enclosure and \$10,000 will dedicate a building.
- Any information on “green” building or alternative power funding are needed. This is a great opportunity for us to build the facility the right way, but it will cost much more to accomplish it. These grants will make it feasible.

We will make the best use of the land while protecting the native environment

Animal spotlight: Elizabeth Rose

The emails started to pour in—a man in Ohio had purchased a baby black bear as a pet for his 10 year old son. She was living in his bathroom.

When he discovered that he needed welding gloves to bottle feed her, he realized that he may have made a mistake.

To make things worse, he had decided to save money and instead of giving the baby bear proper formula, it was much cheaper to give her just apple sauce and honey. The cub was dying...he put her up for sale on the internet and said that if he didn't sell her, he was going to put her in a "tasty stew."

Animal rights groups rallied and paid for the bear to get her away from the man—then they needed somewhere to send her. When they contacted us, it took some convincing for us to accept a young bear, since it will be over \$135,000 just to provide her with food for her lifetime.

Once we realized how critical her



Elizabeth Rose upon arrival
Photographer: Douglas Rosen

condition was, we agreed to accept her.

She was named "Elizabeth Rose." and arrived by plane immediately.

Upon arrival, she was checked over by our vets. Due to her deficient diet, her bones were like glass. She had very serious bacterial infections and would have lived less than a week if she hadn't been rescued when she was.

Several months of treatment and quarantine and over a year of special supplements and Elizabeth Rose (we call her "Lizzy") is a healthy, happy bear.

She lives in a 1-acre compound with three other black bears; Molly & Dolly, twin sisters, rescued from an abandoned tourist attraction in New York and B-Bear, who was

confiscated after living in a 10' X 10' pen for over 7 years in Iowa.

They make an odd group, coming from all over the country, but each one has adjusted very well to sanctuary life.

Lizzy's best friend is B-Bear.

Weighing in at almost 500 pounds, (over twice her size), it's fantastic to watch them play. Lizzy will run up and tackle him while he is sitting on the ground. B-Bear will feign being bowled over backward and roll over with Lizzy, the champion, on top.

The privilege of seeing these animals come back from such severe mistreatment by humans is all the reward we need.

If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because you understand that these animals deserve the best care possible and we will always try to keep you informed on their progress.

Thank you so much for your support—this couldn't happen without you!



Elizabeth Rose
happy & healthy

Volunteer spotlight—Alma College

In January, we had a wonderful group of Alternative Break students arrive to help at the sanctuary over winter break. They came from Alma College in Michigan, just in time to remodel our serval enclosure to make room for Kito & Saka, our two new arrivals.

Kenya (the serval that previously lived here alone) was moved out for an "Extreme Home Makeover." It was finished in less than a week!

The end result was a lush, spacious habitat, full of plants donated by

Lovett Farms in Wauchula, FL.



It was complete with three hurricane

resistant shelters so that each cat will have his own safe place if we are hit by any storms in the future.

We love our Alternative Break groups and are hosting groups from all over the country- one each week in March!

They will help us with projects at the current facility and with construction at the new location.

Watch our next newsletter for more details on what they accomplished for the animals.

Yes!! I will help!!

Mar 2010

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: _____

_____ 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 must 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 here 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 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 all of the strangers will maintain a respectful distance because they are with 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 give, 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

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

- **\$ 25** buys monkey biscuits for all of the primates for five days
- **\$ 75** feeds the fruit bats for a day
- **\$100** buys a wire panel or a load of concrete blocks to help build a habitat at the new facility
- **\$600** buys a roll of 8' tall fencing for the perimeter of the new facility
- **\$5,000** feeds a tiger for a year

Peace River Refuge & Ranch

PO Box 1127

Zolfo Springs, FL 33890-1127



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PO Box 1127 - 2545 Stoner Lane
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

Phone: 863-735-0804


Fax: 863-735-0805

E-mail: info@PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Nonprofit wild animal sanctuary
and educational facility



Thank you for caring about the rescued animals at the sanctuary. As we move forward with our plans to relocate the animals to a permanently protected location, we want to be sure that you understand how much we appreciate you. This project could not take shape without the support of other caring people and although this is a substantial undertaking, we can do it because of friends like you!



We will do our best to keep you informed every step of the way—please feel free to call me if you have any questions or suggestions as we take on this new endeavor.

Thank you for being part of the "Peace River Family"

Lisa Stoner, VP
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

