



The Wild Side

Quarterly newsletter of
Peace River Refuge & Ranch
Forest Animal Rescue

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www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

We will miss you "Easter" the lemur

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Peace River Refuge & Ranch — *A True Sanctuary*

- * Fully licensed by state and federal authorities
- * Accredited by the American Sanctuary Association (ASA)
- * Animals receive *lifetime care* and are never bred or exploited
- * Guided tours offered only twice a month by reservation



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We are often at a loss for words when we lose one of the rescued animals that we have loved and cared for at the sanctuary. Easter, a black & white ruffed lemur, rescued from a closed roadside zoo over 10 years ago, had to be put down a few days ago. We lost the battle with an infection in his lower jaw that started in the pockets that were left behind when that roadside zoo pulled his canine teeth.

A few weeks ago, our vet surgically removed the whole front of Easter's lower jaw to get ahead of the infection. If the procedure had worked Easter would need a soft diet and help with grooming but would otherwise have a good quality of life. The surgery appeared to be a success for a few

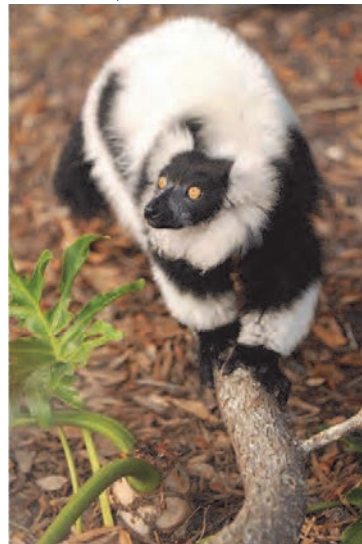
weeks but in the end the infection in the bone was too much for him to overcome.

The drive back to the vet's office felt like the longest drive in the world, I cried as I drove him there alone. I already knew the answer and ultimately I was the one who had to make the decision. We had lost the fight.

There was no other choice, no other option. We had tried maybe harder than we should have, but we wanted to give our little old man a few more years of happiness.

The finality sunk in, the clouds rolled in and it began to rain. The tears filled my eyes and rolled down my face like the rain on the windshield.

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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 could stand and fight, but the animals would be destroyed in the end.

We have acquired a beautiful 80-acre piece of land in the Ocala National Forest, surrounded on three sides by Federally protected land. The animals will never be at risk of losing their home to development again.

We have been steadily working on removing only the trees necessary to ensure the safety of the animals while retaining the lush landscape of the

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Animal Warriors helping with construction

We have had two fantastic work days with a volunteer group called Animal Warriors and are planning a third day this month.

They are an extremely hard working group of volunteers, experienced in working with sanctuaries of all sorts. They have helped several other well-respected sanctuaries with various projects and we are fortunate enough to have met them right when we need volunteers the most.

This amazing crew has already helped us to run about 300 feet of our 8' tall perimeter fencing around the new property in Marion County.



the heat one day and a few weeks later, worked all day in pouring rain!

We are

looking forward to having them back to build the next layer of fencing and then they can help with infrastructure and animal habitats.

For more information on their group you can visit their website at

<http://animalwarriors.org>

They worked all day in

We will miss you "Easter" the lemur (continued)

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Before we left the sanctuary I had to maintain my composure for the benefit of our interns and volunteers; and I had to regain it again before I reached the vets office. "Always the professional"...sometimes that is the hardest part.

I talked to my friend Easter, sitting in the pet taxi next to me – feeling ashamed to cry in front of him and wondering if he understood what I was saying. He looked so content; yet I knew the infection was back and would grow increasingly painful until he could no longer eat. The kindest gift we could give him is to end his suffering before it was intolerable – so why is it so hard to do?

You would think that after 14 years and caring for hundreds of animals that these decisions would become easier. They never do.

At the vets office the decision was immediately reaffirmed. I gave Easter a few pieces of soft banana – his favorite lately. Injections were given....heart beats were felt... waiting ... until - nothing....Why is this so hard?! Again, I must stay collected and professional, always keeping my composure....

The rain is intermittent for the drive back - another wave of sorrow crashes down around me. I will have my 'professional' face back on by the time the car reaches the sanctuary.

Easter, you were a unique soul and the favorite of many of our volunteers. Missing 2/3 of your tail, part of a finger and many of your teeth as scars from your prior life, you were still always a happy character. No more hard life at a roadside attraction for you.

We will all miss watching you hang upside-down from the ceiling by your back feet and hearing your calls from the other end of the property.

I had the privilege of sharing the last 10 years of your life. You, like every animal we rescue and eventually lose, have taken part of my heart with you when you left, but I have gained something else in return.

You will never be forgotten.

Thank you to all of the hard-working interns, volunteers and supporters who have helped us to care for Easter and his friends over the years.

Together we were able to give Easter an opportunity to experience sanctuary for more than half of his life.

Lemurs are the most threatened mammal species in the world

STATUS OF 103 SPECIES OF LEMURS ASSESSED BY SCIENTISTS REVEALS ALARMING LOSS; INDICATES URGENT NEED TO PROTECT MADAGASCAR'S GLOBALLY IMPORTANT FORESTS FOR PRIMATES AND PEOPLE



Antanarivo, Madagascar —

Leading conservationists have gathered at a workshop of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission this week to review the conservation status of the world's 103 lemur species — the most endangered primate group in the world.

The results of the conference have today been announced, highlighting that many lemur species are on the very brink of extinction due primarily to habitat loss, and in need of urgent and effective protection measures. The conservation status of 91 per cent of the world's lemur species have now been upgraded to either 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species — an indicator of rampant forest loss which additionally endangers vital ecosystem services that support Madagascar's people.

Of the world's 103 different species of lemurs, 23 are now considered 'Critically Endangered', 52 are

'Endangered', 19 are 'Vulnerable' and two are 'Near Threatened'. Just three lemur species are listed as 'Least Concern'. A previous assessment carried out in 2005 as part of a Global Mammal Assessment identified 8 species as 'Critically Endangered', 18 as 'Endangered', and 15 as 'Vulnerable', already a very high number. However, given the recent increases in the number of new species and the fact that the level of threat has increased over the past three years, the experts decided to carry out a reassessment of Madagascar's lemur fauna.

Lemurs are in danger of becoming extinct by destruction of their tropical forest habitat on their native island of Madagascar, off Africa's Indian Ocean coast, where political uncertainty has increased poverty and accelerated illegal logging. Hunting of these

List authority for the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) Primate Specialist Group. He explained the significance of the lemur assessments: "The results of our review workshop this week have been quite a shock as they show that Madagascar has, by far, the highest proportion of threatened species of any primate habitat region or any one country in the world. As a result, we now believe that lemurs are probably the most endangered of any group of vertebrates."

Among the most spectacular species of lemurs assessed as 'Critically Endangered' this week is the indri, the largest of the living lemurs and a species of symbolic value comparable to that of China's giant panda, Madame Berthe's mouse lemur, at 30 grams the world's smallest primate, and the blue-eyed black lemur, the

only primate species other than humans that has blue eyes. Probably the rarest lemur is the northern sportive lemur (*Lepilemur septentrionalis*), of which there are only 18 known individuals left.

Dr. Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chair of IUCN/SSC's Primate Specialist Group, said: "This

new assessment highlights the very high extinction risk faced by Madagascar's unique lemur fauna and it is indicative of the grave threats to Madagascar biodiversity as a whole, which is vital to supporting its people. As the forests go, so do lemurs and a

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animals has also emerged as a more serious threat than previously imagined.

Dr Christoph Schwitzer, Head of Research at Bristol Zoo Gardens, is a world leading primatologist and is on the organising committee for the conference in his role as advisor on Madagascar's primates and the Red

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

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property. We are clearing fire breaks around the property and making steady progress with the construction of the 8' perimeter fence and habitats.

We have purchased nearby lodging (a foreclosure sale) that will be repaired and used to house our interns so they can reside near the facility.



Future intern lodging—before repairs

We have some fantastic local volunteers already, even though they haven't met the animals yet!

They have been helping us to repair the intern lodging, clear brush, cut fire breaks, build fencing and more.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel (and its not a train!)

We won't be able to move the animals into a state of the art facility right off the bat as originally hoped, but even with the poor economy we are managing to make progress; we have just gotten creative in our fundraising efforts (like selling boats! See page 5)

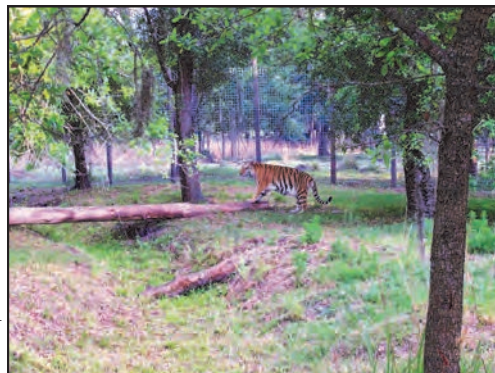
We will wind up moving the animals at first into their 'storm lockout' habitats in phase 1. These habitats will still be much larger than required by any regulation, but not as large as we had hoped for the initial move.

Once we are on the property and not splitting our time traveling back and forth every few days we will be able to focus on phase 2—expanding to acreage habitats for the animals and completing the construction of our infrastructure.

We still need your help to finish building as quickly as possible so that we can move the animals and sell the old land before the expense of carrying two properties overwhelms our tight budget.

We cannot sell the land at our old

location until after we have moved all of the animals, but that will be the final stage in the move and will allow us to begin our expansions.



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



Stay up to date by visiting us on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter

How do you network?

Peace River Refuge & Ranch is on several social networking sites—You can stay in touch with us and communicate with other people who love the animals.

Facebook: You can show your support in two ways on Facebook, by "liking" our Page, sharing your experience with other fans and by joining our "Cause" so that you can spread the word and help us to recruit more supporters!

Our Facebook Page is located at <http://www.Facebook.com/peacriver>

To join the "Cause", simply visit this page: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/119297> and sign up.

MySpace: We have a profile on MySpace that can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/peacriverrefuge>

It would be great to have you as a friend!

Twitter: Do you tweet? You can follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/PeaceRiverRefug> (with no "e" on the end)

Of course, always remember our official website at www.PeaceRiverRefuge.org

**Check us out on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter!
Help the animals—spread the word!**

Noah's Ark?!

Not quite....Although it may go a long way toward saving animals...

If you have visited the sanctuary recently, you may have noticed the HUGE boat sitting on dry ground.

This is a 34' yacht that was donated to the sanctuary to raise money to help the animals. When funding runs low, think outside the box! This boat is for sale— cheap!

If you or anyone you know is interested in a 1978 Silverton yacht that needs some restoration please give them our information.

If we can sell it for \$7,500 we will raise enough to cover our hauling expenses and still have enough

left over to build a habitat at the new location.

The project boat has a tuna door and dive platform. The hull, transom and stringers are in excellent condition.

It needs some restoration but has only 22 hours on new 375hp twin Chevy 350 motors, new upper & lower steering, gauges and wiring. It includes a new (\$1,600) bimini top and 4 gallons of bottom paint.

To be finished, it needs distributors, plugs and wires, transmission overhaul and interior cosmetics.



Noah's Ark?! Not quite but it will certainly help a lot of animals!

For details call us at (863)735-0804.

The animals have lost their donated produce!

For the past several years, the sanctuary has been collecting produce from our local WalMart store as it is rotated off from the shelves. We then go through it and use the best for the animals and 'recycle' the remainder by giving it to a local family for their pigs.

Without notice, WalMart made some internal changes and suddenly stopped donating.

The animals at the sanctuary consume over 450 pounds of produce EACH WEEK.

We have already checked with the other grocery stores in our area and they are giving their produce to local food banks and 'human' charities. They won't save anything for animals.

We need help to get through this until we can locate more sources of fruits and vegetables.

August 30th is my birthday and I have set up a special online fundraiser to help offset the cost of the produce that we have lost. I can think of no better gift for my birthday than your help I caring for the animals.

My goal is to raise \$1,000 toward the amount it will cost until we can locate more sources of donated food.

You can help the animals for my birthday in *four* different ways:

1. Go online to:

<http://wishes.causes.com/wishes/476851>

There you can donate as little as \$10 or whatever you can afford. Even if you can't donate, you can share the cause with your friends online to help gain support.

2. If you can make a recurring monthly donation, no matter how small, it will help us to budget for food. Just visit our website at <http://PeaceRiverRefuge.org> and click on the 'donate' button to send something securely online. Your gift can be one time or monthly - you remain in control.

3. If you would like to mail a donation, it can be sent to

Peace River Refuge & Ranch
PO Box 1127

Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

4. If you have WalMart, Publix or Sweetbay gift cards, we can use those to purchase food as well! *Thank you!*



Lemurs are the most threatened mammal species in the world (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

host of benefits derived from them."

"Madagascar's unique and wonderful species are its greatest asset and its most distinctive brand and the basis for a major tourism industry that continues to grow in spite of the current political problems."

The workshop, held in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, included a welcome speech by British entrepreneur, Sir Richard Branson, who is a great fan of lemurs and welcomed the work being done by conservationists to protect these rare creatures. The workshop also had the support of the Ambatovy Nickel Mining Project, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation.

Delegates, who have attended the conference from the UK, Madagascar, the United States, Canada, India, Germany, Italy and France, are now working together to establish a Conservation Action Plan to protect the most threatened lemurs over the coming decade.



Read more of their press release here: <http://www.conservation.org/newsroom/pressreleases/Pages/New-Finding-Lemurs-Most-Threatened-Mammal-Species.aspx>

Peace River Refuge & Ranch is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and provides care for 8 rescued lemurs, *would you like to sponsor one?*

You can sponsor a lemur for \$25 for three months or \$80 for a year on our website at

<http://PeaceRiverRefuge.org>.

As a token of our appreciation for your donation, your name will be placed on the lemur habitat under the name of your sponsored lemur and you will receive a photo, biography and outline of the natural history of your new friend.

Wonderful Community Support

Have you seen a donation can with monkeys on it lately?



If you have been in the Ocala National Forest area, it is likely that you will.

We have had amazing community support from our future neighbors.

The local businesses are rallying around us to help raise money and move the sanctuary to the forest.

In Marion County you will already see donation cans at Advance Auto Parts, Bass Champions Restaurant, Big Pines Hardware, Cactus Jack's, Forest Veterinary Clinic, Horse & Hounds Restaurant, Kick n Back Café, Knife Fork & Spoon Restaurant, Marie's Family Restaurant and Sushi Bistro.

The money collected in a donation can may seem like a small amount but it all adds up. More importantly, it shows support for our sanctuary and helps to raise awareness.

If you know of a business that would like to collect donations for us, especially by asking customers to donate their change from a purchase, please contact Lisa Stoner at (863)735-0804.

On an individual level, new volunteers are calling and emailing regularly and momentum is increasing!

One of our local banks, BB&T, has donated bottled water for our hard working volunteers to drink while they are building the new facility.

Last month, the Ocala Cannibals held a fundraiser for us and now the Frontier Dance Hall Bar & Restaurant is hosting a BBQ fundraiser for the animals.

There will be good food, music, raffle prizes and fun for all!

**When: Saturday, August 25
5:00pm—?**

**Where: Frontier Dance Hall & Bar
2932 Hwy 19 South
Salt Springs, FL 32134**

Cost: \$5 a plate

**Call (863)735-0804 or (352)789-1487
for details.**

Yes!! I will help!!

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: _____

_____ 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 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 over 150 animals at Peace River Refuge & Ranch
Here's how your donations help with their care:

- **\$ 25** buys monkey biscuits to ensure complete nutrition for all of the primates for five days
- **\$ 75** provides the fruit bats with the fresh fruit that they need for a day
- **\$200** provides glucosamine supplements for all of the arthritic animals to ensure their comfort
- **\$1,000** pays for the loving care of all of the animals for one day
- **\$5,000** feeds a tiger for an entire year

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Peace River Refuge & Ranch

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The Wild Side

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Fax: 863-735-0805

E-mail: info@PeaceRiverRefuge.org

Nonprofit wild animal sanctuary
and educational facility



Dear Friends,

Thank you for sticking with us as we are pulled in so many directions. Caring for all of the animals and keeping the sanctuary running while running back and forth to the forest to build is completely exhausting.

We appreciate your ongoing friendship and support and could never make it through this crazy time without you.

We will do our best to keep you posted but I would like to invite you to call or email me if you would like a personal update on the latest happenings.

Sincerely,
Lisa Stoner, VP
Peace River Refuge & Ranch

