February 2003

The Annual Phoenix Exotics Meeting
Held in Pahrump, NV on February 22 -23, 2003

Highlighted was the first edition of a series to be published by the Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association – “Friendly Felines – Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved – Responsible Ownership Series #1”

This year’s Key Speakers:
Vernon Weir—Board Member—American Sanctuary Association (ASA)
Dr. D.J. McWhinney—Professor Emeritus of Neuroendocrinology De Paul University
Dave Coleburn—Predator's of the Heart

Phoenix Exotics Annual Meeting at the Pahrump Nugget, now available on two video tapes for $26.00. Please send a check or money order to: Deborah Walding, PO Box 1781 Beaverton, OR 97075. Email - MagnoliaHomes@attbi.com
LETTER FROM EDITOR Welcome!
This newsletter is a derivative of articles or posts from the E-List through member participation. Any and all articles included in this newsletter were either taken from Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc., Inc. email E-List or were submitted by members with their permission. Please feel free to submit any article you wish to have included in our newsletter. Email requests to: President@PhoenixExotics.Org

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR PHOENIX EXOTICS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION, INC. IS $10.00 ANNUALLY. PLEASE SEND ANY INQUIRIES OR $10.00 TO: Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc., PO Box 1132 Chehalis, WA  98532

NOTE FROM EDITOR:
Any submissions that have been published have been given prior permission for publication. If you or anyone feels that their views have not been properly represented, please contact: General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org or mail correspondence; be descriptive as to what issue and date located on front of newsletter. Articles appearing in this newsletter have been taken from the Phoenix Exotics e-list, many thanks to all the e-list members for their contributions. Thank you to the ASSOCIATED PRESS for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purposes of this newsletter.

Phoenix Exotics E-List Contained 737 posts in February. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items. You can join the e-list http://www.phoenixexotics.org/ then click on the link for E-groups email list. Note: Cover picture submitted by John G. Lussmyer.

“Friendly Felines – Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved – Responsible Ownership Series #1”

Phoenix Exotics is proud to present the first in a series of books on Responsible Ownership of Exotic Animals. This book is 115 pages long with photos and illustrations.

Presenting real life tales of small exotic cats and their dedicated owners, heartwarming, yet unafraid to inform prospective owners about the potential for hard times, as well as good, in such deeply held relationships. Nearly 20 authors including a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, a Doctor of Chiropractic, Veterinary Chiropractic, pet owners, breeders, sanctuary owners and folks who have been involved with exotic cats for many years have created a must read.

Now, in their own words, exotic owners speak out. This book gives them a voice: Listen!

1 Copy $8.00 Please include $2.95 for shipping/handling for orders 1, 5, or 10 copies.
5 Copies $32.00 10 Copies $48.00
50 Copies $200.00 (plus shipping)
Send check or Money Order to: Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association PO Box 1132 Chahalis, WA 98532

Friendly Felines - Small Exotic Cats We've Known and Loved

Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Responsible Ownership Series #1
The Cat Book—Submitted by Leona, (Lgut800427), Wed Mar 5, 2003 I just got my copies of the Phoenix Small cat book. It is so well done; it should be in the library of every school and every city library. What a delightful, informative read.

Re: The Cat Book—(thread) Submitted by Lynn Culver, Thur Mar 6, 2003 I got a chance to see the Small Cat Book. I am so proud of the feline community. It is a true family effort, and the photo quality is great. Phoenix really had a winning idea with this. We need to coordinate sending them to legislative representatives. That's another great idea.

Re: The Cat Book—(thread) Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Wed March 5, 2003 Very Glad to hear this Leona!! A few folks are taking the books to the library and donating them. Anyone can take them to their local feed stores, pet stores and sell them. Your cost for 10 is $48.00. Suggested retail is $99.50 for 10. We tried to keep the price low enough that exotic owners can buy a few and hand them out to folks who ask or wonder about exotic ownership. But there is nothing preventing anyone from selling them to larger outlets like pet stores. The idea is to get good news into public hands rather than make money. Suggesting the lower price should encourage any retail outlet to sell more. We can accept orders and drop ship from the Phoenix office or a group can purchase a batch and resell them thru their newsletters, meetings or events. Batches over 10 can be further discounted a bit. This project is not a fund raiser for Phoenix; our goal is to get positive information into public hands. We would rather sell all our stock to you folks at cost and let you use it to raise funds for your individual groups and projects. The book can be used by anyone as a part of their fund raising or outreach programs.

Pahrump meeting—Submitted by Tim Stoffel, Wed Feb 26, 2003. (NOTE: Post edited with Tim Stoffel’s permission). To all, here’s a brief recap the Phoenix Exotics meeting in Pahrump, Nevada! Dr. McWhinney opened the conference that pretty much set the tone for the rest of the meeting. The new book on small cat stories was released, 120 pages of very interesting reading! After lunch, was the keynote speaker Vernon Weir. He addressed the topic of what the ASA was about, and where cats for ASA were coming from. This was followed by a lengthy Q and A session. Vernon continued with a discussion of the Shambala bill. We walked away with a better understanding of the ASA and the role it plays. Vernon walked away with a better understanding of responsible private owners. Ray Rooney gave a presentation on the state of legislative issues. After dinner, Dave Coleburn gave his 'Predators of the Heart' presentation, which is aimed at preventing drug abuse, violence, suicide, etc. among our youth. While Dave was packing his equipment, everyone else formed their chairs into a big circle. What followed was a very interesting discussion of many of the issues that had been discussed earlier in the day. The Sunday morning session focused on solutions to the problems confronting private exotic animal owners. Most of the discussion focused on education, certification and self-policing. A second topic heavily discussed was dealing with less-than-above-board breeders. After a quick lunch, we visited two different places. One person has a tiger, and a number of smaller cats and wolf hybrids. The second person has a tiger, two really gorgeous lions :-) and an array of other interesting animals. We spent a lot of time enjoying these animals.

Re: [Phoenix Exotics] Pahrump meeting—Thread by Jeanne Hall, Wed Feb 26, 2003 A wonderful summary Tim! Thank you! Tapes will be available shortly including all the fun! These tapes are being provided by Debbie Walding. Two tapes plus shipping will be 26 dollars. These are priced to help Debbie recover her costs in producing these tapes for us. There is quite a lot of fascinating data as well as Vernon's presentation and the following Q&A, and Dave Coleburn’s presentation. Wish all of you had been there to help make these tapes and share the fun, but at least we can provide the tapes and share the fun with all of you this way! Of course, all those buffet dinners can only be shared in person!
Meeting in Pahrump, NV-2003-Submitted by ZB, Wed Feb 26, 2003 Annual meeting in Pahrump, NV past weekend went great. Phoenix released book on small cats which will soon be available for ordering, as well as mugs, mouse pads and other merchandise. Meeting with Vernon Weir of ASA went just GREAT! We should also be featured in the local paper, if it happens and I get to it, I will post the link.

Phoenix Meeting-(Original posting on FEL-L; cc’d to Phoenix List) Submitted by Jeanne Hall, Wed Feb 26, 2003 Nice write up Glenda! I am including the Phoenix list on my reply to make sure all of the crew get to see your kind words!

"I know I can't remember everybody who was there but Vernon Weir from the ASA did make the meeting. He had some interesting information about where most of the cats needing rescued in the last few years are coming from. There are not nearly as many cats coming from private owners as everybody keeps trying to say. Ray Rooney and Tim Stoffel were both there and Dave Coleburn did a great educational presentation from his place called "Predators of the Heart". All in all it was a great meeting of the minds. The book with stories about small wild cats the Phoenix group has put together was released for the first time. The Phoenix Group and this annual meeting has made great strides in trying to get the exotic community to focus on the points where we all agree and getting everybody together and to play nice with each other. For that alone the Phoenix Board deserves a lot of credit for all of their hard work."

Calif. Zookeepers Perplexed by Penguins-Submitted by ZB, Jan 22, 2003 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- A few penguins swimming leisurely at the San Francisco Zoo is nothing new. But dozens of them doing laps has zookeepers perplexed. "We've lost complete control" said Jane Tollini, the zoo's penguin keeper. "It's a free-for-all in here." Six newcomer Magellanic penguins were brought in. The penguin pool has been a daily frenzy of circle swimming by all of the 52 birds at once. Some penguin experts point to the highly social animals as being open to new ideas fostered by newcomers. "Penguins are extraordinarily social birds," said Christina Slager, associate curator at Monterey Bay Aquarium. She has studied Magellancs in the wild in Patagonia and Chile. Aquatic biologist Pam Schaller of the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco described it, “Genetically, they're designed to swim” Schaller said. “I'd be more amazed if the six had learned to do something not in penguin nature and showed the other 46 how to do it -- like if the birds were trained to jump through a hoop.” Copyright © 2003 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Zoo Officials Fooled by Fake Owl-Submitted by ZB, Jan 22, 2003 RACINE, Wis. (AP) -- No wonder they call it the wise old owl. This one outsmarted officials at the Racine zoo and the state Department of Natural Resources. It was a real fake. A zoo official carrying a large net and a snare knocked on her door. "And he said, I just wanted to let you know I'm going to be out front trying to catch this injured owl," Andersen said. "I just broke out laughing. I told him it was a fake owl.” The zoo official laughed and drove away. A couple days later, a DNR conservation warden stopped by and told Andersen someone had complained and he needed to check out the owl, and suggested she not put it back in the front yard, because bird-lovers could think it's inappropriate. But she didn't give a hoot about his advice. “I put it right back out there,” Andersen said. She has since put up a sign that reads, “This is not a real owl.” Copyright © 2003 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

MURRIETA, Calif. (AP) A proposal to put the squeeze on pet snakes has slithered by. Some residents in this southern California community couldn't charm the City Council into restricting the size, type and number of snakes a resident can own. The board voted against the proposed law Tuesday. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Councilman Brian Youens said. "We have no problem in our jurisdiction, so why do we expect there to be in the future?" Councilman Warnie Enochs proposed the ordinance after receiving a few calls from residents concerned about several large snakes owned by a neighbor. The law would have limited snakes to 5 feet long, prohibited venomous snakes and outlawed a large number of snakes. But council members said there was no way to enforce such an ordinance and the law would unfairly target snake owners. "You don't own a dog and then when it gets over a certain level, start chopping pieces off," Councilman Kelly Seyarto said. "You are asking these people to own a pet for a time, then have to get rid of it." Copyright © 2003 Associated Press Information Services, all rights reserved.

Ecuador Cat Conservation Project—Submitted by Tracy Wilson (FCF), Feb. 11, 2003. (NOTE: Post edited by Phoenix Editor and Tracy Wilson). I just returned from Ecuador. I went to the Touch the Jungle reserve, also known as Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos, to install cameras or photo traps donated for a year by Jim Sanderson of Conservation International. Jim sent us 4 camera traps to help establish what kind of cats and other creatures live in the reserve. The basic rundown, Conservation International provides the camera equipment; I train the reserve staff; the reserve staff maintains the cameras; FCF funds the effort; I develop the film; fill out monthly reports to Conservation International; Conservation International sends out the information into the scientific community. The reserve is 25,000 acres in the foothills of the Andean Mountains. One particular trail, I was getting exhausted because it was too steep and too muddy. We planned to set a camera trap right at the top where the ground leveled off. Mauro pointed out a very fresh ocelot track right in front of me. The next day the camera shot off pictures during the night at the site. Another job was to teach the staff some husbandry skills for animals that come to the reserve to be rehabbed and released back to the wild. It is imperative they learn some basic skills. They do currently have a young ocelot, which was not in great shape health wise when I arrived, but I oversaw her care while I was there and showed them what to do. She had improved greatly by the time I left. The reserve agreed to bring in tours to help them earn income. Anyone interested in going to the reserve, please contact me for trip dates and info at wildcat@ipa.net

The stated purpose of Phoenix per the articles of incorporation:

"...for charitable educational and scientific purposes; to educate the public in the necessary safety precautions and procedures for dealing with exotic wildlife; and to provide emergency assistance to exotic wildlife in need of care or relocation."

"Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Assoc. became incorporated in the state of Washington as a non-profit corporation."

"Phoenix is dedicated to the legal and ethical ownership of exotic animals by private persons with an emphasis on education and safety. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc., is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership through responsible behavior."

WELCOME – MY NAME IS JEANNE HALL, I AM THE PRESIDENT OF PHOENIX EXOTICS AND WOULD LIKE TO BRIEF YOU ON WHAT TO EXPECT IN OUR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS. THE NEWSLETTER IS AN AVENUE TO REACH OUR MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT ON OUR E-LIST PROVIDED BY YAHOOGROUPS.COM. THIS NEWSLETTER WILL HELP MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS OR EASY ACCESS TO OUR WEBSITE. WE ARE REACHING OUT TO MAKE PHOENIX EXOTICS ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING IN OUR NEWSLETTER INFORMATION FROM OUR E-LIST FOR MEMBERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY NOT ONLINE. ENJOY!
Highlighted In This Issue:

- The first edition – “Friendly Felines – Small Exotic Cats We’ve Known and Loved – Responsible Ownership Series #1”

- Meeting in Pahrump, NV-2003