Zeus belongs to Phoenix member, Lea Juanakais. She said that Zeus enjoys basking in the sun and looks regal doing so. We’d have to agree!
Welcome from the President

My name is Jeanne Hall. I am the President of Phoenix Exotic. Our monthly newsletters are provided essentially for our members who may not have access to our website in an effort to keep our membership well-informed regarding organizational business and abreast of current legislation regarding private ownership.

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.”

In our monthly newsletters, you will also find information regarding husbandry, upcoming meetings, rescue, cage design, safety and much more.

If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/. You can join the e-list at http://phoenixexotics.org/ and then click on the link for E-groups email list. ENJOY!

-Jeanne Hall

Letter From Editor

Our monthly newsletter is a compilation of articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items.

Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication.

Our thanks goes to the Associated Press for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter.

We encourage member participation by submitting stories and photos of your animals to us with your expressed written permission to use the material for the newsletters and website. If you wish to remain anonymous, just express it with your consent. Thank you!

-Rhonda Kiker

Membership & Membership Renewal Form

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at southzoo@aol.com
Rhonda Kiker

Jackets $35!

Front Back
DONATIONS NEEDED!

Due to economic hardship, Phoenix Exotics is asking its members for an additional donation for the upcoming year of 2009. In the past, Phoenix has offered it’s services for low membership fees. Donations are now needed in order to cover postage, printing and general operation costs. Any donated amount will be greatly appreciated and will enable us to continue our services. Thank you.

Zoo Atlanta Shuttering Panda Cam Due To Budget
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Dec 11, 2008
By Randy Key

Atlanta, Georgia (AP) - People who keep up with Zoo Atlanta’s giant panda cubs online soon will have to drive to see them.

The zoo announced Wednesday that it is shuttering its popular online panda cam at the end of the year because of budget constraints. The cam has been up on the zoo’s Web site for more than a decade.

It drew millions of hits from across the globe after cub Mei Lan was born in 2006 and again when new cub Xi Lan was born Aug. 31.

For now, the live feed of Xi Lan will air each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The webcam will be turned off Jan. 1.

Monkeys OK, as long as they’re little
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Dec 11, 2008

Park Hills, Montana (AP) - Monkeys will be allowed in the eastern Missouri town of Park Hills, but not big ones.

The city council on Tuesday amended its recent wild animal ordinance to allow primates that weigh 40 pounds or less. The amendment bans most wild or exotic animals from city limits.

Councilman Tom Reed sought the amendment, saying the community has a lot of small monkeys. The amendment passed 7-1.

Still banned are large primates such as baboons, chimps, gorillas and orangutans. Monkeys who grow to 41 pounds or more will be in violation of the law.

The lone opponent to the amendment, Charlotte House, wondered who will regulate if monkeys become overweight.

Ohio zoo introduces newborn cheetah for holidays
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Nov 21, 2008

Cincinnati (AP) - The Cincinnati Zoo has introduced one of its newest residents to the public in time for the annual Christmas display of lights.

Tommy T, a 3-week-old cheetah cub, has taken up residence in the zoo nursery where he can be viewed during the PNC Festival of Lights through January 4. Visitors can watch him nap, play and drink formula from a bottle. The cub and two brothers were born last month at the zoo’s breeding facility in Clermont County.

The cub’s parents are Purdy, a female from the Columbus Zoo born in South Africa, and Wild Boy, who lives at the Cincinnati Zoo and was rescued as a cub in Namibia in southern Africa.

The zoo is building a new exhibit that will allow cheetahs to run as fast as they can in the wild.

Iowa zoo recaptures flamingo that flew the coop
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Nov 21, 2008

Des Moines, Iowa (AP) – An Iowa zoo has recaptured a flamingo that flew over a Des Moines neighborhood, a golf course and the entire zoo during a 7-hour freedom flight.

Blank Park Zoo workers clipped the adult Chilean flamingo’s wings a second time after it was recaptured.
The zoo's flamingos usually don't fly because their wings have been clipped. But zoo spokesman Terry Rich says the birds can molt and regrow those feathers, enabling them to fly.

**Kansas City police shoot African serval cat**
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Nov 27, 2008

Kansas City (AP) - An exotic African cat roaming a Kansas City neighborhood has been shot and killed by police.

The cat was a serval, an African breed that resembles a small cheetah. Serval have spotted coats and long necks. They stand about 20 inches at the shoulder.

Police received several calls from a northern Kansas City neighborhood from residents worried the cat was dangerous to children. But efforts to trap it over several weeks were unsuccessful, and an officer shot it Thursday with a patrol rifle.

Police think the cat was dumped or had escaped from people who were keeping it as a pet. The identity of the owners is not known.

**Pa. officials: Exotic cat killed near Philly**
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Nov 27, 2008

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (AP) - A Chester County farm caretaker says he thought he was shooting a bobcat in the chicken coop, then his heart sank when he saw it had a collar.

The animal he killed was a serval, a small, cheetah-like exotic cat that someone was keeping as a pet.

George Heim runs the Garrett Mill Farm about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. He says he called a friend who works for the state game commission and was told he could shoot the animal. The game commission confirmed his account and says Heim was within his legal rights to protect his chickens.

Heim says once he realized he'd shot a pet, he was sad for the animal and angry with its owner for allowing it to be out.

Serval are found in many parts of the African continent. They are carnivorous and typically weigh about 35 pounds.

**Male Polar Bear in Zoo Turns Out to Be Female**
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Nov 27, 2008

Tokyo (AP) - Japanese zookeepers have wondered for a while why two polar bears that they had hoped would mate have shown little interest in each other.

The answer came this month when the zoo discovered both the bears were female, the zoo said Wednesday.

Tsuyoshi, a 4-year-old polar bear, and 11-year-old Kurumi have been living in the same enclosure at the Kushiro Municipal Zoo in Hokkaido in northern Japan since June. The zoo said it thought Tsuyoshi was male because of the bear's appearance. It did not explain further. Male polar bears are generally significantly larger than females.

"Observing his behaviors, we got suspicious as to whether Tsuyoshi was really a male," the zoo said in a statement Wednesday.

Experts say when polar bears are young, it is difficult to determine their sex because their long hair covers their reproductive organs.

Tsuyoshi was determined to be male at 3 months old. But earlier this month, the zoo put Tsuyoshi under an anesthetic and learned he was a she.

"I have mixed feelings considering the need for breeding," said Yoshio Yamaguchi, head of the zoo.

Tsuyoshi is very popular with visitors, and Kyodo News agency said the bear would keep her name, even though Tsuyoshi is a common Japanese name for boys.
Study: Elephants live longer in wild than zoos
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Dec 11, 2008
By Randolph E. Schmid, AP Science Writer
Washington - Zoo elephants don't live as long as those in the wild, according to a study sure to stir debate about keeping the giant animals on display.

Researchers compared the life spans of elephants in European zoos with those living in Amboseli National Park in Kenya and others working on a timber enterprise in Myanmar. Animals in the wild or in natural working conditions had life spans twice that or more of their relatives in zoos.

Animal care activists have campaigned in recent years to discourage keeping elephants in zoos, largely because of the lack of space and small numbers of animals that can be kept in a group. Debates have been especially vocal in Dallas and Los Angeles. The researchers found that the median life span for African elephants in European zoos was 16.9 years, compared with 56 years for elephants who died of natural causes in Kenya's Amboseli Park. Adding in those elephants killed by people in Africa lowered the median life span there to 35.9 years. Median means half died younger than that age and half lived longer.

For the more endangered Asian elephants, the median life span in European zoos was 18.9 years, compared with 41.7 years for those working in the Myanmar Timber Enterprise. Myanmar is the country formerly known as Burma.

There is some good news, though. The life spans of zoo elephants have improved in recent years, suggesting an improvement in their care and raising, said one of the report's authors, Georgia J. Mason of the animal sciences department at the University of Guelph, Canada.

But, she added, "protecting elephants in Africa and Asia is far more successful than protecting them in Western zoos." There are about 1,200 elephants in zoos, half in Europe, Mason said in an interview via e-mail. She said researchers concentrated on female elephants, which make up 80 percent of the zoo population. "One of our more amazing results" was that Asian elephants born in zoos have shorter life spans than do Asian elephants brought to the zoos from the wild, she added in a broadcast interview provided by the journal Science, which published the results in its Friday edition.

She noted that zoos usually lack large grazing areas that elephants are used to in the wild, and that zoo animals often are alone or with one or two other unrelated animals, while in the wild they tend to live in related groups of eight to 12 animals.

In Asian elephants, infant mortality rates are two times to three times higher in zoos than in the Burmese logging camps, Mason said via e-mail. And then, in adulthood, zoo-born animals die prematurely. "We're not sure why," she said.

The study confirms many of the findings of a similar 2002 analysis prepared by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. One of the authors of the new study, Ros Clubb, works for the society.

White tigers maul zoo worker to death
Submitted by (south zoo) Fri Nov 21, 2008
Singapore (AP) - Three white Bengal tigers mauled a zoo cleaner to death in Singapore today after the man jumped into a moat surrounding their enclosure, the zoo said. The tigers, which each weigh more than 100kg (220lb), pounced on Nordin bin Mondong, a 32-year-old Malaysian, according to Biswajit Guha, the Singapore Zoo's assistant director.

Fellow zoo workers managed to distract the tigers and pull Nordin away, but he died on the way to a hospital, Guha said.

"A Malaysian contract worker jumped into the
moat at the white tiger exhibit and was attacked by three white tigers,” Guha said in a statement. "The worker tragically succumbed to his wounds."

The zoo has temporarily closed the tiger exhibit and police are investigating the incident, Guha said.

He did not say why Nordin jumped into the tigers’ area.

Bengal white tigers in the wild are found in South Asia, mostly in India.

Steven Feldman, a spokesman for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, contended the report did not reflect conditions in North America. In addition, he said, it is hard to compare conditions in zoos and in the wild. "Every event in a zoo is observed," he said, while scientists can study only a small number of events in nature.

The project, or individual researchers, received financial support from Canada’s National Science and Engineering Research Council, Prospect Burma Foundation, Charles Wallace Burma Trust, Three Oaks Foundation, Whitney-Laing Foundation, Toyota Foundation, Fantham Memorial Research Scholarship and University College, London.

Among the researchers, Mason has served as a paid consultant to Disney’s Animal Kingdom USA and one of authors, Khyne U. Mar, has been a paid consultant for Woburn Safari Park, about an hour north of London.

Owner of cat that bit Santa comes forward
Submitted by (south zoo) Thu Dec 11, 2008

Hamilton Township, New Jersey (AP) - Santa Claus won't need rabies shots.

An exotic cat that drew blood after biting a volunteer Santa Claus at a charity event in Atlantic County has been vaccinated.

The cat’s owner, Christine Haughey, identified herself and produced the records after learn-
Highlighted In This Issue:

- Monkeys OK, as long as they're little
- Study: Elephants live longer in wild than zoos
- Owner of cat that bit Santa comes forward