May 2008

Volume 8
Issue 83

Phoenix member, Deb Milette’s beautiful serval.
Welcome from President - Jeanne Hall

My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotic and would like to brief you on what to expect in our monthly newsletters. The newsletter is for our members who do not have convenient access to our website. We want to reach out and make Phoenix Exotic accessible, including in our newsletter information from our e-list for members who are currently not online. Enjoy!

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 Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association is 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

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Phoenix Exotics E-List contained many posts in May. We are limited in the print medium to select only a few items. You can join the e-list at http://phoenixexotics.org/ then click on the link for E-groups email list. Please note: Please visit the archive section of the Yahoo E-list for many more articles, posts and replies.

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Letter From Editor - Rhonda Kiker

WELCOME!

This newsletter is a derivative of the articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Phoenix_Exotics/) Many thanks to the members for their contributions. Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication. Should you feel that your views have not been properly represented, please email, General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org, or you may write a letter to the address below. Please be descriptive as to which article and please reference “Volume Number” and “Issue Number”, located on the front of the newsletter. If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/

Our thanks goes to the “Associated Press” for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc., membership fee is only $10.00/annually. A check or money order can be mailed along with any inquiries you may have.

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Membership & Membership Renewal Form

Name(s)_________________________ Phone ________________ Dues ______ x $10 _________
Mailing Address ____________________________ Total enclosed: _________
E-Mail Address __________________________
I would like to join and support the Phoenix Wildlife Association. I understand that dues are for membership only and non-refundable.
Signature________________________________ Second Signature ________________________
NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON!!!!

Now available online at http://www.Amazon.com with a beautiful glossy, color soft cover!

Phoenix Exotics is proud to present the second in a series of books on Responsible Ownership of Exotic Animals. This book is 144 pages long with photos and illustrations. Presenting real life tales of Monkeys 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.

Real life owners with real Monkeys in their families, including published authors, Board members, politicians, medical and mental health professionals and owners who have been involved with Monkeys for many years, have created a must read. Now, in their own words, exotic owners speak out.

This book gives them voice:

LISTEN!

1 Copy $9.00
5 Copies $38.00
10 Copies $58.00
50 Copies $240.00

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Send Check or Money Order to:
Phoenix Exotics
Wildlife Association
PO Box 1132
Chehalis, WA 98532

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PLEASE NOTE!!!!
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Prices have not changed if you purchase directly from Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association. Bulk rates remain the same. This is a great deal for the price. Definitely take advantage of the savings so you can share this treasure with friends and colleagues!

2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting DVD and/or VHS

I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is available in DVD or VHS format. This has turned out terrific and is 9 hours long! The DVD and VHS case is beautifully done with the Phoenix Exotic Logo, the theme of the meeting is “SOLUTIONS” and where the meeting was held, nicely done!! A “Wanna get this” for sure!! For all those that want to order a DVD( 2 discs) or VHS ( 2 tapes for better quality) we have tried to keep the cost to a minimal and as close to cost as possible. We are only sending in orders of 10 or more at a time in order to help keep the cost down.

To order :
DVD's: $19.95 + $4.95 for shipping and handling
VHS : $25.95 + $4.95 shipping and handling
(check or money order)

Payment can be made to: Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
P O Box 1132 OR http://www.paypal.com
Chehalis, WA 98532 payable to:President@PhoenixExotics.org
*note:please add $2.00 extra if ordering
through paypal for paypal fees.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathspohrer@metrocast.net
Cathy Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics
CO: Prized Parrots Stolen
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Apr 19, 2008
Colorado Springs, Colorado (AP) - David Ball would like to get his hands on the birdbrains who stole his birds.

The Colorado Springs, Colorado, man returned home earlier this week to find his back door pried-off and 14 exotic birds, including some prized parrots missing. Ball estimates his rare birds are worth more than $9,000.

He figures the bird-nappers knew something about parrots, because they left the less valuable birds behind. Ball says losing his feathered friends is like someone taking your children. He’s contacted pet stores and bird-lovers’ Web sites hoping to find some clues to his missing parrots.

Rehabilitated Manatee Returned To Wild
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Apr 19, 2008
Key Largo, Florida (AP) - A rehabilitated manatee with a missing flipper, named "Sharpie," has returned to the wild in the Florida Keys.

Officials released the four-year-old male manatee Thursday. Rescuers from the Florida Keys-based Dolphin Research Center and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission saved Sharpie in February after he became entangled in some monofilament fishing line. Sharpie was later transported to the Miami Seaquarium for rehabilitation.

He lost his right flipper due to infection, but experts say Sharpie will have no problem surviving. "Whenever we have an animal come in for rehabilitation and be sent back out, it’s a day for celebration," said Bette Zirkelbach of the Dolphin Research Center.

Romanian man rears lion in garden until neighbors complain
Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Apr 19, 2008
Romanian media say a man was rearing a lion in his back garden until neighbors decided they had heard enough roaring and called police.

Rompres state news agency said police found a caged 3-year-old lioness, as well as two deer, a stag and two peacocks roaming the garden of the man’s home in the southern village of Pietrosita.

The agency's report Wednesday said the 28-year-old man is being charged with illegal possession of wild animals and could be sentenced to up to a year in jail.

The daily Evenimentul Zilei newspaper says the lioness will be taken to the Bucharest zoo.

Life-sized lion statue -- painted red, white and blue -- stolen from Menasha business
Submitted by (south zoo) Sun Apr 20, 2008
Menasha, Wisconsin (AP) - Menasha police are looking for a life-sized, red, white and blue lion statue. Someone took it from the front of AmeriPrint Graphics on Monday night. The statue was 1 of 50 auctioned last year, raising more than $100,000 for the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton.

The firm’s owner Beth Nemecek says the lion was discovered missing Tuesday morning.

Menasha Detective Jerry Lingnofski says other area police agencies have been alerted to the theft, but the department has no fresh leads.

Lingnofski says the statue should be easy to
identify, since every statue auctioned was numbered.

**Zoo says elephant pregnant**
Submitted by (south zoo) Sun Apr 20, 2008

Columbus, Ohio (AP) - The Columbus Zoo says elephant pregnant us Zoo and Aquarium says 1 of its Asian elephants is pregnant.

Zookeepers said Friday that Phoebe is scheduled to deliver next March at the end of an almost 2-year pregnancy.

Harry Peachey, the zoo's elephant manager, says Phoebe was paired with Coco last June.

Phoebe was born in Israel in 1987 and was later taken to a zoo in Canada before arriving at Columbus in 2002.

Coco also fathered a 280-pound male calf with Phoebe. That pregnancy lasted about 21 months and resulted in the first live elephant birth at the Columbus Zoo. Zookeepers say they're hoping for a girl this time.

In 1999, another elephant delivered a stillborn calf at the zoo.

**New lion sculptures on way to Utah Capitol**
Submitted by (south zoo) Mon Apr 21, 2008

Two new marble lions, named Fortitude and Integrity, are coming to Utah's State Capitol.

The lions, sculpted in Italian carrera marble, are part of a restoration project that will eventually replace four lions posted at the east and west entrances to the Capitol.

The original lions, sculpted in cement, were created in 1915 and repaired in 1977. New lions were commissioned after restoration officials decided the originals had deteriorated beyond feasible repairs.

The two new lions will be installed Monday and Tuesday atop the stairs at the east entrance. The west entrance lions, called Honor and Patience, are expected to arrive in the fall.

**State wardens warn of bear activity in eastern Idaho**
Submitted by (south zoo) Mon Apr 21, 2008

Boise, Idaho (AP) - State and federal wildlife officials say bear activity is on the rise in parts of eastern Idaho.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game says bears are beginning to emerge from winter dens in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, particularly in the northern part of the forest.

Federal biologist Mark Orme says significant snowfall inside and outside the national forest means bears may be on the roam for food.

State and federal officials say residents near the forest should take steps to limit bear access to human food. And they say outdoor enthusiasts should use caution, especially in cases of female bears accompanied by cubs.

**Happy Memorial Day!**
Cleveland zoo researchers find rare giant turtle in Vietnam
Submitted by (south zoo) Sun Apr 20, 2008

Researchers from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo have discovered a rare giant turtle in northern Vietnam, a find that carries great scientific and cultural significance.

Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle was previously thought to be extinct in the wild. Three other turtles of the species are in captivity, said experts from the Zoo's Asian turtle program.

The discovery represents hope for the species, said Doug Hendrie, the Vietnam-based coordinator of the zoo program.

Turtle expert Peter Pritchard, president of the Chelonian Research Institute, confirmed the find based on a photo Hendrie showed him. "It looked like pretty solid evidence. The animal has a pretty distinctive head," Pritchard said.

There have been rumors for years of a mythical creature living deep in the waters of a northern Vietnam lake. Some in a village west of Hanoi claimed to be blessed by catching a glimpse of it's concave shell as it crested above the surface of their lake.

A national legend tells of a giant golden turtle that bestowed upon the Vietnamese people a magic sword and victory over Chinese invaders in the 16th century. Whether that sacred turtle has materialized in the 21st century will be a matter of cultural debate among the Vietnamese.

"This is one of those mythical species that people always talked about but no one ever saw," said Geoff Hall, zoo general curator.

Of the other three Swinhoe's soft-shell turtles in captivity, two are in Chinese zoos and the other is cared for in the Hoan Kiem ("Returned Sword") Lake in downtown Hanoi, the lake in which the legendary turtle appeared to reclaim the sword from the emperor.

Pritchard said an amateur photographed a Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle in southern China about six months ago that he believes was legitimate. "It's on the very brink of extinction, so every one counts," Pritchard said.

The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo began its effort to preserve and protect Asian turtles in 2003 amid reports of increased killings for food or to make traditional medicine from their bones. Development and pollution also led to loss of nesting habitats along rivers, zoo officials said.

The zoo has put more than $275,000 into Asian turtle conservation efforts since 2000 and has supported Hendrie since 2003, officials said. His team and scientists from Education for Nature-Vietnam had searched lakes and wetlands along the Red River for three years before hearing about the creature living outside Hanoi.

The turtle remains in the lake and researchers have notified the Vietnamese government of its existence, Hendrie said.

Environmentalist bashes lack of charges in wolf kill case
Submitted by (south zoo) Mon Apr 21, 2008

Ashton, Idaho (AP) - The Greater Yellowstone Coalition wants Idaho to create a panel to review wolf killings after an eastern Idaho prosecutor decided not to file charges against an Ashton man.

The man earlier this month killed two wolves, one after tracking it for more than a mile on a snowmobile.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game recommended the man be charged for killing the second wolf. But Fremont County Prosecutor Karl Lewies declined to do so.

Marv Hoyt, a spokesman for the coalition, says the shooting of the wolf was blatantly illegal and reveals a problem in the system because the man who shot it wasn't prosecuted. Hoyt says Idaho officials should expand a system of appointing special prosecutors to include wolf
killings.

He says local prosecutors may be afraid of losing elections if they prosecute wolf killings.

**State opens probe into fatal bear attack**

Submitted by (south zoo) Sat Apr 26, 2008

Big Bear Lake, California (AP) - State work safety officials opened an investigation Thursday into the death of an exotic-animal trainer who was killed while wrestling a 700-pound grizzly bear for a promotional video, authorities said.

The state Department of Industrial Relations will investigate a Los Angeles, California, company called eSeekers Inc. that employed the victim, Stephan Miller, 39, for any health and safety violations, said Kate McGuire, the agency spokeswoman.

McGuire described the business as a Web browser company that was shooting video at Predators in Action, a center in the San Bernardino Mountains that provides trained animals for movies, TV shows and documentaries.

Stephan Miller died Tuesday after the 7-1/2-foot-tall bear, named Rocky, bit him on the neck. The victim was a cousin of Predators in Action owner Randy Miller.

An autopsy Thursday found that Stephan Miller died within minutes of neck injuries consistent with a single bite, said Sandy Fatland, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County coroner. "If the coroner's report says there's only one bite, then it follows what the initial report was, which is that the person was bitten, not attacked," said Harry Morse, spokesman for the state Department of Fish and Game. The difference is that the bear wasn't necessarily being aggressive, said Joel Almquist, who co-owns an exotic animal sanctuary called Forever Wild and has himself wrestled Rocky. "Knowing the bear, taking little nip-type bites with the front teeth, every bear does that," he said.

McGuire said the state probe could take as long as six months. The agency could issue citations if violations are found, she said.

A colleague of Stephan Miller said he worked for ShareNow.com, a social-networking and file-sharing startup meant to compete with sites like Facebook and YouTube. ShareNow's chairman, Nigel Robertson, said eSeekers is the holding company for Beverly Hills-based shareNow.com.

Robertson said he hired Stephan Miller, an expert in Internet startups, 10 months ago to establish online communities and was impressed by his dedication.

Miller, the No. 3 man at the fledgling company, would sleep in the office in a sleeping bag and last week tattooed ShareNow's logo on his arm, Robertson said. He talked often about his passion for exotic animals.

Robertson said he didn't know whether Stephan Miller was filming footage for ShareNow.com when he died. He said he hadn't been contacted by state officials.

"It's highly likely that if there was filming going on, and I understand there was, that it would have ended up on the site," Robertson said, adding that Miller had posted other animal clips before. "He just loved animals and he spent as much time as he could with them. He said it's amazing, just like being with your family cat or dog," Robertson said.

Randy Miller told The Associated Press in an emotional interview late Wednesday that he couldn't explain how a "simple routine" turned tragic. Rocky, who has performed in commercials and recently appeared in the Will Ferrell movie "Semi-Pro," was trained to wrestle with experienced handlers, he said.
Highlighted In This Issue:

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- State wardens warn of bear activity in eastern Idaho
- Environmentalist bashes lack of charges in wolf kill case