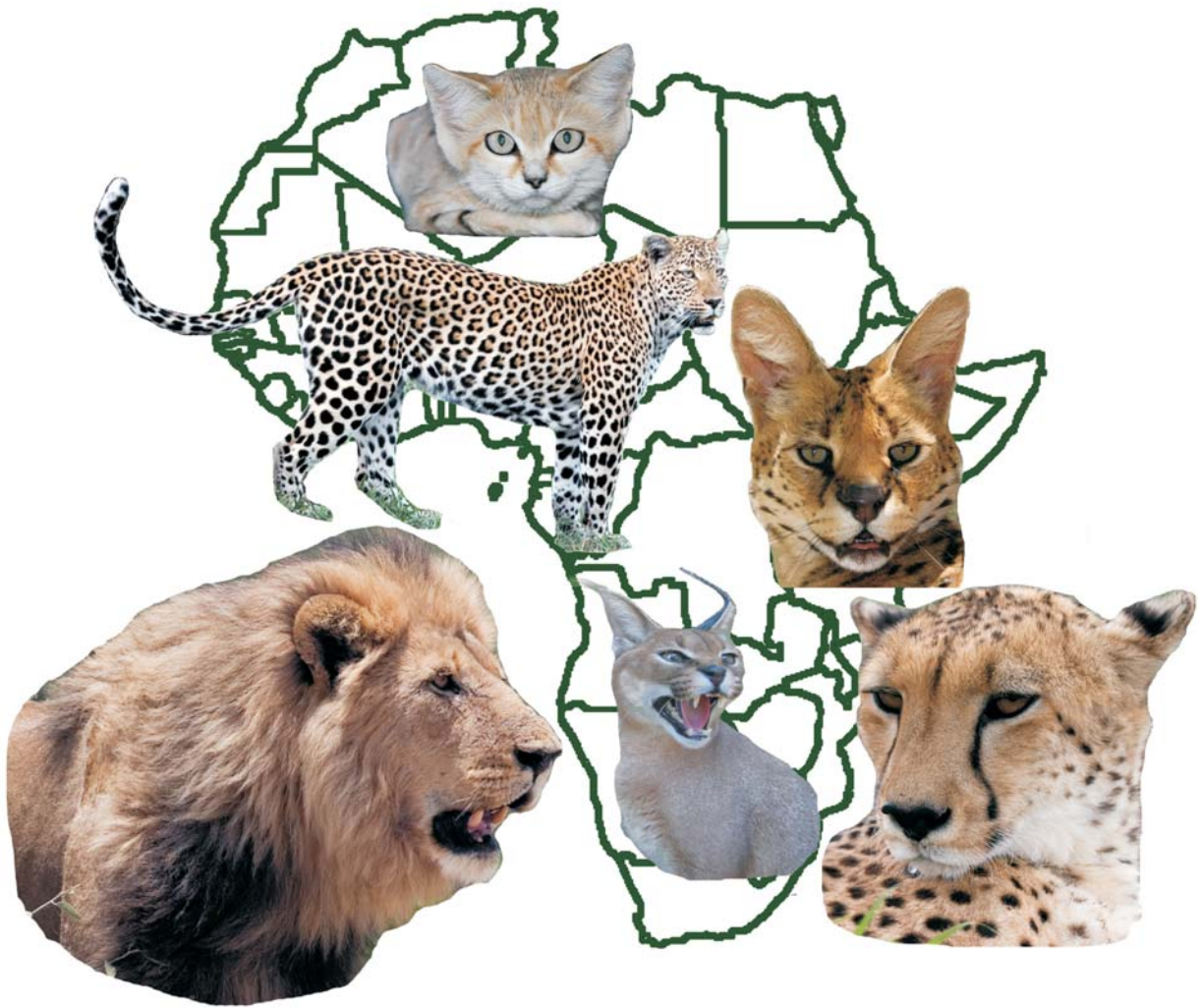


Welcome to the 2008 Fabulous Feline Follies

Saturday, August 16, 2008



Hosted by the Exotic Feline Breeding
Compound's Feline Conservation Center
Rosamond, California

Message from the Follies Committee

We would like to welcome you to the 19th Fabulous Feline Follies and extend our appreciation for your contribution to our on-going efforts of feline propagation and preservation. EFBC has grown a lot in the 31 years since it has opened its doors. Part of this expansion goes towards all the wonderful people who put in countless hours of hard work to make sure this facility runs smoothly but also in part to people like you who help provide support and funds to make our efforts possible. We, the committee, would like to give a special thanks to our Chairman, Larry Purcell, and our co-chair, Kim Blaquera, for helping to make this night a success.

This year we ask you to journey with us on “A Night on Safari” and encourage all of you to go out and experience the wonders of the natural world. As Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, once wrote, “Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization (*A Sand County Almanac*).” In fact, numerous scientific studies have shown that having a relationship with nature has real, measurable benefits such as increased productivity, emotional well-being, stress reduction, learning, and healing (*Newsletter of the Committee on the Environment*, July 2006). Unfortunately, our busy lives often eclipses time to learn from and experience nature and we lose sight of the importance of the natural world not only for our own well-being but also for the sustainable function of our world. Again, Aldo Leopold defines modern relationship with nature well when he states that oftentimes “Civilization has so cluttered this elemental man-earth relation with gadgets and middlemen that awareness of it is growing dim. We fancy that industry supports us, forgetting what supports industry (*A Sand County Almanac*).” Your attendance tonight is helping us defend a small portion of our natural world from encroaching human efforts into wild lands through our conservation efforts and being a voice for exotic felines everywhere. Wilderness is an ever shrinking entity and your opportunity to investigate and discover its diversity and to pass this wonder on to generations to come is fading fast. We encourage you to broaden your experiences and go explore and appreciate the diversity and complexity of the natural world, whether it is in our local desert landscape, a national park, or a bio-preserve. Thank you again for all that you do in supporting the conservation and preservation of our feline friends!

-Misty Hailstone



Nancy Vandermey, Camille Gadwood, Melany Marotta, Kim Blaquera, Misty Hailstone, Gail Lyon, Larry Purcell

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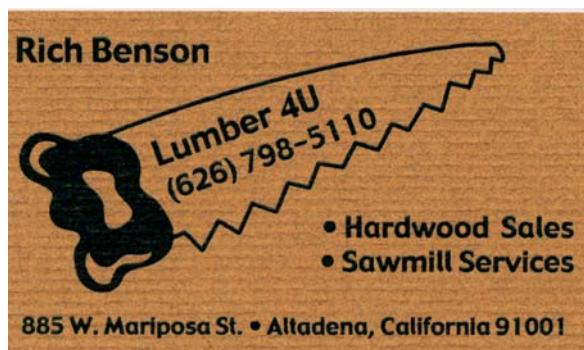
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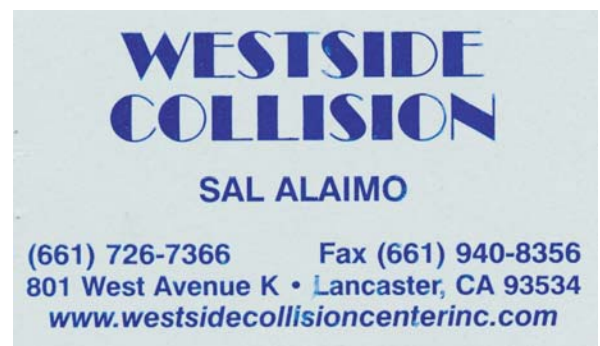
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SPONSORS



PROGRAM

Welcome to the 19th Annual
Fabulous Feline Follies

“A Night on Safari”

6:00 PM Cocktail Reception, Animal Visitors courtesy of David & Anita Jackson - Zoo to You. View our cats and enjoy close encounters with a wide variety of visiting educational animals. Bid on silent auction items, browse in the gift shop, and purchase raffle tickets and extra door prize tickets (place HALF of the red ticket in the bucket for the door prize you want to win.)

7:00 PM Silent Auction table 1 closes, winners announced.

7:15-7:30 Dinner begins (buffet style), bring your blue ticket to the gift shop. Emcee will call table numbers.

8:00 PM Silent Auction table 2 closes, winners announced. Door prizes awarded, must be present to win.

8:15 Program and Presentations.

9:00 PM Raffle winners drawn, remaining silent auction winners announced.

Our emcee this year is Eric Barkalow

Souvenir Safari Glass

Purchase our Margay Mimosa or Caracal Cooler (non-alcoholic) to take home this hand painted glass as a souvenir!



SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE DONORS

Pam Rose & Gene Bowman, Nancy Vandermey & Eric Barkalow, Camille & Jerry Gadwood, Costco, Black Angus, Steer & Stein, Domingo's, Sandy Masek, Sea World, Laura Maluccio-Patterson, Jim Rice, Misty Hailstone, Judith Zar, Gail Lyon, Chris Keene, Antelope Valley Fair, Zulu Nyala, Kim Blaquera, Don Patterson, Gigi Levangie Grazer, Antelope Valley Country Club, Larry Purcell, Eilene Maluccio, Elaine Heitman, Antelope Valley Florist, Michelle & Tom Hanagan, Hemme Hay, Janilyn Rose, Bettye Kozlowski, Howard & Wanda Laire, Leslie Simmons, Pumpkin Pie, The Cat Dr. Tracy Mc Farland & Friends.



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Eric Barkalow, Kim Blaquera, Jeff Conrad, Ann Conrad, Lisa Davis,
Camille Gadwood, Misty Hailstone, Lauren Kreisberg, Mark
McConnell, Pam Rose, Leslie Simmons, Megan Smith, Nancy
Vandermey, Richard West, visiting intern Rachel Meili

We are always looking for more volunteers! No experience required, you must be 18 years or older and able to follow directions well. Besides animal care volunteers, we also have use for special event volunteers.

Many thanks to our special event volunteers!

Our speaker this year will be Nancy Vandermey talking about A Night on Safari

Safari:

- noun

1. a journey or expedition, for hunting, exploration, or investigation, esp. in eastern Africa.
2. the hunters, guides, vehicles, equipment, etc., forming such an expedition.
3. Any long or adventurous journey or expedition.

- verb (used without object)

4. To go on safari

This dictionary definition agrees pretty well with my own: while eastern Africa is the “classic” safari destination, any travel of exploration (we’ll ignore the hunting part!) is a safari. While our slide show tonight will focus on Africa, there are many other parts of the world where one can go on safari. And the wildlife you pursue can even be something other than a cat! (Maybe not for this audience...)

Yellowstone National Park

This is the classic American safari experience. Who hasn’t seen photos of bison on the roadway, surrounded by cars? This is a common occurrence as are sighting of elk, pronghorn antelope, bald eagles, coyote, and black bear. Other not-too-unlikely sightings are mountain goats, bighorn ram, grizzly bear, and wolf. Of course, smaller fauna such as beaver, muskrat, and marmot are also fun to watch and photograph. Lucky visitors may glimpse bobcat or cougar, but they are not the dominant predator here. Wolf sightings are always prized, and online communities can give you insider information on what time of year is best, and which part of the park. A car is necessary as most sightings are made from the network of roads that cross the park. The northern part includes the Lamar Valley, sometimes called the American Serengeti. Wolf watchers congregate here with high powered scopes to track the progress each spring of packs that den near the roads. Grizzly and black bear are also easily spotted here in the wide-open vistas. The Hayden Valley in the south is also rich with animal sightings. Of course there are also waterfalls and geysers in the park to supplement your wildlife viewing. A short backpack trip will get you off the roads and you will be amazed at how few people you come across in the back country, even on a July weekend.

Alaska



Discover endless expanses of rolling forests, mountain meadows, hidden lakes, whispering streams, turquoise glaciers --- all teeming with rare species of North American wildlife. There are many places in Alaska that fit the “safari experience” bill, but let’s focus on a few of the many national parks. Denali, of course, is the most famous. The single roadway into the park gives most visitors glimpses of brown bear (aka grizzly, Kodiak), moose, caribou, Dall sheep, and often foxes. Lynx and wolves are a much rarer sighting. Hiking involves going off the road wherever you feel like it -- there are few official trails. The best brown bear viewing is in Katmai, home to the famous Brooks Falls where salmon jump right into the mouths of the bears. Seaplane tours are available to take you to where the bears are congregating. And Kenai Fjords offers wildlife cruises out of Seward which generally see orcas, whales, dolphins, sea otters, and seals in the water, while spotting bears and Dall sheep on the shore. The AnAn Observatory is located 35 miles southeast of Wrangell in the Tongass National Forest and offers some of the best bear viewing in southeast Alaska. Each summer thousands of spawning salmon begin their migration up-stream, only to be partially blocked by a waterfall about ½ mile from the saltwater. The large number of salmon attract brown bears, black bears, bald eagles, sea lions and seals that feed in the lagoon. Of course, this is Alaska -- you are just as likely to see moose in someone’s backyard in many of the towns. Some people even see bears from their cruise ship, although you really need to do a land tour as well to get closer sightings.



Other US destinations

Isle Royale National Park, located in Lake Superior north of Upper Michigan, affords moose and the chance of wolf and fox. Sequoia/King’s Canyon and Yosemite parks here in California are good places to spot black bear (which are seldom black in color!), especially if you tent-camp. Everglades National Park has alligators and the rare Florida panther (cougar). Big Bend National Park in Texas is another place to try to see cougar. Bobcat, the most common North American wildcat, is widespread but not easy to see in any particular place. For lynx, try Maine. While there are a few ocelot, jaguarundi, and occasional jaguar still found in the southern US near the Mexican border, you are very unlikely to see any of these rare animals outside of zoos in this country.



Mexico, Central America, South America

From jaguar preserves in Belize to protected rainforests in Ecuador to ecotourism adventures in the Pantanal and Amazon rainforests of Brazil to the highlands of Patagonia and the Andes, there are many species of wild cats found in these diverse habitats however these are not destinations or tours many travel agencies will be familiar with. You will have to do diligent research to find the right adventure for you. I plan to visit Brazil sometime in the next few years, as a trip report I found on the Internet described watching jaguars swimming in the Amazon as well as ocelot and jaguarundi sightings. You can also find volunteer opportunities for wildlife researchers and/or rehabilitation projects. These range from just over the border in Mexico down to the tip of Argentina.

As with any safari, using your vacation dollars to support conservation of endangered species in their native habitats sends an important message to local populations: wildlife is worth preserving!



India, Nepal

Traveling to India to see tigers and Asian lions is not for travel novices. The sheer mass of people and poverty is enough to overwhelm many, while wretched roads and other transportation difficulties make for long hours of travel to reach the best-known wildlife reserves. Large crowds of locals and limited control make the rare tiger sightings a very different experience than safaris in Africa. Leopard, fishing cat, and jungle cat can also be seen in India. Travelers hoping to spot the elusive snow leopard would be quite lucky to do so, given the remoteness, height, and weather conditions where they live.

Eastern Africa

East Africa is the safari experience that most people have in their minds, big open plains with thousands of individual animals. Vehicles usually have pop top viewing roofs and sliding windows. Because of the focus on the migrating animals, seasonal tented camps that are very comfortable and meet all your needs are commonly used. Often they use long drop or chemical toilets and have bucket showers so it is like upscale camping but with real beds, attentive staffs, and cooks providing good food. There are many permanent camps, some very upscale but planning for the right time to be in a permanent location is critical. There are also some large lodges that are very hotel like. Driving can be considerable as you drive between locations as well as for the game drives. It is possible to fly camp to camp but this adds considerable cost.

Kenya is the country where safari first became popular and there are still some spectacular locations. Unfortunately the best wildlife park, Masai Mara (a northern extension of Tanzania's Serengeti) often suffers from vehicle overcrowding, and camps and lodges tend to be larger than in other safari destinations. The trade off is spectacular wildlife viewing with high concentrations of big cats as well as the seasonal highlight of migration river crossings. This is also the famed area for hot air balloon rides. Samburu and Amboseli are other famous parks that are very popular. Tsavo National Park is a wild area with far less visitation.

Tanzania - Serengeti National Park is perhaps the most famous park on earth and is known for the enormous migration of wildebeest, zebra, and gazelles as well as the lions, spotted hyenas and cheetah that hunt the great herds. This is the quintessential image of safari and Africa for most people. Ngorongoro Crater is one of the wonders of the world. A huge intact caldera (sunken volcano) houses large concentrations of animals within the crater. Lake Manyara, Tarangire, Gombe Stream National Park (the site of Jane Goodall's chimp research), Ruaha and Selous parks are protected areas offering a variety of wildlife species and experiences.

Other East Africa countries sometimes combined with Kenya or Tanzania are Rwanda and/or Uganda, generally for viewing of mountain gorillas.

Many companies will arrange a safari to East Africa, but you have to be careful and understand what you are paying for. Some high-end U.S. outfits will charge you TRIPLE what you should really be paying, for a group trip staying at medium range properties! Doing research on the Internet is paramount in choosing the proper safari company. Reviews are readily available on several online forum sites (fodors.com/forums, tripadvisor.com/ForumHome). I suggest you first research what time of year and which parks you would like to visit, then choose a safari company and get a quote on a private trip. Having your own vehicle and guide gives you much more flexibility and ensures you spend your dream vacation doing exactly what interests you most.



Southern Africa

Game drives in Southern Africa are usually conducted in open sided vehicles allowing you an intimate connection with the animals. Tourist densities are much lower than in East Africa meaning you see fewer other vehicles and have a more exclusive experience.

Botswana is a premiere safari destination. The government has adopted a high revenue/low-density tourism model, which has protected huge wilderness areas and makes for an experience that is different from most other safari areas. What is phenomenal here is the exclusivity where land is divided into private concession areas that are quite large and typically have just one or two luxury camps for the entire concession. In most of these areas you can drive off road, allowing you to approach very closely to the animals and in many areas you can do night drives, giving you a chance to see additional animals that are rarely if ever seen during the day. Because of the low density approach camps are in spectacularly remote locations and most safaris usually involve short flights on small airplanes to travel from camp to camp. Mobile camping safaris are also possible, ranging from very luxurious to participatory camping.

The most well known area is the Okavango Delta, which is one of the largest wetland areas in the world. This lush landscape supports a huge diversity of mammals and birds, including all the major predators and massive numbers of elephants and buffalo. East of the Delta in the Kwando/Linyanti area, which tends to have more dry and open areas contrasting nicely with Delta area camps. This area has some of the best dry season concentrations of elephants as well as outstanding year round predator sightings. Chobe National Park does not have the same exclusivity of the private concession areas but it is best known for having tens of thousands of elephants, as well as dramatic viewing by boat on the Chobe River. The Kalahari desert and the Makgadikgadi Pans are enormous desert habitat areas that can add a complimentary contrast to the more traditional safari area. This allows for some different species and landscapes to be seen and also allows for some additional activities, including the best cultural experience in Botswana.

South Africa has the nickname of a World within a Nation because it has a bit of everything, beaches, mountains, cities, winelands, culture, and of course great safari areas. It also at times feels like the USA or a European country. Due to a good infrastructure, South Africa is one of the best destinations for those who want to do some self-driving.



The Sabi Sand Game Reserve adjacent to the Kruger National Park is the easiest location in all of Africa to spot the Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, and rhino) in one day. It is also without argument the premier location to see leopards. The area feels a bit tamer than some other safari destinations as the animals are extremely habituated and thus very easy to find and view. That said it is kill or be killed animals living wild like any other destination and because of the accessible viewing the most dramatic events might actually be witnessed more often than most locations. The lodging tends to be very upscale. Phinda Game Reserve is an area with a variety of habitats. Madikwe Game Reserve is one of the best locations available for people who need to travel to a malaria-free game area. There are a large number of game parks that can be a good value for self-drivers. The Kruger National Park is one of the best self-drive safari locations. It is a vast park loaded with amazing wildlife diversity. Hluhluwe/Umfolozi boasts the highest populations of white and black rhino in Africa. Walking safaris are also highlighted there. The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is another exciting self-drive safari area. This is a Kalahari desert area but it is a rich area, including outstanding predator sightings and a good option for cheetah and African wildcat.

Namibia has some of the most dramatic scenery in Africa. The Skeleton Coast is one of the most desolate and remote places on earth and the red sand dunes at Sossusvlei are one of the most spectacular scenic areas on the planet. In general though Namibia is best for its scenic landscape. Although Etosha National Park offers an excellent game viewing experience other safari locations are more suited for first time safari goers who expect to see diverse and plentiful animals.

Victoria Falls in Zambia's biggest drawing card but beyond the falls Zambia has incredible national parks that are rich with wildlife and great scenery. This country is famous for walking safaris and adventurous canoe trips.

Zimbabwe was once considered to be the ideal safari country. Unfortunately the country is in great despair due to the Robert Mugabe regime. There is a case to be made that in order to conserve the remaining wildlife and parks, as well as deliver income to the hard working people, travel must continue. Unfortunately the country is a time bomb and sooner or later everything will fall apart. The harsh reality is there needs to be a complete cut off of all funds going to the regime.

In summary -- be prepared that a “once in a lifetime” trip will turn into another, and another...



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