

FALL 2011 Trunklines

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

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As we say goodbye to Summer 2011...

Summer's drawing to a close, and at Q barn no one's terribly sad to see it go. The high temperatures and humidity have sent elephants and Caregivers alike scurrying for shade. Minnie, Debbie, and Ronnie definitely have a better situation than the rest of us though, with ponds to swim in and plenty of shady woods to explore. Even the dryness from the lack of rain doesn't seem to bother them. They frolic in the dust patches, throwing huge clouds of it everywhere to protect their skin from the sun and the bothersome insects. Unlucky plants also become part of their skin care, as they pile the waist-high weeds on their heads and backs.

As reported in our last *Trunklines*, we moved forward with our plan to let Debbie and Ronnie spend more time with Minnie. Their interactions have been a glowing success, with only a few instances of Minnie becoming too rough for gentle Debbie. It brings us such joy to see all three of them grazing in the habitat together. Most days, Debbie and Ronnie will wander up to the back of the barn without Minnie, making their separation in the barn easy. But when all three of them come to the barn together it can be a bit trickier, as Minnie can get worked up. But we've improvised and adapted to each situation. For example, if Sam or Ashleigh, their Caregivers, can get to the back of the barn before the Girls are standing at the actual gate, our brazen Minnie will pick up her pace, pulling ahead of Debbie and Ronnie, to be let in first. If she enters the barn first, we can shut the door behind her, and let Debbie and Ronnie through the second entrance to the barn without a fuss. Knowing our Ladies'

personalities (such as knowing that Minnie will want to be first) is a great asset in taking care of them.

Those of you who follow our *Ele-Notes* and *Ele-Diaries* online know that we also took the huge step of letting the trio spend the night together a couple of times this summer. Minnie is reluctant to allow Debbie to be separated from her on most days. Occasionally she was making it downright impossible by blocking Debbie, not allowing her to follow the 4-wheeler. The evening separations were taking hours. So if Minnie seems particularly adamant that she wants to stay with her friends, we no longer try to separate them. This behavior has become less frequent since we've allowed the "sleepovers." Perhaps Minnie feels more comfortable

Minnie, Debbie and Ronnie



now, knowing that we won't force her to be separated. To read a detailed account of their first "sleepover," please see the excerpt in the *Asian Ele-Diary* on our website.

Protected Contact training continues to go very well. Ronnie is always beyond enthusiastic, offering behaviors Sam is not even asking for in her exuberance. She wiggles around, switches positions and puts her feet up on the foot bars, opening her mouth and sticking her ear out as if

the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee

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The Elephant Sanctuary is accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), and is Licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

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We would like to express our sincere gratitude to The Sanctuary members, volunteers and staff who work so diligently to contribute their personal stories, their design talents and awe-inspiring photography, without which this publication would not be possible.

Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2,700 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

The Elephant Sanctuary exists for two reasons:

- ◇ To provide a haven for old, sick, or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, hardwood forests, spring-fed ponds, and heated barns for cold winter nights.
- ◇ To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent, and endangered creatures.

To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the resident elephants, visit:

www.elephants.com

Message from Rob

The Sanctuary aims to bring long-term stability into the lives of the elephants in our care. Each day, our Girls are carefully observed and we take note of every change in their behavior and health. The Caregivers who perform this labor of love have to have a natural aptitude for this kind of work—they're what I call true "animal people." Expressions of excitement, pleasure or discomfort from Lizzie, for instance, may look very different to those exhibited by Frieda. Caregivers need to know these differences and how to act accordingly.

The Sanctuary is not defined by individual experts or personalities. To meet the level of care needed for our elephants requires many people and a wealth of knowledge. But there are times when it's right to celebrate those with a special role in making it all possible. In this *Trunklines*, The Elephant Sanctuary honors our Co-Founder, Scott Blais, who leaves The Sanctuary after sixteen years of unwavering devotion to the Girls and support for our staff.

As one elephant expert leaves us, more are lined up to take forward Scott's legacy of loving excellence in elephant care. I introduce our new directors, who will absorb all they can from Scott and our Caregiver's detailed familiarity with the Girls. They bring with them their own expertise, experience and knowledge, gleaned from different elephants, different colleagues and different situations. Because of the additional expertise, The Sanctuary will grow that much richer. And as Scott selflessly passes the baton of knowledge to those who follow, the elephants will be the beneficiaries.

From Scott, from the elephants, from all our staff members and from me—thank you for your unfailing support on our journey as The Sanctuary prepares to move forward to the next stage in its development.

Rob Atkinson
CEO



In This Issue

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----|
| Elephant Update | 1 | Taking the Vision Forward. | 10 |
| Message From Rob. | 2 | Ways You Can Help | 11 |
| The Latest on Liz. | 6 | Sanctuary Merchandise. | 12 |
| Veterinary Care Center | 6 | Remembering Lota | 14 |
| News From Downtown | 7 | Soundforest Update | 15 |
| October is Elephant Awareness Month | 7 | Supporters' Spotlight | 15 |
| Thank You Scott Blais | 8 | One Lucky Elephant News | 16 |



Liz, Frieda and Billie

Elephant Update: As we say goodbye to Summer 2011... (cont.)

it's time for a blood draw. Debbie is much calmer, carefully considering Ashleigh's requests to make sure she has them right before she moves. It takes Debbie longer to learn new behaviors, but Ashleigh's patience has reaped huge rewards. Once Debbie grasps a behavior, she is not likely to forget it. And then there's our mighty Minnie. A pause before she responds to a request is almost a guarantee that she will make a grab for the target pole... just to make sure Sam is paying close attention. But Minnie will do pretty much anything for her favorite treat, calf manna, including not stealing the target pole.

Liz, Billie, and Frieda are at a stage of change. We are past the first attempt of Liz's TB treatment, which was completed on July 4th (see page 6 for an Update on Lizzie's TB) and we are gearing up for the second attempt, so in the meantime they are sort of in limbo. It's not a bad place to be. In fact the break in treatment has given us more opportunities to encourage their growth. Liz has certainly shown signs of change. She appears to feel better after being taken off her medicine; she moves more quickly and purposefully from place to place and she eats a variety of produce, which we haven't seen in quite some time. Even more exciting though is her personality rebounding. She's back to being exceptionally "talkative" (rumbling and other vocalizations) when interacting with her Caregivers. During her treatment she was often withdrawn, whereas now she's forward and to the point, especially when it comes to requesting treats. We've even caught her helping herself to extra apples and bananas left unattended. She is very sneaky!

Billie's sensitivity toward change has been apparent during this time. Although she is more at ease when Liz is feeling better, she does seem to sense being in a time of change

and she can become uneasy. We've been helping her stay calm by taking things slowly, giving her more toys and encouraging her to explore her habitat, all of which goes a long way toward comforting her. But, if it's a rainy day, or if she's just gone for a dip in her pond, then her worries disappear. In these times she goes into play mode and it's all about chasing her ball, darting across the grass, chirping and so on.

Frieda is still the "rock." She is perpetually calm, never appears worried or upset. She also expresses an affectionate and caring side; if Billie gets frustrated and tension builds between her and Liz, Frieda has been known to defuse the situation by shuffling over to stand close by and vocalize. She does a great job of helping us maintain their peaceful days, especially as we're all waiting to see what comes next for these three.

At the Asian barn, a summertime illness brought out our Girls' true elephant hearts. Sissy, Misty and Dulary all experienced a gastro-intestinal upset that spanned a couple of months. Of course we wish our Girls were free from all such ailments, but in this case it did give us a window into the heart of the beautiful bonds between female elephants.

Sissy was the first to get sick, and she remained sick longer than the others. A gentle and sweet elephant, she seemed to respond warmly to the extra attention she got not only from her Caregivers, but also from her companion Winkie. Winkie's response to Sissy's disability was touching. Sissy's primary Caregiver, Kat, observed: "Although, especially towards the end, you could tell Winkie was not happy with being limited in her wanderings, she continued to stay until Sissy was ready to go."

More than the other elephants, Dulary appears to rely on another's support. Misty willingly provided that

...continued on page 4

Elephant Update:

As we say goodbye to Summer 2011... (cont.)



Sissy and Winkie

support during Dulary's sickness, and Dulary seemed to be dependent on it. In contrast, Misty seemed to reject such attention, preferring to take her suffering away from others. Maybe she was feeling the illness more acutely than the other two patients and so reacted differently, just as humans do at different stages of illness, sometimes wanting close care and attention—sometimes wanting to be left completely alone. Whatever the cause, Misty's sickness clearly affected her behavior; she must have felt wretched to crave such solitude. Misty is the elephant who, when at the Q barn, would try to elicit the attention of whoever was stacking hay next to her corral. She would start with a belch and wait for a reaction. If she didn't get any she would proceed to put her trunk up (just in case you didn't see her) and increased the volume (just in case you didn't hear her). If there was still not even a giggle from the Caregiver, she would continue to increase her volume while lengthening the duration of her burps and belches until you couldn't possibly contain your amusement—and at that she

was content. (This is a strategy she still uses to this day, by the way!) Misty is so tolerant and loving that seeing her need to be alone during her illness told us clearly how uncomfortable she must have felt. It was a long road for all three of them, but with each other's support, and the tireless efforts of our veterinarians and Caregivers, they all made it through.

While all of this was going on, Shirley and Tarra stayed healthy, continuing to explore the habitat and spend their days as they chose, enjoying the leisurely life of an elephant at The Sanctuary. Shirley continues to be a daily inspiration to those who have the pleasure of spending time with her. While her body outwardly tells the story of all that she has been through, her spirit shows no sign of wounds from her past. She is one of the most beautiful, strong, stubborn yet playful elephants there is. Then there is Tarra, with her loyalty shared between a dog and another elephant. Tarra and Shirley are generally found together at meal times, but the afternoon is when Tarra gets some alone time with Bella. They can be spotted wandering away, going for a slow stroll, usually ending up at the creek, stopping for a drink and some play. This slow journey gives Tarra the chance to graze on all that is growing along the side of the trails, while giving Bella time to romp and chase bunnies, dig holes, and stop now and again to roll around on her back, giving it a good scratch. These journeys generally last about an hour or two, depending upon how sidetracked one or the other gets. And they usually take place around 1 p.m., which is when you can find Shirley napping in the shade. It seems as though Tarra usually waits until her friend Shirley has lain down for a much needed rest before she leaves her on her own.

Watching the ladies over the past few months, makes you appreciate all the well moments—Misty climbing on top of Dulary in the pond, Sissy and Winkie's symphony of



Shirley, Tarra and Bella



Misty and Dulary

trunk noises, Tarra bumping Shirley with her butt until she can elicit the play she desires—so much more and with a renewed sense of wonder.

This summer brought changes for both staff and elephants in our Africa Barn. The Sanctuary's wealth of experienced staff members are occasionally infused with new recruits who, while developing their skills as Caregivers, never fail to bring a new, fresh perspective to all we do for our Girls. Read the following account from Maddie, a new staff member who arrived at The Sanctuary at the end of 2010, as she describes her summer with Tange and Flora:

"I moved from the Q-barn to the Africa barn in June. It was quite a change and I must admit it was a relief not to be wearing respirators while cleaning the barn or being near the elephants! Once I got comfortable in the new surroundings,



Tange

I started to be trained to take care of Tange and Flora. It was such a strange sensation to ask them to stay still so I could present their food to them, but both Girls were patient with me and things have been going very smoothly. Flora was more cautious around me, taking a few moments to decide if she was going to do what I asked or make things more interesting. Tange presented a whole separate issue. She is just so wiggly! She seemed so interested in the addition

of someone new that it took some time for her to contain herself. So we had to have Angela or Scott keep her in one spot with some carrots to allow me to safely put down her food. I've been at The Sanctuary for less than a year, and so I also began learning how to do Protected Contact training. This was fun for everyone else to watch as I fumbled with the targets and, with a whistle in my mouth, struggled with

asking for feet and ears without whistling at the same time! There was one particular training session that I will never forget. Flora and I were going through some of the basics when I asked her to come to me. She, however, decided it was entirely too nice a day to work. She leaned into the bars, rested her trunk on one bar and her tusk on another then proceeded to fall asleep! It was by far the cutest thing I have ever seen. Angela, Gail and I just sat there in amazement, then busted up laughing. Then, as if nothing happened, she woke up and was ready to finish the session.

A new addition to our barn is a very large hose hooked up to the water tanks and a booster. Flora loves this new toy! I swear she'd sit under the water all day long if we let her. She squishes her body against the fence and holds each ear out for proper rinsing. Tange, on the other hand, does not have the same enthusiasm for the hose. She will occasionally get involved and be playful, but most of the time she leaves the area as soon as the hose gets turned on. This makes the times that she does want to be sprayed all the more exciting for us. Just the other day I was spraying Flora, and Tange slowly but surely snuck out of the woods, and with some coaxing, came over to get in on the fun. At first Flora moved out of the way and let Tange get some private time, but soon returned. Usually when this happens Tange leaves, but this time she got very excited. She rumbled and backed up to Flora. She even gave out a little trumpet. Then they both stood under the water and shared bath time.

Getting to work more directly with these elephants has truly been a blessing. They are magnificent animals and I am so fortunate to get to be involved with giving them a peaceful and happy place to live the rest of their lives. Being around these girls changes who you are. It turns you into a more compassionate, loving and sincere person. I had expected to fall in love with them but I didn't expect them to change how I view myself and the world. This is a remarkable place. Thank you to everyone who contributes to The Sanctuary. Without your donations, gifts, and words, we would not be here." 💎



Flora

The Latest on Liz

The Sanctuary celebrated Independence Day, July 4th, 2011, as Lizzie received the last dose of her scheduled TB treatment. We had long planned for “Lizziependence Day” to mark the end of her TB treatment and the beginning of the next chapter of her life here at the Sanctuary. But our celebrations will have to be put on hold, as unfortunately we do not yet know what future lies ahead for Liz.



Since starting her TB treatment in early 2010, the disease, and probably the side effects of the drugs, has affected Lizzie’s appetite and energy levels, causing her to lose weight. Throughout the year her routine nasal samples always came back clear—so

we thought, despite her external decline, that underneath we were winning the fight against the disease. Near the end of her treatment schedule we collected a sample and sent it off for analysis as usual. After a year of negative results we were not prepared for the news; Lizzie was still TB positive.

Thankfully, The Sanctuary is blessed with expert staff and veterinarians, as well as a network of specialist vets, medical doctors and scientists to call upon. An emergency meeting of staff and advisors was convened to decide on the way forward. As a result, we completed Lizzie’s scheduled treatment on July 4th, and then we gave her a break. Lizzie is still on her drug-free vacation, recovering from the year-long treatment and the difficult side effects of the drugs. The break has done her a world of good—she eats better and is happier and more interactive with Caregivers and her companions, Frieda and Billie, than she has been in months.

Liz’s treatment will one day have to start again, and we will proceed carefully and cautiously, introducing her to new drugs in the hope that one of them will not trigger the dreaded side effects. We cannot leave her untreated forever, however, and are gently preparing her through Protected Contact training for the next course of treatment.

In the meantime, her Caregivers are preparing for the days ahead. They know better than anyone what a relentless disease TB can be within the body of an elephant—they have seen their own Girls succumb despite their best efforts, but they have also seen triumph. Misty, our glorious survivor, defiantly walks the 2200 acres of her home as manifest proof that Lizzie, and The Sanctuary that cares for her, must never despair. ♦

Veterinary Care Center

It is The Sanctuary’s mission to care for elephants in need. Many of the elephants who live at The Sanctuary bear the physical scars of their former existences, from Shirley’s broken hind leg, to Frieda’s damaged feet, to Liz’s tuberculosis. Not all our Girls’ disorders were brought with them from previous facilities, however. Thankfully, our elephants behave just as elephants should, living naturally amongst the trees, ponds and pastures of their home and in doing so, they sometimes pick up minor ailments. Some physical troubles will stay with our Girls for the rest of their lives, while others may come and go, such as intestinal upsets, small cuts and bruises. Our Caregivers work tirelessly to identify problems long before they become illnesses, as well as to ease the elephants’ suffering.

But without the input of qualified veterinary staff there would be a limit to how much healing The Sanctuary can bring about. For example, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the most serious threats facing captive elephants today. As well as being a debilitating and often lethal disease, elephants infected with TB can pass the disease onto other elephants and also to humans. TB in humans has been studied for over 100 years, but TB in elephants has been scientifically studied for only 15 years. And while veterinarians have learned a great deal about TB in elephants, there is still much more to learn.

The Sanctuary has hired a Director of Veterinary Care, Dr. Susan Mikota, to lead us in this endeavor (for more about Dr. Mikota, see page 7). Dr. Mikota and her veterinary care team will work in collaboration with a wide range of veterinarians and medical professionals to deliver the best possible care to our elephants, and to advance our knowledge of elephant health. Our veterinary team’s focus will always be first and foremost on the individual elephants under The Sanctuary’s care and, wherever possible, we will strive to expand our knowledge and share it for the benefit of elephants everywhere.

To ensure the future success of our veterinary care program, it is urgent that we move forward in developing a central hub where all its activities can be developed and coordinated, and where the daily business of veterinary work can be efficiently carried out. We need this central location to store and log medication, analyze samples and enter and evaluate each of our Girl’s veterinary records. The Sanctuary strives to be as far as possible self-sustaining through the use of natural lighting in our barns, rain water for hosing the barns and watering plants, growing our own bamboo and produce for the elephants, etc. We are now working to bring our veterinary care needs in

...continued on page 14

News from Downtown



Asian elephant caregiver Suz talked to visitors in August.

This summer was a busy time at the Welcome Center with extended hours, including a Saturday program scheduled twice each month. We continue to welcome visitors from across the country, and even had a few international visitors from Canada and Australia! We are pleased with the number of visitors who have made a special trip just to come by and see our new Welcome Center, to catch one of our Saturday Caregiver Programs—or to just simply stop by to meet us and say “thanks” for the work we are doing. It is a pleasure to meet and talk with so many of our supporters!

In July we hosted a special group of 37 visitors from the Fifth Third Bank Travel Group. They traveled from Franklin, Tennessee, to Linden and on to Hohenwald for a day trip. While visiting the Welcome Center, they learned about The Sanctuary and our resident elephants through a multi-media presentation given by Ellen, our Communications and Service Specialist.

Scott and Laurie grabbed everyone’s attention with discussions about Dulary and Misty in July, while the unique friendship of Tarra and her dog companion, Bella, kept people talking in August! We followed up with programs about our “Grandma” Shirley and Tarra for September.

The Elephant Sanctuary Welcome Center is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and beginning in September, every third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other times are available by appointment. For more information or to schedule a visit, please call Lorenda at 931-796-6500 ext. 105 or email lorenda@elephants.com. ♦

October is Elephant Awareness Month in Tennessee

Each October, the Governor of Tennessee and the City and County Mayors of Hohenwald and Lewis County sign proclamations to recognize The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee and October as Elephant Awareness Month. 2011 is The Sanctuary’s fourth year to be recognized and we have scheduled a series of educational activities throughout the month to raise awareness about the crisis facing these amazing animals.

One activity in which we are proud to participate is a new exhibit at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville, Tennessee, titled *Animal Secrets*. This exhibit runs October 1st – January 15th, 2012 and features hands-on activities and presentations that educate visitors about the secrets of the animal kingdom. The Elephant Sanctuary will be featured during its October 1st opening day festivities.

The Sanctuary is also taking part in the annual Oktober Heritage Festival located in downtown

Hohenwald on October 7th and 8th, with scheduled programs and children’s activities.

The Sanctuary’s Welcome Center will also be included in the local Sonnenschein Green Initiatives “Green Business Tours” during the festival. On Saturday, October 8th, we will have demonstrations hosted by Raymond

“Chi” Palma, a young autistic artist. Chi has a remarkable insight into the physical structure and movement of animals and uses this to make elegant clay figures modeled after The Sanctuary’s resident elephants. His artwork is available for sale in our Welcome Center gift shop.



For a list of events scheduled for Elephant Awareness Month, visit us at www.elephants.com. ♦

The Sanctuary staff hosted a party to say goodbye to Scott.





A Comment From Rob: 🐘

August 17, 2011

All of us, supporters and staff of The Sanctuary alike, are absorbing the news of Scott's pending departure, each of us dealing with this news in our own way.

I have always considered it a privilege to work with Scott from the first time I met him in 2002. The decision for him to leave comes after much discussion about the future of The Sanctuary and Scott's role as VP of Operations. We both believe that after 16 years of growth, new people are needed to carry The Sanctuary towards the next phase of development. This was discussed at length, with both of us exploring all aspects, and in the end this was truly a mutual decision with no hard feelings.

As always, the care and well being of our elephants will remain at the forefront of all Scott and I do during this transition. The 18 dedicated members of our Caregiver and Veterinary team will continue, as they have for years, to make the Girls' needs a priority above all else. As we announce in this edition of Trunklines, The Sanctuary has hired three new highly qualified professionals, not only to carry out Scott's many responsibilities, but also to enhance and expand our elephant care program. Scott has worked alongside his successors for weeks to ensure a seamless transition. We look forward to his continued contributions as a consultant to the organization, and as a valuable professional friend to The Sanctuary.

Scott's departure in no way diminishes the legacy of caring and advocating for captive elephants that he created through his work here. We are going to preserve that legacy and build on it into the future as we continue to provide a true sanctuary, which allows elephants to live their lives as elephants in a safe haven, with minimal intrusion.

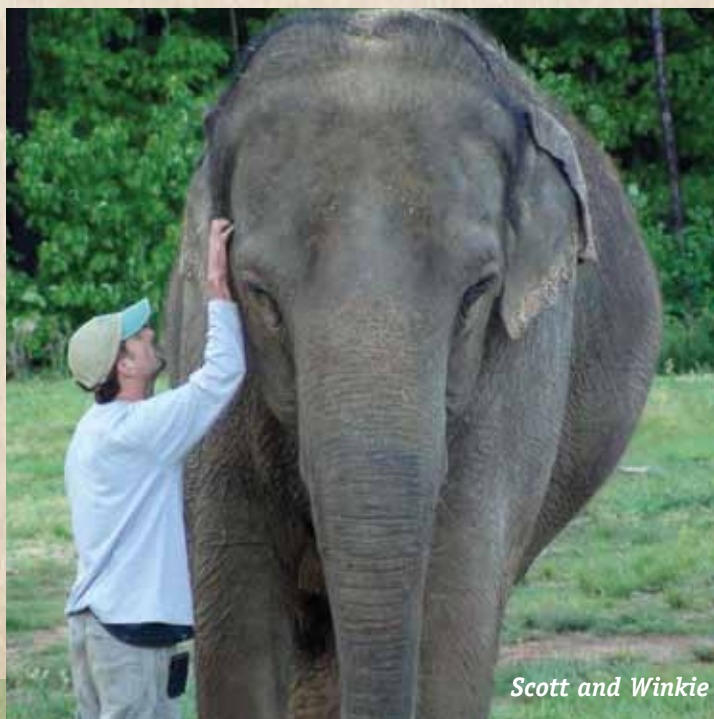
The Sanctuary has been a beacon of hope to anyone working on the protection of captive elephants, and Scott will always be honored for his fundamental role in co-founding The Elephant Sanctuary and keeping it strong and vibrant through the years. —Rob

Thank You

Although many of you are already aware of this summer's news, for some this will be the first time you have heard that Scott Blais, our co-founder and our friend, is leaving the employment of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

Together, on August 17th, Rob and Scott made the announcement alerting first our members through emails and with individual statements posted to our website (both of which are presented here in *Trunklines*), and then to the animal welfare community and the general public through a formal press release. During the weeks since, Scott, Rob and the entire staff have been working diligently to prepare for the arrival of new team members to take on the myriad responsibilities Scott has carried on his shoulders for so many years, to ensure a smooth transition for our Girls.

Now is the time for some reflection; what do we know about Scott Blais? We know the power of the vision that



Scott and Winkie




Scott Blais

Scott, as Co-Founder with Carol Buckley, had when The Sanctuary first took root here in the rolling hills of Tennessee. It was with his own hands that roads were cut, land was prepared and barns were raised. Fences were built, mended and built again. We watched as he welcomed every one of our 24 elephants as they stepped off the trailer that had borne them from their old lives and entered their permanent home at The Sanctuary. We know that he tended to those that were sick and, with love and respect, hand-picked their final resting places—Lota by the Q-Barn house, marked with a small oak tree, Bunny just beside her favorite tree—then personally, painfully, dug the graves for each of the ten beautiful elephants who left us too soon.

We know Scott as the steady voice that guided us through amazing growth, heartbreaking tragedy and difficult transition—keeping the Girls' wellbeing at the forefront of every decision along the way. While we are all saddened to see Scott go, there is one thing that many people don't know. In 1995, when Scott made the commitment to co-found The Elephant Sanctuary, he was a young man of just 22 years of age. With the exception of Flora and Tarra, he is younger than all our gentle giants. Before the age of forty, Scott Blais achieved more than most do in a lifetime, and we wait and wonder what his next challenge will be.

For the past 16 years Scott has dedicated his life to these Girls, creating a forever home in which our elephants can live in peace and dignity, and building the solid foundation on which other elephants will one day build their new lives when they eventually find sanctuary.

We celebrate an amazing man and an incredible achievement, and look forward with excitement to what the future holds for him, for The Sanctuary and for captive elephants everywhere. 

A Comment From Scott:

August 17, 2011

Since day one it has been an amazing and life-altering experience to be part of The Elephant Sanctuary. This has been a tremendous opportunity and gift to help turn a dream into a reality, providing for 24 elephants that were given a chance to truly live, and to impact the world of captive elephants, giving us all hope for change.

Throughout the past 16 years, the elephants have shared their lives with all of us, teaching us the fundamentals of truth, trust and acceptance. As we all grow, we have to accept and honor change, we have to trust in those around us and the goodwill of strangers who may soon be friends, and we have to embrace the truth: our world requires a cohesive and cooperative balance, and none of us can go through life on our own. I literally owe my life to the Girls; they have taught me how to live in their footsteps. They have shared lessons and memories that will always be carried close to my heart.

Although I will not be here at The Sanctuary, I believe in its future. There are many very capable friends of the elephants that will help carry The Sanctuary forward. The Sanctuary has much work to do—there are still so many elephants in need of a safe haven. I have confidence that all The Sanctuary staff will continue the work we started here, and ensure that The Sanctuary is equipped to address the growing needs of elephants.

As for me, there is literally a world of possibilities. There is tremendous work going on all over the world to help protect and rescue elephants and I anticipate considering many options that can take advantage of my experience and passion.

From the depths of my heart, I send thanks and eternal gratitude to all of my Sanctuary friends, not only have you helped make all that is Sanctuary possible, but your trust in the good of The Sanctuary has helped to create a trend towards compassionate living that extends far beyond our fences. —Scott

Taking the Vision Forward

by Rob Atkinson, CEO

The Sanctuary made a vow to our Girls before they even arrived—that they would be looked after here, safe and secure, for the rest of their lives; as CEO, I will always honor that promise. My vision for The Sanctuary is to provide a haven where elephants have state-of-the-art facilities and health care provision, where they can live like elephants should, wandering the forests, swimming in the ponds and lake, and grazing peacefully amongst acres of rolling hills—all with minimal intrusion from humans. The Sanctuary will continue to be a model of excellence in elephant care.

The team needed to deliver this vision is founded on dedicated and skillful Caregivers who know when to stand back and simply observe and when to step forward and tend to feeding, examinations and proactive care. To maximize the effectiveness of that skill and to take us to the next level requires dedicated leaders in each area of elephant care. I am delighted to introduce to you The Elephant Sanctuary's new directors.

Susan Mikota, DVM, will be The Sanctuary's first Director of Veterinary Care. Dr. Mikota is one of the world's foremost elephant veterinarians and the world's leading veterinarian on tuberculosis in elephants. Susan obtained her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois, before moving into senior management positions at the Audubon Zoo and the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species. She resigned in 2000 to move to Sumatra to initiate a health care and conservation program for elephants. Susan is co-founder and Director of Veterinary Programs and Research for Elephant Care International, an organization dedicated to the conservation and care of elephants. She is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Asian Elephant Specialist Group. She has written two renowned books on veterinary care of elephants as well as numerous book chapters and scientific papers.



In 2006 Susan moved to Hohenwald to be close to the 'Hawthorn Herd'—our Q-Barn Girls—and has worked as a consultant to The Sanctuary ever since. She has a long direct association with The Sanctuary's elephants and knows each of our Girls intimately. This will be the first time Susan has had a position on staff and we are

honored that she is joining us to lead our new veterinary care program. Our Girls will be reassured further by the continued weekly presence of their local veterinarian, Dr. Steven Scott. Dr. Scott has worked with our elephants since The Sanctuary was founded in 1995. They know and trust him.



The Sanctuary is proud to announce that **Steve Smith** will be its first Director of Elephant Husbandry. Steve has a bachelor's degree in Animal Behavior from Purdue University. He has an exemplary record in elephant care as keeper and manager, having worked with Asian and African elephants since 1981 at a variety of facilities. His reputation is for setting high standards in animal care and for championing the importance of animal welfare. He has an abundance of experience in hands-on elephant care as well as in personnel, financial and facilities management. Steve is a proponent and practitioner of Protected Contact, the humane and safe form of elephant management practiced at The Sanctuary. Steve's most recent position was as Director of Animal Care and Facilities with the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Vermont. Steve's first love is elephants, however, and he returns to them now as he starts a new life with our Girls. Steve has admired The Elephant Sanctuary since it was founded in 1995, and says of The Sanctuary on his ECHO blog *"They manage elephants in the type of environment where elephants should be kept and they care for elephants the way elephants should be cared for in captivity."*

The Director of Facilities Development is a vital new part of The Sanctuary's senior management team. The Sanctuary estate is 2,700 acres and comprises a variety of habitats, waterways, four elephant barns, food storehouses, numerous staff houses, offices, machinery and vehicles. As well as the constant



need for maintenance and improvement, The Sanctuary requires long-term facilities plans, such as a strategic program of fencing, road and pond construction and repair, barn upgrades, and general repairs. **Joe Rizzo** has worked with The Sanctuary for years as a contract manager on a wide variety of building and maintenance projects, but we are delighted to finally welcome him aboard as a full-time member of staff with much broader

...continued on page 15

Ways You Can Help The Sanctuary



You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like: in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or family member. Contributions may be made on a one-time basis or once a month for as long as you specify.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your donations to any of the programs below are tax deductible.

Use the form on the enclosed envelope to provide information and indicate which giving program you have chosen. Be sure to include the name and address for any "In Honor" gifts so we can send the honoree(s) a certificate and *Trunklines*.

Membership

Choose your level and become part of the nation's largest natural-habitat sanctuary for old, sick, and needy elephants retired from circuses and zoos. Members receive a certificate and subscription to *Trunklines* for a year. Give a membership as a gift and you also receive an elephants.com decal for your window.

Donor Society

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| _____ | \$10,000+ | Founder |
| _____ | \$5,000-\$9,999 | Benefactor |
| _____ | \$1,000-\$4,999 | Patron |
| _____ | \$500-\$999 | Sustainer |
| _____ | \$100-\$499 | Supporter |



Friends

| | | |
|-------|------|---------------|
| _____ | \$75 | Associate |
| _____ | \$50 | Family |
| _____ | \$30 | Individual |
| _____ | \$10 | Elder/Student |

Feed for a Day

Tarra, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Tange, Flora, Misty, Billie, Debbie, Frieda, Liz, Minnie, Ronnie and Dulary eat a lot of food! You can help by feeding any or all of them for a day, a week, or...\$30 feeds one elephant for one day.



Just tell us which elephant you'd like to feed and how often. You will receive an acknowledgment of your gift and a copy of the bio of the elephant(s) you fed.

You may contribute in as many ways as you'd like: in your own name or in honor of a friend or family member. Contributions may be made all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

\$30 x _____ (# of days) x _____ (# of elephants) = \$_____

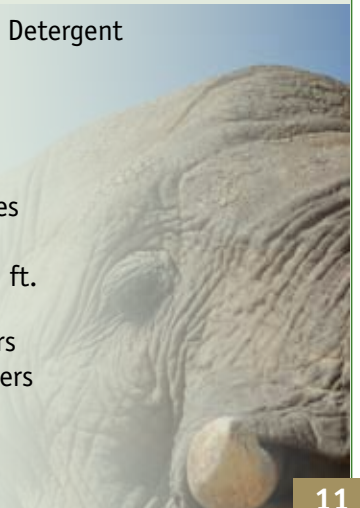
Name of Elephant _____

Wish List

On the website, The Elephant Sanctuary maintains a wish list that is ever-changing to meet the needs of the elephants in our care. You can help by underwriting a specific item. Please go to elephants.com and select "You Can Help" from the main menu and choose "Wish List," or contact lorenda@elephants.com.

At press time, here's just a sample of some items needed:

Seventh Generation Laundry Detergent
Nolvasan Solution
Cranberries
Red Cell Iron Supplements
Respirator Masks
18-Volt Rechargeable Batteries
Pipe Heating Cables
Extension Cords, 50 ft. & 25 ft.
DeWalt 4 1/2" 10-amp
Corded Small Angle Grinders
Sand Paper Wheels for Grinders
Vitamin E
Kopertox, 16 oz.
Schizandra Berries



Elephant Sanctuary Merchandise

Use the order form envelope inside this newsletter or shop online at: www.elephants.com/estore

Sanctuary Clothing

Tan T-Shirt with Green Logo - \$15.00

Adult ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) Youth ☐ (L) ☐ (XXL) \$17 ☐ (XXXL) \$17

Blue T-Shirt with White Logo on Chest - \$15.00

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$17

Elephants.com T-Shirt - \$15.00

Our new sand colored tee features an artistic grayscale image of Tange and our website address in green.

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)
Youth ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L)

Embroidered Logo Polo Shirts - \$30.00

Available in stone or blueberry in women's sizes and bark for men. Traditional relaxed look. 7oz. 100% ring-spun combed cotton, heavy-weight pique preshrunk.

Color ☐ (Stone) ☐ (Blueberry) ☐ (Bark--Men's)
Size ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)

Tarra & Bella T-Shirt (4-color) \$19.00

Women's adult & youth sizes in green, toddler sizes and XXXL in royal blue

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL-Royal Blue)
Youth ☐ (YXS) ☐ (YS) ☐ (YM) ☐ (YL)
Toddler ☐ (2T) ☐ (3T) ☐ (4T)

Long Sleeve

Brown T-Shirt \$20.00

This long sleeve tee is 100% preshrunk cotton. Logo is imprinted on the chest in gold. Made by Gildan. Unisex sizes.

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL)

Youth Logo T-Shirts \$10.00

Jade green, yellow, hot pink or blue

Youth ☐ (YXS) ☐ (YS) ☐ (YM) ☐ (YL)

Toddler Logo T-Shirts \$10.00

Pink or blue

Toddler ☐ (2T) ☐ (3T) ☐ (4T)

Zippered Hoodie Sweatshirts - \$40.00

(Larger sizes \$42 where noted) Stay warm in these hoodies by Port & Company with a multi-colored Sanctuary Logo embroidered on the chest. Two-ply hood. Set-in sleeve. 9 oz. 50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly fleece.

Gray w/Color Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$42 ☐ (XXXL) \$42

Royal Blue w/Color Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$42 ☐ (XXXL) \$42

Logo Sweatshirts - \$20.00

(Larger sizes \$22 where noted) Super-comfortable Sanctuary sweatshirts from Gildan Active-wear in Heavy Weight Blend 50/50.

Green w/White Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$22 ☐ (XXXL) \$22

Grey w/Blue Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$22 ☐ (XXXL) \$22

Fleece Hoodie \$60.00

These yarn colored hoodies have The Sanctuary logo embroidered across the chest. Pigment shades naturally vary. Jersey lined hood with matching drawstring, front pouch, side seams, 100% preshrunk ring spun cotton in unisex sizes.

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL)

Baseball Cap \$15.00

Comfortable, casual and adjustable 50/50 cotton/poly blend with Sanctuary logo embroidered on the front and website on the back. Two colors available.



☐ Denim Bill

☐ Green Bill

Chocolate Brown T-Shirts - \$20.00

☐ Debbie
☐ Ronnie
☐ Winkie & Sissy

While supplies last. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)

Dulary & Misty - \$20.00

Serene green, 100% cotton, unisex sizes

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL)

Flora - \$20.00

Indigo blue, 100% cotton, unisex sizes

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL)

Shirley & Tarra - \$20.00

Stone blue, 100% cotton, unisex sizes

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL)

COMING SOON!

Frieda, Billie & Liz T-shirt
Shirley T-shirt
2012 Sanctuary Calendar
Sanctuary Logo Mugs



All proceeds benefit The Girls!

Elephant Sanctuary Merchandise

Use the order form envelope inside this newsletter or shop online at: www.elephants.com/estore

DVD Videos



- "All of Our Girls...So Far" \$30.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Tarra & Bella - The Video" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Flora" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Dulary's Homecoming" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "The Urban Elephant" \$30.00 ☐ (DVD)

Greeting Cards

Elephant Note Cards - \$10.00

Blank inside; ideal for any occasion! Featuring Illustrations of Queenie, Tarra & Dulary, Debbie and Frieda; Mixed pack of 12 w/envelopes.



Children's Elephant Art Cards

Illustrations by Lewis County grade school students

- ☐ Mixed pack of 12 w/envelopes; Blank inside \$12.00

Elephant Photo Greeting Cards - \$12.00

Blank inside; ideal for any occasion! Featuring eight of our Girls in four different full color photos. 12 cards w/envelopes.



Elephant Photo Holiday Cards

Pack of 12 w/envelopes

Inside message "Peace on Earth, Sanctuary To All"



Version 6 \$20.00
 Box includes 4 different scenic cards:
 Shirley & Bunny, Tarra and Sissy with Bella, Minnie and Lottie.

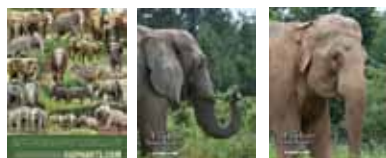


Version 5
 Tarra & Bella
 \$20.00

Inside message: "Peace to All Creatures Great and Small"

Version 4 \$15.00
 The Divas

NEW! Posters 11"x14" - \$10.00



Collage Flora Shirley



Tarra & Bella #2 Minnie, Debbie, Ronnie

To view all 12 posters, see our website.

- ☐ Collage ☐ Dulary
☐ Shirley ☐ Flora
☐ Sissy ☐ Misty
☐ Tange
☐ Winkie
☐ Tarra & Bella #1
☐ Tarra & Bella #2
☐ Frieda, Billie & Liz
☐ Minnie, Debbie & Ronnie

Miscellaneous

Color Mugs - \$10.00

- ☐ Ned ☐ Dulary ☐ Tarra & Bella



Elephant Sanctuary Mouse Pads \$10.00

- ☐ Tarra & Bella
☐ Founding Herd
☐ Billie-Sue, Frieda & Liz



22 oz. Sport Bottle - \$12.00

Biodegradable BPA-Free with logo imprinted on the side. 9.5 inches tall. (Not for use in microwave or dishwasher safe.)



Shirley Optical Crystal Ornament - \$25.00

Recycled Econo Lanyard - \$3.00

This custom lanyard is green with elephants.com & elephant images. It is 1/2 inch wide X 18" long with a clip attachment made from recycled material.



Tarra & Bella Magnet \$3.00

NEW!



Eco-Friendly Turbine Key-Ring Light - \$8.00

Tote Bags



Sanctuary Logo Tote Bag - \$10.00

Beige with blue logo



Jenny Tote Bag - \$15.00

Beige with 4-color imprint



Allie Orange Tote Bag - \$25.00

Embroidered with Sanctuary logo



Canvas Olive Tote Bag - \$30.00

Embroidered with Sanctuary logo

Shirley Tote Bag - \$15.00

Beige with 4-color imprint

Tarra & Bella Tote Bag - \$15.00

Beige with 4-color imprint



More! Lots of other merchandise available. Please visit our Gift Shop online at www.elephants.com/estore

Follow the links on our website to order Elephant Sanctuary US Postage Stamps and "Ele-Checks." A portion of proceeds benefits The Sanctuary!



Vet Care Center *(cont. from page 6)*

house as well. All such efforts are intended to ensure quality control, reduce costs, and ultimately minimize our environmental impact while providing the highest level of care for our elephants.

To further these efforts, The Sanctuary is pleased to announce it will be creating a state-of-the-art Veterinary Care Center. The Center will deal with all issues of elephant health, but will particularly have an internationally important role in learning about and treating TB in elephants. To recognize the suffering that elephants with TB endure, the Center will be named in remembrance of Lota, the first elephant to die of TB here at The Elephant Sanctuary. (See Lota's Story below)

The Lota Veterinary Care Center will be created in the second story of our Phase II Quarantine Barn, in office space no longer being utilized. Considerable refurbishment will be necessary, along with fitting a full range of veterinary equipment, freezers, safety cabinets, etc. At an estimated cost of just over \$200,000, we realize that raising funds for the Center will not be easy during these difficult economic times—but as always our priority is to ensure the best possible care for our elephants. We feel certain that this is an investment worth making and with the support of you, our members, we will be successful in opening the Lota Veterinary Care Center in early 2012. ♦

To make a donation toward the Center and the direct health care needs of our Girls, please indicate Veterinary Care on your mail-in or online donation at www.elephants.com.

Remembering Lota

Lota's life as a captive elephant was one of great struggles: struggles with misunderstanding, with abuse, with neglect, and ultimately with a terminal illness—tuberculosis. Born in India in 1951, Lota was captured as a baby and brought to the United States to be a zoo elephant. Yet, after 36 years on exhibit, and as a result of "behavior problems," in 1990 the Milwaukee County Zoo sold her for \$1.00 into life as a circus performer.

As if she foresaw the horrors this new life would bring, the move from zoo to circus was marked by a violent and painful transition. Her struggle against being loaded onto the trailer, recorded and televised, raised a hailstorm of public outcry. While her valiant effort was futile, it did succeed in raising both her profile and that of the plight of captive elephants everywhere. Her dramatic story opened a window for the public to watch through in horror, as years of circus life took their toll on her body.

In the mid-1990s, she was diagnosed with the human strain of tuberculosis, a disease that was prevalent in the Hawthorn herd where she then resided. Lota was chained and her untreated disease ravaged her body. In 2001 the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspected and cited Hawthorn Corporation for "failure to provide veterinary care to Lota, who was excessively thin, with a protruding spine and hip bones and sunken in

eyes." On a second inspection that year, the USDA reported that Lota was in a "perilously emaciated state, with a wound on her left hip." Later, the untreated wound had "expanded into a large, painful, fluid-filled abscess that extended down to her mid-thigh." It took another three years, but in March of 2004, the USDA took action to ensure that Lota and the other Hawthorn elephants would be sent to sanctuaries, where they were to receive the care and medical attention they desperately needed and deserved. Lota was donated to The Elephant Sanctuary and arrived with Misty on November 17, 2004. While her caregivers hoped she would find physical healing in her new home, Lota's struggle with TB had scarred her lungs irreparably—the disease had already taken an irreversible toll on her body.

But what she found in her final days were the clear, crisp air of a mild Tennessee winter, the freedom to wander through pastures and to bask in the sun, until the morning hours of February 9, 2005 when her body gave way and she

lay down one last time and, in peace and dignity, left us. Even at the moment of death, her friend and companion, Misty, remained by Lota's side.

Lota was The Sanctuary's first loss to tuberculosis, and she stands as a totem to all those elephants worldwide who suffer with it. In her honor and for the future of elephants everywhere, we are committed to fighting this brutal disease and providing the best quality life possible for those who struggle with it. ♦



In Lota's honor, and for those elephants worldwide who suffer from TB, we are committed to fighting this brutal disease.



Update on our “Trees For Trunks” and good friends at Soundforest:

Thanks to the efforts of Soundforest (www.soundforest.org) and the generous supporters of The Elephant Sanctuary, we have 200 apple trees ready to be planted and nurtured. As many of you read in our last issue of Trunklines, the summer heat arrived before we could arrange for spring planting. So, following the guidance from the tree experts at Soundforest we decided to wait. As Fall begins to creep closer, our preparations have renewed. On November 12th, the last volunteer day of 2011, strong backs and stronger hearts will dig and turn soil, and plant 200 young apple trees. We know this is a very ambitious schedule, but Soundforest has our backs; if we fall short they will step in with some of their anxious volunteers to help finish the task.

Soundforest.org is an organization that has planted 6,793 trees to date.

They are “dedicated to improving natural and urban forests, improving water quality, filtering pollutants from the air, and saving energy by planting trees.”

An apple tree can produce 100 to 200 pounds of food per year. That can be 5,000 pounds of food per tree over 25 years. Our 200 trees could produce a million pounds of apples in 25 years! Produce that we purchase is shipped from all over the world, using lots of fuel in the process. So this gift of 200 fruit trees will make a significant difference in our “fuel foot print” in just a few years.

The food on a family’s table travels an average of 1,500 miles! People often ask what they can do to make a difference. Buy Local! Support your local economy, save our renewable resources and live a greener life—it helps all of us!

New Directors *(cont. from page 10)*

responsibilities. As a manager, Joe has proven his ability to create teams who believe in what they’re doing. He also brings with him a wealth of experience in all aspects of design and construction as well as a multitude of hands-on skills.

Joe believes in The Sanctuary’s mission and insists on environmentally sound approaches in his work. Our Caregiver staff is particularly delighted at Joe’s appointment, as he has proven how much he respects our elephants and understands their need for peace—even during construction.

Susan, Steve and Joe join our existing Sanctuary Staff team. We are happy to introduce them to you and to have them on our team. Please join me in wishing them well. ♦

Supporters’ Spotlight: Anonymous

There is just something about Elephants. They inspire and delight us, and evoke in us a sense of reverence and responsibility so deep we struggle to understand it. The effect they have on us lies, I believe, at the heart of the unwavering devotion of our donors. Somehow, even in times of financial difficulty, supporters of the Elephant Sanctuary come through for our Girls. Over the years, more than 70,000 individuals have donated to the Elephant Sanctuary—that is quite a following! We sincerely appreciate donations at all giving levels, especially as we understand how difficult it can be when the bills are piled high. We want you to know that no matter what your level of contribution may be, your support is genuinely appreciated and you can rest assured that the elephants are the true beneficiaries of your generosity.



Shirley

There is one particular donor that we would like to publicly extend a long overdue THANK YOU to:

Anonymous

This supporter is not really a single supporter at all, but a group of individuals that the staff warmly refers to as Anonymous. For years the Sanctuary has been receiving gifts with no names attached to the donation—blank checks and money orders, cash sent in with unmarked envelopes—even change taped to pieces of paper sent through the mail. These unnamed gifts have for years been entered into one data entry record under the name Anonymous. In 16 years of record keeping, Anonymous has made over 344 contributions ranging from \$1.00 to \$5,000. To date, Anonymous has generously donated \$25,469.84 to The Elephant Sanctuary.

Dear Anonymous (and to all of our supporters),

Your devotion is sincerely appreciated. On behalf of the Board, the Staff and all of our Girls—a long overdue and well deserved Thank You.

Rob Atkinson, CEO

One Lucky Elephant To Air on Oprah Winfrey Network Dec. 1st

Watch The Elephant Sanctuary's very own Flora, in the documentary *One Lucky Elephant* during its premier on Oprah's new cable network OWN—scheduled for December 1st.

The documentary chronicles Flora's career as a circus elephant and the struggle of her former owner, David Balding, to find a better life for her. The film has been screened at film festivals throughout the country this past year and is scheduled to air on Channel 4 in the UK on October 4th in honor of World Animal Day. The film will run on the OWN network throughout the month of December. ♦

Flora

Please visit our website:
www.elephants.com

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For news between *Trunklines* issues, follow us online!

eTrunklines: monthly email newsletter; sign up on our website or email cathy@elephants.com



"The Elephant Sanctuary
in Tennessee"



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***To improve the lives of captive elephants,
please contact your legislators.***



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