

SUMMER 2011

Trunklines

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Corporation



Notice anything different? Billie's chain is gone!

Billie's Triumph

A little over five years ago, Billie stepped off the transport trailer with her traveling companion Frieda and began her new life here in Tennessee. As she reunited with the rest of her ex-circus sisters, who had arrived in the days and weeks earlier from the Hawthorn Corporation, something about

Billie was poignantly different. She still had a chain on her left front ankle, surrounding it like a rusty bracelet. Over the years several of our elephants have arrived with chains that serve as a dark reminder of past human domination, but in each instance they would allow Caregivers to remove it and rid themselves of the iron appendage for good. But not Billie.

Stories of a difficult past and harsh treatment in the circus offered us insight into Billie's reluctance to trust, and why she was so resistant to having people touch her. Consequently, for years we just became accustomed to the "clink, clink, clink" that accompanied Billie whenever she walked.

This spring, using new Protected Contact (PC) training and techniques involving positive reinforcement and the elephant's voluntary participation, The Sanctuary essentially "started over" in working to gain Billie's trust. Slowly, Billie began to come to the safety barriers separating elephant and Caregiver (usually a fence), and accepted treats and praise for her cooperation. Then she started to present her foot when asked. Billie began to realize that nothing bad or scary ever happened when she did this, just more treats and praise. The positive reinforcement process continued to work, and since Billie knew she was still in control and could choose whether or not she wanted to participate, it gradually increased her comfort level.

After several weeks, finally the big day came. Would Billie allow us to remove her chain? She willingly lifted her foot, and while Margaret fed her treats,

Richard made a few cuts to one of the links, gave it a final tug, and the chain—a lingering symbol of her troubled past in the circus—dropped from her ankle! While her Caregivers cheered her on like an Olympic champion, she picked up the rusty chain and felt it in her trunk for a moment, then dropped it like yesterday's news to come back to her Caregivers for more, well-deserved treats. It was a turning point for Billie in more ways than one. (To read Richard's detailed account, see accompanying story on page 8.) ♦

the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Corporation

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).

P.O. Box 393
Hohenwald, TN 38462
PHONE: 931-796-6500
FAX: 931-796-1360
info@elephants.com

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

It seems like only yesterday that we wondered whether the chill grip of winter would ever end. But the days are now warm and full of summer's promise, and our Girls are coming into their own, free to wander the valleys and woods of their home and to stay for long hours and even overnight away from their barns.



Things are looking good at The Sanctuary. Your support means elephant care has not only been sustained but accelerated, with many of the elephants showing continued improvements in their physical and mental health. Lizzie is progressing towards what we hope will be the end of her TB treatment, the relationship between Tange and Flora continues to grow, as does that between Shirley and Tarra, and Minnie's with Ronnie and Debbie.

At Q barn, where our attention is forever focused on identifying and, when necessary, treating the awful disease tuberculosis, huge strides have been made in helping our Girls participate in their own healthcare through Protected Contact training. The strides our Caregivers and elephants have made there have been huge.

In many ways cutting off a short piece of chain from the leg of an elephant has been the smallest of our achievements at The Sanctuary. But the story of Billie's chain has come to represent far more than the removal of an irritating object. In many people's minds it has come to symbolize what The Sanctuary stands for—the parting of all bonds with a former existence and the transition into a new one. Even more than this, when Billie picked up the loathsome chain and dropped it into the dirt, she unknowingly made a statement on behalf of captive elephants everywhere—that in a secluded, protected Sanctuary in Middle Tennessee lies the promise of a new life.

Thank you for your unwavering help in giving our Girls sanctuary; let us work together to secure protection for yet more elephants in need.

Rob Atkinson
CEO



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Ronnie and Debbie

Elephant Update: Signs of spring and growth everywhere.

The onset of warmer spring weather brings changes we welcome in all the Girls this time every year. It sends the elephants exploring far and wide, and Minnie is no exception. She has finally returned to the Upper Pond, the same place she used to spend most of her time last summer with Lottie, who passed away on October 10, 2010. We miss watching Minnie lying on the ground to wiggle and scratch in the dirt while Lottie would lean over to scratch herself on Minnie, but the reminders quickly turn to smiles whenever we see Minnie continuing to enjoy life on her own schedule. Some days, after throwing herself down in the mud with reckless abandon, she returns to the barn looking like a painted warrior, with half her face clean and the other half covered in mud!

Lately in the mornings, Debbie and Ronnie are often in the South Habitat, where they like to spend the night. Some mornings they can be found wallowing in the South Pond



Minnie, who has a rambunctious nature, has been known to be more forcible in play than Debbie and Ronnie, so we are proud of her progress.

after their breakfast, directly below one of the Elecarn towers, much to the delight of Elecarn viewers online. They flop on their sides, legs flailing in the air, flinging muddy water everywhere. Usually making their way down to the lower habitat by early afternoon, they are sure to interact with Minnie if she is nearby.

The Girls are very self-sufficient this time of year. With grass in some pastures taller than our 4-wheelers, they pass up their usual flakes of hay for the fresh grass in endless supply. It is always so gratifying to watch the Girls walking when the fields are like this. Even with the backdrop of North American trees, the beautiful vista of elephants ambling through grass that brushes against their bellies reflects the true way in which they were meant to live in their native lands in Asia and Africa. We hope this little piece of paradise in Tennessee enables them to sense the comforts of their original home.

This summer we will provide more opportunities for Minnie to interact with Debbie and Ronnie on the same side of the fence. Minnie has been making such great strides lately, and given the changes we have witnessed in elephants like Billie, we are confident Minnie also has the personal potential to calm her habits and become more gentle to help her secure the trust of her friends.

Protected Contact techniques are proving very successful, as illustrated in Billie's story, and over the past couple of months we have been concentrating on similar efforts to expand our healthcare treatments for Frieda and Liz.

For Frieda, who suffers from osteomyelitis, a chronic bone infection, this means taking additional steps to explore new options for treating her feet. Decades of being chained in a concrete barn and traveling in the circus took its toll on Frieda. Foot problems remain one of the biggest health

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Elephant Update:

Signs of spring and growth everywhere. *(cont.)*



Frieda and Billie

issues for captive elephants today, and the condition can impede their ability to roam, graze, play, and, if not treated early, can become fatal. With better cooperation from Frieda as a result of the new PC exercises, she allows us to check the bottom of her feet more often, as well as perform additional

trimming of her nails to relieve some pressure. We're also trying out a new foot soak regimen to hopefully improve her sores. Through it all, Frieda remains a delightful patient, evidenced by her happy vocalizations.

Thanks to Billie's increased comfort with PC, trimming her feet and drawing blood for routine tests is becoming less of a challenge. She is still a little apprehensive at times and needs extra reassurance, but the change in her level of cooperation is simply remarkable. Her bond with her sisters is as strong as ever. When Billie returns home to her barn at night and finds Liz and Frieda waiting, they make a huge fuss over her. Watching their interaction, it certainly appears Billie adores being the center of attention.

Liz is doing exceptionally well with her daily tuberculosis treatments, which we hope to complete this summer. Liz, one of the eight elephants to come to The Sanctuary from the Hawthorn Corporation, eventually developed active tuberculosis. With all her early struggles coping with the treatment's side effects, we are happy to report she is now looking much improved. Her appetite is better, she's regaining some weight, and she has a little more spring in her step!

Every year in new Asia, Shirley and Tarra are always the first of the season to venture out as the temperatures begin to warm up. Usually, once they've gone down the hill to the lake, Shirley will not lay eyes on the barn again until the chill of winter returns to the air.

But this year Shirley surprised us and made a return—albeit brief—visit back to the barn when the weather suddenly turned cool again. We expected to see Sissy, Winkie, Dulary and Misty return to the warmth of the barn at night, but we were surprised one evening at 10 p.m.

feed to find Shirley coming up the hill from the lake headed in the direction of home. However, just when we thought Shirley was going to arrive at the barn, she walked right past it and chose to stay in the woods on the opposite side. Just another example of Shirley's extended wanderings this year. Even with her broken leg, she is still the stoic, strong grandma we have come to respect and adore.

A few weeks later, Shirley and Tarra both visited "hidden pond," an area Shirley has not visited in years, where we found her swimming in the early morning. Shirley and Tarra continue to draw closer. On recent mornings, they have been found just inside the tree line, surrounded by signs that they had spent the night sleeping only feet apart from one another. Every so often, Tarra still takes a little personal time to wander off with Bella, but when we discover the two Girls' nests of leaves side-by-side, it illustrates an undeniable deepening of their friendship.

Misty and Dulary have recently learned that disappearing together can be fun. They have begun to regularly wander down Lake Road, roaming the hills, following the fresh grasses off the main trails and down *...continued on page 5*



Misty and Dulary



Shirley and Tarra

Protected Contact

The Elephant Sanctuary was founded on the ideology of Passive Control—our elephants are never chained or forced to do our bidding, but instead have the freedom to just be elephants as much as possible. While positive interactions have always been the basis of The Sanctuary's relations with our elephants, The Sanctuary has also become the guardian of elephants who were treated severely in their past. Those elephants often hold a deep seated distrust of humans that can be triggered by being in close quarters, or even by certain sights or sounds.

To address the challenging medical and psychological needs of these and all of our elephants, in early 2011, The Sanctuary began working with Active Environments (AE). AE provides training for both our elephants and our Caregivers, specializing in the use of positive reinforcement training techniques to improve the care and welfare of captive elephants. Caregivers remain outside a gated area either in the barns or outdoors along the fence lines. This type of Protected Contact training (PC—as it is officially dubbed) is entirely compatible with The Sanctuary's mission, as free choice lies at its heart. The elephants have the freedom to come to the gate and participate in activities and receive treats and praise—or if they are uncomfortable or unwilling, they have the freedom to simply walk away. This provides them with the sense of security and autonomy they need to feel safe while allowing for interaction between elephant and Caregivers. Targets



Billie voluntarily practices target training with Richard

(long bamboo sticks with cotton tops) are used to show each elephant where we are requesting them to place their feet for medical foot care needs, their mouths for dental inspections and their trunks for trunk washes.

The trainers gain the elephant's voluntary cooperation in husbandry behaviors and medical procedures and improve their physical and psychological well-being. AE designed and developed Protected Contact which has been recognized by both the zoo and animal welfare communities as being a safe, effective, and humane method for managing captive elephants. Thanks to this highly effective training, The Sanctuary is working on labors of love with our elephants, helping to build their trust, improve their health, and heal the mistrust they have experienced much of their lives so they can truly enjoy their new forever home here at The Sanctuary. ♦

into remote valleys that most of the other Girls haven't found. We are so pleased that, little by little, these two continue to explore farther and farther from the barn.

Sissy and Winkie are relishing the warmer temperatures too, evidenced by their morning greetings of trunk taps and vocalizations to the Caregivers bringing them their meals. Winkie shows fewer signs of stress whenever her grazing causes her to become temporarily separated from Sissy, and every time the two are reunited they rejoice at the sight of each other, as if their hours apart had been days.

In the African habitat, the fluctuating spring weather and occasional thunderstorms have been taken in easy stride by Tange and Flora. Their attention seems to be focused on which valley or plateau to graze next. These two have settled into an easy partnership of mutual understanding.

With the introduction of The Sanctuary's new PC programs, two new "training walls" have just been added in Africa, with at least one more in the works. Having more than one place to interact with the Girls allows us to shorten the travel distance back to the barn for

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Sissy and Winkie

Elephant Update: Signs of spring and growth everywhere. (cont.)



Tange and Flora

their positive reinforcement conditioning. These “walls” are actually just modified sections of the elephant fence, allowing access for the elephants to present the desired body part (ear, foot, etc.) for examination and veterinary care, while keeping Caregivers and elephants safe.

Flora, who was slow to acclimate into Sanctuary life when she first arrived, has had a seemingly wonderful spring so far, and her disposition remains calm and steady. There have been no instances of emotional outbursts or destruction in a long time—apart from the occasional mood when she makes it known she wants her alone time. Tange seems happy to oblige, and the two always work it out and join back up as soon as they are ready. This isn't to say that Flora foregoes any opportunity to push down trees, which seems to be a favorite pastime for both Girls. They also enjoy playing in the rain, and Tange makes Caregivers smile as she moves through her day, creating great photo-ops with her frequent mud adventures.

This spring also marked the local premiere of *One Lucky Elephant*, a documentary about Flora, her life, and her journey to The Sanctuary. (see accompanying story on page 14) Several Sanctuary staff members enjoyed viewing the film during the Nashville Film Festival, offering a glimpse into Flora's life in the decades before we had the privilege to meet this majestic Lady, and to realize just how far her journey has come.

It is our hope that more than one lucky elephant will find their way here to join Flora soon, with all of her other African and Asian sisters who have been fortunate to discover this unique sanctuary life filled with peace, dignity, and plenty of acres to roam. ♦

Going Green...er!

With generous donations of fruit trees, bamboo and grapevines, combined with a little TLC and strong backs, this year The Sanctuary is making great strides to “grow for the future.” Throughout our history, we have practiced and preached the benefits of live vegetation for elephants, providing suitable space for natural foraging and grazing, while we supplement with fresh produce and whole grains.

Now, we are taking these principles to the next level, expanding our fresh vegetable gardens to include an increased variety of produce and medicinal herbs, and introducing bamboo to new locations on our property. We are also nursing 400 grape vine cuttings to be transplanted throughout the property, and with the help of your donations through Soundforest.org, we are planting over 200 fruit trees.

Bamboo is a staple of elephants in wild habitats—in some regions, making up more than 40% of their annual diets. When transplanting bamboo, it generally takes three years for the growth to “leap,” at which time we can harvest up to 30% of the growth annually. Eventually we will introduce some bamboo directly into the habitats on a test basis to see if the Girls completely devour all the plants, or leave some behind to allow for regrowth. An added benefit is that bamboo does not die back in the winter. It remains lush and green. So it makes the perfect tasty treat when the elephants spend more time in and around the barns. Harvesting from a plot we introduced more than eight years ago, we often cut two or three stalks per elephant at the Q-barn each night. This prolific plant, truly a renewable resource, continues to be a favorite of our Girls.

Thanks to our generous donors, we currently have 200 fruit trees ready to be planted, but the majority arrived after the spring planting season, so to all of our fall volunteers, be warned... we'll be digging, planting, composting and mulching apple trees! Initially, we'll be planting them

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Staff plants bamboo near the Asian Barn

Message from Scott

Recently, some colleagues in the animal welfare world forwarded me videos of elephants performing in circuses and giving rides. Once again, I was appalled at the condition of these poor elephants. Most had pronounced limps, some had obvious misshapen joints, and others were so weary and worn, they stood with their heads held low and mouths gaping open—an unmistakable sign of discomfort.

A short while later I went out to feed our Girls. As they often do, some came running, cooing in excitement, while others stood passively, just enjoying what their day at The Sanctuary had to offer. I was struck by the contrast on what I had witnessed in the videos. What will it take for performing elephants with visible symptoms of physical and emotional stress to catch their break? To find a little freedom from their daily grind and years of hardship on the road? When will the people with the power to make a difference finally stand up for those they are charged with protecting? We are an intelligent

species, yet standard and “acceptable” practices in our society are ignoring the facts of an elephant’s basic needs.

There are still people arguing that it is okay to keep an elephant in a solitary existence, or to spend hours in extremely confined spaces. Or that it is okay to force elephants into a completely foreign existence, all for a few laughs and smiles, all in the name of entertainment.

We often receive emails asking what one person can do to help. The answer is simple: share the truth. These days we all have social networks of friends, family and coworkers, which can be a powerful force for change. Please share our newsletters, videos and website as examples of the life that all captive elephants can have, and together we’ll work to ensure greener pastures for all those that deserve the same chance to live—truly live—with dignity.

Scott Blais
Director of Operations

News from Downtown

Our Saturday programs continue at the Welcome Center in downtown Hohenwald, each hosted by a talented Caregiver. In March we began offering live views of the elephants at the Welcome Center, thanks to the new Elecams in the habitats. Scott presented a heart-warming program in March about Sissy and Winkie, and Caroline followed in April with a presentation featuring Flora. In May, Carol Durham gave a newly-created presentation titled “What Makes An Elephant – An ELEPHANT?” This program gave visitors a new perspective on The Sanctuary elephants and their similarities and differences through detailed images and video. To further enhance the presentation, photos of African and Asian elephants were on exhibit from April through June. Tange, one of our Africans, was our featured elephant for the month of June.

We are excited by the number of visitors to the Welcome Center in recent months. Folks have visited us from several states, including Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington! In April, a group of high school students from Frank Hughes School in Clifton, Tennessee visited for an educational presentation. A local group of children who attended a two-week Theatre Camp at The Strand Theatre in downtown Hohenwald also visited. These young performers presented a musical at the Theatre on June 17th and 18th about Hohenwald



Scott gives visitors some first hand insight on Sissy and Winkie

landmarks, and included a skit featuring The Elephant Sanctuary’s resident elephants.

This summer, we also have programs planned for visits by the local Boys & Girls Club and The Girl Scouts. If you are going to be in the area, we hope you will stop by.

The Elephant Sanctuary Welcome Center is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer hours have been extended to include every first and third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August. Other times are available by appointment.

Visit our website at www.elephants.com for upcoming events and programs. For more information or to schedule a visit, please call Lorenda at 931-796-6500 ext. 105 or email lorenda@elephants.com ♦

Going Green...er! (cont.)

around the barn areas out of reach of the elephants, where we'll collect the fruit in the fall to be used in their daily supplements. Next spring, we hope to introduce more fruit trees along the periphery of the habitat, adjacent to fence lines and inside some of the tower and water corrals. This will protect the trees by keeping them out of the elephants' reach; however, the fruit they bear will fall within the reach of the elephants' trunks.

Why protect the trees? Tarra is notorious for initially being

very gentle with the native fruit trees (i.e. crab apple, wild black cherries and persimmon), but only as long as the fruit is easily within reach. Once she consumes the easy pickings, she becomes a little more eager in her tactics, ripping branches (sometimes seeming as if she is attempting to climb into the tree itself) until the very last piece of fruit is consumed. Each of the apple trees we plant can produce up to 5,000 pounds of fruit over 25 years, obviously saving The Sanctuary money, but even more importantly, improving our green practices by reducing the unnecessary consumption of fossil fuels for their delivery.

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Billie's Last Chain

Richard, Billie's primary Caregiver, recounts the process that led to the removal of Billie's chain:

"Removing the chain was something we had all wanted to do for a long time but were never able to. Until the positive reinforcement training, we never had a way of telling Billie what we were trying to do, so she seemed to assume when someone's getting close to her it's probably bad. Convincing her otherwise was a group effort.

First, Gail got her to present the foot whenever we asked for it. This quickly became Billie's favorite thing to do, she started offering it even if she wasn't asked, trying to solicit treats and praise. Then Jen and I worked on getting her used to the bolt cutters being close to her foot. We did this gradually, just 3 days a week for about 3 weeks.

Our plan was to ask Billie to rest her foot on the fence and have Margaret feed her to keep her calm and let her know that we were not doing anything bad. The first cut was easy and it showed us the chain was weathered and weak. I looked at the chain for a few moments, knowing each passing second was valuable. Even though we did our best to keep her calm, we know that because Billie is so sensitive, her patience cannot be pushed too far. The first couple of cuts made her nervous and she swatted at the fence, keeping her guard up. This was totally understandable and we answered her defensiveness with reassurances. It seemed to work, because even though she would swing at the fence and back away for a second, she came right back when she was ready. After a couple of cuts to the chain, it appeared as though the light bulb went on and she actually figured out what we were trying to do!

The changes may seem subtle to people watching the video, but Billie's expression changed, her swings at the fence subsided, and she even seemed to be trying to help us by lifting her foot higher than ever, pushing it up to the bars*



Billie and Richard posing with their accomplishment!

as much as she could, and turning her ankle in different directions. After the 6th cut, there was no more that I could take off using the bolt cutters, so I set them aside. I reached out to her foot with my hand to see if I could separate the links; I was just going to test it but a slight touch caused it to slip right off. The chain rattled to the ground and we were finished.

After the chain fell, Billie picked it up for a moment out of curiosity, but quickly lost interest and left it behind for good.

After the camera stopped rolling, Billie went over to the sand pile and woke Frieda from her nap, perhaps to show off her new look. Liz immediately came over as well for the usual trumpeting/chirping reunion.

As for why she seemed to try helping us—we will never know for sure. In the circus they said she was a "bad elephant," they said she couldn't be worked with. It turns out she just has to be asked nicely."

***Note: the video of Billie's chain removal is available to watch on our website at www.elephants.com/eleduary.php, and on The Sanctuary's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/elephantsanctuarytn**



Greener Pastures

In keeping with The Sanctuary's mission of providing a haven for needy elephants, we are always ready to accept female elephants in need of a permanent home.

RAMBA

One elephant desperately in need of greener pastures is Ramba, an elderly female Asian elephant in Santiago, Chile. She was the sole elephant performing in a circus from 1997 until her retirement last year. Ramba lives in a tiny circus compound with an unheated barn and without adequate care. The activist groups Liberen a Ramba and Ecopolis have been trying to rescue her.

In May of this year, at the request of The Sanctuary and Ecopolis, noted veterinarian Dr. Mel Richardson flew to Chile to examine Ramba. He found her to be in poor health, with severe foot problems, and reports that at present she is not well enough to travel the long distance to Tennessee.

Quilpué Zoo is home to Chile's only other Asian elephant, Frida, aged about 60, who has been alone for many years. After being a circus performer she was transferred to the Zoo in 1994. Dr. Richardson also examined Frida, whom he found to be thin but in better health than Ramba. He recommends that Ramba be transferred to the Quilpué Zoo, which is willing to accept her. Not only would Ramba receive appropriate care there, but she and Frida would have company in their senior years.

You can learn more about Ramba online at: <http://bit.ly/liberenaramba>

ANNE

The Elephant Sanctuary has also offered a home to Anne, the last circus elephant in Great Britain. In March, undercover videos were released showing 57-year-old Anne being beaten, kicked and stabbed repeatedly by a circus keeper. As a result of the ensuing outrage, the circus

finally agreed to give up the aging Anne, who suffers from arthritis. In early April she was transferred to Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire. Although for the moment still alone, as Longleat relocated its elephants eight years ago, Anne has more space and much more freedom.


It is not certain that Anne will remain at Longleat permanently. Assuming she is well enough to undertake a long trip, The Sanctuary would be happy to bring her to Tennessee. Groups such as Animal Defenders International (ADI), the Born Free Foundation and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will continue to monitor Anne to ensure she receives the best care available, both in the short and long term.

ADI has information about Anne on their website: www.ad-international.org

To view an article and video of Anne at Longleat, visit: <http://bit.ly/LongleatAnnie>

TORONTO ZOO ELEPHANTS

The Toronto Zoo Board recently voted to close its elephant exhibit within two years and to send its three Africans, Toka, Iringa and Thika, to another location. Seven other elephants, the oldest aged only 40, have died at the zoo since 1984. A permanent home has not yet been determined for the three Africans, aged 31 to 42, but we hope it will not be another cold-climate zoo. Television star, Bob Barker, has been lobbying for their release to a sanctuary and offered to personally pay for the elephants' move. Both The Sanctuary and PAWS in California have offered a home for them.

Among the organizations working to free the Toronto Zoo elephants are Zoocheck Canada (www.zoocheck.com and www.elephantsincanada.com) and PETA's youth organization (www.peta2.com). For a recent article on the Toronto elephants, visit <http://bit.ly/TheStarMay12-2011> 

Supporters' Spotlight: Overbrook School

In November 2010, the Overbrook School in Nashville, Tennessee invited staff from The Elephant Sanctuary to participate in a special event called "Readers Are Leaders." This program brings community leaders into the school classrooms to share the joy and wonder of reading. Rosanne Sietins, Friends Council President, represented The Sanctuary as the guest reader of Mrs. Sherwin's 3rd grade class. Mrs. Sherwin teaches a unit on rainforests and shares the need for conservation to protect wildlife and plants. A representative of the event felt that our reading to the children and sharing the work that we do for the elephants at The Sanctuary would connect well with Mrs. Sherwin's lessons, and indeed it did!

With all the students gathered around Rosanne, she sat in a rocking chair and read a story about elephants. Rosanne commented, "I was overwhelmed with their enthusiasm, their total engagement with the story, their eagerness to do more and the interest and quality of their questions." The class wanted to help in some way and requested a class project. Rosanne mentioned our "Feed an Elephant for a Day" program for \$30, and they decided their goal would be to feed an elephant for one week.

Shortly after her visit, Rosanne received beautiful thank you cards of elephant artwork, each hand-made by the students. They later made these works of art into packs of note cards with envelopes (printing was generously donated) which the students then sold to raise money for their goal. That benchmark was quickly exceeded as they raised over \$3,300 — more than enough money to feed ALL 14 elephants at The Sanctuary for a full week. What an accomplishment!

On behalf of our Girls, we send our heartfelt thanks to all the hard-working, caring students at Overbrook School for their inspiration and support. If you would like more information on having a staff member make a presentation to your child's school, please refer to the education section of our website at www.elephants.com. ♦



Our New Elecam Era



On Feb. 28, 2011, The Sanctuary's new Elecam network was launched live on our website. Previously, we had only one streaming camera with which to observe the Girls, but on that Monday morning viewers tuned in to an unexpected treat—14 cameras streaming live video from all three habitats: Asia, Africa and Q-Barn. Three live feeds are available on the website 24 hours a day, so you can switch back and forth between habitats as you choose!

The project took nearly a year to complete. We constructed 14 digital camera towers with solar components throughout 2,700 acres and installed a new high-speed Internet system between the barns and administrative offices. This was followed by months of fine-tuning, testing and making final arrangements for digital streaming services. We are eternally grateful to the George L. Conner Trust for making this upgrade possible, to the subcontractors and staff for their dedication and flexibility in working around the needs of the elephants, and to our supporters for their patience as we addressed unexpected project delays.

During the summer months, the elephants often like to take advantage of the natural canopy of the woods to escape the heat (areas that block the camera's surveillance), so don't be surprised if they seem to elude the Elecams over the next few months. However, this time of year the ponds are also a popular destination, so you may catch the Girls enjoying some of their favorite summer pastimes of wading, snorkeling and splashing in the water to cool off. Whenever time permits, Caregivers update commentary on the Elecam pages to assist viewers in identifying the elephants and their location in the habitat.



On the new Elecams, whenever time permits, Caregivers update viewers on what they are watching.

To watch the new Elecams, visit our website at www.elephants.com and click on the "Elecam" graphic on the upper right. ♦

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 non-profit 501(c)(3) 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 sticker 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:

Automatic Waterers
for elephants in the habitats
Vitamin E
Cosequin Equine Powder
B-L Solution
Cranberries
Probiotics Gel for Frieda
Respirator Masks
Tyvek Coveralls
Welder
Portable Generator
Steel Leaf Rakes
Exam Gloves
Garlic Barrier



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)

"I'm a Friend" Embroidered 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)

All proceeds benefit The Girls!

Zippered Hoodie Sweatshirts - \$40.00

(Larger sizes \$42 where noted) Stay warm in these hoodies by Port & Company with a multi-colored "I'm a Friend of The Elephant Sanctuary" 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

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

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)

Fleece Hoodie \$60.00

These yam 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)

Tote Bags Sanctuary Logo Tote Bags - \$10.00

Beige with blue lettering or beige with green lettering.

Commemorative "Jenny" Tote Bag

- \$15.00 Beige with 4-color imprint

Tarra & Bella Tote Bag - \$15.00 Beige with 4-color imprint

Shirley 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!



NEW!

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.



Miscellaneous

Elephant Sanctuary Mouse Pads \$10.00

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



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

Ultra-bright, two LED keychain fits in the palm of your hand. Batteries never need replacing. A convenient crank makes for safety-conscious and eco-friendly use!



Vehicle License Plate
☐ \$15.00

Flora Bumper Sticker \$3.00

- ☐ Measures 4" x 4" --here's your chance to take Flora with you everywhere you go!



Color Mugs \$10.00

- ☐ Ned ☐ Dulary ☐ Tarra & Bella



15th Anniversary Eco-Friendly Travel Mug - \$15.00

The Elephant Sanctuary 15th Anniversary logo imprinted on the side in black. Limited quantities available.



22 oz. Sport Bottle - \$12.00

Biodegradable BPA-Free Sport Bottle has a flip-top lid with ergonomic bottle shape and Elephant Sanctuary logo imprinted on the side. 9.5 inches tall. (Not for use in microwave or dishwasher safe.)

Calendar Elephant of the Month



Debbie T-Shirt - \$20.00

Debbie's beautiful calendar photo on a chocolate brown t-shirt. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

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



Winkie & Sissy T-Shirt - \$20.00

Their calendar photo on a chocolate brown t-shirt. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

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



Ronnie T-Shirt - \$20.00

Ronnie's beautiful calendar photo on a chocolate brown t-shirt. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

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



Elephant of the Month Gift Packs

Ronnie, Debbie, Winkie & Sissy and Flora! Each gift pack honors our calendar elephant(s) of the month, and includes a t-shirt, dvd, bio and other items at a special price. To order, visit our website or email ellen@elephants.com for more information.

COMING SOON: FLORA & TANGE!

TES comments on *One Lucky Elephant Documentary*

Recently, representatives from The Elephant Sanctuary attended a showing of *One Lucky Elephant* at the 2011 Nashville Film Festival. The film documented the life of The Sanctuary's African elephant, Flora, and her relationship with her former owner, David Balding, of Circus Flora. After a life of traveling and performing, David decided a circus life was no longer an appropriate one for Flora, so he retired her to The Elephant Sanctuary. The documentary was very well received and attracted sell-out attendances on both nights it was featured.

After the April 16th showing, Sanctuary Caregiver Angela Sherrill, Director of Development and Communications Jill Moore and CEO Rob Atkinson, together with David and the documentary's producer and director of Ahali Elephants, Cristina Colissimo, took questions from the audience. Sanctuary staff informed the audience about Flora's progress at The Sanctuary, particularly her growing friendship with Tange, as well as how much we appreciate the compassionate action David took by giving up his beloved Flora to The Sanctuary in 2004. We also discussed the question of visitation to see Flora. The Sanctuary made the difficult decision not to allow visitation by David because of the upset his departure caused Flora when he initially left her in '04. A major part of Flora's rehabilitation is learning to connect with her elephant instincts, long



Flora

suppressed by a lifetime in captivity. These instincts include those that drive her to form normal and close relationships with other elephants, and The Sanctuary believes they must be allowed to develop naturally. Based on previous experiences, a visitation from David could throw Flora into confusion with possible consequences of aggression towards Tange or Caregivers. We cannot take that risk. The Sanctuary understands how hard this separation must be for David and thanks him for his brave and selfless action. ♦

Elephants in Entertainment

This year, several incidents of elephants in major motion pictures has, once again, brought to life the debate about the ethics of using elephants in the entertainment industry. Elephants used in movies, television shows, advertisements, parades, circuses, theatre and other forms of entertainment likely began the training process when they were very young. In fact, many of these elephants were captured from the wild and/or taken from their mothers prematurely to undergo a strict routine of continuous training. This training often utilizes negative reinforcement techniques, such as ropes, bullhooks, hotshot (electric prods) and/or chains—all of which are still commonly used tools and techniques in dominance based training methods.

Elephants taught dramatic tricks have probably undergone a process of training that involves restriction and painful procedures. The 'hind leg stand,' for example, where an elephant stands on her hind legs, is a common trick. In many instances, to train for the hind leg stand, an elephant's back legs are secured with rope or chain and she is forced backwards until she sits down on a tub. The elephant is made to raise her front legs. After persistent training, the tub is removed until the elephant is standing on its hind legs. Elephants often made to stand like this may suffer from joint disease such as arthritis and hernias, as the elephant's internal organs push down on the wrong part of the body.

In addition to the trauma often endured during training, the nature and schedule of the entertainment industry means that these elephants do not lead lives focused on natural foraging. They do not have free, unrestricted access to trees, creeks and pastures such as the elephants at The Sanctuary enjoy. Most elephants in entertainment are not free from the restraints of chains, they endure long transportation, and most do not have the freedom to form bonds and to remain in the company of friends—in fact many may live for long periods in solitary confinement.

The Sanctuary is concerned that using elephants in entertainment prolongs the poor treatment of these wonderful animals by supporting a continuing market for them. Many elephants gave up resisting human dominance when they were very young, and it's reasonable to believe that during the preparation for and course of any particular movie or show no cruel treatment occurred, because of what was endured early on. A picture can be portrayed of a positive relationship between trainer and elephant, and The Sanctuary does not deny that such relationships can exist. The elephant's ability to work obediently for entertainment, however, was born

many years ago when her wild, natural elephant spirit was suppressed. The Sanctuary does not support the use of elephants in entertainment.

Elephants at The Sanctuary have left their days of performing behind and are finally free to do what they do best—simply being elephants. ♦

Trip to PAWS

In April, Janice Zeitlin, Chair of the Elephant Sanctuary's Board, and Rob Atkinson, CEO, visited the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in San Andreas, California. At The Sanctuary, we can become very absorbed in the daily round of elephant care and running the many aspects of a nonprofit organization. It's all too easy to forget that there are others engaged in the same work and dealing with similar issues. So it was a great pleasure for us to meet with our friends at PAWS to swap experiences and consolidate our shared mission. Although PAWS provides sanctuary to other animals besides elephants, they and The Elephant Sanctuary exist for the same reason—to give captive animals the chance of a fulfilling life in natural surroundings, away from the crowds, restricted lives and—sometimes—abuse that marked their previous existences.

Pat Derby and Ed Stewart founded PAWS in 1984. They have three captive wildlife sanctuaries in California, including The Amanda Blake Wildlife Refuge in Herald, ARK 2000 in San Andreas and one in Galt, where PAWS is based. We visited the Ark 2000 refuge—hundreds of acres of wild Californian countryside. The landscape is more open than our wooded Tennessean habitat, and is very beautiful. PAWS' eight elephants were happy and at home wandering the hills, bathing in the ponds and grazing in the fields. We spent a wonderful day observing PAWS' Asian elephants Annie, Gypsy, Nicholas, Sabu and Wanda, and the Africans, Lulu, Maggie and Mara.

...continued on back page



Photo courtesy Lisa Jeffries, PAWSweb.org

Janice Zeitlin and Rob Atkinson with PAWS Founders and Directors Pat Derby and Ed Stewart

Going Green...er! (cont.)

For years, our elephants have enjoyed our native grape vines that grow wild in some trees. One of our staff members, Wade, recently suggested we cultivate our own. This year, 400 clippings—small sections clipped from Wade's own plantation—were planted and are being nursed in a small garden next to 50 apple tree starter saplings. In a couple of years when they mature, they will be



Dulary loves bamboo, too!

transplanted along the elephant fence lines, and some will be set up along a trellis system where each branch can grow up to 20 feet in a year. We'll cut and feed the delicious grapes to the Girls in the summer, and prune the branches in the winter, which the elephants will equally enjoy for browsing.

The variety in our vegetable garden is expanding this year to provide a wider selection, including medicinal herbs. This is an idea that was inspired while we collected wild mint for Liz. As many of you will remember, last summer Liz was struggling with the effects from her TB drug therapy, which negatively impacted her gastrointestinal system and digestion. As a result, Liz would not eat anything we offered except hay, bamboo and cuttings from some of our native trees. We tried supplementing her diet with probiotics and other aids, but the only thing she would accept was fresh cut mint, a natural plant that helped to ease her digestion. Carrying this success forward, we are attempting to grow a variety of other medicinal herbs—natural, locally grown and palatable for the elephants.

Continuing a program started last year, each week some of our volunteers visit a local Amish auction, buying locally grown produce for the Girls. The auction's unbeatable prices and high-quality produce allow us to support our local economy, as well as reduce the delivery distance and consumption of fossil fuels.

There are some things in our world that are synonymous with sanctuary, and being a better consumer and advocate for a healthier planet is one of them. ♦

Trip to PAWS (cont.)

Like The Sanctuary, PAWS uses no aversive training of any sort—no bullhooks, hotshots or physical punishment; and, like The Sanctuary, PAWS uses the Protected Contact method of elephant handling. We watched PAWS staff, together with Margaret Whittaker of Active Environments, who also works with The Elephant Sanctuary, providing healthcare to Nicholas. We were particularly thrilled to see Nicholas, as he is the son of our own dear Ronnie.

Like The Sanctuary, PAWS is continually engaged in updating and extending their facilities. In addition to observing the elephants, we toured all the barns and compared notes on barn and fence construction.

Rob has known Pat and Ed since he first visited them in 2002, when ARK 2000 was being prepared for its first elephants, and he has admired and followed their work ever since. The Sanctuary and its staff wishes PAWS every success and happiness and supports its wonderful mission. Pat, Ed and all the PAWS staff are kindred spirits and want the same things—the peaceful existence of the animals we care for. We look forward to our continued friendship. ♦



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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please contact your legislators.*



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