

*Elephants are the keepers of ancient secrets,
for they walked the world when it was new.*



The Elephant Sanctuary

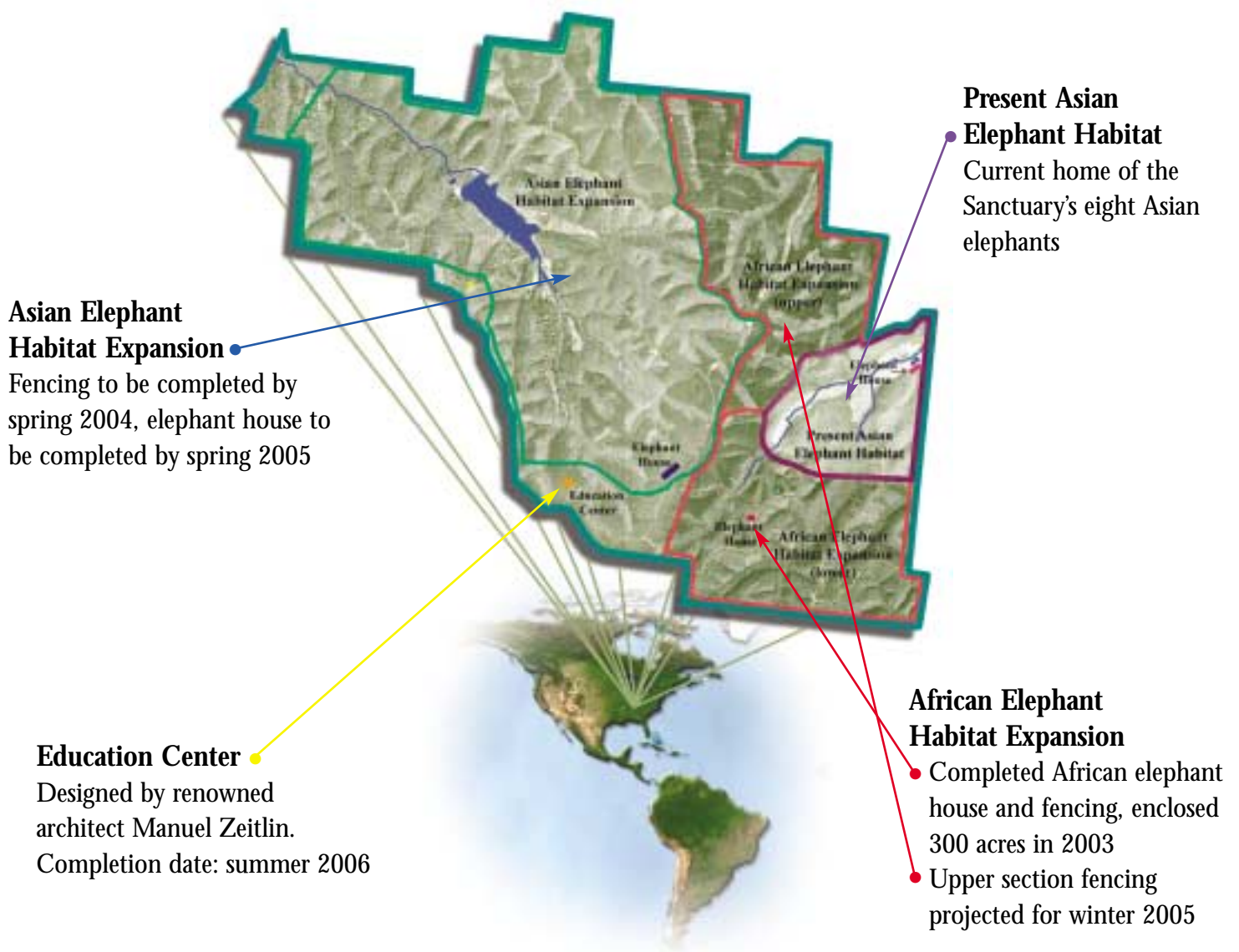
In Tennessee

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

The nation's first natural-habitat refuge for
endangered Asian and African elephants.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

Expanded from 200 acres to 2,700 total acres in 2003



Message from the Director

People from all walks of life are fascinated with elephants. We cannot imagine a world without them. This is why The Elephant Sanctuary is desperate to change conditions that threaten the welfare and existence of this ancient species both in captivity and in the wild.

The Sanctuary offers a space for captive elephants to discover their true nature, recover from neglect, and reconnect to the natural world. The example we set for the care of elephants can be duplicated in other captive situations here and abroad. Through outreach programs we educate people about the needs of captive elephants, provide veterinary care to hundreds of these displaced giants, and work to reclaim and preserve their wild homelands. Through education and identification of opportunities that can reestablish vital elephant habitat in the wild, we are working to empower YOU to make a difference. Join us in our efforts to ensure that this species will once more walk the earth in peace and dignity...free.

Sincerely,



Carol Buckley

Co-Founder/Executive Director

The Elephant Sanctuary

Located in the gently rolling hills of middle Tennessee, The Elephant Sanctuary is the only natural-habitat refuge of its kind designed specifically for Asian and African elephants. A landscape of seeded pastures, dense woodlands, a spring-fed lake and ponds fed by year-round streams is now a haven for sick and needy elephants retired from zoos and circuses.



Our mission is to:

- Provide a spacious and rich environment in which captive elephants can freely exercise their true nature; a place where they are treated with respect and minimal intrusion.
- Support non-invasive research; practice progressive methods of management and care with resident elephants.
- Share knowledge about captive elephants through education and consultation.
- Collaborate with organizations working to improve the conditions of all elephants worldwide.

Providing Sanctuary

2003 proved— once again—how critical the need for our sanctuary is. We were called upon to provide refuge for two suffering elephants. In late spring the Sanctuary was approached about Tina, a 33 year-old Asian elephant living alone and suffering from a life-threatening foot disease. The Greater Vancouver Zoo in British Columbia, Canada had housed Tina all her life, but Zoo staff recognized their facilities were not meeting Tina's needs. The Zoo decided to move Tina to the best environment possible, the Sanctuary, and we were delighted to welcome her to the herd. In late fall we were contacted about Delhi, a 57 year-old Asian elephant who had spent her entire life performing in circuses. In March 2002, while in the care of an Illinois-based company that leases elephants to circuses, Delhi sustained severe chemical burns to both front legs when undiluted formaldehyde was used to soak her feet. Nearly two years later, based on Delhi's rapidly deteriorating condition, the United States Department of Agriculture arranged for her confiscation and transfer to the Sanctuary. This unprecedented decision by the USDA gives us hope for other elephants living in abusive captive environments. With room to roam, the opportunity to move at will and access to innovative and diligent health care, both Tina and Delhi are recovering and enjoying their new home.



Tina

Program Areas



Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, photographer Robbyn Conover

Delhi

The Sanctuary

The Elephant Sanctuary occupies 2,700 acres, making it the nation's largest natural habitat refuge developed to meet the special needs of elephants. Currently eight female Asian elephants are thriving on the property. Three female African elephants are scheduled to take up residency in February 2004 in a separate but adjacent habitat built expressly for their species. Future plans include fencing the entire perimeter, construction of a new Asian barn and the erection of warming huts that will give these gentle giants full use of their expanded habitat.

Education about elephants and the crisis they face is a critical component of The Elephant Sanctuary' mission. We reach millions of people annually through the internet, videoconferencing, live streaming video, the media, and documentaries about our work. Sanctuary staff also conducts outreach education in the U.S. and overseas.

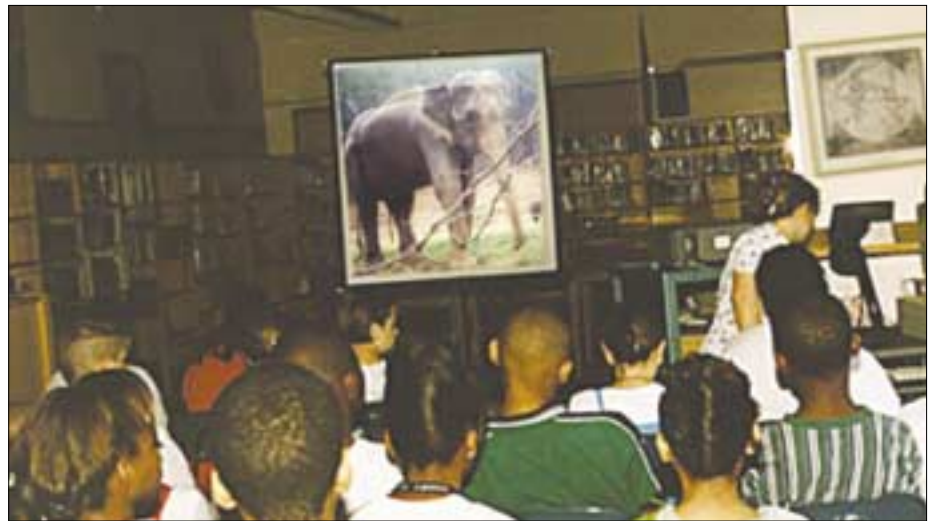
www.elephants.com, our award-winning web site provides a fountain of information about our work and the status of elephants around the world. Our site offers program descriptions and updates, downloadable educational materials as well as links to current elephant welfare information.

www.tappedintoelephants.com uses live streaming video to provide an around-the-clock window into sanctuary life so visitors can observe without disturbing the elephants. It attracts over 21 million hits a year.

Separate Space

Our mammoth expansion from a 200-acre habitat to a 2,700-acre natural preserve means that for the first time African elephants will call The Elephant Sanctuary home.

The preserve has been divided with separate habitat and facilities for each species. This is appropriate since African and Asian elephants would never meet in the wild; they are completely different species with different languages, behaviors and dietary needs.



Video teleconference visit with inner city students

Volunteer Day Program & Internships

In 2003 over 100 volunteers participated in our new Volunteer Day program, including college students participating in this popular alternative spring break opportunity. The Volunteer Day program allows individuals and groups to be directly involved in the Sanctuary's growth while immersing themselves in an inspiring wilderness setting. The Sanctuary's on going Internship program was equally successful in 2003. Designed to instill respect for elephants and for all life, the Internship program also provides the Sanctuary with much needed assistance. Interns and volunteers work under the guidelines of the Sanctuary's non-invasive management philosophy, which restricts them from direct physical contact or verbal interactions with the elephants. At the Sanctuary, observation is the key to learning. Silence is encouraged while in the presence of elephants. Interns and volunteers are challenged to quiet their voice and learn through their eyes, ears, heart, soul, and mind.



Ecological and elephant friendly African Elephant House



A night view — A perfect combination of function and ingenuity

A focus on non-invasive **research and education** is at the heart of The Elephant Sanctuary's mission. We strive to provide a setting that permits quality scientific research, contributing to improved elephant welfare in captivity and to the survival of wild elephants. In addition, the Elephant Sanctuary has pioneered a non-dominant management style called *Passive Control*. At the Sanctuary we do not dictate or try to control elephants' behavior; instead we strive to support and encourage their natural activities. Sharing our alternative humane approach to captive elephant care and management with other elephant caregivers unites our education and research programs.

A State-of-the-Art African Elephant House

and fencing enclosing 300 acres of natural habitat was completed in December 2003. This enormous accomplishment meets our goal of providing an environment which resembles an elephants' home range; a habitat of complexity and size that satisfies their physical and psychological requirements.

The spacious new African elephant house is rich in natural lighting and perfectly suited to a species that spends most of its time outdoors. The building is designed to conserve precious natural resources while providing a functional and ele-friendly environment.



African elephants wallowing in the mud



The Elephant Sanctuary supports several efforts benefiting captive and wild elephants in Asia.

A family of wild elephants that benefit from Sanctuary support

International Elephant Assistance

Asian Elephant Habitat Program addresses the leading cause of the decline in wild elephant populations—loss of habitat. The goal is to slow habitat degradation and reclaim once viable elephant habitat so that elephants can lead normal lives. Strategies include teaching alternative job skills and relocating non-indigenous people who have taken up residence in elephant home ranges.

The Human-Elephant Conflict Project carried out by the Nature Conservation Foundation and supported by the Sanctuary has uncovered much information about elephant movements, corridors, and conflict with people in the Anamalai hills in the Western Ghats of India. The Anamalai contains the second largest population of endangered Asian elephants in India. This information is critical to the conservation effort.

Captive Elephant Health Care Program

is a grass roots endeavor aimed at improving the health and welfare of captive elephants in Asia. The Sanctuary is the sole supporter of this program which brings much needed veterinary care and medical supplies to hundreds of working elephants in northern India.



Dr. Sharma of the Captive Elephant Health Care Program

The Elephant Nature Park

is Thailand's only sanctuary for abused and abandoned Asian elephants and the Sanctuary's newest assistance project. In 2003 the Sanctuary underwrote a portion of the cost to feed the Park's 15 elephants.

Accomplishments

2003 was a year of unprecedented growth for the Sanctuary. The purchase of 1840 acres of undeveloped land bordering our property completed the final phase of our land expansion. The construction of a state-of-the-art African elephant house and completion of additional fencing of the property now enables us for the first time to provide sanctuary for African elephants while expanding the habitat for our Asian elephants. The Sanctuary's ecological and elephant friendly facilities provide essential comfort, security and freedom for the elephants while offering an opportunity to demonstrate progressive methods of care and management.

2003

Land and Facilities

- Acquired 1,840 additional acres
- Completed construction of a five-stall, state-of-the-art African elephant house
- Fenced an additional 300 acres with the double fencing system

Education

- Installed 3 miles of fiber optic line for field cameras used for behavioral observation and internet education
- Added an additional elephant observation camera to our EleCam system for internet education and video teleconferencing with schools all over the world

Elephant Care

- Rescued two endangered Asian elephants
- Implemented innovative elephant health care treatments for elephants suffering from life threatening osteomyelitis
- Underwrote mobile health care clinic for captive elephants in northern India

Research

- Underwrote field research studying gender ratios and herd reproduction health of wild elephants in northern India
- Continued collecting behavioral data of free-ranging captive elephants in a natural habitat environment

Financial

- Launched an on-going capital campaign; introduced the VIP Pledge Program
- Increased our membership by 5,000

Staff

- Developed a three member office staff support team
- Established Volunteer Days with over 100 participants
- Hired a Project Manager
- Added two additional keepers to our elephant care team

Awareness/Advocacy

- Issued three Sanctuary newsletters
- Published first Annual Report
- Supported Tennessee legislation to ban performing elephants in the state
- Featured in Smithsonian Magazine, CNN.com, The Chicago Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor, Glamour Magazine, Current Science Magazine, Science Spin, Petlife, The Tennessean, Las Vegas Review Journal, The Detroit Free Press, American Profile, American Wellness Magazine, Guideposts Magazine, The National Enquirer, Channelone.com, Vancouver Sun, Evansville Courier and Press, Times-Republican, The Globe and Mail, Ottawa Citizen, Daily News, The Hamilton Spectator, The Langley Times, Canada.com, The Province, Tennessee Connections, Lewis County Herald, Maine Sunday Telegram, Lewiston Sun Journal

A Bright Future

The past nine years have been filled with great successes and the future looks bright. Thanks to the land and facilities expansion the Sanctuary is on schedule to welcome three African elephants in 2004. This expansion will enable us to provide for as many as 100 elephants in need. Plans are underway for a multi-faceted education complex that allows for non-invasive observation and education.

Corporate Officers & Directors

Carol Buckley is co-founder, President, and Executive Director of The Elephant Sanctuary. She helps to care for the eight resident elephants, consults on elephant care and management, runs the Sanctuary's business office, organizes elephant acquisitions, and develops and implements educational programs for the public. She is a well-known speaker on elephant care.

Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, photographer Robyn Conover



Scott Blais is co-founder, Vice President, Facilities Director and the primary caretaker for the resident elephants at The Elephant Sanctuary. He directs the operation of the natural habitat refuge. Scott has been instrumental in the design and construction of the Sanctuary's two state-of-the-art elephant houses and its administrative office, as well as miles of Sanctuary fencing. He also aids in implementing public education.

Leslie Pon Tell Schreiber, serves on the Board of Directors. Before retiring Leslie served as Co-Director of Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo and was the Instructor's Assistant Director of Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training & Management Program. She lives in Tiburon, California.



Hank Sherwood serves as Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Council member. He is founder and retired CEO of the advertising agency, Gish, Sherwood & Friends, Inc. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sandra Estes, serves on the Board of Directors. She is the Senior Loan Officer of Union Planters Bank. She lives in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

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Summary of Financial Activities 2002

Public Support & Revenues	
Public Support	959,439
Other Revenues	230,554
	<i>Total Public Support and Revenue</i>
	1,189,993
Expenses & Losses	
Program Services	620,597
Supporting Services	
Management and General	36,669
Fundraising	<u>24,299</u>
<i>Total Supporting Services</i>	<u>59,968</u>
	<i>Total Program and Supporting Services</i>
	680,565
Realized and Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments	10,277
	<i>Total Expenses and Losses</i>
	690,842
Increase in Net Assets	499,151
Net Assets – beginning of year	1,316,356
Net Assets – end of year	<u>\$1,815,507</u>
<i>(Audited)</i>	

Support

Major Donors

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*Operation of The Elephant Sanctuary
 would not be possible without the help of our
 25,000 members, volunteers and donors
 who support us at every level.*



The growing herd at The Elephant Sanctuary.

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the
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Sanctuary
in Tennessee

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