

SUMMER 2004 Trunklines

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization



The
Africans'
Special
Edition

What's all the trumpeting about?

More land, a new barn and the arrival of three magnificent African elephants!

No one was more surprised than we were when it became clear that the Sanctuary would become home to African elephants. Ultimately, we couldn't say no when we were asked to take Tange and Zula. They had lived at the Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Georgia for nearly three decades; this was their chance at freedom. How could we say no to them—or the many who are sure to follow?

Our new African elephant habitat is comprised of 300 acres of pine trees planted by the former owner, as well as nearly one hundred species of indigenous trees. This land with its lush and diverse vegetation will provide a living laboratory for our new residents.

Tange and Zula arrived at their new Sanctuary home on February 19. After nearly an hour of halfhearted attempts to leave the trailer, Tange finally stepped bravely into her new world. Zula quickly followed Tange down the ramp into their new barn. They moved through the barn, curious and without a hint of apprehension. Side by side, they inspected every pipe, gate and hanging toy, and seemed to give their approval. When the moment arrived, they did not hesitate to go outside.

As Tange and Zula left the barn, it was obvious they were not inhibited or threatened by the big outdoors, as many of the Asian elephants have been upon first arriving at the Sanctuary. Instead, Tange and Zula headed straight into the habitat driven by their own sense of adventure. We followed. Watching them embrace their first true experience of freedom since infancy was such a joy. Zula tried her best to keep up with Tange. We followed close



Our first African elephants, Tange and Zula arrive at the Sanctuary

behind. Off they went through the thick briars, up and down steep hills and through the acres of trees. It was clear these girls were going to love their new home. Any trepidation they had about moving was definitely eased by having their caregiver for the past fifteen years, Kathi Murray, make the transition with them. Kathi has accepted the position of lead keeper for our African elephants, and we are delighted that she is now part of the Sanctuary team.

Tange and Zula settled in quickly and gracefully. We quickly learned that in contrast to our Asian elephants, who are certainly playful and fun-loving, but generally careful and purposeful in their movements, the African elephants are extremely active, with a frenetic energy that keeps them in constant motion, always busy.

...continued on page 4

the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

P.O. Box 393
Hohenwald, TN 38462

PHONE: 931-796-6500
FAX: 931-796-4810

www.elephants.com

Trunklines Contributors

Designer

Sherle Raitt
R8 Design + Communications

Writers/Editors

Sanctuary Staff
Amy Estes
Sandra Estes

Selected Photography

Sanctuary Staff

Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's single natural habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2700 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 a heated barn 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

Courtesy of the Tennessee Magazine, photographer Robyn Conover



From left, Bunny, Carol, Shirley and Scott

Directors' Voice

There's an old saying, "Be careful what you wish for."

We certainly wouldn't have wished for anything less, but with so many of our wishes granted in such a short period of time, we've come to understand the humor and wisdom in that saying. In less than one year, the Sanctuary has grown from 200 to 2700 acres, created a home for African elephants, and introduced five new "girls" to freedom. This expansion and all its success stories would not have been possible without your support, and we hope publications like this newsletter make it clear that these are your victories, too.

You might think that after such an amazing and exhausting year, we would rest on our laurels—or just rest! But the expansion has created new need—more qualified caregivers, additional barn space, and always, more money to provide better care for the other elephants who will someday call the Sanctuary home. In addition, to improve the conditions of captive elephants who don't live at the Sanctuary, we need to provide education. So we continue to imagine the Sanctuary's growth.

As we dream for the future, we envision two new facilities that are critical to the Sanctuary's mission. The first is an institute of elephant health and welfare, devoted to researching the life threatening diseases that plague captive elephants and developing humane diagnostics and treatment for those diseases. The second is a non-intrusive public education center, a place where people will learn about elephants' lives in captivity and in the wild, and about the Sanctuary's approach to captive elephant management. We'll keep you posted as these plans develop.

Almost all captive elephants were caught in the wild and have no opportunity to return to their homeland. These displaced giants deserve to experience a semblance of the life that they would have had, if they hadn't been captured to satisfy the human desire to see them and be in their presence.

Everyone affiliated with the Sanctuary is grateful for your support in providing that life for the elephants already here, and for sharing our dream of restoring dignity to all captive elephants. Thank you. ❖

Carol & Scott

In this Issue

What's all the Trumpeting About? .1	Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary . .8
Directors' Voice2	Hawthorn Settlement9
The Asian Herd3	Volunteer Days10
Delhi's Progress5	20 Miles10
Acceptance6	A Labor of Love11
Tina's Progress7	VIP Pledge Campaign12

The Asian Herd

One of the Sanctuary's goals is creating an environment where captive elephants can learn to function as a normal elephant family would. No one has attempted this before, so we weren't sure it was possible, especially because none of our elephants are related to each other. Our experiment has been a shining success, demonstrating that when elephants have the opportunity to live in a healthy environment, whether or not they have a biological connection, they form strong relationships and bond as a herd.

It is thrilling to see all of our Asian elephants grazing side by side, interacting with each other, living together as a family. Mundane as it may seem, this is a major achievement. Getting here was a slow process that took several years, and the herd dynamic is constantly evolving. We have discovered that every elephant is a unique individual with her own way of approaching a new situation. Activities and interactions that are easy for one elephant are often problematic for another. Hurdles that one elephant leaps in a matter of days may take years for another. What they all have in common is their patience, compassion and collective wisdom.

Shirley remains the wise and stoic matron, and like a child, Jenny continues to dictate movement and activities, at least where Shirley is concerned. Bunny has developed a strong sense of independence and self-confidence. She enjoys wandering the habitat alone as well as the company of her sisters. She can even be observed calmly grazing in Winkie's presence. Tarra, the herd social butterfly, interacts with all of the elephants and seldom misses out on any activity or the opportunity to share someone else's food. Sissy is thrilled about all the bonding, as group harmony seems to be her goal. She moves effortlessly among the others,



affectionately greeting each member of her family with the same enthusiasm as the next, gently and persistently continuing to build community. Now that Winkie has learned how to relate to the other elephants she too is comfortable and considerate. She now grazes side by side with Shirley while their respective best friends nap in the pasture close by. Tina is still in the early part of her journey, still finding her place in the herd. As she becomes more interested in being outside this spring and summer, we hope that she will enjoy more of the benefits the natural habitat has to offer—a smorgasbord of elephant delicacies growing wild on the property, family, and freedom. Among all these elephants, sharing food and affection is commonplace. The harmony suggests that the herd is ready to welcome a new member.

Soon they will do just that, when Delhi's quarantine ends. They have all met...from a distance. When Delhi first arrived, curiosity brought the other elephants as close as the fence would allow. We have never kept an elephant in isolation before; it is unnatural and seems cruel. However, the quarantine was necessary to ensure the health of all of our elephants. They have waited a long time to be together; perhaps the meeting will be richer for it. We are excited about the introductions, anxious to see how the herd will evolve to accommodate its newest member. ♦



From left: Sissy, Jenny, Shirley & Winkie

What's all the trumpeting about?'...continued

From the moment Tange and Zula arrived, we were making preparations to welcome our third African elephant, Flora. Flora spent her entire captive life traveling and performing in her own circus. Three years ago when her owner, David Balding, recognized a change in Flora's attitude toward performing, he set out to provide an alternative life for her. When he discovered that the Sanctuary was accepting African elephants, he asked that Flora be allowed to take up residence here, and so our new family began to grow.

On March 3, Flora arrived with an entourage of celebrities, filmmakers and well wishers. Flora is accustomed to celebrity, so she remained calm throughout. When the trailer doors opened, she assessed the situation and confidently walked down the ramp to David, who escorted her as she slowly and calmly inspected her new home. Her presence and beauty was breathtaking.

While Flora's arrival was certainly cause enough for celebration, it was also her birthday. Local Sanctuary supporter Debbie Whitehead offered to make Flora's cake, and one of her dear friends, Cherie Valentine, insisted on covering the cost. Debbie created a beautiful smashed banana, bran and peanut butter birthday cake, layered with kiwi, strawberries, and grapes. After gently but thoroughly sniffing the cake, Flora daintily consumed it, not rushing but savoring each morsel.

During Flora's arrival Tange and Zula remained outside. Everyone was excited to see what would happen when these three beauties met. Their introduction was impressive and humbling at the same time. As Tange and

Zula entered the barn, Flora approached. Despite the fact that she is the youngest, Flora stood tall, head held high, demonstrating her high opinion of herself. Tange easily adopted a submissive position, as she has always



Zula (left) and Flora meet for the first time

done with Zula. It was immediately obvious that Tange and Flora would get along just fine as long as Tange remembered who was boss. The interaction between Flora and Zula was much more thrilling. Zula engaged in an elaborate display of strength and agility. She climbed up on the divider gates and lashed out in Flora's direction. She displaced Tange in order to remain closer to Flora and drug her feet back and forth across the rubber-padded floor in what was surely a display of dominance. Zula did her best to maintain the only position she had ever held in a relationship with another elephant. She intended to be dominant...but Flora had another plan.

Flora, Tange and Zula get acquainted



For two days, we slowly increased the elephants' access to each other. Finally, it was time to allow them to be together in an unrestricted space. With 300 acres of habitat, each elephant could retreat if she was not comfortable. As expected, Tange and Flora got along well, with Tange willingly accepting Flora's dominance. Zula continued to try to assert herself. After a few days of unrestricted access, Zula approached

Tange and Flora in the yard. When Flora began displaying dominant behavior, Zula retreated through the barn, tripping on the rubber floor mats and stumbling to her wrists. Zula has been plagued by weak wrists all of her life, and this fall caused one wrist to become quite sore. This incident has slowed progress in the development of a relationship between Zula and Flora.

Zula was treated for pain and kept separate from Flora to reduce risk of any further injury while she healed. Meanwhile, Flora and Tange developed a strong, healthy relationship. Zula is beginning to demonstrate a position of respectful submission toward Flora. While she certainly is not groveling, she is wise to allow the stronger individual to assume the position of power. As their relationship continues to grow, Zula will show Flora that leadership requires more than strength and power, and that wisdom is almost always a superior asset. Zula's choice to work toward peaceful coexistence with Flora is ample demonstration of this point. With time, we know

Delhi's Progress



Delhi will soon join her new family.

Delhi continues to amaze us. Despite being in quarantine, she is filled with a positive spirit, and she keeps herself well entertained. Her extended quarantine is mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture because of her exposure to tuberculosis. Delhi has never tested positive for TB, but she has lived with elephants that have. In addition to being quarantined, Delhi must be



Flora and Tange are developing their friendship

Flora will become more comfortable in relating to other elephants, and she and Zula will develop a deep and respectful relationship. ✧

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



tested for TB on a regular basis. The good news is that she continues to test negative for the disease.

Delhi is a willing patient, easily adjusting to twice daily foot soaks, morning baths and foot trimming. At first she was wary of having her feet manipulated, but now she will allow her footpads and nails to be scrubbed and trimmed. The hardest thing for Delhi was getting used to regular foot X-rays. At first, we had to follow her around the stall with a portable but nonetheless heavy X-ray machine until she finally gave in and allowed us to take the painless photos. Now she is a pro, making our job easier. We are pleased to report that the condition of her feet continues to improve.

Spring has sprung, and Delhi is spending leisurely days napping and grazing in her yard. At least twice a day, she can be found sound asleep on the grass or in her favorite naptime hideaway back in the trees. And we've discovered that Delhi loves clover! Even though her trunk is partially paralyzed, Delhi has no problem mowing the clover and grass down to a finely manicured turf. Because the grass is always greener over there, Delhi is continually on the move. As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, she is spending more and more time outside. Soon she will be released from quarantine to meet her new family; we are anxiously awaiting that day! ✧

Acceptance

A delightful and intriguing relationship has developed over the past few months between two rather unlikely residents of the Sanctuary ~ Tarra and Bella.

Tarra is a lover of all animals. The Sanctuary is home not only to elephants, but also to deer, turkey, and many other kinds of wildlife. Tarra wants to be as close to these other animals as they will allow. On more than one occasion she has been observed approaching a grazing deer or a bevy of turkey with a twinkle in her eye, almost holding her breath. Clearly she would approach closer if allowed, but when she crosses that invisible barrier, the magic is broken and we see white tails racing through the pasture or wings beating a hasty retreat.

Tarra has always had a special love for dogs. Even if they bark or bite, she adores them. On first meeting Tarra, dogs rarely share her enthusiasm or desire to get closer, but many have eventually come to trust her and allow her gentle touch. During her days as a performer, Tarra solicited the affection of any dog that wandered by. The most impressive response was from a police dog at a street fair in southern California. Tarra reached out to pet the dog and to everyone's amazement the dog calmly walked forward to accept her friendly gesture. She chirped in glee. But the police dog was the exception. In every other case, Tarra put forth a lot of time and patience to develop the canine friendships that mean so much to her.

Then along came Bella, a small mixed breed dog who joined our family a year ago. We found her guarding an abandoned bulldozer on our newly acquired land. Bella is very protective of bulldozers, four-wheelers, and other inanimate objects, but otherwise she is a bit timid.

Tarra was very excited about this new dog and wasted no time in trying to make friends. As you might expect, Bella was not interested. And so it went. Winter came, and Tarra and Bunny spent a lot of time together foraging in the woods south of the barn. We knew they were there, but we didn't realize there was a third member of this entourage. And so the relationship between Tarra and Bella blossomed without our knowledge.

We first knew Bella had become more tolerant of Tarra when we noticed a white splotch in the pasture where Tarra was sleeping. When the splotch moved, we realized it was Bella! Next we noticed Bella following Tarra into the woods, but we assumed it was just a pile of grain attracting them both. But when we began to see Bella sleeping next to Tarra on a daily basis, we knew something amazing was happening.

With the arrival of spring, Bella and Tarra brought their



Bella and Tarra ~ a special friendship

relationship out of hiding. Wherever Tarra goes, Bella follows—in the barn at night, in the woods and pastures during the day, whether other elephants are there or not. We've always known that Tarra would take home every dog from the local shelter if given the chance, but no other dog has ever returned her depth of feeling. That's what makes this relationship magical, and makes all of us so happy for both of them.

We just had one concern—the other elephants have never learned to appreciate dogs the way that Tarra does. They have tolerated Tarra's friendships with dogs in the past, but no other relationship has been so close. We wondered if this strange new relationship would test their acceptance of Tarra.

To our surprise the other elephants have demonstrated an incredible capacity for acceptance. They allow Bella to enter their sacred circle and even share their grain, or at least Tarra's grain. Recently we watched as Tarra, with Bella bounding along close behind, approached Jenny as she slept. Shirley was grazing close by. The "odd couple" came into the circle without any disturbance. Tarra gently touched Jenny's leg and began to graze while Bella settled into a soft, cozy spot leaning up against Jenny's foot. Though it had never been captured on camera before, this could not have been the first time this happened, because Jenny did not even flinch.

As lessons go, this is among the most profound we have ever experienced. It is a testament to the depth of compassion elephants possess. We can all learn from their willingness to be inclusive and accepting of one another's needs. 💎

Tina's Progress

Tina is a member of an elite group of elephants born in captivity. With captive-bred elephants constituting only a fraction of the elephant population in the United States, Tina's status should have guaranteed her the best care that money could buy throughout her lifetime.

Tina was one of twenty-seven Asian elephants born at the zoo in Portland, Oregon. As the zoo experienced continued success with its breeding program, it sold off one and two year-old elephants to make room for new babies. Tina and her siblings were sold to roadside zoos and traveling circuses. The breeding program was deemed a success because it produced a large number of baby elephants. However, the fate of these elephants and the long-term consequences of the breeding program do not appear to have been a consideration.

After 33 years of confinement in an environment so unsuitable that she nearly died, we are happy to report that Tina is recovering. She suffers from osteomyelitis, a bone infection that is the number one killer of captive elephants. Euthanasia is often thought to be the only humane course of action because so many elephants are crippled by this disease, spending years suffering without hope for permanent improvement or relief. Tina's condition was advanced, and we didn't know if she could recover, but we did know from past experience that a healthy environment coupled with innovative treatments could make a difference.

After months of diligent attention to her diet, foot condition and psychological health, Tina has improved. She continues to take pain medication daily. She willingly participates in her twice daily foot soaks and has learned to appreciate a healthy diet, though giving up the molasses-soaked grain that was the bulk of her



Tina treats herself to a head-to-toe mud bath

diet for so many years in favor of hay took some time. All of these changes have paid off for Tina. Her immune system is healthier and now able to support her recovery from her foot disease.

Dealing with the consequences of Tina's pre-Sanctuary life causes us to question the validity of modern day conservation programs that breed captive elephants. The media helps us celebrate the birth of baby animals and reminds us of the species' dwindling numbers in the wild, but little attention is focused on what happens to these captive babies as they grow. For breeding programs to make real contributions to conservation, the elephants they produce must be raised in healthy, natural environments in which female babies live with their mothers for life. Given elephants' nature, anything less cannot be defended as conservation. ❖

Sanctuary Specialty License Plates

In late spring, the Tennessee legislature authorized the creation of "The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee" license plate, which will feature the Sanctuary logo. Fifty percent of the net proceeds from the sale of the plates will benefit the Sanctuary!

We are required to pre-sell 1,000 plates before they can be designed and manufactured. Show your support for the Sanctuary by being among the first to order! The plates are \$35; they may be personalized for an additional \$35. Please contact Suzanne at the Sanctuary at 931-796-6500 ext. 24 to order your plate. While the Sanctuary has a year to pre-sell the required amount, we're confident you'll help us beat that deadline, and soon we'll see our plates all over the state. We know many of our out-of-state supporters will be tempted by these spiffy new plates, but unfortunately, Tennessee law allows only licensed state residents with registered vehicles to purchase the plates.

The Sanctuary would like to thank Gary Jones, of Custom Interiors and Supply Company, a committed Ele Friend, for planting the idea for the plates and doing the initial footwork. We'd also like to thank our local legislators, Senator Doug Jackson and Representative Joey Hensley, for introducing and supporting the bill to create the plates.

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 can be all at once 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 first 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 get 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, Bunny, Jenny, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Tina, Delhi, Tange, Zula and Flora 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. Every 'Feed for a Day' generates a certificate and a bio with a picture of the elephant(s) you choose to feed.

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

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

Acres for Elephants

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom or office to buy real estate for elephants. Help the Sanctuary's expansion give elephants the room they need to roam. Acres for Elephants donors receive a subscription to Trunklines. Donations of \$10 or more also receive a certificate.

Square Elephant \$3 x _____ = \$_____
Space for an elephant to stand at rest ~ 6' x 12'

Sleepy Square \$5 x _____ = \$_____
Space for an elephant to lie down and take a nap ~ 9' x 14'

Dumbo \$55 x _____ = \$_____
Space for a small herd of elephants to stand ~ 1,440 sq. ft

Jumbo \$350 x _____ = \$_____
Space for a big herd of elephants to play ~ 1/4 acre

Mammoth \$1,400 x _____ = \$_____
Space for a herd of elephants to explore ~ 1 acre

landmark Settlement in Hawthorn Case

On March 12, the United States Department of Agriculture agreed to a settlement with Hawthorn Corporation, an Illinois-based company that leases animals to circuses. The USDA confiscated Delhi and retired her to the Sanctuary in November, citing repeated violations of the Animal Welfare Act, but its lawsuit against Hawthorn Corporation and the fate of sixteen other elephants owned by the company remained unsure.

According to the settlement agreement, Hawthorn Corporation must donate all sixteen elephants to “persons who have demonstrated the ability to provide proper care” for them. In addition, Hawthorn must pay a fine of \$200,000.

Response to news of the settlement agreement has run the gamut from relief that these elephants will be removed from inhumane conditions to concerns about where they will be placed. Some Sanctuary supporters have also expressed disappointment that the fine isn’t larger and that the settlement does not prohibit Hawthorn from owning other elephants in the future. We spoke to Darby Holladay, spokesman for the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to get more details.

Holladay said the settlement “is one of the best things Animal Care has ever done. If this case had gone through the administrative law process, there is no guarantee we would have gotten a guilty verdict or a fine, and there’s certainly no guarantee these elephants would have been removed. Animal Care prioritized the welfare of these elephants over an uncertain outcome in court. As part of the settlement, Hawthorn Corporation admits guilt in nineteen violations of the Animal Welfare Act.”

Asked why the fine was not larger, and why the settlement does not preclude Hawthorn Corporation from owning other elephants in the future, Mr. Holladay said, “Animal Care sought the welfare of the elephants over a demand that would endanger the settlement agreement.” As for

the future of the elephants, he said that Animal Care is actively working with Hawthorn Corporation to arrange the transfer of its elephants to APHIS-approved facilities.

Some of the Hawthorn elephants have tested positive for TB. Susan Mikota, DVM, has coordinated research on TB in elephants and serves on the USDA’s TB Working Group. “This is an extremely important herd,” she said. “In 1996, we first became aware of the seriousness of TB in elephants when two Hawthorn elephants died from the disease. We still have a lot to learn about TB in elephants, and continuing to monitor this herd is critical research.”

Mikota continued, “Unless there is a concerted, proactive effort to consistently monitor elephants with TB, ten years from now, we won’t be any closer to understanding this disease or providing better treatment. Elephants present some special problems—we can’t do chest X-rays on them, for example—so we need to develop alternative techniques and innovative diagnostic procedures for them. That kind of research may eventually benefit humans with TB as well.”

Because of her interest in monitoring this herd very closely, Mikota would like to see all sixteen elephants kept together. “That would certainly make things easier for research purposes. I don’t think these animals should travel, given their history, and it would be better if they weren’t in contact with the public. Most of them are near retirement age. I would like to see them retired together for regular evaluation.”

At the time of this writing, the USDA has made recommendations about where the Hawthorn elephants should be placed. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Sanctuary website. For more information about TB in elephants, visit:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/ElephantTBGuidelines2003.html>.



The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee ~ 2005 Calendar

As we were making plans to welcome The Elephant Sanctuary’s 12th resident, we quickly realized that it was the perfect time to create a Sanctuary calendar. As you’ve probably guessed, the Sanctuary’s elephants are the calendar girls, with each month featuring a different elephant.

The calendar’s designer, Sherle Raitt, has once again outdone herself. Her creation is filled with gorgeous images of our beautiful girls. Sherle and Carol Buckley poured through hundreds of photos before making their final selections, pictures that depict each elephant’s distinct personality. The calendar even features a bonus pull-out Pachyderm Poster showcasing all the girls! This fun and fabulous calendar is sure to delight all the elephant lovers on your holiday gift list. You may purchase calendars online at Our Girls Gift Shop at <http://www.elephants.com/merchandisestart.htm> or by calling 931-796-6500 ext. 26.



Volunteer Days at the Sanctuary



Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers.

Over the years, scores of people have contacted us to ask how they can volunteer at The Sanctuary. Finally, in the summer of 2003, we were able to launch our Volunteer Day program. The daunting task of priming and painting the new elephant fence—all 10 miles of it winding through pastures, forest, creek beds, and up and down steep hillsides—became the volunteers' first project. They braved the hot Tennessee sun, ticks and chiggers, and plenty of poison ivy to prepare the new property for the elephants. As winter approached, many volunteers wanted to continue helping. With the new African barn underway, there was a lot of finish work to do, like priming, painting, sanding, and cleaning. And so a crew of regular volunteers, joined each week by several newcomers, found themselves personally responsible for preparing a new home for Zula, Tange and Flora.



Only 19 miles to go...

Every Volunteer Day is an awesome display of support for the Sanctuary. People travel from all over the country—and sometimes beyond our borders—to participate. They know the elephants will not be on display. They support our mission of serving the elephants, not exhibiting them. Several of our repeat volunteers have earned the well-deserved title of Volunteer Day Supervisor. They drive from east Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama every Volunteer Day to coordinate the work of other volunteers. Their devotion is inspiring, and their positive energy and compassion stays long after they've gone home, blessing the property for each new elephant who joins the herd.

From all the Sanctuary staff, a hearty thank you to everyone who has participated in Volunteer Days at The Elephant Sanctuary. If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up online at:

<http://www.elephants.com/volunteer.htm>. ♦

20 mile Progress Report

In January, 2004, we embarked on the most time-consuming portion of the Sanctuary expansion, the construction of 20 miles of fencing. When the project is complete, there will be two fences. One is a ten-mile elephant corral which contains the elephants on the property. This fence is surrounded by a buffer zone and another fence, which protects the elephants from the public. Both fences are required by state and federal law. With 11 miles of fencing complete and construction prices increasing daily, Scott Blais sat down with Willie Hurd III, president of Maury Fence Company, and Terry Harris of Amsteel LLC, to get a progress report.

SB: Willie, how is the fence project going?

WH: *I am very pleased with this year's progress. This is normally the time of the year when we frequently experience rain delays, but so far we have been fortunate and the weather has been mild.*

SB: When do you estimate the project will be complete?

WH: *It is difficult to estimate the completion date of a project of this size. In a good month we can complete about 4,000 feet of each fence, so if the weather holds up and there aren't any other unforeseen problems, we should be able to finish by the end of the year.*

A Labor of Love

The African Elephant House went from vague concept to detailed, three-dimensional image when Nashville architect Cary Dunn captured the vision for the barn on paper. Cary was introduced to us by long-time Sanctuary supporter William Dudley, a structural engineer who has donated his services for several building projects.

We wanted an open feeling for this innovative barn. Cary created that openness with high ceilings that create a sense of vastness and translucent walls that bathe the barn in natural light. The facility is designed for careful use and reuse of natural resources. The walls generate natural warmth, reducing the dependency on costly auxiliary heat, and they provide an insulation value superior to that of solid concrete walls. The creative use of large storage tanks to collect rain water enables staff to maintain sanitary conditions inside the barn using reclaimed rain water.

This project was a labor of love for everyone involved in bringing it to life, including the Sanctuary staff, Cary Dunn, William Dudley, contractor Tony Shankle, foreman Terry Barnes, and a corps of dedicated volunteers who contributed countless hours. Even during the winter months when temperatures dropped and mittens were mandatory, they returned every weekend, full of dedication and enthusiasm for this important task. Sanctuary members also did their part, contributing in-kind gifts or providing funds to purchase the items needed.

Our Wish List, posted on the web at www.elephants.com/wish.php, attracted supporters from all over the world who helped to make our wishes come true! They donated or provided the funds to purchase



From left; Terry Barnes, Tony Shankle, Scott Blais & Cary Dunn

everything from custom-made gate motor covers to boxes of work gloves, from automatic waterers to hose reels and couplings, from produce carts to tools. Everyone who helped supply these much-needed materials is recognized at www.elephants.com/thanks.php. One of the most important gifts came from Agromatic, a Wisconsin based company that sells rubber stall mats. They donated ninety mats, enough to cover the entire barn floor. Please thank them online at www.agromatic.net.

The barn's construction took a year, and it consumed so much of our time and energy that it sometimes felt as if the building was its own end. But the building's true purpose—providing sanctuary for African elephants—is also its own reward. The love so many people expressed by sharing their time, talents, or dollars to help complete this project is here in the barn—in every coat of paint, in every mat on the floor, in every piece of equipment. What an amazing blessing for our new elephants' home! The Sanctuary staff offers its heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this dream a reality. 💎

SB: Willie and Terry, what is causing the increase in the price of fence materials?

WH: *Basically, it's a supply and demand problem. There's a shortage of raw materials—especially recycled materials—are being sold overseas at above prime rates, causing US producers to use higher grade raw materials, which are more expensive.*

TH: *China is the world's largest supplier of steel; the US is the third largest. China currently has several major projects, including Olympic preparations, construction of a nuclear power plant, and the massive Yangtze River dam project. So, as Willie said, supply can't meet demand right now.*

SB: How much has the cost of materials increased?

WH: *To date the price has gone up 40%, but I expect another 10-15% increase by mid-summer.*

That's a 50% increase in the cost of the fence which is required prior to releasing the elephants into their expanded habitat. There are some projects that can be halted or delayed but to stop this project means to delay the elephants access to more space. It looks like we will just have to increase our fundraising activities to cover the increased costs.



VIP Pledge Campaign

Last fall The Elephant Sanctuary kicked off its \$15,000,000 Expansion Capital Campaign with the introduction of a VIP Program. The popular program provides an opportunity for those who make a \$5,000 campaign pledge to visit the Sanctuary with a guest, meet the staff, and tour the 2,700-acre habitat, including the state-of-the-art barns and 25-acre lake. Pledges can be paid at the rate of \$1,000 per year for five years. Visits are prescheduled and conducted with other VIP Patrons. Additional guests may join you for a one-time fee of \$500 per person.

This is an exclusive opportunity to be in the middle of everything without disrupting the elephants' daily lives. In keeping with the Sanctuary's mission, the elephants will not be put on exhibit. They will be in the habitat, and while some visitors may be fortunate enough to see them from a distance, that will be an unscheduled added bonus.

For more information or to make a pledge, please contact Suzanne at the Sanctuary at 931-796-6500 ext. 24. ♦

Please visit our website:

www.elephants.com

**to learn how to become a VIP Patron
with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour.**

Lota Update:

Lota, the elephant that literally captured the hearts of thousands, will finally be released to The Elephant Sanctuary. On March 12, in a plea agreement with the USDA, John Cuneo, President of Hawthorn Corp agreed to relinquish his 16 elephants, including Lota, to facilities approved by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The goal is to keep the herd intact, many whom have lived together for over 35 years. To do so, funds must be raised to build specialized barns to care for Lota and her family.



Those of you who have fought for the past fourteen years for Lota's welfare know that in 1990, the Milwaukee Zoo sold Lota to the Hawthorn Corporation with the understanding she would be retired and not used for circus work. After one year of training, Cuneo leased Lota to the Walker Brother's Circus, a small traveling circus with a dubious reputation. Lota has struggled with tuberculosis for the past 6 years. Up until recently, she continued to perform with the Walker Brothers Circus regardless that she was in poor health.

Watch for your next edition of Trunklines, featuring an update on the placement of this special group of captive elephants and the final saga of Lota's search for Sanctuary.



Sanctuary Much *to our Corporate Donors:*

**TVA • Kricos.com • BellSouth • Agromatic
UPS • Moses.com ~ Courtesy Monster Labs**

**the
Elephant
Sanctuary**
in Tennessee

P.O.Box 393
Hohenwald, TN 38462
www.elephants.com

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 3044