

Happy Holidays!

2009 has continued the tradition of being a very busy and productive year for WCE&CF.

WCE&CF continued its mission of making financial donations to the field conservation groups we support, including Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Cat Conservation Alliance, Cheetah Outreach and the De Wildt Wild Cheetah Management Project. Our ambassador cats appeared at fundraising events for almost all of these organizations.

112 people attended our March fundraiser at the Fremont Hills Country Club. Our ambassador cats and the ambassador animals from Wild Things, on display during the cocktail hour, were a huge hit. Our generous supporters made the evening a success.

Also, in March, WCE&CF made a donation to Cheetah Conservation Botswana at its annual fundraiser in Los Altos Hills. Please go to www.cheetahbotswana.com to learn more about this great field conservation group.

In May, Kgosi was the cheetah ambassador at a fundraiser for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Please go to www.cheetah.org to learn more about Dr. Marker's pioneering efforts to save the cheetah.

Also in May and again, in November, we provided ambassador cats at fundraisers for the Snow Leopard Conservancy. Please go to www.snowleopardconservancy.org to learn more about how to help save snow leopards in the wild.

In July, we held our sixth open house/fundraiser at the compound. 72 guests came to hear Annie Beckhelling, founder of Cheetah Outreach, speak about the Anatolian Guard Dog Project, meet three amazing Anatolians from the Rare Breeds Ranch, tour the compound, eat lunch and watch from inside the cheetah enclosure as Kgosi, Kamau and Kibibi took turns chasing the lure down the road. Kibibi again won the fastest cheetah award. Our amazing donors contributed \$15,000 to help protect the wild cheetah in South Africa.

Please go to www.cheetah.org.za to learn more about this project.

These same wonderful donors also financed the 8' x 10' walk-in freezer that has replaced the nine **very old** freezers we have used for the last 25 years. We can now fill the one freezer with the two tons of meat for the cats, instead of spending several hours packing the delivery into the various freezers in three locations on the property.

In August, Guarani, Tiquanna, Nakuru and Moremi were the "small" cat ambassadors at a fundraiser for Dr. Jim Sanderson and the Small Cat Conservation Alliance. WCE&CF made a donation to help with projects in the field. Please go to www.smallcats.org to learn more about how to help the small cats of the world.

Kgosi, Shoshone, Tiquanna and Guarani appeared as ambassadors at the Wildlife Conservation Network's garden party, part of the big Expo weekend. Please go to www.wildnet.org to learn more about WCN.

Our public "Wild Cat Adventure" programs in Santa Cruz, Los Altos Hills and Sebastopol continue to grow. We had several sell-out presentations as well as many full houses. In January and February, we are adding a venue in Napa and the American Canyon Community Center to our public presentations. We are always looking for new venues, if you know of any possibilities.

Three new ambassadors joined our outreach programs this year: Moremi, a caracal. Tiquanna, a Canada lynx and Guarani, a Geoffroy's cat. Come meet them at one of our presentations. We lost two of our wonderful, long time ambassadors. Chimane, our ocelot and Mara, our caracal.

Check out our new website at www.wildcatfund.org.

Please reserve two dates on next year's calendar. Saturday evening, **March 13, 2010**, will be our annual fundraiser. It will again be held at the Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills. You will have the opportunity to enjoy some good wine, eat a delicious dinner, meet some of our ambassador cats and support wildcat conservation. On Saturday, **July 10** we will hold our seventh open house, luncheon and cheetah run at our compound. It will be a joint fundraiser for the Snow Leopard Conservancy and WCE&CF.

We hope 2010 will continue to be a good year for wildcat conservation. We strongly believe that without a big emphasis on education, conservation in the wild cannot be successful. This is the important part ambassador cats play in helping to ensure the future of these wonderful creatures. Without your support, we cannot reach all the people who need to hear what is happening to wildcat populations worldwide.

We cannot thank our wonderful donors enough. Please think of us this holiday season. We wish you a good and prosperous 2010 - Barbara, the rest of the WCE&CF board and the cats