

Season's Greetings from the Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund

2021 has been another "unusual" year for the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund.

Our 19th annual March fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid related restrictions on group gatherings.

On a positive note, our 10 "mini" open houses, held on consecutive Saturdays in June, July, August, and September were **huge hits**. Each event was limited to eight guests. We received lots of positive feedback about the small group size.

The guests were able to meet all the WCE&CF ambassador cats, even the shy ones who usually hide at our bigger open house event. The small groups meant that Rob and Barbara had time to visit with each guest. The weather ranged from 100 degrees to cool to light rain on the various dates. This made for interesting set-ups and tours, but everything went smoothly. Our traditional "Cheetah Challenge" pool squares were sold across all 10 "mini" open houses, as were raffle tickets. The winners were notified after the last event.

We were unable to conduct any outreach presentations due to the coronavirus restrictions. We miss interacting with the students at the school assemblies and with the guests at the various conservation events we participate in. We will re-evaluate our public presentations when the pandemic is controlled, and schools are once again operating normally.

Fortunately, we were able to reopen the WCE&CF compound for private tours. Weekends were very busy, which helped greatly with our reduced income. Several tour options are available (tour, cheetah run, luncheon, or combo). Please check out the "Private Tours" page at www.wildcatfund.org.

A gift certificate for a private tour makes a great holiday gift.

We had several "mini" volunteer workdays that were very successful. We are planning on a repeat performance in the spring.

Sadly, we lost Cheyenne (bobcat) at 22 years of age and Shoshone (cougar) at 17 years. It is always difficult to lose the amazing wild cats that share our lives for so many years.

Chantrea, a six week old female clouded leopard arrived in July. She is full of fun and a great addition to our wild cat ambassador family.

Supporting our Conservation Partners is one of the three goals of the WCE&CF. Despite the year's reduced income, full annual financial donations were made to the field conservation groups we support. These amazing in-situ organizations include the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, and Cheetah Outreach.

We look forward to holding our series of "mini" open houses on Saturdays throughout the summer months of 2022.

We hope to see you on one of the dates. You can meet our newest additions and renew acquaintances with the older wild cat ambassadors.

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 about what is happening to wildcat populations worldwide.

The support our donors have sent our way has been amazing and we cannot thank you enough. Because of this year's non-existent outreach income, we appreciate your donations even more. Please think of us this holiday season.

Making a tax-deductible contribution in someone's name is a perfect holiday gift.

Information on how to donate can be found at www.wildcatfund.org on the "donations" page.

We wish you the best this holiday season and throughout the new year –
Barbara, Rob, the WCE&CF Board, and the cats.