

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS  
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Make checks payable to:  
Animals for Education

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Critter Creek Wildlife Station  
36710 Sand Creek Road  
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Membership  
Categories

Student	\$	10
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Family	\$	40
Sponsor	\$	100
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Corporate or Life	\$	1000

Members receive our quarterly newsletter



# Critter Creek Chronicle

Newsletter of Critter Creek Wildlife Station

Fall 2008

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## OPEN HOUSE

Our next open house  
will be on  
Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>



Critter Crew before Open House

Critter Crew Volunteers from left to right are: Bruce and Michelle Lowe, Sherry Lizardo, Louise Culver, Margaret Chedotte, Pam Turner, Gail Thompson, Denise Scialabba, Sue Howard, Adam Lathrum, Dan Turner, and Kirk Turner.

Not present: Heidi Arroues, Andy Jewett, Tom Riffel, and Tim Schweizer.



During our Open House held in September, visitors explored the mammals in the compound; the reptiles on the back porch; then traveled across the foot bridge to the Infirmary; and our newer enclosures, such as: Fox Haven, Coyote Gulch, Web Foot Wash, and Heron Creek.



**Critter Creek Chronicle**  
Animals for Education

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## HARRIER HAWK RELEASE

One of the greatest rewards in wildlife rehabilitation is the day when birds raised from hatchlings are released as fully-grown birds. This season, we received six very young northern harrier hawks rescued from a newly cut alfalfa field. Once they were old enough to have most of their plumage, we were able to begin their pre-release training. The recently completed Heron Creek section of our waterfowl enclosure worked well to condition and train the six harriers (formerly known as marsh hawks) to hunt successfully. They did, indeed, hunt the mice well, but once we netted and boxed them up for release, we also found the remains of unsuspecting songbirds that had ventured through the chain link only to be considered part of the hunter-training program. Yes—they were certainly ready for release.



We were able through the liaison work of Tim Schweizer, to place the birds on Lemoore Naval Air Station property. You might think this to be an odd place to release birds (though the Navy does have a Harrier plane), but the three sites were perfect. They were along the Kings River with plenty of trees and ground cover. The Navy leases the land to local farmers, so there were lots of nearby alfalfa fields. The instant we released each pair of hawks, they were gliding and circling the marshy areas enjoying their new homes. The area was full of Cormorants, Great Blue Heron, and Common Egrets. Since the land is part of Lemoore Naval Air Station, it is protected and no hunting is allowed.

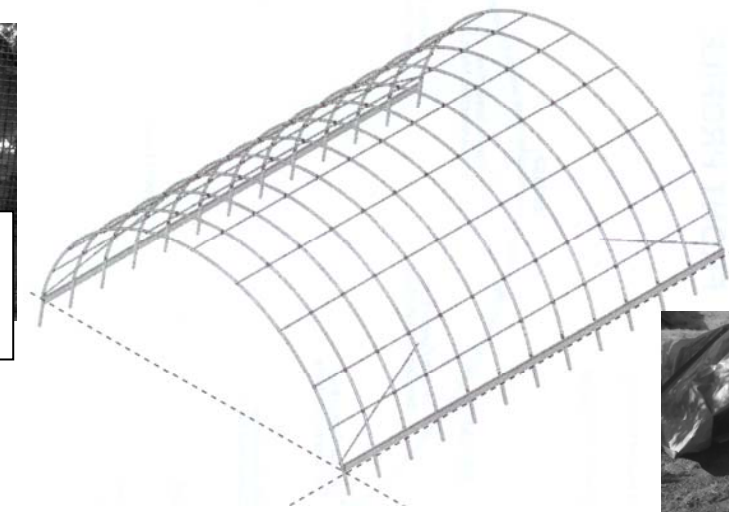


## FRAMEWORK FOR SHASTA'S NEW CAGE HAS ARRIVED!

After much research we finally settled on an arched pipe structure that is 60' X 38' and is strong enough to hold 9 gauge chain link (a regulation for a large cat). That order has arrived! The next step is to pour the concrete footing or curb that will prevent any underground escapes and provide a foundation for the arched rafters. Once this is completed we will cover the structure with chain link. The cost of the pipe structure has emptied the Shasta Fund. As the holiday season and end of the year approaches, we hope, despite these difficult financial times, that you will make a tax-deductible contribution to Animals for Education – Critter Creek Wildlife Station. Your money is guaranteed to be used for the care and upkeep of wildlife. We are a completely volunteer organization with no paid staff. Please join us in seeing the mountain lion enclosure through to completion.



Hooray! The start of my enclosure brings a smile to my face.



Arched Pipe segments and fittings awaiting assembly.



## SIGNAGE

Critter Creek has begun to create and post signs providing the common and scientific name of some of our permanent residents. We are busy these days so these signs will be slowly phased in. In time we also hope to provide the individual names we have given our “permanent” residents.



## INTERMEDIATE HAWK CAGE UPDATE



The framing is completed and our crew of volunteers has been painting and constructing panels of wooden slats to cover the ceiling and portions of the walls.

We hope to have this project completed by the end of November.

Come to our Open House in December and see the finished project.