

Critter Creek Wildlife Station's Spring Open House

Saturday, March 25th
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM



Enjoy the wildflower display on your way to Critter Creek. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Visit our gift shop. A picnic area is available so bring a lunch. For more information or directions to Critter Creek, call (559) 338-2415 or look online at www.crittercreek.org



Gate will close at 1:30 pm to allow you enough time to tour. Entrance is by donation and tour takes about 1 1/2 hours. Our field parking is free. Country Store has refreshments for sale next door.

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 15
Senior	\$ 15
Individual.....	\$ 25
Family	\$ 50
Sponsor	\$ 100
Patron	\$ 250
Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit CritterCreek.org to see back issues of the Chronicle

Make checks payable to:
Animals for Education

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

Be on the lookout for Our New Open House Road Signs



Be Aware: It's Spring

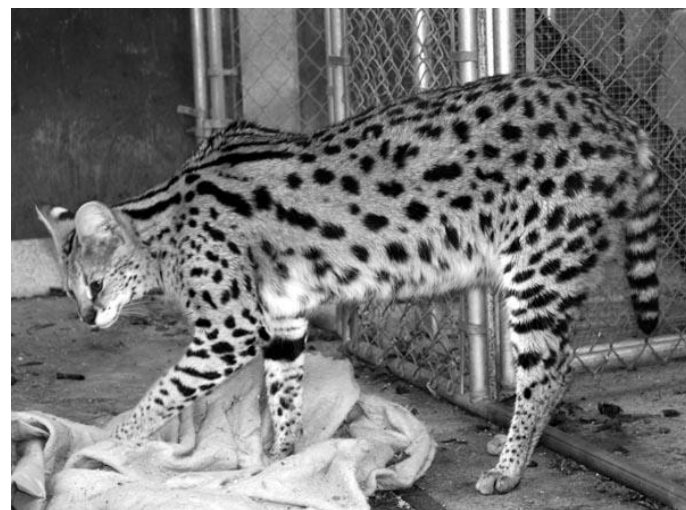
- Don't prune trees for the next few months.
- If you have a pool, patrol your yard looking for nesting ducks.
- Don't relocate animals as you may be leaving a nest of orphans behind.
- If you find a young fawn, leave it alone, monitor it for 24 hours from a distance. The mother will come back and feed it.
- If you don't want birds building nests on your house, knock the nests down during the nest-building stage not after they have laid eggs.

Zeke Succumbs to Old Age

Zeke was one of the exotic cats confiscated from a Kings County home in March 2007. He was purchased and transported from Texas along with two other exotic cats. They were part of the exotic pet industry, so they were neutered and declawed. Although illegal in the state of California, Zeke was housed in a fenced backyard in clear view of neighbors. He became quite adept at escaping; in fact, it was the frequent job of animal control to try to find him and return him to his owner. Although he was neutered and declawed, he was perfectly capable of biting. This is what finally caused the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to become aware of the problem.

He is the most habituated to people and craves the attention of our volunteers who are more than willing to meet his needs. He became very popular rubbing up against volunteers like a domestic cat. He was the low cat on the tri-cat hierarchy making it necessary for us to move the middle-man, Simba, the caracal to his own quarters. Zeke and Achilles, the top “dog,” got along very well and often slept together and groomed each other.

Though we don't know how old Zeke was when he came to us, he was definitely an adult serval. A serval's average life span is around 19 years. He had become arthritic. With different medications, we were able to make him comfortable despite the cold weather. He died in his sleep in early February.



Willow Trees and Rain Don't Mix

During the major rainstorms in the Central Valley in January, we were very lucky that none of our huge oak trees came down. However, we weren't so lucky in the creek bed. A large willow tree snapped in half and covered the concrete crossing we use in the summer. It also could potentially block the creek. A work crew from the Visalia Rotaract Club came through for us. They got soaked by rain and the creek but they were able to chainsaw and pull the huge limbs off the crossing and out of the creek. It took hours of hard work. The next day several of our regular volunteers helped to clean up the last of it: Rebecca Heator, Bill Rudy and Randy Amerson. This was hard, wet work, so we owe a big thank you to everyone involved.



Finally, the job is done...clear passage across the concrete and no more flooding worries (we hope).



Late Releases

This year we had late releases of Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls. There were so many last spring that it took time to teach them all to hunt. We were letting them go through December.

We no sooner got them out then young Great Horned Owls began coming in at the beginning of February. These babies were already at least a month old. Mother Nature this year is wasting no time!