Critter Creek Chronicle
Animals for Education

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Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	$ 15
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Patron	$ 250
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Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit CritterCreek.org for back issues of the Chronicle

Critter Creek Chronicle

Newsletter of Critter Creek Wildlife Station **Fall 2025** **Volume 30, No. 3**

Critter Creek Wildlife Station
Fall Open House
Saturday, October 4, 2025
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM

- Gate will close at 1:30 PM to allow you enough time to tour.
- Entrance is by donation and tours take about an hour.
- Our field parking is free.
- A picnic area is available so bring a lunch.
- Visit our gift shop.

Call (559) 338-2415 for more information or
Look online at www.crittercreek.org for a map.
We are also on Facebook

How to Beat the Heat Exotic Cat Style

In the heat of the summer, we face the challenge of keeping wildlife, who are not accustomed to heat, comfortable. The best example is Achilles, our Siberian Lynx. He is as happy as a clam in the winter where the “Siberian” part of his name is handy for staying warm. However, in the summer despite shedding his thick coat of fur, he can still be uncomfortable especially at the hottest time of the day. That’s when he heads for his air cooler. He sits across from it and soaks up the cool air.





The Effects of Wildfires on Wildlife

One thing to take into account is that most wild animals can escape the frenzy of the fires. Birds can fly away from the conflagrations and seek safety in unburned areas. Small animals hide in underground burrows and under logs and rocks to escape intense heat and flames. Large animals flee the blazes and then circle back to burned areas or drift towards unburned patches. Even insects and other invertebrates know to move away from flames in miniature silent stampedes across the forest floor. California habitats have evolved with fires for hundreds of thousands of years. Within days of a wildfire, grasses begin to regrow, seeds often dormant for decades germinate, and root systems sprout new growth through the scorched branches, providing food for the returning browsers. Beetles that feed on burnt wood provide food for woodpeckers, and slowly the food webs get re-established. But some of the animals that can’t fly or burrow and wander off come into contact with humans in urbanized areas. To help, do not put food out for wildlife. You can leave shallow bowls of water outdoors for displaced wildlife that are passing through. Wild animals may wander into your yards and property, looking for safe places to shelter or rest. Providing water can help them cope with the heat and exhaustion. Place sticks and stones on one side of shallow water bowls to give small animals an escape route if they become trapped. Sadly, wildfires are becoming a constant reality in the foothills of California. Prevention is the best tool in fighting wildfires.

What to See at Critter Creek

All Critter Creek rehabilitation enclosures are empty. This allows visitors a rare opportunity to go inside the enormous flight enclosures for a true bird’s eye view of what the larger birds of prey experience. You will be able to tour the infirmary where injured and orphaned wildlife are first brought to Critter Creek. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures. Our mountain lion, coyotes, foxes, bobcat, raccoon, and lynx are out and about. Our educational birds are also on display. Desert tortoises and our alligators are comfortable in our warm weather. We will be feeding the alligators around midday. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Hope to see you then.

Update on Rehabilitation Permit Restriction

We have had to hire an attorney since the CDF&W is still refusing to give us any information about delaying our reinspection after months of work. They ignored our attorney for almost two weeks before he finally got a response from them. They have suspended the permit until the end of the year pending “further investigation.” So basically, still no information. Our attorney wants to know what happened to our appeal to the state-wide Fish and Game Commission? I suspect they forgot about it! The latest letter invited us to appeal this latest suspension to the end of the year…probably another delay tactic. All of this is incredibly frustrating and, of course, expensive.

I want to thank all of you who have donated thus far and urge everyone to spread the word and give what you can to support our defense. We will try to keep everyone updated on Facebook.

Come Visit on a Saturday or Sunday

As part of our exhibiting/education permits, we are now open on weekends. We need you to call ahead to let us know you are coming (559) 338-2415. We are open 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Saturdays and Sundays. These are guided tours, so one of our volunteers will show you around. We do not have personnel or safety fencing in place to allow the public to roam at will, but you will have a chance to see all of our educational animals. If you can’t make our Open House, this is a great alternative.