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PANDAS
INTERNATIONAL

April 2010 eNews



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A Black and White Extravaganza!

First, let us thank everyone who attended the event and help mark 10 years of Pandas International and Suzanne's tireless work to save the endangered giant panda.

We would also like to thank Hannah Rhodes, who donated her time and talent to capture the event.

[See the photographs of the event and order copies >>](#)

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those that were instrumental in the success of the evening.

This newsletter is provided in part by our Black and White Extravaganza Sponsors

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Pat Cottrell for playing the piano during the Auction and Cocktail Hour
 Baker Piano for donating the use of the piano



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 Visit them and experience one of
 their wonderful creations!
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And of course, our Auction Donors for generously donating their goods and services.

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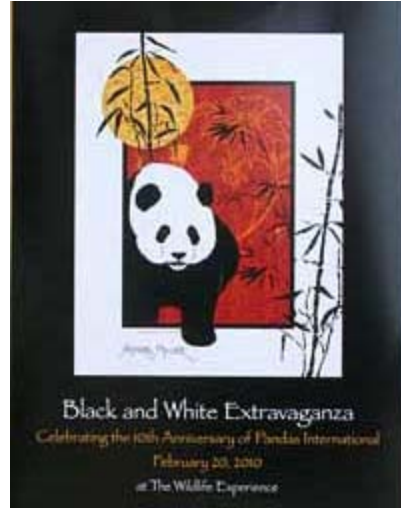
It would not have been possible without our wonderful volunteers!

Chris and Sonja Brown
 Jackie Becker
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 Lynn Gray

Angie Ham, Auction Chair
 Margaret and Mark Lai
 Ben Northcutt
 Tai Parker
 Ann Rajewski

and Members of 100 Squared, Volunteer group of Highlands Ranch High School

A special thank you goes to Sandra Miller for donating her considerable talent for our Event art, "Into the Sun."



Visit our website to get a collectible Event poster for you or your favorite panda lover! >>

Tests suggest miscarriage for Memphis Zoo panda Ya Ya

By Linda A. Moore
March 2, 2010
Photo by Mike Brown

Somber keepers at the Memphis Zoo fed giant panda Ya Ya slices of mango before sending her back to her enclosure on Tuesday morning.

It was definite. Ya Ya won't become a mother anytime soon.

Although an ultrasound last week showed a fetal sack and a flicker of a heartbeat, the test on Tuesday found the sack empty and the heartbeat gone, said obstetrician Dr. Joseph C. DeWane.



[Full story >>](#)

Spring is coming, time for pandas and bees at Zoo Atlanta

The less famous little brother of the much-beloved and recently exported-to-China Mei Lan just finished being weaned, after 15 days of gradually increased time apart from momma Lun Lun, on Monday. Now that she's free of milk-producing duties, Lun Lun's body can prepare for possible mating with two-time dad Yang Yang.

Meanwhile, at 18 months old, now-independent big boy Xi Lan tips the scales at 80 pounds and is growing, and growing more destructive, by the day.

On Zoo Atlanta's ever-popular panda blog, one of Xi Lan's keepers recently dubbed him "The Tree Slayer" because he's separately broken a bush and a tree in half by climbing atop them with his incredible bulk.

"Hope he does not decide to take on each and every tree out there and leaves some for shade and habitat appeal," keeper Kate Roca blogged.

[For complete story >>](#)

No panda embryo in sight, but zoo hopeful about pregnancy

*By Michael E. Ruane
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, March 9, 2010*



Four weeks after the zoo's star giant panda, Tai Shan, was sent to China, leaving a void at the panda house, scientists have embarked on the process of monitoring Mei Xiang, 11, to see if she might bring forth a replacement.

She was artificially inseminated Jan. 9 and 10 with semen from the zoo's male panda, Tian Tian, 12. They are Tai Shan's parents.

Monday morning, as birds chirped and Mei Xiang munched apples and burped, the zoo conducted its second ultrasound on her, mostly to establish a data foundation for later and to make sure all was normal.

An embryo, at this stage probably microscopic, would not be potentially visible for weeks, the scientists said.

[For full story >>](#)

[Watch ultrasound >>](#)

*News from March 22 ultrasound is still hopeful as Mei Xiang uterus wall is measuring thicker than previous ultrasounds, so the cub watch continues.

US-born panda freed from quarantine in China

*AP Associated Press
March 9, 2010*

Since his arrival from the U.S., Tai Shan had been confined to a special quarantine enclosure closed to visitors at the breeding base, which is managed by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda.

"After one month of his return, Tai Shan has gotten very used to the taste of the food, the smell of the air, the climate and the environment in his motherland. And he is getting along very well with his keepers, too," said Tang Chunxiang, the center's deputy director. "He is having a very happy life."

Mei Lan is also due to leave quarantine, but it was not immediately clear when she would be shown to the public.

Breeders were wasting no time planning how Tai Shan could



help propagate his endangered species. "We will give him enough freedom to reproduce. As soon as he becomes mature enough...we will provide him different sex partners for him to choose. Of course now his is still too young for it," Tang said.

Giant pandas in captivity typically reach breeding age at around 5 or 6 years.

About 1,600 giant pandas live in the wild, and another 290 are in captive-breeding programs worldwide, mainly in China.

[For full story >>](#)

[Tai's video featuring Dr. Tang >>](#)

Q&A with keeper Heather Roberts on Mei Lan in China

Zoo Atlanta carnivore keeper Heather Roberts has helped care for Mei Lan, the first panda born at Zoo Atlanta, since she was famously the size of a stick of butter. That's why Roberts, 33, was chosen to accompany the black-and-white bear on her journey to Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in southwest China. Next year Mei Lan will be a candidate to help propagate one of the world's most endangered species.

[Read complete interview >>](#)

American-born giant panda steps out in SW China

CHENGDU, March 15 (Xinhua) -- Mei Lan, a giant panda born in the United States, greeted the Chinese public Monday, almost 40 days after her arrival at a breeding base in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The 3-year-old female stepped out her new home, the No. 2 "villa" at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

Mei Lan became irritable and lost her appetite on arrival, but she had adapted to the diet, climate and environment after about a month in quarantine, said Li Mingxi, the base's animal management specialist.

"She is making progress in understanding Sichuan dialect," Li



said.

Mei Lan, who was born and raised at Zoo Atlanta, used to be a fussy eater, but she had gained 6 kg weight in the past 40 days, Li said.

Japanese-born giant panda to arrive in SW China

March 15, OSAKA Japan
Xinhua

Xing Bang, a giant panda born in Japan, will arrive on March 16 at a breeding base in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The 4.5-year-old male would be flown to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan on March 16 from Tokyo, said Yang Feifei, a publicity official with the base.

Xing Bang would be kept in quarantine for about one month. He also needed time to adapt to the new climate, environment and diet before he could meet the public, Yang said.

[For full story >>](#)

10 pandas are gaining weight fast

By Lu Feiran



The 10 pandas for the 2010 World Expo at the Shanghai Zoo have grown by 6 to 7 kilograms over the past 10 days.

At a weigh-in yesterday, the heaviest panda, Yun Yun, was measured at 62 kilograms. A Ling was the lightest at 50 kilograms, a weight that is within the normal range.

Keepers said Yun Yun had a strong constitution because she was born as a single and her mother had enough milk for her when she was a cub.

[Read more >>](#)

Souvenir gold bars adorned with panda portraits

Souvenir gold bars featuring World Expo pandas went on sale yesterday, each showing a portrait of the 10 pandas that came to Shanghai from Sichuan Province.

The designer spent a whole week living with the pandas at the Wolong center in Sichuan before the pandas arrived in the city in early January.

"Each panda has its own characters and is distinctive on my work," said Wang Shenyong, 38.

His original 10 paintings are worth more than 100,000 yuan (US\$14,650) each, Wang said.



Each gold bar bears a colorful portrait of one of the pandas eating bamboo, playing along a river or climbing on trees.

A 10-gram gold bar pack sells for 1,200 yuan, the 100-gram bar 9,900 yuan.

[Read more >>](#)

News from the wild

Unique Chinese documentary records life of wild panda

<http://English.news.cn>

BEIJING, March 30 (Xinhua) -- A ten-episode television documentary based on filming shot over 19 years with infrared-triggered cameras featuring giant pandas in the wild started screening Monday night on the Travel Channel in China.

The documentary, "Real Panda," tells the story of wild pandas living in west China's Qinling Mountainous Range. It offers audiences a rare glimpse of how giant pandas live in the wild: a panda cub being stalked by a stoat, a mother panda forcing her son away after maturing, and pandas courting their partners.

[Full story >>](#)

Dogged researcher reports her first giant panda capture and release

EAST LANSING, Mich. — After nearly three years of toil in a remote, rugged corner of China, Michigan State University researcher Vanessa Hull has succeeded in capturing a rare giant panda.

Hull and her Chinese colleagues affixed a global positioning satellite-tracking collar to the adult female panda and promptly released her, with plans to monitor her movements through the mountainous Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province, China.

"Her curious face is now forever etched in my mind. She is beautiful and is rather large, at 70-80 kg (about 165 pounds)," Hull wrote in a dispatch to MSU for her online journal.

Hull, 28, is a graduate student working on her doctoral dissertation under Fisheries and Wildlife professor Jianguo "Jack" Liu, her academic adviser.

"The success of capturing the first wild giant panda is a major milestone of this exciting interdisciplinary project, thanks to the persistent efforts by Vanessa Hull and her collaborators at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Wolong Nature Reserve," Liu said.

[Full story >>](#)

News from the Panda Center

A new link is now available to the Wolong Panda Center now at Bifengxia China Wolong Panda China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP).

[Visit the Center >>](#)

You will also find this on our website. From the home page, click on the links bullet then the Wolong Panda Center to learn more about the staff and facility at Bifengxia.

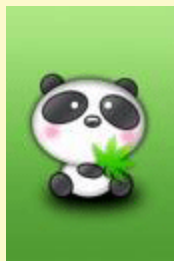


News from a Member

Annette Yuen Renews the Adoption of "Ao Yun"

On March 22, 2010, Ms. Annette Yuen from Canada renews her adoption of giant panda "Ao Yun". Ms. Annette Yuen likes giant pandas very much. Since 2008 she got in touch with Wolong Panda Club, she has adopted three giant pandas of China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP) successively. Moreover, where there is CCRCGP's giant panda in China is where she has gone. Because of her frequent visits to the domestic zoos and seeing CCRCGP's employees dispatched to work there, she is now an old friend of CCRCGP. This time she does not only renew her adoption of "Ao Yun" but also will stay at Bifengxia Base to see the

pandas for four days.



**In celebration of Panda Day, April 16th,
we are sending you a dose of cuteness >>**

Panda Tour 2010!

Pandas International is planning a trip to Bifengxia in 2010. Suzanne will



be at the Center and able to meet our members and share her passion for saving the pandas. Details will be coming soon.

[TOP](#)



Pandas International is non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Giant Panda.

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