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PANDAS
INTERNATIONAL



June 2009 eNews

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Be sure to vote for *Animal Planet's* Hero of the Year!

Following a trip to China and recognizing the critical needs of the Panda Center and its staff, Suzanne returned to Littleton with a commitment that has not wavered in the ten years since Pandas International was formed. What started out as a response to the pandas' needs has become a deeply felt passion to save the beloved species from extinction. Please take a moment to nominate Suzanne for Animal Planet's Hero of the Year. The winning nominee will get \$10,000 donated to their favorite animal welfare organization, in this case Pandas International, and a 30 second Public Service Announcement will be produced to highlight Pandas International efforts..

You will need the following information to fill in all the required fields:

Suzanne Braden (5/15/1950), Director
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Animal Planet will choose the most compelling nomination for Hero of the Year and the person who wrote it will receive \$1,000. Visit their website at <http://animal.discovery.com/sweepstakes/hero/2009/> and tell them in 250 words (1350 characters including spaces) why Suzanne and Pandas International is clearly the ONLY and BEST choice for Hero of the Year.

Yong Ba returns to Bifengxia for medical treatment

On April 9, 2009, Yong Ba, the elderly giant panda living at Shenzhen Zoo, returned to Bifengxia Panda Center. Yong Ba injured her right foot on January 13, 2009 and due to her constant scratching it became infected. The doctors felt that her advanced age and the upcoming summer heat would make it more difficult for her to heal in Shenzhen so the decision to move her to an air conditioned enclosure in Bifengxia was approved by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Pandas.

A team led by Dr Tang Chunxian will be responsible for Yong Ba's care and treatment. Yong Ba's Keeper He Gu, who has cared for Yong Ba in Shenzhen, will continue to look after her in Bifengxia.



Yong Ba, who came to Shenzhen in 2004, is the mother of Tian Tian, who lives in the National Zoo in Washington D.C.

One-eyed panda awaits implantation surgery



[Xinhua] A Chinese eye surgeon, right, with a feeding employee makes an eye check-up for a giant panda named 'Xiaoming' at a research center in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on Friday, February 20, 2009, two months after a cataract operation on its left eye.

(Xinhua)

XI'AN -- Meng Yong'an, a prestigious Chinese eye surgeon, said on Friday that a follow-up examination of an elderly giant panda Xiaoming proved the cataract removal surgery that he did on December 20th last year was successful. He did not implant an artificial crystal for the panda during that surgery.

Meng, a consultant for the World Cataract Foundation, has helped more than 30,000 patients regain sight. He said it was the first time for him to carry out a surgery on a panda. He said despite the successful cataract removal process, his attempt to implant an artificial crystal in Xiaoming's eye failed. The procedure is commonly used to restore sight in humans." It seemed pandas need an artificial crystal tailor-made for them. We have contacted a foreign supplier to make the panda lense," said Meng, head of the Xi'an Gucheng Eye Hospital.

For full story: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-02/27/content_7521761.htm

First cubs born post quake on video

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8042464.stm>

Thirteen giant panda cubs whose mothers were rescued from an earthquake a year ago have become a symbol of hope for people still mourning 80,000 deaths in China's Sichuan province.

Keepers say it is a small miracle all seven female and six male cubs were born given the strain on their mothers at the time of the quake.

The healthy but clumsy cubs are all now weaned and separated from their mothers, enjoying a diet of milk, bamboo, and fruit.

The final six make the move to Bifengxia Panda Center

<http://www.pandanews.org/2009/04>
http://www.pandaclub.cn/view_e.jsp?tipid=1240883370269

The 6 pandas Wen Yu, Qing Feng, Shui Ling, Wu Juan, Xiang Ge, and Wang Jia who were left at Wolong Research Center after the quake have been moved to the Bifengxia Research Center.

The pandas were originally moved 6km away from the Wolong Research Center and specialist care was provided. The pandas that are nearly two now had to be moved as the temporary accommodation at Wolong was no longer suitable for them. The pandas have grown from around 20kilograms each to 60-70 kilograms each, and the center is no longer safe for them.

An extraordinary visit to Bifengxia

The following is an excerpt from a letter Pandas International received from Bifengxia Panda Center volunteer, Tammy.

The whole time in China I was treated just like everyone else and with more respect than I receive most of the time in North America. I was new to them



and most people in China had never seen a chair like mine but rather than have negative attitudes they had no attitudes at all towards me. This was the same attitude at the panda base. So right away we have to clean up the outdoor pens while the pandas are having bamboo inside. They gave me a broom and expected me to work like everyone else, it was great. It was unbelievable to spend time with these beautiful animals and be so close to them. It was truly a remarkable experience and something I never believed I would get to do. The other highlight was playing with the 1 year old cubs. Again, I was waiting for someone to say no but they dressed me up in gown, booties and gloves along with my husband and they disinfected my wheels and off we went. We played with three cubs and fed them carrots and touched

them. They played and tried to bite if you did not feed the carrots fast enough. They even put their feet up on us and one held on to my leg and did not want to let go. You have been there so I know you know how it feels and how there really are not words to explain how amazing it is for anyone, but especially for someone who loves pandas as much as we do. My husband was in awe even though it was not his lifelong dream like mine; he still loved every second of it and just could not believe how amazing it was.

News from the Panda Club

Dear Friends and Panda Fans,

There were six other pandas that went to the Beijing Zoo on 29th April. They were Qing Feng (male 8/24/2007), Shui Ling (female 8/24/2007), Hua Ao (male 7/16/2007), Jin Yi (female 8/6/2007), Xiang Ge (male 8/7/2007), Wen Yu (female 9/24/2007).

Three pandas, Duo Duo, Lang Lang, Cui Cui, went to Nanjing on 30th April.

Here is a list of those female giant pandas that had completed the mating in March 2009: Hua Mei, Jin Zhu, Xi Mei, Na Na, You You, Shui Xiu, Zi Zhu, Mei Qing, Ju Xiao, Hai Zi, Jun Zhu.

For more information, please search the news on the internet or www.pandaclub.cn

Ji Ping, Panda Club



Pandas, who were displayed in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games, eat bamboo at Hongshan Forest Zoo in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, May 1, 2009. The three pandas, namely Langlang, Cuicui, Duoduo, were brought here for display and research of panda protection. Tens of thousands of people came to the zoo to see them on Friday, the first day they started new life here. (Xinhua/Wang Xin)

Another new and welcomed edition to Bifengxia

Bifengxia Panda Center has just completed a new bamboo cooler, with sprinklers near the ceiling to keep the bamboo cool and moist.

China's panda centre to be replaced

Monday Apr 20, 2009

China will break ground for a new panda breeding centre next month to replace a world-famous



Panda program struggling after China quake

Wednesday, 13 May 2009
Agence France-Presse

CHENGDU: China's quest to save the giant panda was hit hard by last year's massive Sichuan earthquake, which destroyed a vital food source, inhibited its mating, and sent tourism revenues diving. While it is unclear how many pandas living in the wild were killed by the quake, it felled entire bamboo groves in their mountainous habitat and often rendered inaccessible those forests left standing. For pandas being bred in captivity meanwhile, the earthquake coincided with a baby boom that is stretching resources and making it tougher for caregivers to find enough bamboo to go around.

[Follow this link for complete story >>](#)

preserve badly damaged in last year's huge earthquake in southwestern Sichuan province.

The new facility will host more than \$200 million in projects to preserve the endangered species, the official Xinhua News Agency says. The Wolong Panda Breeding Center, near Sichuan's capital of Chengdu, was nearly destroyed in the May 12 earthquake, which left 90,000 people dead or missing.

The quake killed at least one panda and most of the 63 living there were relocated to zoos around the country.

[Follow this link for the complete story >>](#)

New highlights from Hong Kong's Ocean Park

CCTV.com



Baked goods turned into big bucks!



A tremendous thank you goes out to all the students, parents, and faculty of The Village School of California! Through their tireless efforts the group

The Amazing Asian Animals attraction will include four pandas, as well as alligators, tortoises, and birds. The pandas will be on loan from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. And an Ocean Express train system is being built in a tunnel stretching over a kilometer, linking two sections of the park. It is expected to carry 10,000 passengers per hour. The 5 billion Hong Kong dollar investment demonstrates Ocean Park's determination to maintain its position as Hong Kong's oldest amusement park.

This Just In: It's A Girl!

The Thailand Zoo was surprised and overjoyed at the arrival of a healthy baby panda cub. Zoo officials say that Lin Hui is proving to be an attentive mother and her female cub is feeding

was able to raise \$650 and adopt their own panda "Village." Well done!

well.

[Read the entire article, including our own Suzanne Braden's comments on the joyous occasion >>](#)

Trail of the Panda Trailer - Disney 2009

Not only is Mao Mao on our newest tee shirt but she will also be seen on the big screen, at least in China. Trail of the Panda that was filmed prior to the earthquake at the Wolong Panda Center features Mao Mao portraying the mother of the older Pang Pang, the young panda star of the movie. Follow the link below, and see the trailer.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05j_1UaI0r4

[See related story >>](#)



Photo: chinadaily.com.cn

A Note from a Member

Dear Pandas International:

Our dear friend Elaine Washburn planned this dream-come-true adventure for us. Sadly, she passed away before we were to travel to China, but we took her with us in spirit. We are a group of 10 US Zoo volunteers that spent 3 days working with the dedicated keepers and beloved pandas at Bifengxia. We also visited the Research Base at Chengdu and the Shaanxi Reserve near Xi'an. On the new Mao Mao Tee Shirt, what a beautiful tribute to a beautiful panda, we met her daughter, Xi Dou.

Stacy



Front Row: John Fisher, Patti Truesdell, Lee Fisher, Mary Schultz, Stacy Watts & Fran Valentine. Back Row: Kim Hamilton, Danny Schultz, Angela Wessel & JoAnna May.

Pennies 4 Pandas



Pennies 4 Pandas is an exciting new campaign to get individuals, schools, groups, and offices involved in our efforts to save the pandas.

We are currently focusing on the planting of bamboo seedlings, providing milk formula for the cubs that will be born in a few months, and, starting to purchase the necessary veterinary equipment which will be needed once the newly constructed Wolong Center is completed in 2010-2011.

[Visit the website and start saving your pennies today >>](#)

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

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