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May 2010 eNews



*Some original material reprinted by Pandas International's Newsletter is used without editing for accepted English usage.*

## Pandas in the Wild

### Giant pandas spotted in the wilderness

WILD giant pandas have been spotted twice since the beginning of the year in a nature reserve in southwest China's Sichuan Province, according to authorities.

One was spotted on March 25 at Heizhugou Nature Reserve of Ebian Yi Autonomous County, Leshan City.

"The panda was lying on the grass," said Like Xingfu, deputy secretary of the county's committee of the Communist Party of China.

"The white fur on its back was very easy to notice against the green woods. It was about 1 meter tall and 2 to 3 years old. After about 30 minutes, it crawled slowly into the forest, while turning back to look at us from time to time."

Like has worked in the county for six years and this was the first wild panda he'd seen.

[Read more >>](#)

## Patience pays for Chinese panda ready to wait for true love

*April 23, 2010*

Who says pandas are hampered by low libido? At least one of the endangered bears went to great lengths to prove that he was in the mood for love.

A panda patrol at a national park in China's northwestern Sha'anxi province spotted one panda chasing another in a forest. The larger animal, clearly a male, settled at the foot of a tree, to await the female who had clambered up to evade her unwanted suitor.

For seven days and nights neither animal stirred. But on the seventh day another male appeared and challenged the patient, would-be lover. They battled for 20 minutes, rolling down the hillside and becoming bloodied and battered, but the newcomer was beaten.



Liang Qihui, an expert, said: "Pandas in love always fight very violently but you rarely see them. This was an astonishing chance."

When the male returned to the tree, however, he found that the female had slipped down during the fight and gone off in search of food.

After two days the patrol returned to the tree. Ms Liang said: "We found the female looking tender and obedient and the male looking pretty weak. So we judged that they had completed their beautiful moment."

[For complete story >>](#)

### ***Veterinarians rushed to save a wild panda with intestinal problems***

[See video >>](#)

### **Pandas Down Under**

## **Two new zoo tours to "panda" to every need**

*Tuesday, April 06, 2010 – Adelaide Panda Tours*

Avoid the crowds, go behind the scenes and get up close and personal with the only two Giant Pandas in the Southern Hemisphere – **Wang Wang and Funi** – at the Adelaide Zoo.

"Adelaide Panda Tours are a once-in-a-lifetime chance to tag along with the Giant Panda Keeper and experience these magnificent creatures in the morning when they are most active," SeaLink Promotions Manager Julie-Anne Briscoe says.

"While it's an amazing experience to see Wang Wang and Funi in their enclosures, the chance to sit quietly in a small group and be a part of the Giant Pandas' morning routines before hundreds of visitors arrive is something incredibly special and the highlight of any holiday.

Before the zoo opens, visitors on the **Panda Insights & Inspirations Tour** will have prime access and viewing of the Giant Panda and Red Panda exhibits on a guided tour with an Adelaide Zoo

host. They can talk with the Keeper and watch the Red Pandas being fed. They'll also be the first visitors to see the Giant Pandas being released into their day exhibits before joining a zoo keeper for an exclusive 40-minute personalised tour of the zoo.

[For complete details >>](#)

## Adelaide's pandas become internet stars

People from around the world will be able to watch Adelaide's giant pandas Wang Wang and Funi live via the internet from today.

The "**panda cam**" vision will be available on the Adelaide Zoo's website 24 hours a day for the 10 years the pandas will remain in the city.



[Full story >>](#)

[Wang Wang and Fu Ni Panda Cam link >>](#)

## In other Zoos

### Spring is in the air for Vienna zoo's pandas



Hopes are high in Vienna's Schoenbrunn Zoo that the patter of tiny bear paws could be heard soon after its two pandas, Yang Yang and Long Hui, mated twice this week, the zoo said Tuesday.

Schoenbrunn already made history when Fu Long, Europe's first panda to be naturally conceived in captivity, was born there in August 2007.

Coupling of pandas in captivity is extremely difficult, since females are only fertile three or four days a year.

[Full story >>](#)

### Thai visitors' first glimpse of baby panda Lin Ping

*(NECN/MCOT: Chiang Mai, Thailand)*

The Chiang Mai Zoo was crowded with visitors hoping to see baby giant panda Lin Ping and its mother Lin Hui, which entered their new living quarter together for the first time Thursday.

The 10-month-old baby panda and its mother Lin Hui together entered their new enclosure which is shown to visitors for the first day today. Earlier zoo staffs had the baby panda and its mother take turns staying in the new enclosure separately to get familiar with the place.

Both giant pandas play with each other in their new living quarter today and really impress visitors.

Prasertsak Boontrakulpoonthawee, the head of the Project for Panda Research and Display in

Thailand at the Chiang Mai Zoo said that visitors to the zoo could see the pandas in the new living quarter all day long.

He said that at least 10,000 people visited the zoo to see the pandas during the past three-day-long Songkran holiday. He also said that there was a good response from China to the Thai minister of natural resources and environment who is seeking Chinese approval for a longer stay of the baby panda in Thailand.

[For full story and a look at the new enclosure >>](#)

## From the Panda Center

### Giant pandas get new home in E. China

*Xinhua, April 27, 2010*

Three giant pandas will make their debut at their new home in east China's Anhui Province Wednesday, the local research center said Tuesday.

The "Eco-Eden," the pandas' new home in Wannan National Wild Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Xiuning County will open to the public on April 28.

Hualong, Jinxin and Xidou are from Bifengxia Giant Panda Center in Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province.



[Full story >>](#)

## And From the National Zoo

### For National Zoo's panda Mei Xiang, pregnancy proves elusive

*By Michael E. Ruane  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Thursday, April 29, 2010*

As early as Monday, the signs were not looking good. The National Zoo's female giant panda, Mei Xiang, was exhibiting some behaviors of pregnancy, but not all of them. The ultrasound scans of her uterus were inconclusive. And the levels of certain hormones in her body were saying that her annual pregnancy cycle was over. Plus, there was no cub.

The zoo announced Wednesday that, taking all factors into consideration, their panda was once again not pregnant.

The conclusion was reached, the zoo said, after experts studied the array of physical, behavioral and chemical clues.

"Based on current hormone analyses, and not having seen a fetus during the ultrasound exams, Zoo researchers have determined that Mei Xiang experienced a pseudopregnancy,"



the zoo said in a statement.

[Full story with video >>](#)

### Related stories:

[National Zoo's panda >>](#)

[No baby panda >>](#)

[Pregnancy watch photo gallery >>](#)

## Women in Science featuring the staff at the National Zoo and Mei Xiang

[http://current.com/green/92384035\\_working-with-pandas.htm](http://current.com/green/92384035_working-with-pandas.htm)

## And our condolences for the science community's loss Panda Doc Devra Kleiman Has Died

*By Emma Brown | May 3, 2010*

Devra Kleiman, 67, the zoologist who oversaw the reproductive drama of the National Zoo's first giant panda pair, died April 29 of cancer at George Washington University Hospital.

Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing were gifts from China who arrived at the zoo in 1972, just a week after Dr. Kleiman was hired to head up its captive breeding program. Little was known then about panda behavior; according to conventional wisdom, the two were kept apart except for brief annual mating periods.

The results, carefully tracked by media around the world, were heartbreaking. Between 1983 and 1989, Ling-Ling became pregnant four times. One baby was stillborn; the others died within hours or days of their birth.

During the emotional ups and downs of those pregnancies, Dr. Kleiman did pioneering research on pandas, writing the first description of their behavior, including their vocalizations, their play and their scent markings. Her research turned conventional wisdom about pandas -- that they are solitary animals who should be kept apart, except to mate -- on its head.

[Full story >>](#)

## Tai's Corner:



In honor of Tai Shan, Pandas Unlimited has made the most remarkable gift to the Bifengxia Panda Center and all the Pandas of the Wolong Nature Reserve, a new state of the art Ultrasound Machine with Color Doppler!

Pandas International and the staff at the Bifengxia Panda Center wish to send all the members of Pandas Unlimited who made this possible a sincere thank you!

A thank you also goes to Universal Ultrasound for donating the extended training sessions to Drs. Deng and Weng.

[Click here for complete press release >>](#)

[Here is the latest video we have thanks to Annette Yuen \(yingying816\) >>](#)

## Mei Lan in Chengdu:



[To see more photos of Mei Lan in her Chengdu home >>](#)

## News from a Member



amazing young girl sooner.

Last fall, Amelia from Minnesota, made clay animals and sold them at a community wide art show. Her adorable animals raised \$370.00 for the pandas that Amelia loves so much. Not only did she raise much needed funding to protect the pandas and their habitat but she also raised awareness in her community by sharing her knowledge and love of the pandas!

Our hats go off to Amelia and our apologies for not recognizing this



**Visit the Bifengxia Panda Center with Suzanne!**

## September 2010

We are excited to have the opportunity to share a great panda adventure with our Pandas International members. Kim's World Travel and Access China Tours have put together two fantastic tours exploring the wonders of China with a special stop at Bifengxia Panda Center.

Each guided tour will take you on a journey from Beijing to Bifengxia to Shanghai. You will find yourself immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other you may have had elsewhere. This adventure will offer the rare opportunity to interact with the giant pandas, a truly unforgettable experience. Suzanne Braden, Director of Pandas International, will be at the Center to meet both tours and share her experiences over the last ten years and discuss the conservation efforts for the future of this amazing animal.

At every turn, you will see the results of your generous donations. A new year of cubs will be at the Center's Nursery for viewing, the 2009 cubs will be in kindergarten providing hours of entertainment and Tai Shan will be completely settled into his new home on Leopard Mountain and available for you to watch, photograph and share "Tai Time" with fellow fans.

This trip is more than half way sold out, so reserve your spot on this great adventure now!

**For all the details, check out Kim's World Travel and Access China Tours on our website >>**

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