

The Biodiversity Crisis

Let's face it, people have always been fascinated by disasters. In 1938, Orson Welles' radio play *War of the Worlds* caused mass hysteria. Now it is a fascination with the Mayan prophesy that the world will end in 2012. With all the talk about global warming, near-earth objects and H1N1, we get scared for a time, but we wake up the next day and the world is still here. We laugh at our bout with panic and turn our mind to other things.

Problem is, 200 species did not wake up with us this morning to share in our optimism. For them it was doomsday and they are gone never to return. And tomorrow and the next day it will happen for 200 more. It will keep on happening unless we either learn to live as a good neighbor or until we destroy the world. Whether we can survive the end of Nature as we know it is up for debate. What isn't clear is why we would want to live in a soulless world of our own creation.

How can we reverse this trend? More laws are not the answer. We need to change the culture and re-map the mores of society. It can be done, however hard it seems. Remember that just two centuries ago many people saw no conflict between American freedoms and the legal institution of slavery. One century ago even some women considered the woman's suffrage movement a threat to the order of society. In this century, the ideal of protecting biodiversity must overcome skepticism and economic resistance to ingrain itself into our sense of values as an unstoppable force. And that's why we are building an educational center, to train the core group of visionaries to carry our message to new generations and new horizons.

Our Educational Center

There are many people and significant amounts of money tied up in trying to detect life on other planets. While the possibility that primitive bacteria may have once existed on Mars is a worthy question, should we focus much attention on it while letting a third of our own planet's existing life slip through our fingers by 2050? If we are to wise up and steer a sane course toward a sustainable future, biodiversity must not be dismissed as the product of an era, an age group, a race, a political party or an international conflict.

The only way this will happen is effective education received from trusted educators. Problem is, computers and microwave ovens, digital cameras and television have all made great strides in the last 40 years, but we're still teaching environmental education as if it were the 1970s. We're still warehousing a few charismatic, well-known endangered species in zoos. We're still extending "protection" in name only to many of the world's biodiversity hotspots. It's time we shook up the system and decided that business as usual is not stopping the loss.

While we search for alternative energy sources for our cars, we also need a new energy source for our educators. They need life-changing experiences, not just facts and figures. That sort of energy comes not from textbooks and films, it comes from experiential learning. Our resolve to heal the world through healing our attitude toward nature is demonstrated by how we equip and empower our teachers. Tiger Touch is devoted to demonstrating and initiating a new approach to environmental education developed by respected innovators and researchers. Plans are being drawn up for a facility that will compliment the landscape and demonstrate our commitment to coexistence with nature. Such a place will use every moment-inside or outside of class-to energize and inspire. It will offer interpretive programs to the general public and an unforgettable camping experience to youth groups. How soon this happens depends on people like you. Given the current state of affairs, the sooner we start, the better for all mankind. Will you help us?

Will You Help Us?

Secure donations may be made using your credit card on our site: www.tigertouch.org.

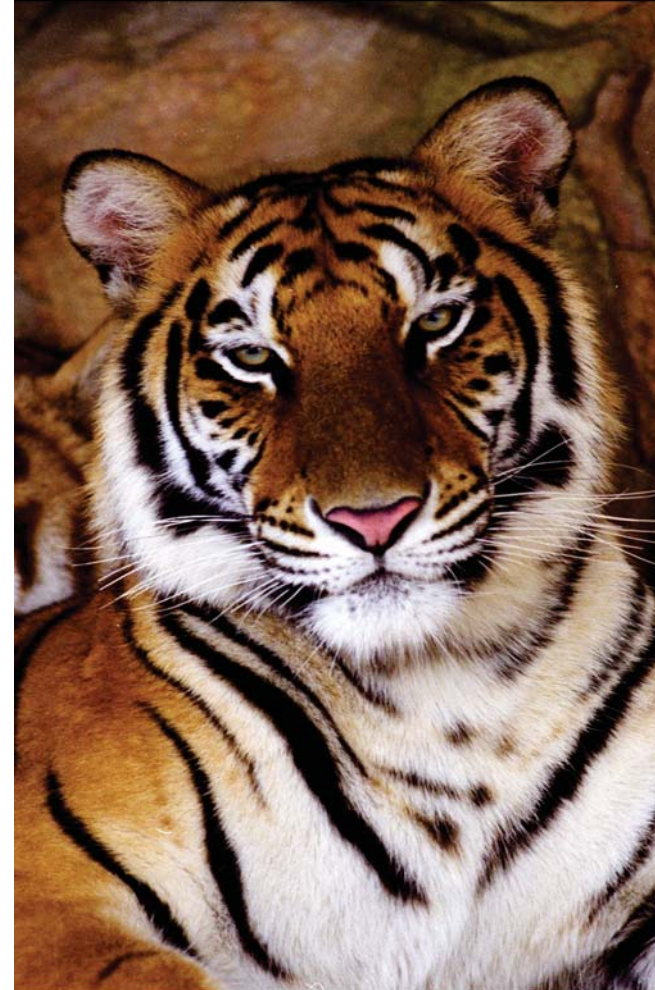
Checks may be mailed to:

Tiger Touch
Box 336
Fallon, Nevada 89407

For help with our educational center or other questions, please call or e-mail us.

Tiger Touch University Retreat

Experience it Firsthand



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Tiger Touch Is...

A SAFE HAVEN - Not just a place, we are a set of values where the safety and comfort of our resident animals outweighs human convenience and entertainment. We show compassion with effectiveness, developing, using and promoting best management practices in animal husbandry.

A MODERN ARK - Gerald Aquilina, of the Buffalo NY Zoo, says: "Numbers are the only thing that are going to support and maintain exotic wildlife." We strive for these numbers by rethinking traditional approaches, developing best management practices for responsible private stewardship.

A PLACE OF STUDY - Tiger Touch is a living laboratory. Through our interactions, the resident cats learn to trust and love us, and we learn the nuances of caregiving. Healthy social interaction with the cats is combined with a diet based on the latest research in dietary supplements. This two-pronged approach has demonstrably increased the length and quality their lives.

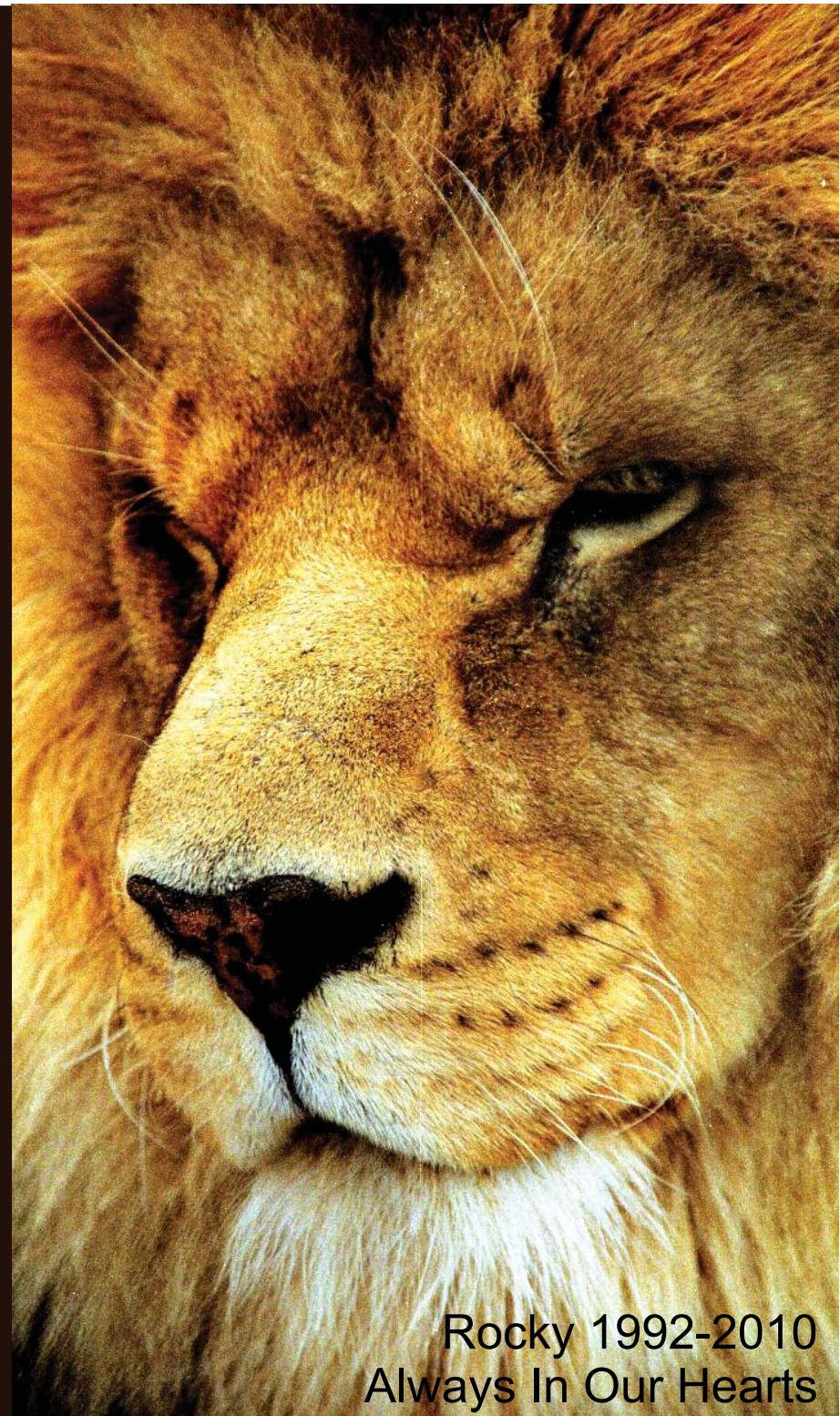
A PLACE OF HEART - Our residents are not resources, roles or subject matter, they are partners, emotional beings who give unselfishly of themselves and demand much in return. At Tiger Touch we seek to preserve endangered species not just for future generations of humans to enjoy, but for the enjoyment they get from being alive. This ethic undergirds and drives everything we do.

A PLACE OF TEACHING - From the outset, Tiger Touch was created by educators, researchers and visionaries. We seek to ignite a core group of educators who will take our message to the world, changing it one person at a time. To do this, we are developing a facility dedicated to research and education. There we will extend our vision to new generations who will appreciate what they understand and save what they appreciate.

A PLACE OF WONDER - Whether it is from the throaty roar of a lion or the intensity of eye contact with a tiger, everyone that experiences the wonder of the great cats comes away changed. Perhaps the greatest argument for conservation comes from the animals themselves. Any of our present or future outreach will involve nature's ambassadors, for they speak directly to the heart.

A DESERVING CAUSE - Tiger Touch needs your help to move forward. Your donation will go toward securing daily operating expenses, creating an emergency fund for equipment needs and for capital improvements. Gifts from people like you form the nucleus around which our movement will grow.

Will You Help Us?



Rocky 1992-2010
Always In Our Hearts