## Staff

Black Pine Animal Park is primarily a volunteer organization. Three paid staff are responsible for overseeing animal husbandry, administration, and maintenance. They report to a volunteer board of directors. Over 72 volunteers and student interns round out the staff.

**Board of Directors**
Renee Runkle, President
Mark Thaler, Vice President
Karen Hoag, Founder & Secretary
Dianne Lengerich, Treasurer
Robin McCormick
Anna Lytle
Lynn Toles
Barbara Leatheman
Craig Bender
Barb Smith

**Managing Staff**
Lori Gagen, Executive Director
Teresa Bailey, Lead Keeper

## Volunteering & Internships

Black Pine Animal Park welcomes people, ages 16 and up who support the mission to lend their time and talents through a variety of job opportunities that include: animal care, clerical support, docent, dietician, animal enrichment, education, maintenance, and grounds keeping.

Students ages 16 and up interested in pursuing a career in animal husbandry, tourism and recreation, or a related field are invited to apply for seasonal unpaid internships that offer an extraordinary hands-on learning environment. For more information visit:
www.BlackPineAnimalPark.com

## How to Help

Professional Animal Retirement Center (PARC), Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit corporation operating under federal tax identification number 33-1020728. All donations in support of Black Pine Animal Park's mission are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

This is a partial list of the opportunities available to contribute:

- Cash donations
- Park Pal Membership
- "Wish list" item donations
- Ink cartridge & cellphone recycling
- Habitat sponsorships
- "Adopt an Animal" program
- Advertising/media trade
- Gift and souvenir purchases
- Program participation
- Volunteerism

For a complete list of "wish list" items and additional opportunities to support Black Pine's mission, visit:

www.BlackPineAnimalPark.com


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P.O. Box 02
Albion, IN 46701 USA
Telephone (260) 636-7383
blackpine@blackpineanimalpark.com


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# Black Pine Animal Park

Operated by
Professional Animal Retirement Center (PARC), Inc.
a 501c3 non-profit organization.

## Exotic Animal Rescue & Retirement Center

**Providing permanent refuge to displaced exotic "pets" and retired performing animals, and encouraging responsible pet ownership.**

## ALBION, INDIANA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of ZOO KEEPERS
Institutional Member

## History

Black Pine Animal Park has evolved from humble beginnings to become one of the country's finest exotic animal sanctuaries. The park was founded in 1995 by Karen Hoag and her family at a historic farm house on the west edge of Albion, Indiana, a small town of 2,300 people. Albion is the Noble County seat located about 30 miles north of Fort Wayne.

After several years caring for her own menagerie of ostrich, potbelly pigs, llamas, and black Welsh mountain sheep, Karen turned her focus to adopting exotic animals displaced from private homes and retired from performance. First to arrive were a pair of mountain lions, followed by Siberian tigers, then snow leopards.

A variety of educational programs including school field trips, and a student volunteer program were added. As more animals arrived Karen felt she needed to take steps to ensure that no matter what happened to her the animals would be provided a long-term, loving home.

Professional Animal Retirement Center (PARC), Inc. was established in 2000 as a non-profit corporation. A volunteer board of directors was established and in 2004 PARC became registered as a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Shortly after a "no breeding, no selling" policy was adopted.

In 2006 the park lost its lease and was forced to make an unbudgeted move to a new site. The first phase of rebuilding was completed in December 2006. Construction is slated to continue for several years.

## About Us

The black market trade of exotic animals is a multi-billion dollar industry surpassed only by the illegal drug trade. Ownership of dangerous exotic animals in America is banned in only 29 states. Captive-bred and privately owned exotic animals, including Bengal tigers, African lions, apes, monkeys, bears, snakes, lizards, macaws, and others, are sold on over 1,000 Internet sites, at auctions, and in pet stores around the country. The number of households in the U.S. with pets, 62 million, is almost double the number of households with children.

Exotic animals often have nowhere to turn when they face losing the only home they've known, yet millions of people remain unaware of their plight. Thousands of captive animals each year are abandoned, confiscated, and otherwise displaced. Black Pine provides such animals a permanent, safe refuge.

Children have been taught for years about the dangers of illegal drugs. Classrooms rarely, however, discuss the risks of owning and handling exotic animals. Black Pine reaches out to more than 15,000 children and adults every year to help them become informed of these dangers, threats not only to their health but also to wild animal populations.

Black Pine's unique programs are designed to influence people to be responsible pet owners and to have a positive impact on the conservation and preservation of animals and their native habitats.

## Programs

Black Pine Animal Park currently offers a variety of educational programs:

- Field trips for K-12 featuring interactive and educational sanctuary tours and activities that meet a variety of Indiana's Academic Standards
- Summer workshops for ages 3-12 featuring hands-on activities, park tour, and animal encounters
- Job shadows for ages 12-15 to help guide scholastic and career planning
- Internships for ages 16 and up for those interested in animal-related careers
- General admission tours for individuals, families, and groups
- Private sanctuary tours that offer behind-the-scenes access
- Non-commercial outreach presentations

## Projects

Black Pine Animal Park was the U.S. sponsor museum and participant in a $75,000 Museums Community Collaborations Abroad grant project in 2008. ***Promote Volunteerism and Improve Zoo Safety, Education, and Animal Care at the Dushanbe Zoo*** included a cultural exchange to facilitate volunteer training, translation of zoo education materials, as well as building materials to complete improvements at the Dushanbe Zoo in Tajikistan. The grant was administered by the American Association of Museums and funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

For more information visit:
www.BlackPineAnimalPark.com/dushanbe