“Black Bears: Dispelling the Myths”
A free multimedia presentation by Donna “Geode” Andrews
Wednesday, March 16, New Masonic Hall
Doors open at 5:30---Meeting at 6:00---Program at 6:30
Light Refreshments, Children Welcome when accompanied by an adult

Donna Andrews from the North American Bear Center in Ely, Minnesota will give a presentation on that center’s unique approach to black bear research. Come find out amazing facts about these bears we live with.

This one-hour multi-media presentation (Powerpoint, photos, video, and question & answer time) replaces misconceptions with facts. Appropriate for people of all ages, this enlightening, revealing, and practical presentation may change your perception of bears and the habitat that is both home to humans and bears. Donna will bring hands-on items such as bear hair, denning material, scat, and bear sign for attendees to see, feel, and smell. This fast-moving presentation includes information about black bear social organization, travel, diet, hibernation, intelligence, and relations with people. We will discuss some of the common myths and replace them with facts learned from the bears themselves. Most importantly, people will learn that behaviors that look like aggression are actually expressions of fear. Information in this presentation is one key to understanding black bear behavior and increases our social acceptance of bears.

Donna “Geode” Andrews has 20 years of close-up ongoing work with wild bears. Using trust and telemetry, she has walked and rested beside them for up to 12 hours at a time, recording their lives in detail. Walking with wild bears has provided valuable information that gives fresh insight into the world of the bear. Donna has taught alongside Lynn Rogers, Ph.D., in his world-renowned black bear field courses in Ely, Minnesota, teaching bear communication, social behavior, bear sign & coexistence. She is the founder and past president of the Bear Interest Group, a lobbying and education organization promoting sustainable bear population management, ethical treatment of bears, and coexistence through education. As the Managing Director and head Bear Curator of the North American Bear Center since it opened in 2007, Donna manages the care and training of three captive bears.

Watch a live streaming web cam of Lily the Black Bear in her den with her two new-born cubs, and last year’s cub, “Hope,” at:
http://www.bear.org/livecams/lily-hope-cam.html

Lily the Black Bear has over 200,000 fans on Facebook Follow the daily activities of this wild black bear as she raises her cubs, searches for food, and dens for the winter. Watch big sister Hope play with the new cubs. Daily updates at: http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/lily.the.black.bear
Candidates for the Board

This year there are four seats open for election to the board of directors: the three seats that come up for election each year, and an additional seat that was filled temporarily by the board this year. The nominating committee has presented this slate as their recommendation of candidates for these four seats.

Roger Brunelle
Marlene Gilbreth
Gloria McDowell
Pat Scheel

All are already serving on the board at this time. We truly appreciate their willingness to serve another term. Any additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the election at the general meeting in March. Qualification for nomination is membership in good standing for more than six months.

President’s Message

by Pat Stacy

It has been a real pleasure serving on the SPCA Board this year. The members work well with each other and have finished some long-term projects.

A much-needed renovation of the flooring in the cat, office, kitchen, hospital and laundry rooms

Walls were painted by Richard Leard, who was contracted to do the floors but donated extra time to repair and paint the walls. Thank you, Richard.

Bylaw Amendment

We will be voting on an amendment to our bylaws at our general membership meeting this year. Our intention is to add an additional membership category titled “business,” for $100.

Article IV, Section 4, Dues

The Society shall have two classes of membership. General Membership, each of whom shall pay in advance to the Society annual dues of $25. Business Membership, each of whom shall pay in advance to the Society an annual dues of $100.

Along with all these improvements to the shelter buildings, Jeanette, our shelter manager, adopted out 167 dogs and 114 cats to good homes. Good job, Jeanette!

After years of negotiation, the real property donated to the SPCA by Juanita Moore in 2002, was sold this year to Mariposa County. These lots are directly across the street from the County Building Department. The SPCA wishes to recognize the outstanding generosity of Juanita, who was an animal lover all her life, and donated her entire estate to the SPCA. In this way she will continue to help animals for many, many years. She also served as Justice of the Peace for Mariposa. We hope she would approve of the property becoming the site of a new court house for Mariposa County.

Christmas Party was a HUGE success, fun for members and great presents for the animals

Long time member Jenene Skelly center with her granddaughter, and great granddaughter on the right, Bob Fox seated, and Jenene’s daughter, Robin, behind the desk. (Notice the difference in the flooring. This picture was taken from the same viewpoint as the one on the left.)

Young and old enjoyed the Christmas treats, visited with friends and the shelter staff, and met the new board members, as they left their donations for the dogs and cats under the tree. Eventually the gifts filled half the room. They will help keep the shelter going for another year. Thanks to everyone who attended. “Our cup runneth over.” (literally)
SPCA Shelter Office and Kennels
Recognized all over the Central Valley of California as #1 in cleanliness and healthy, adoptable, animals.

Support our Sponsors

Save your Pioneer Market Receipts and bring them to the shelter. These have been a great help this last year.