If a picture is worth a thousand words as the age-old saying goes, then how many pictures and words does it take to describe 40 years of rescuing hundreds and hundreds of abused and neglected animals?

That is exactly what Sanctuary volunteers and published authors, Mark and Melanie Shellenbarger, set out to answer 1 ½ years ago when they approached Executive Director, Pat Craig, about writing a 40th anniversary book covering the Sanctuary’s beginnings, history, rescues and absolutely unique way of rehabilitating animals rescued from desperate conditions and giving them a forever home of care and love.

With the manuscript of the book at the publisher as this newsletter is being written, the Shellenbargers’ book, *Forever Wild, Forever Home: The Story of The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado* will be available for purchase later in 2020 and will make a great holiday gift for Sanctuary supporters and any other animal lovers in one’s life.

As dedicated volunteers, Mark and Melanie got an inside view of daily Sanctuary operations and had unprecedented access to staff members and fellow volunteers as the two of them documented the incredible journey from the Sanctuary’s humble beginnings in Boulder, Colorado to its current position as the largest and oldest sanctuary in the world devoted to rescuing large carnivores.

Readers of this book will be delighted by the humorous stories told by Pat as he learned the ropes of large carnivore rescues and in a compassionate and sensitive way learn why rescuing these incredible creatures is necessary, and from what it is they are being rescued.

“*Forever Wild, Forever Home* invites animal lovers to meet Colo-Colo, an angry African lion from Bolivia; Tasha Joy, a tiger who didn’t know she was a tiger; the ever-busy grizzly bears, Tiny who tips the scales at 1,000 pounds, and his friend, Natasha; Diego,
a white tiger; Jumanji, a black leopard; and Asiatic black bear Dillan, one of the Sanctuary’s heftiest and most endearing residents – and many more. Stories of daring rescues – giant Alaskan Kodiak bears from a resort in Florida; African lions from Spain; a lion and tiger from a typhoon-ravaged island in the Pacific Ocean; thirty-nine tigers from Joe Exotic’s Oklahoma roadside zoo – take the reader on journeys across the United States and around the world.”

Royalties from the sales of this book will go to Sanctuary to help support the animals. Make plans now to purchase one or more copies of this one-of-a-kind book once it is available!

Forever Wild, Forever Home will be available for purchase both in-person at the Sanctuary Gift Shop and through online ordering. News of its availability and pricing will be announced via the Sanctuary’s social media outlets and quarterly newsletter. If interested, please go to our website to request presale notifications.

Freckles
The Sanctuary’s First Lady