In early May, Shirley and Tarra began their annual travel deep into the 2100-acre Asia Habitat. Shirley (age 67; celebrating 16 years as a Sanctuary elephant as of July 6th) has explored areas where elephants had never been observed before. Tarra has spent a lot of her time by the lake, and—as is typical for Tarra—traveling the full-length of the habitat for ‘social hour’ with the other Asian Girls.

Although Shirley and Tarra’s walking “schedule” takes them to different parts of Asia at different times, EleCams help staff (and supporters!) keep track of them; the elephants will often meet to socialize out at “Left Field.” The space and diversity of The Sanctuary’s natural habitat allows elephants the freedom to choose when and where they wish to be, and with whom.

Caregivers have also noticed familiar travel patterns for Winkie and Sissy, as they visit different areas of the habitat, including the “Second Pipeline” pictured above. (More Inside)
Dear Friends,

“Summertime and the living is easy” - school is out, families take vacations and here in Sanctuary we see the elephants travel in all directions throughout their expansive habitats.

It is now late summer and many of you are returning from the beach or your favorite lake with vivid memories of cool breezes off the water and the playful sounds of children … and adults splashing in the water. Hopefully, you are feeling refreshed and energized by your time out from daily tasks and schedules.

In this edition of Trunklines you will read about how elephants who once spent their daylight hours traveling, performing or on exhibit are now rolling in the mud, rediscovering the weightlessness of floating in ponds and learning to swim in the larger lake. These are the daily joys of Sanctuary. This is the safe haven and natural habitat you have helped to provide. We hope you enjoy the Care staff updates in Trunklines and the bi-monthly EleNotes. And we remind you to take advantage of EleCam views and videos of all at elephants.com. You can follow the travels and “adventures” of Misty, Tarra, Shirley, Winkie and Sissy in the Asian Habitat, Tange and Flora in the African Habitat and Minnie, Debbie, Ronnie, and Billie in the Quarantine Habitat and extend your summertime fun!

Thank you for your part in helping to make all this possible for these “Girls” in Sanctuary and preparing for those to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Janice Zeitlin
Chief Executive Officer, The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee
For the second consecutive summer, **Misty** left the barn area and has been making great use of the wider habitat, including swimming in the lake! She fully submerged herself in the water, lingering to cool her body temperature and taking weight off her feet. Misty made this journey for the first time last year after a decade of retirement at The Sanctuary.

With her background in the entertainment industry, Misty arrived at The Sanctuary in 2004 with little to no experience having freedom to choose how and where she spent her time. In the years since, Misty has adapted to The Sanctuary lifestyle and all of the choices it allows her to make. The fact that she has chosen to leave the familiarity of the barn area to visit new favorite places out in the big habitat is evidence that Misty is comfortable in her forever home.

Misty has been spending time in parts of the habitat that are rarely visited by the other elephants, finding lots of private “sleeping spots” for herself. Caregivers have observed where Misty has lain down to rest after giving herself a cooling mud bath. Although elephants can and do sleep standing up, they will lie down, but only if they feel safe in doing so. Knowing that Misty feels secure enough to nap lying down in the shade is strong evidence that she is continuing to build confidence in her Sanctuary home.

Misty also walked far enough into the habitat to locate **Tarra** and **Shirley**. It was a welcome reunion as they greeted one another with rubs and trunk-touches, and grazed together on fresh summer forage.

While Asian (and African) elephants generally enjoy time in and around water, **Sissy** has been somewhat of an exception. After she survived the massive flooding of her Texas zoo home in 1981, her keepers noticed that she seemed uneasy when it rained, and when around water in general. While this behavior continued after she arrived at Sanctuary in 2000, with some encouragement from her new “herd,” Sissy began crossing the streams of Asia Habitat. Eventually, she would splash herself and take a few dips in the ponds.
Summertime Living...
Asia Barn & Habitat

However, she still seemed wary when it came to getting washed with a hose by Caregivers. The other elephants will display excitement when offered a spray-down with the hose—turning in circles, opening their mouths to take a drink, catching water with their trunk and spraying it on themselves—but usually not Sissy.

In The Sanctuary’s Protected Contact / positive-reinforcement management system, elephants are encouraged to

Summertime Living...
Quarantine Barn & Habitat

Caregivers note Debbie and Ronnie have set a new schedule for summer. As the days get warmer, they often choose to escape the steamy hours in the cool of their barn, then venture out in the late afternoon to Q’s woodland areas to overnight in the outdoors, returning around 7 a.m. for “breakfast.”

Ronnie has experienced seasonal allergies this year. The Sanctuary’s Veterinarians tested to identify to which allergens she was reacting. The results, showing it was mostly grasses, helped the Vets develop individualized immunotherapies to treat her specific allergies. Care staff were delighted to see Ronnie respond by being more active and making full use of habitat.

Watch video footage of Debbie and Ronnie swimming, online at our YouTube channel (“Pond Time with Debbie, Ronnie and Billie”).
YouTube.com/elephantsanctuaryTN
Debbie and Ronnie excitedly explored their expanded access to the renovated Phase I Barn & Habitat: Ronnie led the way as she and Debbie made their first trip through the new “alley” that now connects Phases I and II. Some of the habitat areas Deb and Ron have never visited before, and some have changed drastically since they last saw them.

Billie has been spending a great deal of time cooling off in the ponds, and taking advantage of Caregiver-given firehose water baths. Her daily “routine” this summer involves an afternoon swim, followed by time spent standing in a nearby creek, then rounding out the day shaded by a cluster of trees in an area Caregivers are calling “Billie’s Hideout.”

Ongoing improvements to the fencing at Q have allowed Minnie access to new areas, including the hillsides along the northern edge of the habitat. Minnie has been spotted numerous times scooting on her belly up and down the hillside near the new internal road in a spirited effort to explore yet another new area of her habitat.

Earlier this summer, Liz enjoyed taking frequent baths with the garden hose, and appeared to “befriend” a gaggle of turkeys often seen in the yard with her. She also pioneered a new sleeping style: for six years, she had only been observed napping in short intervals with her head against a fence-line or a tree, but his summer she found a new place to rest. Facility renovations left a dirt embankment in a nearby area, and Liz took advantage of it by leaning against it – taking almost all of the weight off her feet! It became a regular summer-time sleeping spot for her.

The Sanctuary sadly announces...

As this issue of Trunklines was going to press, Liz’s health rapidly declined. She was moved into hospice care at the Quarantine Phase I Barn where she was treated and monitored closely by Veterinary and Care staff. After over 9 years in Sanctuary, Liz passed away on August 18, 2015. Liz was 58 years old. She was much loved and will be greatly missed. A tribute to Liz is planned for the Fall Trunklines.
Flora and Tange have been traveling the entirety of their habitat this summer, “tusking” trees for bark and grazing on summer grasses.

And, some exciting news at Africa, thanks to our generous donors, a new track-hoe—purchased through our Big Machines for Big Girls campaign during The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee’s Big Payback 2015—has made possible the creation of a larger mud-wallow! In record time, the track-hoe dug out an area in South Yard for the Girls—all within EleCam view. Both elephants have been exploring this new feature, helping to deepen and widen it by rooting and wallowing in the mud, and Mother Nature has been filling it with rainwater. Tange and Flora have been keeping an eye on the goings on next door... added enrichment in the form of habitat expansion nearby (read more below).

Expanding Facilities to Meet Changing Needs

The Elephant Sanctuary is currently expanding its facilities to offer the option of retirement to additional elephants on exhibit and/or in performance. In preparation, construction of a “Transition Habitat” is underway to serve as a safe space for care and observation of an elephant which may have special medical or behavioral needs. It will also help to ensure new elephants transition smoothly to Sanctuary life, without impact to the current residents. The Transition Habitat is situated on five acres of forest and meadow, within sightline-access of Flora and Tange. To lend your support toward Sanctuary’s preparedness for additional elephants’ retirement, please consider a tax-deductible gift toward our 2015 Summer Appeal (just visit shop.elephants.com and look under the ‘Donations’ tab).
The Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth, Calif. annually pursues a community-service project aimed at helping to “make our planet a bit kinder, gentler, better.”

Team Leader Jan Schlossberg shared her copy of Trunklines, and soon her Kindergarten students were learning about captive and wild elephants, as well as The Elephant Sanctuary’s residents, via YouTube and elephants.com. Students also participated in a Sanctuary-led Distance Learning program.

They created elephant-art notecards to sell to family members; they also made posters, flyers, and other artwork to educate their fellow students, school-wide. Their creativity and hard work raised $2,000 in support of the Girls!

“The students wanted to be a voice for the voiceless,” explains Jan. “Teachers repeatedly used the words ‘noble endeavor’ to describe our efforts: we’re honored to have been a part of something so grand.”

To book a classroom Distance Learning program for the 2015-2016 academic year with The Elephant Sanctuary, email todd@elephants.com or call 931-796-6500!

Sanctuary Merchandise
All proceeds benefit The Girls!

Photo Cards (12 per box) – $20
set of 12 unique, all-occasion (blank inside) note cards using 20th Anniversary Calendar photos. custom-boxed with 12 envelopes.

NEW Lime Green Tee! – $18
NEW 100% Cotton Tee made by Gildan, in Lime Green with Elephant Sanctuary Horizontal logo on front, and elephants.com on the back. Sizes S-3XL available.

Elephant Don: The Politics of a Pachyderm Posse by Dr. Caitlin O’Connell – $26

Use the order-form envelope inside this newsletter or shop online at shop.elephants.com for a wider selection.

Supporter Spotlight: A Noble Endeavor

Left to Right: Students Sara, Marcus, and Connor with the notecards.; Student Dashiell with a brochure he created about the elephants.; Notecard displayed at The Elephant Sanctuary’s Welcome Center in Hohenwald, Tenn.

3. Elephants coat themselves in ____ to discourage biting insects.
4. Shirley lives in the ___ habitat with Sissy, Winke, Terra & Misty.
5. Elephants have a trunk for breathing. Humans have a ___.
6. The Elephant Sanctuary is a ___ for elephants.
7. Author of the book “Elephant Don”
8. Billie spends her ____ swimming in the pond.
9. Which elephant swims most in the Big Lake?
10. Which fruit is Winkie’s favorite food?
11. Which African elephant has larger tusks?
12. Which elephant at the Sanctuary weighs the most?
13. How old is the oldest elephant at the Sanctuary?
14. You can watch the elephants live on the website via the______

Kids’ Corner
Join the Herd!

With the help of our Members, we are working to forever maintain a safe place for these majestic, endangered creatures to retire with dignity. Basic Annual Membership starts at $50, and includes a subscription to Trunklines (a $10 Membership gift-level is available to seniors & students).

If interested in VIP Membership ($2,000 per year for five consecutive years), contact lorenda@elephants.com (email) or 931.796.6500 ex. 105 (phone). VIP investors receive one behind-the-scenes tour of Sanctuary—with no guarantee of seeing an elephant—to gain a deepened understanding of our mission, and the complex needs of captive elephants.

Please use the enclosed envelope/form to designate your gifts. Sanctuary Much!

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Adopt an Elephant

By adopting a resident elephant, you become a partner in The Sanctuary’s efforts to provide the gift of herd, home, rest, refuge, and individualized care for life. At the $50 level, you receive:

- Certificate of “Adoption,” with a photo and bio detailing the amazing story of your “adoptee”
- Full Membership (good for one year), which includes a subscription to Trunklines.

Feed an Elephant

Each of The Sanctuary’s resident elephants consumes, on average, approximately 150 lbs. of food each day. Shirley loves bananas, Winkie loves mangoes, Flora and Tange love watermelon: $40 feeds one elephant for a day ($440 feeds all 11 elephants for a day). For your gift, you receive:

- A biography of the elephant(s) chosen, which includes a 4x6 photo and certificate;
- A one year subscription to Trunklines.

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Make Wishes Come True

The Sanctuary maintains an ever-changing Wish List to help care for the resident elephants. For details on current items needed (including all figures on total-cost), visit our website (elephants.com); select “You Can Help” from the home-page menu, and choose “Wish List.” You can make your contribution there, OR indicate on the Trunklines reply-envelope which specific item(s) you’d like to underwrite.

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Connect with Us Online – Elephants.com

Stay current on Sanctuary news and support the wellbeing of captive elephants through your favorite social networks.

You can also sign up to receive our free monthly e-newsletter, eTrunklines, which includes information on special events, merchandise, and new posts to our blog, EleNotes.

Our strong performance as an animal-welfare/wildlife-conservation nonprofit is recognized by reputable charity monitoring groups:

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SAVE THE DATE

October 10, 2015

Billie’s 5K and Fun Run

Hohenwald, TN

Updates are coming soon at elephants.com

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The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is proudly accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.