



BELOVED BORRIS. *Borris, the beloved 19-year-old Amur leopard at the Oregon Zoo and one of the oldest of his extremely rare subspecies, has died. Borris was the second-oldest Amur leopard in any facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. (Photo/Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)*

Oregon Zoo mourns the loss of Borris, one of world’s oldest, rarest big cats

Borris, a beloved Amur leopard who was one of the oldest of his extremely rare subspecies, was humanely euthanized at the Oregon Zoo on October 9 after a decline related to his advanced age, caregivers said.

“With only around 300 Amur leopards left on the entire planet, each passing is keenly felt,” said Amy Cutting, who oversees the zoo’s Amur cat area. “But this one is especially tough. We know that ultimately the pain of losing Borris will pale beside the joy of having had him in our lives. But this one is going to take a while. He was one of a kind.”

At 19 years old, Borris was the second-oldest Amur leopard in any facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) — and one of the oldest in the world. In recent months, as his flexibility deteriorated, caregivers had been using a bamboo backscratcher to help the geriatric cat groom himself.

Cutting described Borris as “simply a treasure” and said he will be remembered for “his friendly temperament and goofy personality.”

Borris was born May 5, 1999. He moved to Portland in 2010 from the Miller Park Zoo in Illinois, on a recommendation from the AZA’s Species Survival Plan for Amur leopards. He was popular with zoo visitors

and staff — forming especially strong bonds with keepers, several of whom had worked with Borris since his arrival in the Pacific Northwest.

In Portland, Borris joined the Oregon Zoo’s female leopard, Kia. Amur leopards are solitary animals for the most part, but the pair got along well.

“Borris was hand-raised and came to us after several unsuccessful attempts to introduce him to other cats,” Cutting said. “But Kia quickly told him what was what, and they lived comfortably together for many years. She was the only female who ever put Borris in his place enough to live peaceably, and sometimes they would even play together.”

Amur leopards are at extreme risk of extinction, with only about 100 believed to remain in the wild. With so few animals available to breed, genetic variation is dangerously low. Accredited zoos are participating in coordinated breeding programs to help preserve these critically endangered cats, and a plan has been approved to reintroduce zoo-bred Amur leopards in a portion of their native habitat.

The Oregon Zoo is located at 4001 S.W. Canyon Road in Portland. To learn more, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

“Contested Histories” pop-up display to be featured at ONLC in Portland

A new pop-up display — “Contested Histories: Art and Artifacts from the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection” — is opening at Portland’s Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (ONLC) next month and will be on view for four days. The traveling exhibit features physical or digital representations of every item in the collection, which includes more than 400 photographs, sculptures, paintings, watercolors, jewelry, vases, beads, nameplates, and other items handmade by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in World War II internment camps.

The exhibit opens Thursday, November 1 with extended hours — 11:00am to 7:00pm. On Friday and Saturday, hours are 11:00am to 3:00pm. On the last day, Sunday, November 4, the museum is open noon to 3:00pm. The event also includes two workshops, which are scheduled Thursday at 5:00pm and Sunday at noon.

Roots of the “Contested Histories” pop-up display are found in Allen Hendershott Eaton’s historic 1952 book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*, which explored art and craft objects created by persons of Japanese descent who were wrongfully incarcerated in the World War II American concentration camps. The book was one of the first to examine any aspect of the lives of the more than 120,000 inmates. In the course of conducting his research for the book and a never-realized exhibit of camp artifacts, Eaton amassed a significant personal collection of artifacts.

After many years of lying forgotten in storage, the collection was inherited by a family friend of Mr. Eaton, who in April 2015 attempted to put it up for auction. Japanese-American community leaders and activists rallied successfully to stop the insensitive sale of the important artifacts of Japanese-American history.

Ultimately, the collection was transferred to the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles for safekeeping.

In addition to providing an opportunity to see a collection that inspired strong emotions and decisive actions within the Japanese-American community, “Con-



ART & ARTIFACTS. *A new pop-up display — “Contested Histories: Art and Artifacts from the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection” — is opening in Portland next month. The exhibit, which will be on view at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center for four days, features physical or digital representations of more than 400 photographs, sculptures, paintings, watercolors, jewelry, vases, beads, nameplates, and other items handmade by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in World War II internment camps. Pictured is a chair constructed by Yorozu Homma while incarcerated at Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. (Photo courtesy of the Japanese American National Museum, Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection, 2015.100.57)*

tested Histories” also is intended to help gather information about each individual object so the museum’s efforts to preserve and catalog the collection is as complete as possible.

Camp survivors and their family members and friends are encouraged to share with JANM any information they have or remember about the objects, including who is depicted in the many photographs, most of which were shot by photographers working for the War Relocation Authority.

“Contested Histories” officially opened this year from January to April at JANM. The pop-up version is now travelling to locations in the United States for viewing and information gathering. Anyone who is unable to view the exhibit while it is in

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Who to call.

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