



President's Message

By: Glenna French, President

Greetings Docents,

The CMZ Auxiliary is rather unique compared to most docent organizations. Our organization has the Zoo's trust to have our own Board managing the auxiliary in compliance with the Zoo's Strategic Plan that includes the Mission, Vision and the "We Believe" statements (these will be shared in another Zooline piece). The Mission Statement – "A leader in conservation, captive breeding and animal care. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo connects people with wildlife and wild places and through experiences that inspire action". The Vision Statement – "Every Kid. Every Time. Goosebumps! Every kid, of any age, will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit".

How does the Zoo implement the Mission and Vision statements beyond guests' visits to the Zoo? How do they continue to work to be a leader in conservation? The Zoo's Legacy Project - Quarters for Conservation provides the funds for the Zoo to continue to enhance their commitment to conservation. Funds raised through each admission is used to support African Vultures, Frogs in Panama, Orangutans and their habitat, restore North American Plains species with breeding programs for Black Footed Ferrets and Wyoming toads, African Giraffe, and Africa's Elephants and Rhinos. This project also helps provide funds for both keeper staff and non-keeper staff to be involved in field conservation projects. Funds have been given to the Tsavo Trust, a Kenyan nonprofit that helps protect wildlife in Tsavo National Park in Kenya; Dr. Eric and other zoo employees have traveled to Panama to continue to work with and support the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project; Dr.

Liza and CMZ crews have been in Uganda for the past three years assisting in the translocation of giraffe (Twiga); Animal Care Manager, Joanna Husby and Vet Tech DeeAnn Wilfong helped track and collar wild mountain tapirs in Ecuador; and Senior Lead Keeper Patty Wallace and IT Manager Miriam Piper have recently returned from South Africa where they assisted in conservation projects for wild African penguins. To learn more about the Zoo's conservation projects, please visit the Zoo's website at cmzoo.org. Also if you have a deer problem look on the site to learn how **Zoo Doo** might help eliminate that problem!

Docents help impart the Mission and Vision statement and share the conservation message regarding Quarters for Conservation with every safari, tour, and Zoom and Zoopeteer program and with every biofact and house talk shared with Zoo guests. As we all work together, we continue to assist in making the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo one of the best in the nation and the world.



2019 CMZA CALENDAR

Meeting Times are 9:30 AM

Training Times are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM appx.
Education Committee Meetings are held at 9:30 on
the 4th Wednesday of every month in Safari Lodge.

**** Mandatory meeting. Bolded items - date or
location has been changed.**

Feb 2019

2	Training	Safari Lodge
6*	Board Meeting	LAML
9	Joint Meeting	LAML
	Potluck Lunch with new trainees from end of meeting until 1:30 (12:30 for trainees)	
16	Training 12:30 – 4pm	Safari Lodge
23	Training	Safari Lodge

March 2019

2	Training	Safari Lodge
6	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
9	IE Meeting	Library
9	Training	Safari Lodge
13	TE Meeting	Safari Lodge
16	Training	Safari Lodge
23	Make-Up Training Day	Safari Lodge
27	CEC Endangered	Safari Lodge
30	CEC Endangered	Safari Lodge

CEC REMINDER

There are numerous opportunities remaining for you to achieve your 2 CEC requirements for this year. You can attend a designated morning or afternoon session of the Saturday Training at the Safari Lodge. Cate Kelly will send out an email alert with the handouts attached before each class. Please remember to SIGN-IN for credit. The Spring Fling will be in the March Zoo Line. It will cover the animals in the new Water's Edge: Africa exhibit (Making Waves). Also in March there will be an **Endangered Tour** refresher at 9:30am on Wed 27th and a repeat on Sat 30th. Remember that if you have been a docent for a year and want to become certified this is the way to achieve this goal! In April there will be a presentation at 9:30am on Wed 17th and Sat 20th. It will concentrate on the new Water's Edge Africa exhibit. Any questions just contact me. Our goal this year is for each and every docent to complete the 2 CEC requirement. *Charlotte Greene*

PROGRAMS

Joint Meeting – February 9 – Dr. Liza Dadone, Vice President of Mission and Programs will be the presenter.

March 13 – TE Meeting – Stacey Graham – Great Interactions: Pathways to Success

March 9 IE Meeting - TBA

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO “WE BELIEVE” STATEMENTS

I want to share these statements with you over the next few months as I feel they are so important and help in our understanding of how the Zoo operates and what their core values are. As docents we are an integral part of working in step with these statements. These statements fall into four categories – Conservation and Education, Community, Culture, and Business.

Conservation and Education:

- We believe our animals have the important job of helping people develop passion for the natural world and we must honor their captivity by providing first-class experiences.
- We believe people want to make a positive difference in the world, and we will do our best to equip them with the tools and information they need to do so; telling the truth the best we know it.

Community:

- We believe animals and their homes make the world and people better. We believe they are crucial to the health and happiness of our community and the Zoo is uniquely positioned to be a catalyst for a green, healthy, and vibrant community where people care for each other and the environment.
- We believe in the power of an individual to effect change by connecting others with a compelling idea.

Culture:

- We believe by sharing our passion for wildlife and wild places, our enthusiasm will be contagious.
- We believe we can make the world a better place, and the work we do and the way we treat people matters.

Business:

- We believe because we are financially smart, stable, and disciplined, we can focus on the heart of our mission.
- We believe in holding ourselves to standards that put us above reproach.

Glenna French

REMEMBERING BECKY

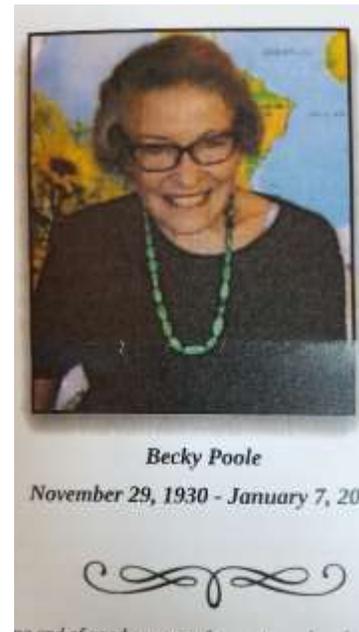
Becky Poole, a CMZA docent for 20 years, will be sorely missed. She will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, dedication and compassion for animals as well as the auxiliary. She was a tremendous asset to our program. Becky had a keen wit and an ability to keep things running smoothly.

Becky held several offices in the CMZA, including President, 1st VP, Tour chair, Safari chair, and Zoopeteer chair. In addition to being certified in all our tours and safaris, she was certified in both ZOOM and Zoopeteers.

As a ZOOM docent, Becky was a treasure. Over time she participated in all aspects of ZOOM. Her favorite animal in the Loft was Panya, the ball python. In the last couple of months she was still covering lunch shift pretty regularly, but confided that it was getting hard to feel the animals in her hands. She also stated that she would continue to cover lunch as she could still sweep and do dishes!

As a Zoopeteer, Becky loved visiting schools and doing puppet shows. She was a great asset to the program. Even in November when she had to use a walker she was more than willing to participate. One of the last shows she did was at a preschool that served a population with several homeless families. This particular day, she was Ms. Docent – who sets the tone for the upcoming show. She came with her walker and sat down on it to talk to the kids. One rambunctious 4 year old immediately said, “How OLD are you?” Becky paused a moment and with her usual grace and diplomacy answered, “I am a Grandma”.

There are many more stories that could be shared. Becky was a real treasure and will be missed by all.
Marie Poyzer



And many of you may remember her wonderful sense of humor and her wearing of the “Best T-shirt Ever!”



MY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Since our daughter, Melanie, came down from Alaska for Christmas, Louise and I thought that Dec 27th would be a good time to use my "Behind the Scenes" time. We decide that the elephant barn would be the ideal place. It most certainly was. Our hosts were Ilana Cobbin and Jake Jachim. We got to feed Kimba and Malaika and watch Ilana and Jake demonstrate some of the behaviors that they ask these animals to do so that they are able to assess the daily condition and

moods of these wonderful, sentient creatures. As I stood there and watched, I became aware that Ilana and Jake are so attuned to these animals that they seem to be communicating at the next higher level. Everything is done using quiet oral prompts or hand signals. They also seemed to know pretty much what Kimba and Malaika were thinking about what was going on.

On the way out, we got to spend a bit of time with Jumbe, the rhino. What a mild mannered guy he is. Perhaps in a previous existence he was a golden retriever. None of the metaphors about rhinos-nearly blind, mindlessly charging animals-apply to Jumbe. As with the elephants, he responds to quiet signals and positive reinforcement. Also, the feel of his skin is a bit hard to describe. Maybe a bit like a leather covered rock.

If you have Behind the Scenes time coming, I'm sure anywhere on the zoo would be great, but visiting the elephant barn was certainly the high point of our day. **Jim Hunter**



Here is the synopsis of an article Published in **Coloradoan (alumni newsletter) Winter 2018 from Lovena Porter**

AFTER THE RAIN

In a recent study, CU Boulder scholar and researchers found, that over the past 20 years, snakebite occurrences consistently decreased following drought years but rose after precipitation.

The findings contradicted a popular theory among wildlife health experts: drought leads to bites by forcing snakes into the open. The new information could affect how we prevent and treat dangerous encounters between humans and snakes as climate patterns shift across the western US (such as distribution of antivenin supplies and coordination of poison control centers).

The researchers suspect bites surge during rainy years because snakes prey, such as rodents, flourish in wet conditions.

Their recommendations: if you come upon a snake while hiking **“DON’T PICK A FIGHT WITH IT AND IT WON’T PICK A FIGHT WITH YOU”**

IE WALKABOUTS

The IE docents took another Walkabout! Having previously visited the ARV Basement under the giraffe barn and then the Commissary, we next took a trip to the Lion Kitchen... and boy did we hear them roar!

There's nothing like hearing the roar of a lion inside a building. It travels through your gut, powerfully. Keeper Rachel, who has been with the Zoo for over 12 years, let us meet Abuto through the side door (his head is scary big with just mesh between you and him!).

Rachel gave us great information on the lion's diets (meat, meat, meat). They don't have set amounts of food, but the weight of food they eat each day is recorded. Boma and Aslan are eating about 8# of food a day, because they are growing boys, while the ladies are eating 2-3# and Abuto just a little more- he's got his winter pounds on right now and weighs over 500#! I think I ate too much over the holidays, too. Rachel also showed us the enrichment schedule and how they vary enrichments so that the pride doesn't get bored.

We got a peek at the Materinty Yard, not used right now for that purpose, but it does allow the pride to have that much more space. There's a window over the sink that looks out into the yard where lion nose prints were spotted; a cat is a cat is a cat!

Rachel also showed us how our zoo goes above and beyond AZA standards for security and safety with the double lock-out system where each keeper has a unique lock and set of keys so that it is not possible to open any gates or doors unless two people are present. And keys are *never* shared!

She also told us that the young lion boys, Boma and Aslan, spoon each other every night, but sometimes mischievously drag a barrel into a shift door between them, get it stuck there and then look sad in the morning because they didn't get their snuggle time! Abuto, being a good dad, often drags every toy back to where it belongs – according to him! And so he is a little bit as perfectionist as I am.

All in all, the Walkabouts have been a fantastic way to add stories to our arsenal of house talks.

Cris Stoddard

NOTES FROM A ZOOM DOCENT



Yes, another snake picture...but this one has a story.

This is Houdini, the Desert King snake in the Loft at our Zoo. Her job as an animal ambassador is to teach guests about her species and sometimes touch their hearts in a special way. The Zoo was busy tonight and she interacted with close to 100 people. She had her picture taken at least half that amount. Tonight, December 19th, was one of those nights where she did her job wonderfully...lots of WOW moments. I let guests "hold" her. I had control and never let go, but they got to feel her weight and her muscles move. And through it all, she was her beautiful self.

One young man (teenage) and his mom waited patiently to the side until the crowd thinned. The family had already been through the line to touch her. They asked if he could "hold" Houdini as well. As he held his hands together and I placed my hand and her on top of them, he just beamed as his mom took the photo. I could tell he was excited and had extra energy, but nothing else. They turned around and started to leave, but she held back. She stepped back to me and thanked me over and over for that moment. She told me how special this was because he was autistic and this was huge for him. As she walked away, she looked back and said "This is the best Christmas ever".

About 10 minutes later, he brought his brother back to "hold" Houdini too. The brother was a little less thrilled with snakes and it showed. So as their mom took the brother's picture, her first son just laughed at his brother. All the brother could do was stare at Houdini in his hands, as if she was going to jump up or move suddenly. I tried to coax him to "look at mom" and he responded that he had to watch the snake. The open-mouthed look of fear (maybe more nervousness) was evident (and I'm sure is an awesome picture). After his picture, the entire family was laughing as they left the Loft.

I felt wonderful being part of this family's best Christmas ever. And Houdini...she gave them a monumental moment they will never forget. And some say she's just a snake. *Jennifer Farnsworth*

EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND A UNIFORM REMINDER

The 2019 Uniform Order Form has been sent out through email. If you need new uniform pieces and know what you want and know the size, you can fill out the order form, check your math carefully, write a check for the total to CMZ and mail both the check and the form to me. My address is at the bottom of the form.

I will be taking orders in person at the joint IE/TE meeting on Feb. 9. I will try to have some samples, so if you are not sure about the size, you can wait until the 9th. Please bring your order form (I will try to have extras on hand, but bringing the one from the email would be best) and your check book. I cannot accept orders unless payment is attached.

Finally - ALL orders MUST be to me **no later than Feb. 14**. I need time to get everything to Tayco so that the uniforms are ready for the trainees when they start their certification process.

Questions? Call or e-mail me. *Cate Kelly*

Also a reminder from **Marie** if you would like an updated photo to appear in next year's directory, and perhaps earn some CEC credit at the same

time, come to Zoo School on February 2. Learn about primates, Greater and Lesser Apes. Learn about Water's Edge Africa. Cate Kelly will take your new picture during breaks on February 2 ONLY. The afternoon will feature Old and New World Monkeys as well as Lemurs, Marmosets and Tamarins. Hope to see you there.

MEET THE BOARD

Jeanie Baratono: My earliest recollection of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo was feeding giraffes through the chain link fence in the late 60's. We came to Colorado Springs in 1968 from Trinidad, Colorado. I taught school for 29 years on Fort Carson and I occasionally brought my class to the Zoo. When I retired in 2007 my plan was to volunteer at The Mining Museum as I taught Colorado History for 28 years. I was working part time at Curves and met Marie Poyzer who promptly recruited me as a docent and I never looked back. I joined the class of 2008 along with Jody Schmitz who became my instant best friend. I have done things I never thought I would do and seen places I never thought I would see. The Zoo is my joy in life. Thank goodness for working a different shift that day at Curves!

Judy DeGroot: I was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, so yes; I am a proud "Cheesehead" and even have a Cheesehead here at home! I come from a family of 5 girls, all of our names starting with "J" – Janet, Judy, Jeanne, JoAnn and Joyce. Two of my nieces have names starting with "J" and now, also one of my great-nephews. It really becomes very confusing when we are all together! I am blessed with a very close family and 3 of us sisters live in the area, so we get together with any excuse to do so.

My professional background is as a Registered Nurse, having received my Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 1974 and Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) along with a certificate in Healthcare Fiscal Management in 1985. My clinical expertise is in oncology, which was a constant thread in all of my various positions in my 40-year nursing career. I really loved my work as a nurse and the diversity of role that I functioned in. Working in the area of oncology

taught me that there are very few things in life to get upset about, especially the little things, as life is precious, especially family and friends. My Dad always taught me to look at the good in everyone and then help them realize their goodness. Working in oncology solidified the wisdom of that guidance from my Dad.

So, what do I do after a 40-year career? I have always loved animals and had a wonder of the amazement the diversity of nature. We lived by the Bay in Green Bay, so I was always finding injured birds and small animals that I would bring to the Wildlife Sanctuary near our home. We had a crow in our neighborhood that would follow us around and became like a pet. And, one of the primary roles of an oncology nurse is education of patients and their family members/caregivers. Probably one of the many reason I so enjoyed my career. So, what better place to actualize two things I enjoyed as I moved into “Preferment” (doing what I prefer to do) – animals and education, by becoming a CMZA Docent.

I have had such a good time doing tours with kiddos as you never know what they are going to say and do. I always walk away from the zoo with a smile on my face, and typically laughing out loud as I remember what goofy things the kids say. Being a Zoopeteer is also a riot! And, I am so impressed with the dedication of each and every one of the Docents and, of course the staff at CMZ. Being a CMZA Docent is a perfect fit for me as I enjoy “preferment.” And, thanks to everyone for making me feel so welcomed and valued.

Andrew Witherow: I have lived in Colorado Springs since my family moved here in 1982, as my father took a job with the local paper, The Gazette Telegraph at the time. We certainly came to the Zoo quite a bit when I was a child, but my passion for it really came later in life. I was taught as a little person to always look for a way to donate time and help others. I have always loved

being outside, and loved animals so the Zoo was a perfect fit for accomplishing this. As I spent time in zoos from Denver to Providence RI to CMZ I began to be so fascinated with animal behavior, ecology and conservation. When one spends enough time at zoos it becomes apparent how so many of these animal species need advocates to continue their existence.

Through education I think we help at the very root of the problem, there is nothing more rewarding than opening someone’s eyes, or dispelling a common belief that is not true and seeing people learn and think about zoos in a different way. It is a place of science, education and conservation, and you won't find a better group of passionate caring people anywhere!



Elsa and Lomela during the Lion Kitchen tour. How that Elsa has grown up! Photo by Deb Compton



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CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine
February, 2019

Lovice Riffe, Editor
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Society

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