



President's Message – Sue Sallee

Happy New Year to All Fellow Docents!

I hope that you were able to enjoy the holiday season, including the beauty of the CMZ Electric Safari. On Christmas Eve, I received an e-mail from Bob Chastain letting us know that Docents were missed and important members of the Zoo family. What a delight to announce that Docents could enter Zoo grounds as guests without needing an e-ticket. What a gift to be able to come to the Zoo whenever we want as a Zoo family member. I hope the vaccine will enable all Docents, especially those who have been away for many months for whatever reason, to come again and safely experience the beauty of the CMZ, the animals and all the Zoo has to offer.



How could we have imagined or predicted how 2020 would unfold? As Docents we have had to be flexible, patient, and understanding, coping with last minute updates and changes to continue our important work and relationship with the Zoo. The pandemic has caused us to have to shelter in place, not feel comfortable coming to the Zoo, be even more welcoming as we interacted with guests while wearing a mask, social distancing, and completing a health check to ensure safety among ourselves, the guests, and animals. Yes, it has been an “abnormal” year, but surprising enough and despite it all, the Auxiliary has been able to endure and survive!

Twenty-three ZOOM Docents, with social distancing in place, worked a total of 289 hours in November while showcasing their animals. Bean, our two-toed sloth continues to provide a pleasing guest experience. Newest residents at the Loft are the African Pygmy Hedgehogs and the Banded Armadillo and are sure to be a hit for the guests. Year-to-date ZOOM hours are a whooping 1,972.50 hours! What a Zoo-rific effort from ZOOM Docents and Jeanie Baratonio, Chair!

“Birds of a feather flock together” is true in the Big Backyard (BBY) as the “mentors” have welcomed the baby chicklets in the coop. There is some confusion however, with the concept of “parade.” Chicklets have been scrambling about and clucking, “What is a parade?” “Where is the parade?” and “Can I be in the parade?” It appears it will take a while for them to “cluck” right in! Twenty-five Docents logged 125.75 hours for November and year-to-date 952 hours! Thank you BBY Docents and Cris Stoddard, Chair for “scratching out a living” in the BBY! Next challenge is to identify and learn the “dessert” names of the new chicklets.

Thank you to Marianne Brooks, Cart Master for providing Docents with sign up opportunities to work carts. Year-to-date, a total of 766.70 hours have been logged by 56 Docents. Hours worked are as follows: Elephant cart 325.35 hours, Lion cart 118 hours, Otter cart 148.90 hours and Primate World 129.95 hours. Having two Docents at the carts and

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Linnea McDonald and Joelle Shreves, Editors

DATES TO KNOW

Both at 9:30 a.m.

Jan 6.....Board Meeting Zoom

Jan 27.....**SAVE THE DATE!**

Details are currently being worked out for another Zoom virtual presentation from one of our fabulous CMZ employees.

Watch your e-mails for more information and be sure to respond to Sue Sallee if you would like to join this virtual meeting. This is sure to be a great way to “ring in 2021.”

Barbara Kalbli, President-elect

Stay tuned to your e-mails for further information about changes allowing docents to work, and for meetings, tours and safaris being scheduled.

Continuing Education Credits

CECs will be virtual or on paper

See the article on page 2 and check your emails and Zooline for more information and updates

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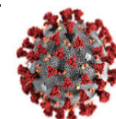
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Important COVID-19 Note

The DRC is closed to all docents for the time being.

No one should be going in there until Stacey has given the OK and docents are again allowed to work at the Zoo. You all will be notified when the time comes.

Greta Johnson DRC/Library Chair



President's Message – *continued*

being able to sign up for two carts in one day helped Docents attain more hours. Thank you to all the Docents who worked carts in November! What a Zoo-tastic effort!

I am so proud of the Docents who are serving on the 2020 Board, where we needed each other to stay unified and working together as a team. Without our dedicated Auxiliary Board and Supplemental Chairs, our organization could not have continued to move forward. We had to learn how to work and communicate more effectively at our monthly virtual Zoom meetings and planning for better days ahead.

Yes, 2020 was unprecedented as we navigated through uncharted waters. And despite it all, we pressed on. We held an “electronic/email” election to bring on new Board members. Trainees were brought up to speed, so they could certify on carts and receive their Docent nametags. Forty-five Docents were presented their 2019-2020 year awards in a small but significant recognition ceremony. Docents were able to come onto Zoo grounds by completing a health check and wearing a mask. The Loft, BBY and carts were made available for Docents to acquire hours. The popcorn and cannoli committees were able to provide enrichment items for the animals. Dr. Liza presented a Zoom program to keep Docents connected in the area of conservation. We were invited to a Docent Only Night Out at the Zoo with some Docents experiencing Water’s Edge Africa for the first time. The monthly Zooline and additional emails were sent out to keep us up-to-date and informed. Yes, 2020 was challenging but highly productive due to our efforts.

We have always been a dedicated and passionate group of Docents, contributing to the Zoo and the Auxiliary. We are so grateful for the contributions by Docents who are no longer with us. Melanie Frost had a deep connection and love of the Loft and performed husbandry duties in her most quiet manner. Glenn Carson was a mentor to many, held numerous Board positions, fixed animal skulls, managed carts, gave tours to all age groups and just loved being a Docent. Diana Gantz with her team, lavishly decorated LML for our 50th Anniversary celebration. She hand-etched animals onto our champagne flutes, treasured mementos of the occasion. Diana and Merrill, as Social Committee chairs, organized the Grab ‘n Go breakfast for the Zoo staff in November. Diana was so excited and delighted to finally be able to co-host a social event. She loved volunteering at many organizations, but especially the Auxiliary.

Yes, 2021 will look and feel different, but I know we are up to the challenge! I look forward in great anticipation to seeing smiles, gathering as a community of Docents at meetings, hosting potlucks, sending out announcements

that Docents are needed for safaris and tours, being able to do ZOOM programs, performing puppet shows at schools, and providing scholarships to Zoo staff. Being able to shake hands, give high “5s”, hugs and not having to contend with physical and social distancing. Gathering with fellow Docents and “catching up” on the latest news is long overdue.

Keep being kind to yourselves and others, try not to take things for granted and remember “Together We Are Better,” As Eeyore reminds us, “It never hurts to keep looking for sunshine.”

Best Wishes for a Joyful New Year Ahead!

Sue Sallee 😊

CEC Report

A big thank-you to everyone who completed the CEC on Reproduction, “Doing It In The Wild”. The time has expired for sending it in for credit. We had a little over 50% participation and also had a good number of surveys turned in.

There will be another CEC this Spring along with the Spring Fling. At this time, I’m not sure what the topics will be or what format will be used, but I’m confident that I can get a team together that will produce another quality CEC.

Just a reminder, each docent needs two CEC credits for the year. Let’s keep ourselves engaged and up to date on animals at our CMZoo and conservation issues that impact our education messages. May the New Year be productive and bright for all of us.

Charlotte Greene, CEC Chairperson



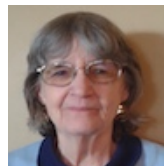
In Memory



Glenn Carson
CMZA 1985-2020



Diana Gantz
CMZA 1997-2020



Melanie Frost
CMZA 2018-2020

Animal Update (November 2020)



Rosemary (left)



Swedish Chef (right)

Pictures courtesy of Sue Sallee

- Penguins Safara, Rufaro, and Pearl all laid eggs in November. None of them are SSP recommended breeders, so their eggs were pulled and disposed of.
- Ring-Tailed Lemur Hercules was seen breeding with both female lemurs, Rogue and Allagash, at the beginning of November.
- Hippos Biko and Zambezi continue to enjoy each other's company and now are sharing space overnight.
- Yokohama Chicken, Swedish Chef, was in declining health, hospitalized and the decision was to humanely euthanize her.
- Black-footed Ferret Honey Ryder passed away at the age of 6 years old.
- Pink-backed Pelican Penelope passed away. Necropsy indicated a bleed-out in her abdomen.
- Goeldi's monkeys Alice and Maxwell were transferred to Dakota Zoo.
- Black mangabey, Tana, and Lar Gibbon, Tembeling, were transferred to Moorpark Teaching Academy. Wolf's Guenon, Gouda, transferred to Niabi Zoo.
- Colobus monkeys had 3 large trees installed in their exhibit and the old trees removed. The monkeys began using their new trees and pathways immediately. This is a huge, new, and exciting enrichment opportunity for them.
- African Pygmy Hedgehogs cleared quarantine and have moved to the Loft.
- Banded Armadillo cleared quarantine and was moved to the Loft.
- Bornean Orangutan Ember lost her first tooth. "It is unknown if the Tooth Fairy came to visit". 😊
- Penguin Rufaro, despite testing twice at a previous facility as a male, surprised WEA keepers after a radiograph determined that he/she had an egg inside. Staff is still investigating what could have indicated 2 "wrong" DNA tests!
- Mountain Lions Sitka, Adira, and Koda have all been introduced to each other and are spending most of the day together and staying overnight together.

Sue Sallee from Dec. 8th CMZ Mission & Programs Report

Send in your Volunteer Hours!

Please make sure you send your **volunteer hours** to Service Registrar Anne Wardrop each month. Volunteer hours help support the continuation of the docent program, help the Zoo obtain grants and funding, and are shared with the Zoo's Executive Board and membership committee.



January Joke

What's the difference between a Hippo and a Zippo?
(look for the answer later in this issue)

Articles and Information of Interest

- For information about how to recycle your Christmas tree in El Paso County, visit <http://bit.ly/380BIA4>. There are 6 sites in the county accepting trees January 2-10. The minimum donation of \$5 per tree goes to support Colorado Springs Youth Sports non-profit.
- Get an early start planning your trip to the AZADV 2021 Conference in Louisville, KY the week before Labor Day, or the 2022 Conference in Toledo, OH. <https://www.azadvconferences.org/2020-louisville-ky>
- Birding resources and information to check out:
 - Colorado Field Ornithologists site "Discover Wild Colorado," which includes birding checklists by county, bird habitats in Colorado and favorite birding sites: <https://cobirds.org/CountyBirding/>
 - Audubon Magazine article: "Birding with Benefits: How Nature Improves Our Mental Mindsets" <http://bit.ly/3pDyEjA>
 - The Cornell Lab of Ornithology article: "Building Skills: The 4 Keys to Bird Identification" <http://bit.ly/3aYVgH4>



The Gazette 6-3-2020

February Zooline Deadline



The deadline for the **February issue is Thursday, January 21**. Please send all submissions – information, articles, pictures, etc. – to cmza.zooline@yahoo.com Thank you!

Linnea McDonald & Joelle Shreves, Editors

Animal Pictures



Bean in the Loft

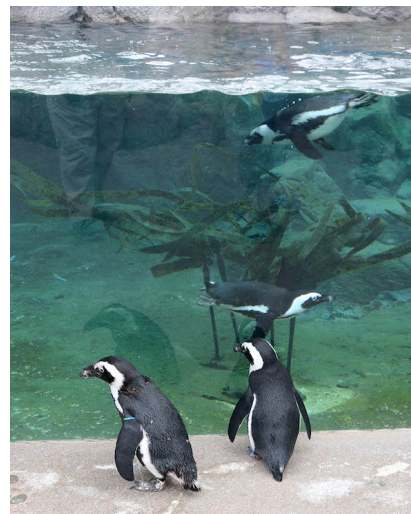


Goma yoga



Cofan and Carlotta

Answer to the January Joke: The Zippo's a little lighter



Just wondering, how did the two of you get in there?



Gidgee and Clifford



Wolf in winter



You don't have to go indoors to see us; we came to you!!

Photo Credits

Electric Safari picture from Sue Sallee.

In Memory pictures from the Directory.

Gidgee and Clifford, Bean, penguin parade, and Cofan and Carlotta from Susan Hoxie.

Goma yoga, penguin puzzler and wolf from Linnea McDonald.