

Zoo



Line

Volume 47 Special Summer Edition

JULY, 2017

President's Message

By: Jeanie Baratono, President

July, 2017

Hello docents! What a great year it has been at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo! 6th best zoo in the nation voted on by the guests! Our attendance continues to climb, the staff is becoming well known in the giraffe world for ground breaking work and are continually honing their skills in animal behavior and always looking for ways to improve their skills and knowledge to give our animals the very best life they can. Upper management has continued to expand the vision of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and working to improve guest experiences as well as created an environment of education and knowledge as it relates to conservation and saving species.

The Auxiliary lost some of our favorite people this year and their legacy will live on in the lives they touched. I can picture them walking the hills of our beautiful zoo.

We had great success this year thanks to so many of you. Thank you to Sandy and her great leadership on the board and all the hard work put in by all of them. We've had great Zoopeteer and ZOOM seasons and a great tour season (budgeted for \$26,000 and bringing in a whopping \$52,978)! Thank you to all who participated in those activities. All of you who worked the countless hours for special events, gave cart talks, house talks, and in general interacted with guests, thank you for helping to create that special guest experience. We're so excited to have a new group of docents ready and excited to join us!

I am looking forward to another successful and exciting year at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Summer is a busy time at the zoo and I am sure guests will be flocking to see our new giraffe calf. Be sure to work the Making Waves station. It is a huge hit! What a great way to get in some IE hours and answer those many questions about the hippos and penguins. I hope I will see you this summer at carts, in the Loft, in BBY, at special events, giving a tour, or walking the hills of our zoo working as a docent or as a guest! *Jeanie*

CMZ AUXILIARY CALENDAR 2017-2018

Meeting times are at 9:30 am. Education Committee meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Safari Lodge. **** Mandatory meetings ***

Date or Location Change

August 2	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
August 12	IE Meeting	Safari Lodge
September 6	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
September 9	IE meeting	Safari Lodge
September 13	**TE meeting	Safari Lodge**
October 4	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
October 11*	TE Meeting	Safari CABIN*
October 14	IE Meeting	Safari Lodge

PROGRAMS

IE Meetings: August 12 – TBA – check your CMZAUX emails

CMZA BOARDS 2017-2018

Executive Board

President	Jeanie Baratono
Pres-Elect	Glenna French
1 st VP	Sue Switzer
1 st VP-Elect	Jean McKanna
2 nd VP	Marie Poyzer
2 nd VP-Elect	Suzanne Twohig
Corresponding Secy.	Kathy Kidd
Recording Secy.	Judy DeGroot
Treasurer	Nancy Hochman
IE Chair	Nicole Livesay-Townsend
Past President	Sandy Flynn

Supplemental Activities

Animal Enrichment	Lisa Forbes
Bylaws	Ron Capen
Carts	Glenn Carson
CEC	Susie Potterat
CRC/Library	Diana Gantz
Field Trips	Joan Adkins
Membership/PR	Jody Schmitz & Nona Hentschel
Safari Coordinator	Marsha Fogarty
Service Registrar	Deborah Compton
Social	Barbara Kalbli & Terry Pratt
Special Events	Ann Marie Jackson
Tour Coordinator	Mindy Mahler
ZOOM	Lynne Stefanik
Zoopeteers	Sue Sallee
Zooline	Lovice Riffe

Non- Board Position

Email Coordinator	Dennis Akkola
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cmzoux@cmzoo.org

MEET YOUR BOARD

This month I am featuring **Glenna French**. Glenna is an Indiana farm girl and had experiences in HR, accounting and quality control through the years in Indianapolis, Kansas City, and Mesa, AZ. After retiring Glenna and her husband settled in Colorado Springs. She has two daughters, seven grandchildren, and a great grandchild on the way in July!

Glenna learned about the docent program from a small article in the Gazette. Don Haller interviewed her in 2009. It was a class of 23 and only she and Marsha Fogarty are still docents from that class!

Glenna enjoys all areas & animals at the zoo but Primate World holds a special place because of Hadiyah and Ember. Lions are another favorite area watching Abuto and the 'cubs' interact. Being a docent affords her the opportunity to interact with young children and helps them learn more about CMZ, the keepers, our animals and why it is becoming even more important to have zoos. Being a docent gives her another family, comprised of auxiliary members, zoo staff, keepers, SSA, and of course, all zoo animals, to enjoy, to learn and to be proud of her involvement.

Glenna loves this zoo and cannot say enough about the staff and all they do to provide a safe and happy home for all the animals who call this zoo their home. *Jeanie Baratono*

Zoo Staff Spotlight

This month we are heading to elephants and **Ilana Cobban**. Ilana had a love of animals from a young age. She credits her family and their love of animals with her becoming a zookeeper. When she was young she thought she would become a vet. After a weeklong vet camp she realized that was not the right path. After graduating college Ilana was an environmental consultant but not working with animals. At her sister's suggestion she began looking into internships in zoos. Her path took her to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island and one of the first areas she worked in was with elephants and there was no looking back.

After 2 years in various roles at Roger Williams Ilana began applying at different zoos around the country and had never heard of Colorado Springs or CMZ! Jason Bredahl took a chance with her in a telephone interview and she has been here 14 years!

Ilana spends about 4 hours a day cleaning and the rest of the day training the animals, doing animal demos, enriching the animals, and keeping them busy mentally and physically. Her biggest challenge is keeping the animals challenged and stimulated all day long. These are strong, intelligent, and destructive animals and she is constantly coming up with new ways to stimulate

them. Sometimes they will work for days building a new enrichment device only to have it destroyed in minutes or even worse ignored!

Ilana feels docents do a great job in connecting our guests with our animals which is critical for their survival in the wild. *Jeanie Baratono*

New EdVenture Animals!

There have been some pretty big switch-a-roos between the Loft and Big Backyard lately, including bringing in some brand new animals! Tiger Salamanders, White's Tree Frog, all tarantulas, African Millipedes, and Hissing Cockroaches have all moved up to the tree house in BBY. The tree house also has Emperor Newts, Leopard Frogs, Wyoming Toads, and a Giant African Bullfrog (all previously living in Aquatics). We expect to have a honey bee colony coming soon too.

We also brought in some new animals to fill the empty spaces in the Loft: a Gray Banded Kingsnake "Howdy"; a Prehensile Tailed Skink "Wasabi"; Fire Skink "Togo"; Andean Milksnake, "Piko".

These four animals will be found in the Loft and will be training to be future outreach animals. Some may need a little more training than others and will be handled only by keeper staff until they feel they are ready. The two snakes and the PT skink are still "babies", and the fire skink is a little jittery, but we are confident these reptiles are going to be wonderful ambassadors. Feel free to check them out in the Loft! *Stacey Graham*



Scalopeties – Tiger Salamander



**Gray Banded Milksnake
"Howdy" as in "I'm from Texas" [and also southern New Mexico and Northern Mexico]**



Prehensile Tailed Skink – "Wasabi"



View from inside the tree house



Fire Skink "Togo"



Andean Milksnake – “Piko”

Enrichment

I accepted the Animal Enrichment Chair position on June 1, taking over from Suzanne Twohig, who did an excellent job of organizing the department and the process of making cannoli. A committee has been formed to discuss possible enrichment enhancements for the animals, per their keepers, within budgetary constraints and typical annual donations.

I began the process of learning this position by looking back to examine what has been done previously. In talking with Sue Switzer, I uncovered a fantastic presentation she wrote for our past president to bring before the Zoo Board.

I am excited to share this excerpt with you!

Popcorn History

The Auxiliary began the popcorn program in 2006 when Nona Hentschel and Susie Potterat were in charge of animal enrichment. They were approached by the elephant keepers and using air poppers, they began popping for Lucky and Kimba. In September 2006, the Auxiliary purchased a commercial popper for \$823.87.

Records are sparse or nonexistent until December 2008. At that time the poppers were meeting on

the 3rd Wednesday of every month, which is continued to this day. In December 2008, the poppers popped 223 gallons. Fast forward to February 2017, we popped 283 gallons.

The Penguin pool holds 12,000 gallons and the Hippo pool holds 40,000 gallons. From 2006 – 2017, we have popped an average of 3,500 gallons per year for a total of 35,000 gallons. That is enough to fill the Penguin pool almost 3 times and by the end of 2017, we will have filled the Hippo pool with popcorn!!

Allow me to introduce the 3rd Wednesday Predawn Poppers: The true unsung heroes of Animal Enrichment.

Eileen Derry, Susie Potterat, Mack Silvertooth, Glenna French, Marie Poyzer, Sue Switzer, Nancy Hochman

Give them a pat on the back when you see them around the zoo! Collectively, they have over 300 hours! We appreciate all you do for us and the animals!!! *Lisa Forbes*

Baka and Sumago eating, and covered with, popcorn.



Photos by Deborah Compton



Baku pulling on firehose to get popcorn

COUNTING YOUR HOURS

Every so often we need to review how hours are earned and counted by the Auxiliary. Here we go:

IE (Interpretive Educator) emphasis – You must complete a minimum of 15 hours in this area, the other 15 hours may be earned in any combination of activities that you are **qualified to do** (tours/safaris, ZOOM, Zoopeteers). If you are an IE you get your hours from cart talks, house talks, and special events. You sign in for those hours in the area **where** you are working. If you are working a special event the special event chair will tell you where to sign in to get your hours. You also may get IE hours if you give a tour in your uniform to guests that are not related to you e.g. docents from another zoo, colleagues, etc.

TE (Tour Educator) emphasis – You must complete a minimum of 15 hours in this area, the other 15 hours may be earned in any combination of activities that you are **qualified to do** (ZOOM or Zoopeteers, special events, cart talks **or house talks**). If your emphasis is in TE you must get those first 15 hours in tours **and/or safaris** before your other hours will count.

You can earn your IE or TE hours at the same time you are accumulating ZOOM and Zoopeteer hours, but the ZOOM and Zoopeteer hours don't kick in until you have the necessary 15. If you want to change your IE or TE status just let me or Kathy Kidd know.

Part of the confusion that I have heard is that if you are an IE/TE that you must get 15 hours of interpretive and 15 hours of tours or safaris, **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** If you are an IE/TE you do not have to get any tour hours but you must get at least 15 interpretive hours for any additional activities to count and that includes ZOOM and Zoopeteers. There does not seem to be confusion with those that are TE/IE or IE. ! Still have questions please call me (not on my cell) and we'll talk!

Jeanie Baratono

Editor's Note: All docents should have copies of, and be familiar with, the Bylaws and Rules and Policies. If you do not have a copy, you can photocopy the one that is on the cabinet by the Loo in the Loft. The Service Program is set forth in sections 27 through 32 of the Rules and Policies. Section 31 addresses Service hours.

OF MICE AND CARTS

We regret to inform you that the bear station is currently on hiatus. The grizzly bear cart has been emptied and is no longer to be used by docents for a period of time. Due to an infestation of mice who had proceeded to chew on the pelt, make nests, and do their business on the biofacts, it has become necessary to remove all the biofacts for cleaning and disinfecting. Stay tuned, I will inform you upon the completion of all necessary recovery efforts being accomplished.

We sincerely hope that you will all be patient with the process and the loss of the use of the bear cart. Thankfully, we have the other cart stations to use!

I am still awaiting a call back from a taxidermist to schedule the repair, disinfection, and cleaning of the bear pelt! *Glenn Carson*

DAMAGED BEAR PELT



The blue bits allow you to see the holes better.



Photos by Glenn Carson

COFFEE WITH BHUTAN

By Dennis Akkola

See the photo of two buddies enjoying the comics. Recently I had the special opportunity to have coffee with Bhutan – let me tell you about him. Bhutan, CMZ’s Snow Leopard, was 9 years old on July 18 and he’s been at CMZ since he was about two years old. He was named after a country in South Asia. He was born at the Albuquerque Bio Park and his parents still reside there. He’s healthy – weighing in at 92 lbs. He enjoys bouncing off a large rubber ball hanging from one of his tall trees. I can promise you that he moves fast! His favorite food is raw ground meat on a stick – YUM! Our conversation was the usual hum-drum talk between guys. I do remember that he suggested that I bring some donuts next time.

Take a few minutes to go by and say ‘Hi’ to Bhutan. He is very handsome and a little shy. He’ll be watching you long before you spot him.



(Editor’s note: How many of you remember being stalked by Bhutan when he was still a kid? Remember how dirty the inside of the glass got?)

ELEPHANT WALK

In June many of us were given the opportunity to join our elephants also known as “the girls” in their vacation yard. Thanks to Jason Bredahl and all the elephant keepers who helped with this. We all have our memories and Cris Stoddard has sent along some beautiful photos. Here are just a few of Kimba and Lucky enjoying the greatness that is Colorado.

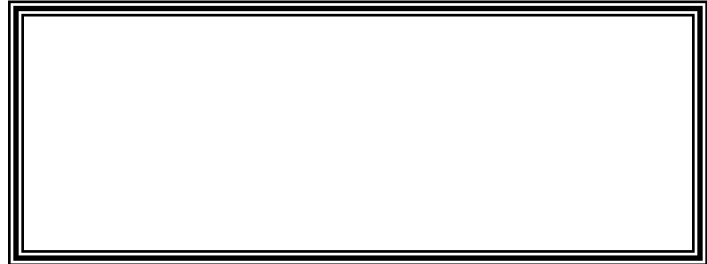






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Lovice D. Riffe, Editor
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Society
4250 Cheyenne Mt. Zoo Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906



Lucky and Kimba when new at the zoo- at 24 months & 42 months old. They replaced 28 year old Penny who moved to the Omaha Zoo. They were donated to the zoo by William Gruenerwald, a local businessman. Names were to be selected in a contest for school children. February 1981

