

Zoo Line



President's Message

By: Sandy Flynn, President

Love our Keepers

CMZ Keepers are the best in the world. I can't get enough of their stories and always learn so much from them.

This time I'm featuring Alisha Harvey, Lead Animal Keeper in Scutes and Australia. Alisha has not been here that long. She came to us in June of 2016 as the Lead Animal Keeper in Scutes and Australia. Alisha has a bachelor's in biology and interned with the Oregon Zoo, Wildlife Oregon and Wildcat Ridge prior to joining CMZ. Wildlife Oregon was a wildlife preserve and she really liked caring for the animals but it was not open to the public. She wanted to be in a setting which allowed her to create defining moments for children and adults. And in her role in Scutes and Australia there is a lot of opportunity for interacting with the public.

Alisha loves handling the reptiles in Scutes and is so happy to have docents who want to help her with that aspect of her job. Because of docent's help, she can ensure that more guests are able to see and touch the animals. It is so gratifying to her when a child falls in love with a reptile.

What really attracted her to CMZ was that we are different from traditional zoos where all keepers are mostly behind the scenes. "We are a hands-on zoo and in the public eye".

Sometimes guests will ask if the snakes are ok being confined. Her answer is that we meet the husbandry needs of all our animals first. One example is that there are heat mats in all tanks for the animals to burrow into and stay warm.

I asked her what animals work well for hands-on. She quickly replied with the following:

- Larger lizards
- Most snakes
- Rosie Boa
- Milk snakes

And then she told the story of Little Foot. Little Foot is an Argentine Red Tegu and they call him the birthday lizard. He is intelligent and inquisitive, loves to explore and loves people. Her favorite story of Little Foot is at a birthday party. The children were sitting on the floor in a circle. Little Foot spent his time crawling into all of their laps and playing with their shoes. How can you not fall in love with lizards once you have experienced an interaction with Little Foot?

I asked Alisha if there was anything else she would like to let us know about Scutes and Australia. And she said "I want all docents to know how much Keepers appreciate them. Because of docents, we can provide a lot more guest contact with animals." Sandy Flynn

2016-2017 CMZ Auxiliary Calendar

Meeting Times are 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 Change

May 2017

- 3 Board Meeting Safari Lodge
- 8 Field Trip meet 10:30 Paint Mines
- 10\*\* TE Meeting – Election and Evaluations Safari Lodge
- 13\*\* IE Meeting – Election & Evaluations Safari Lodge
- 18\* Field Trip – Paint Mines
- 24 CEC – Making Waves Exhibit Safari Lodge
- 27 CEC – Making Waves Exhibit Safari Lodge

June 2017

- 7 Board Meeting Safari Lodge
- 10\*\* Joint IE/TE Meeting – Awards LAML (Lodge at Moose Lake)

## **EDVENTURE UPDATE BIG BACK YARD ACQUISITION**

As most of you should already know, the Big Back Yard Area of the zoo will be transferred from Animal Department to EdVenture. This change officially takes place on May 1, but we have started making some changes already. Here are some things you might notice or have questions about:

- Loft Tortoises now have a grassy (when it grows) exercise space behind the koi pond
- There is a fenced in yard next to the tree house for an outdoor rabbit yard
- Amphibians and Invertebrates will move from the Loft and into the BBY tree house
- We will be getting LOTS (up to 20) new chickens to replace the retired ones, and continue chicken feeding
- Laredo (the turkey) will live out his days there (he is 17 years old!!)

The mission of Big Back Yard is to connect people with species they might find here in Colorado, OR domestic species they are legally allowed to care for. Our goal is to teach people how to safely and appropriately live with native wildlife, and we will eventually lead classes about pollinators, avoiding pests (skunk and raccoon deterrents), and even caring for bees! Those things will be down the road, but will eventually help us further that mission.

You might see some new faces in the area too. Kevin Pellow will be there every Tuesday-Friday and will be the main point of contact in this area (he is also starting lots of projects now- so you might see him around already!), though Jenny Diaz will be the Lead Keeper of this area as well as the Loft. Lauren and Anna will eventually be trained in here too, but we want to take this summer to really figure it all out first. And for those of you interested in being in this area- we will have an information night in April to get you all the information you need and answer any questions you might have.

Of course more details to come- but I highly suggest you check out the space now and get as excited as we are about the potential of this area.

We have been tasked with making it magical.....so we are polishing our magic wands.  
*Stacey Graham*

## **SUMMER UNIFORM REMINDER**

The appropriate attire for docents this summer is as follows:

1. The standard green docent polo shirt (required for all summer tours).
2. The blue t-shirt with "DOCENT" on the back; OR,
3. The summer t-shirt for this year. (This can be purchased through Nancy Hochman for \$3.00)

The summer season begins on June 1st and ends September 1st.

Please remember to always wear your name tag when working on zoo grounds. Thank you,  
*Sandy Flynn*

## **MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT**

Restricted Account: In March we allocated \$370.00 from King Soopers profits to Allison Rosing in the Animal Department to attend a Steve Martin workshop. Profit from King Soopers reloads was \$298.55. No profit from Safeway. Ending balance in the Restricted Account \$23,506.02.

Budget Account: \$87.31 was spent from DRC/Office Equipment for DRC cleaning and the copier. \$191.84 was spent from Enrichment for popcorn and \$495.29 was spent on biofacts (puma skull, bobcat skull, lynx skull, pond turtle shell, skunk skull and skunk claw). Operating Budget ending balance was \$1360.27

If you wish greater detail of the March report, email me and I will send it to you.

*Nancy Hochman*

## **CORRECTION ABOUT TB TESTS**

Incorrect information was given to docents at the April TE meeting regarding TB tests, and that masks and gloves would be adequate for enrichment making. This was an error. As stated in Rules and Policies:

### **Appropriate Behavior [37] 4.**

TB Screening: All members participating in Zoo activities for which current Zoo policy requires an annual TB screening test will be required to offer proof of annual TB screening, including the required follow-up reading in accordance with current Zoo procedures. This policy includes at least, but is not limited to, all docents participating in ZOOM activities and any docents preparing diets that are intended to be fed to Primates or Elephants. The TB test shall also be required for docents preparing enrichment. *Jeanie Baratono*

## **R-2017 CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO EDUCATION BULLETIN**

Docent Tours at the Zoo: Docent Responsibilities:

### **BEFORE THE TOUR DATE:**

1. Watch for Tour Alerts from the Docent Tour Coordinator to sign up for tours. Be sure that you are certified to lead the tour.
2. Tour Chair will call tour docents to be reminded of the tour date and time.
3. Always be present at times you are scheduled for a tour or make sure a substitute is present in your place.
4. Find your own substitute—it is your responsibility. The Tour Chair or the Docent Tour Coordinator do not find substitutes. Notify the Tour Chair who is taking your place.
5. Wear the authorized Auxiliary attire/uniform for each tour you give. Not sure? Check the Auxiliary directory.

### **DAY OF THE TOUR:**

6. Arrive no later than **15 MINUTES BEFORE** your scheduled tour time.
7. Come with a smile on your lips and a song in your heart and **be ready to be flexible**. Remember this is fun!!!
8. Sign in, inside bell tower. **Tour credit will be given only if you sign in**. Get numbered sign. The Tour Chair will gather all the tour docents to confirm or relay more information about the tour. **BE AT DROP OFF POINT ON TIME!!**
9. Wait 30 minutes after the scheduled arrival time of a tour if group has not arrived. Credit will be given if the tour is cancelled the day of the tour. **Tours start and end at the designated times! Late start? Tour ends at designated time!**
10. No food is to be fed to any animal except to giraffes. Lettuce to be provided by the docents.
11. Unless you are otherwise notified, tours will be given regardless of the weather. PLEASE do not call the school, the Zoo or the 2nd Vice-President. The Tour Chair will call each docent in case of cancellation. **Come prepared for weather conditions!**
12. Gather students at appropriate spot. Count the number of students, note the chaperone and any additional adults or children. Report these numbers to the Tour Chair prior to beginning tour. **Don't start your tour until released by Tour Chair.** *Sue Sallee*

### **MAY'S ANIMAL ENRICHMENT**

This month's choice for special enrichment is the meerkats. They have a wonderful list of goodies that they love to eat and play with.

Small cartons, paper bags;  
Hard tubing paper or other (plastic, pvc)  
Pine trees, forage, paper egg cartons  
Burlap bags or burlap cloth  
Plastic fruit or veggie containers that have dividers (like a veggie and dip container)

Any items are appreciated and can be dropped off at either the keeper's lounge or at the DRC

Once again the meerkats and I thank you very much. *Suzanne Twohig & the ENRICHMENT TEAM*

## ELECTION NEWS

Docents, our 2016-2017 year is drawing to a close. We have May meetings to finish out the elections for next year. I thought that I would briefly tell you how the elections will go. We have prepared for May by distributing "straw ballots" in March for you to see the slate of Board Officer Positions that we will need to fill. You were able to suggest active Auxiliary members who you believed could be candidates to fill those Board Officers positions.

I collected the "straw" ballots at the April Meetings. We convened the Nominating Committee to collate the results. That has produced the list of Docents who will be on the final ballot. Understand that this election will only produce the slate of Board Officers. The Committee Chairs will be selected by the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Boards of Officers.

We will also have to select the Nominating Committee members and alternates for next year's elections to be held in April and May of 2018. Those members will then repeat the process next year.

I will have the Final Ballots for the slate of Board Executive Committee Officers and for the Nominating Committee members at the May TE and IE meetings. It should only take 10 to 15 minutes for each of the elections to occur.

I hope that this gives you a better handle on what is going to happen for each of the actions that are going to occur. You can ask me questions ahead of the meetings or via email or telephone.

*Ron Gray*  
Docents,

## FIELD TRIPS

I hope you are planning on joining us for the May 8th Field Trip to Paint Mines Interpretive

Park, outside Calhan, 29950 Paint Mines Road, Calhan. It is believed that humans have inhabited the Paint Mines for almost 9,000 years and it is listed as an Archaeological District in the National Register of Historic Places. We plan to meet at 10:30 am in the park's main parking lot. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Oh and bring binoculars as well since we are likely to see wildlife, too.

Are any of you interested in carpooling to the Paint Mine Park? Sally Goldstein is interested in carpooling. Is there any interest in a caravan to the park? We could meet in the Safeway parking lot in Falcon to caravan. Please text or e-mail Julie Hall if you are interested in either option. Thank you. *Julie Hall*

## Paint Mines



## MORE FROM MIDWAY

Jim Hunter was on Midway Island in February 1966. He has submitted the following observations and photos.

These are pictures I took of Laysan Albatross (except the one I am in) on Midway Island in February of 1966. Midway Island is actually an atoll consisting of two tiny islands, Eastern and Sand. There was a major naval battle there in June of 1942, but fortunately for the wildlife, it was fought entirely at sea. Until about 1993, Midway was a Naval Air Station and an electronic listening posts. Today it is a wildlife refuge administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (FWS), and visitors are not allowed except for business reasons. This applies to both permanent and temporary staff. It was a restricted area when I was there, too, but my ship didn't carry enough fuel to cross the Pacific so we pulled into Midway to refuel. While there I walked the entire length of the island. Albatross were everywhere, and they generally ignored the humans, who were firmly admonished against disturbing the birds. For albatross, flying is a serious matter. When they take off, after a running start into the wind, it is for a long, long time. Hence, on the island they walk everywhere, just as we did. I can't say for sure if any of the birds in these pictures is "Wisdom" she was certainly alive in 21966, but on the other hand?

*Jim*

*Hunter*





## ZOOM WENT TO MEEKER LAST WEEK



**Kaa went too, along with human companions Lauren Phillippi, Anna Gilbert and Jim Hunter.**



**The doors are on Ginger's new habitat.**

## DOCENT'S EARLY ZOO MEMORIES

### Earliest Memory of Going to a Zoo

Going to the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester New York when 6 or 7 years old smelling and walking on the hot tar asphalt walkways are the most vivid memories of what to expect when visiting a zoo. Aha ... happy times seeing the elephants and monkeys. *Chuck Zeitvogel*

My earliest recollection of going to the zoo was around 3 or 4 and being afraid of the giraffe's tongue coming through the chain link fence. I can't find any photos of that but came across this one of me at 12 with my cousin Roberta and the famous giraffes. We had moved to Colorado Springs by then. The year was 1968 and the giraffes were not as scary. *Jeanie Baratono*





## CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine

May, 2017

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