



President’s Message – Nancy Hochman

Dear Docent Family,

Who could have imagined a few months ago this is where we would find ourselves — in a surreal world with everything in our normal daily lives suddenly not being so normal? Everything we took for granted can no longer be taken for granted. All of us are struggling to find some structure while accommodating family members with whom we are sharing our living space 24/7. At the same time, we are reaching out trying to stay connected with family and friends who are not with us. Thank goodness for Skype, FaceTime and Zoom. We find ourselves living a slower pace of life with time to read, cook, clean, and do yard work and a million other things we promised ourselves we would do if only we had the time.

So, what happens next? Where do we go from here? Lots of questions and unfortunately no answers. We will have to wait until the Zoo reopens to find out what our involvement will be. When the schools are back in session, we will have to wait and see if Docent safaris/tours are even a part of their agenda. So many unknowns. However, there are some things we do know. Docents are an amazing group of caring, adaptable and remarkable folks. We will fill in where needed and do whatever the Zoo asks of us. I don’t know what guest interaction will look like. Therefore, I don’t know what certification will look like. Trainees, please do not worry about your status and hours. Everything will sort itself out.

We know there will be a transition to the new Board. Glenna will see that elections take place. Sue will see that the Supplemental Activity Chair positions are filled. These changes will take place, but not as they have been done in the past. We will need to be patient while so many issues get resolved. Immediate answers won’t be possible for most questions.

Unfortunately, my article for the Zoo Line is due before the Executive Board meets via Zoom on May 6. I will send out an email via Jeanie to let you know of any decisions made. I want all of you to know what we know which, I must admit, is not much. All meetings for May will not happen and June is a big question.

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns and questions. I wish I had answers to the most obvious question, which is, “When will things return to some sort of normalcy?” I don’t. Things won’t be normal for a long time, if ever. I don’t think this is being pessimistic. I think it is being realistic. We will, however, get through this and we will come back and support the Zoo and each other. When Bob has information that he wants us to know, he will be in touch.

Meanwhile, go to the Zoo’s website for any updates. If you haven’t checked out Abnormally Normal videos, you are missing a great treat.

DATES TO KNOW

Meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

May 6 — Board video conference meeting via Zoom app

Stay tuned to your e-mails for further information about the Zoo re-opening and for meetings, tours and safaris being rescheduled.

CECs and TRAINING

Stay tuned to your e-mails for further information.

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**Hang
In
There**

President's Message – continued

They are a wonderful way to learn more about our animals; a great insight into their daily lives and a glimpse of the amazing training the keepers are doing. You can support the Zoo financially with its online Spring Plant Sale. Again, check out the website. Another way to support the Zoo financially is to renew your Zoo membership early.

Please stay safe, stay healthy and wear your mask when out and about. Continue to practice social distancing and now is the time to get/make/find yourself a unique and stylish face mask.

Take care,
Nancy

Monthly Programs Information

May and future monthly programs are cancelled until further notice.

CEC Report

A big thanks to everyone who has taken the time this year to finish the two CEC requirement. If you still need to complete this, do the Fall Recall and/or Spring Fling and send me the answers. The deadline is May 15!



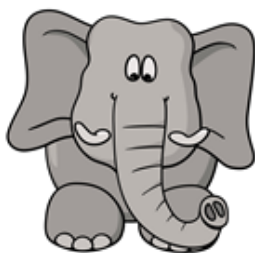
Unfortunately, there will be no classroom CEC for The Animals of Water's Edge: Africa. The team of presenters will put together handouts with some of the facts we have learned. Watch for an email sometime in the middle of May with this valuable information.

Charlotte Greene, CEC Chair

Auxiliary End-of-Year Feedback/Evaluation

The end of the year Auxiliary feedback/ evaluation form will be coming soon via email! Even though our season was unfortunately and abruptly cut short due to the coronavirus, we still want and need your thoughts! Your feedback will help improve our programs, field trips you yearn for, CECs you can hardly wait for and more! We will become stronger as a team of docents for the auxiliary and the zoo by providing feedback! Be looking for the evaluation via email.

Sue Sallee,
President-Elect



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

TB Tests Required for All Docents in 2020

TB testing at the Zoo concluded on March 16, the day before the initial State of Colorado restrictions.

All docents are required to show proof of TB testing this year. If you missed the testing at the Zoo, you must receive one of the following tests **as soon as possible, and give or send proof of the test to Joan Adkins.**

- **TB Skin Test** – at physician's office or El Paso County Health Department
- **Chest X-Ray** (good for 5 years) – requires physician's order
- **Quantiferon Gold Blood Test** (good for 1 year) – for individuals with auto-immune related issues. Requires a physician's order. Can be done at the El Paso County Health Department or Lab Corp.



CMZA 50th • Docent Memories

Nona Hentschel: Working outside the loft as a ZOOM docent, I was showing and educating folks about one of our Bearded Dragons. I was down on one knee showing a little three or four-year-old the Beardie. He asked me what kind of animal it was and when I told him his eyes got huge and he said, "Does he breathe fire?"

Jody Schmitz: One of my funniest moments was when Jeanie and I were working Wallabies and a guest asked us if that was a pig we were holding. Many people had never seen a baby wallaby and it was always fun to show them the little ones and share information with them, but this comment was truly unusual.

Anne Galbraith: In 1971, when enthusiastic newly-minted docent friends urged me to join the recently established Docent Program at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, I could not have realized what a life-enhancing experience it would become. From the very beginning, the education classes were a fascinating exposure to zoology, an area of study I had not experienced in high

school or college and for 26 years, it was a continuous opportunity for me to teach children knowledge I had gained through various special classes and programs offered to the docents and given by visiting naturalists, zoologists, professors and others. Trips to the zoo were a fun and learning experience for most kids, but I always felt that if I had sparked in even one sadly disinterested boy or girl a sudden interest in “something” that an objective of the docent program was uniquely achieved. It was with considerable regret that I had to give up “docenting” in 1997 due to family issues. When my husband and I now visit the zoo and see the strides it has made over the last 50 years, I am overwhelmed by the advances the zoo has made in all areas, through unique and superb achievement. Congratulations to the Zoo and to the docents for their part! With best wishes to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo docents for another successful 50 years.

Information and Articles of Interest

- With cities on lockdown, animals are finding more room to roam: <https://cmn.it/3dcQELs>
 - American robins now migrate 12 days earlier than in 1994: <https://bit.ly/2KXxpJK>
 - Some fun videos from CMZ:
 - [Tortoise Walk About](#)
 - [Ginger Injection Training](#)
 - [Chicken Parade for docents \(funny version\)](#)
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CMZA Zoo Line Information

Please send all submissions – information, articles, pictures. etc. – to cmza.zoline@yahoo.com. The deadline for the June issue is **Monday, May 18**.

Thank you – Linnea McDonald & Joelle Shreves, Editors

Photo and Cartoon Credits

- *Emerald Tree Monitor (page 1)* by Linnea McDonald
- *Elephant cartoon* courtesy of Sue Sallee (page 2)
- *BBY pictures below (a zoo employee)*



Kevin has been building in BBY during this strange time (above and below). Photos sent in by Jeanie Baratono.

