



President’s Message – Marsha Fogarty

The busiest month of the year is beginning for the Auxiliary. Please sign up to do Safaris, Tours and Tour Stations as often as possible. They need all of us! I want to give a special shout-out to Joan Adkins, Judy Sondermann and Kim Katalin for organizing an amazing day at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for the Denver Zoo Docents. Wow! The Denver Docents loved their tours and it was reported to me that the CMZA Docents really turned out to entertain and feed Denver. Kim, as usual, did an amazing job of organizing the potluck and decorating for the event. Joan Adkins, once again, orchestrated the whole event and Judy Sondermann planned the tour part of the day with panache. Thank you to all who made this day possible. From what I understand, our docents had a great time, too. It is fun showing off our zoo!

Our other important piece of business for this month is to come to the TE or IE meeting on May 10 and/or 13. It is your duty to help choose next year’s leadership team and, most importantly, to vote on the proposed Bylaws changes. Are the changes perfect? Probably not. But I think they are a great effort at improving how we do business and reducing the number of meetings people attend. We are in the Auxiliary because we want to work at the zoo, not attend committee meetings. If there is some piece of the plan we decide we don’t like, we can always revisit it. For example, I think most of us believe that calling all of us Docents and removing the IE/TE label is good. We all choose what work we want to do. Having one meeting a month will make it easier to get great speakers and for us to be together as a group. No more We/They. Streamlining the leadership team will make decision-making easier and less contentious. Making decisions with 28 people in the process is very laborious. We hope to have come up with a way people can feel heard and get their job done with less frustration. As far as I have been able to tell, the Supplemental Chairs seem to be for this plan.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the two meetings and I definitely will see a lot of you when we are picking up our tour groups or at stations. Here we go for the start of what will probably be a busy/crazy May. Let’s hope the weather cooperates. I do NOT want to see thunder snow!



DATES TO KNOW

Meetings start at 9:30 am

- May 3Board MeetingSafari Ldg
- May 10 ...Wed. Meeting **.....Safari Ldg
- May 13 ...Saturday Mtg**Safari Ldg
- May 24 ...Education Mtg.....Safari Ldg
- Jun 7Board MeetingSafari Ldg
- Jun 10Joint Docent Meeting**
.....Lodge at Moose Lake
- Jul 8Docent Meeting.....Safari Ldg
- Aug 3Board MeetingSafari Ldg
- Aug 12Docent Meeting.....Safari Ldg

**** Mandatory Meeting: please contact the president or president-elect if you cannot attend. In May, docents attend either the Wednesday or Saturday meeting, not both.**

IN THIS ISSUE

May 10** Meeting Program.....	2
May 13** Meeting Program.....	2
Reminder: Voting in May	2
Reminder: Bylaw Updates in May	2
May Cannolis	3
Scavenge for Safety Sale.....	3
CEC Corner	3
Wanted: Mentors/Presenters	3
ARV Tour Adaptations	4
On Snake Bites Essay.....	4
The Nebraska Flyway.....	5
Articles/Information of Interest.....	7
Photos	7

We believe being a docent should not be “just a Job”, nor is it a right, but instead a responsibility a docent has toward the organization and its mission.

Meeting Program for Wednesday, May 10

It's election day and a mandatory meeting if you want your vote to count! We will have an animal report, a visit from Bob, and an ambassador animal from the Loft. I hope to see you all there!

Jeanie Baratono, President-Elect



Timmy's new license plate by RaNae Duran

Meeting Program for Saturday, May 13

You don't want to miss this month's speaker, Chris Meenach. He's the zoo horticulturalist and in charge of the two grow pods producing lettuce, greens and browse for many of our animals. He spoke at the February TE meeting and his passion for his work is motivational. He'll give us some great information we can pass on to guests about our goal of being able to provide what we are growing for our animals without any supply chain issues. Also, he is looking for volunteers to help inside the pods, especially at harvest times. I know there are many "green thumb" docents and this would be a great opportunity to help feed our animals. After his talk, Chris will be available at the grow pods to give tours and answer any questions. Don't miss this very engaging and informative speaker.



Maple and Wakanda meeting by Jeanie Baratono

We'll have our usual announcements and drawings for an animal encounter for those who worked in Penguins & Pelicans and Chickens. Also, there's some important Bylaw changes we will vote on. See you soon.

Your IE Team, Charlotte, Vickie P., Anne W., Linnea, Ann Marie, Pat U., Pat D., Joan and Doris

Reminder: CMZA 2023-24 Executive Board Slate of Officers

President-Elect..... Marianne Brooks
VP Education-Elect Michael Stein
(formerly 1st VP)
VP Outreach-Elect Mac McPherson
(formerly 2nd VP)
Corresponding Secretary Judy DeGroot
Recording Secretary..... Barbara Kalbli
Treasurer RaNae Duran
On-Grounds Chair Sue Mayher
(formerly IE Chair)



Voting by membership for the positions above along with the 2024 Nominating Committee will take place at the **MANDATORY** May 10 (TE) and May 13 (IE) docent meetings. See the April 2023 Zooline issue for the nominating committee candidates list.

The following Executive Board positions are filled through progression from the 2022-2023 "Elect" positions and do not require a vote from membership:

President..... Jeanie Baratono
Past President Marsha Fogarty
VP Education Cate Kelly
VP Outreach..... Sue Sallee

The incoming and outgoing Executive Boards will meet to choose the Supplemental Activity Chairpersons. ZOOM docents and Zoopeteers chose their group chairs.

Reminder: Proposed Auxiliary Bylaw Amendments

Included in the April 2023 Zooline were proposed changes to our organization's Bylaws. A vote regarding whether these proposed changes should be adopted and replace our current Bylaws is scheduled to take place at our May meetings and will coincide with our election for Board officers for next year.

Lovice Riffe, Bylaws Chair



Mantis the African pygmy hedgehog at The Loft, by S. Hoxie

Enrichment Update: May Cannolis

We will be making cannolis after the IE meeting on Sat., May 13. Let me know if you would like to help. I will be at the TE meeting on Wed., May 10, and of course at the IE meeting on May 13 with a bag to collect paper towel and toilet paper rolls to save you a trip to the DRC. I would really encourage new docents to join us and see what cannoli making is all about. Just let me know if you want to help.



Jean Bennett, Enrichment Chair

Scavenge for Safety Sale to support Keeper & Animal Safety at the Belize Zoo

When: Saturday, June 10, 2023

Starting at 8:45 am, before and after the Docent Joint Meeting

Where: The Lodge at Moose Lake



Accepting docent uniform items this year!

Animal-themed donations from docents, keepers, staff and volunteers are welcome — clothes, books, sculptures, jewelry, knick-knacks, photos, note cards, coasters, and wood carvings. If it's no longer giving you joy, maybe it can give joy to someone else and benefit safety at the Belize Zoo at the same time. We also are accepting docent uniform items you no longer use/need that are clean and in good condition, to be sold to other docents for their use.

Please pre-mark all donations in **WHOLE DOLLAR AMOUNTS**. If it isn't worth a dollar, bundle it with something else! There will be a coat rack for clothing items. Remember to bring cash for purchases to support **SAFETY!**

The sale setup will be on Friday, June 9, at 5 pm in the Lodge at Moose Lake (we will need helpers!). Please bring your treasures at that time. If you are unable to bring them on June 9, you can drop them at the DRC beginning Saturday, May 13. Look for a tub labeled "Scavenge for Safety Sale." Or give us a call and we will arrange to pick them up from you (call Joelle Shreves at 703-994-0783 with questions or donation pickup requests). A Signup Genius email will be sent out soon asking for help with setup, sales and tear down. We welcome your help as well as your donations!

Linnea McDonald and Joelle Shreves

CEC Corner

It is May! As you read this, the CEC year is coming to a close. Give yourselves a pat on the back for completing your CEC requirements for the year and for learning all the things.

The last CEC of the docent year was held on Saturday, April 29, in the Safari Lodge at 9:30 AM. Jenyva Fox, formerly the lead keeper in ARV and now a zoology

instructor at Pikes Peak State College and wildlife technician, gave a presentation on Bird Migrations and Dark Skies, which was well attended. We hope to put into practice what we learned about the *Colorado Lights Out* initiative to help our traveling bird friends as they journey through the night to their breeding grounds. Turn those lights out in May!

In this issue are two articles from CEC learners. Kim Bunch-DeCou shares her thoughts on the adaptations in the ARV tour for the Spring Fling and Meg Fossinger shares an essay on rattlesnake bites (!) for a general CEC.

What a year it has been! Zoogeography, Colorado Life Zones, Life Cycles, Zoo Fun Facts and the Bird Migration CEC gave us a lot to chew on, didn't it? I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to chair CECs this year and thank you for the support you've shown... and the great learnings you've shared. Have a great summer!

Always be learning,

Cris Stoddard, CEC Chair



The new unnamed and unsexed guinea fowl in BBY by S. Hoxie

WANTED – Mentors and Presenters

Even though we are still working on getting the 2023 training class fully certified, it is not too early to start thinking about next year.

A mentor is needed for each trainee. We hope to have a full class of 12 trainees. The mentor is probably a trainee's most important contact with the docent program. The mentor provides an introduction to the zoo (if needed), as well as the introduction to the docent program. The mentor is there to provide support and additional information to his/her trainee during the class. The mentor also supplements the classroom information by teaching the trainee things there is not time to cover in class, like helping them practice cart talks, making sure they know the standard ARV, AM and ECO tour routes, and reinforcing "inside" information like when are the monthly meetings and what is the King Soopers card anyway?

Note: Please do not sign up to be a mentor if you plan to be out of town for more than a week from January through March 2024. Life happens and things come up, but if you know you are planning to travel or otherwise be unavailable to your trainee during that period, this is probably not the year to be a mentor. Mentors earn 2 hours of service credit for the time they spend working with their trainees.

Presenters have an obvious teaching role. While it is possible to study up and learn a particular subject matter, the hardest quality to find in a presenter is good public speaking/presenting skills. Many of you are former school teachers or were otherwise engaged in training, so I am sure there is a large pool of great speakers out there.

If you want to be a presenter, we have made a change to how the class is being taught. We are no longer teaching about various animals in two halves. We are teaching the whole animal in one session. Therefore, you will only have to be available once — for when your animal is on the schedule. Presenters earn one CEC for each section they teach.

There will be sign-up sheets at the June 10 Joint Meeting. If you are not able to attend that meeting but are interested in being a mentor or presenter, just send me an e-mail.

Cate Kelly

African Rift Valley Tour Adaptations



New giraffe Kay by Susan Hoxie

Animals have specific **adaptations** that aid in their survival. An adaptation is a behavior or feature of a living organism that enables it to better survive under the conditions imposed by its habitat. These adaptations can be **camouflage, herd, migration, pachyderm, or prehensile**. Today, we are going to learn about several animals that live in the African Rift Valley and talk about how each of them uses these specific adaptations to survive in their **habitat**.

The reticulated giraffe is a **terrestrial mammal**. They live in the **Savannah grasslands**. One of their

adaptations is their prehensile tongue, which they use to grab the leaves of the **Acacia** trees. We have a similar adaptation: How are we able to pick up a glass? Our hand is an adaptation that helps us grasp things. It's interesting to note that giraffes are able to avoid the thorns of the Acacia tree and only eat the leaves. They also travel in herds but do not migrate. Another adaptation is camouflage. How does this help keep them safe?

The cattle egret also lives in the African Rift Valley. Migration is an important adaptation for this animal. As food becomes scarce, they must travel to new areas in order to survive. They are carnivorous and eat mainly insects. They live in the grasslands and the savannah near water. The cattle egret is the only bird tolerated by the elephant and sits on the elephant's back, eating the insects from the elephant's hide.

The elephant plays a very important role in the African Rift Valley. It has several adaptations that help it survive in its habitat. They travel in herds and are herbivorous (mainly feeding on plants). Having pachyderm skin (large, thick skin with wrinkles) helps the skin retain moisture and serves as protection. They are a **keystone species**, which means that many other species depend on them for their continued existence. Some of the ways elephants help other animals is being a seed disperser, which helps maintain plant growth. The dung beetle lays its eggs in elephant dung, rolling it around and helping disperse seeds. Elephants are also able to use their tusks to find water for other wildlife. Also, their dung provides food for many animals since it is only 50% digested.

In conclusion, we've seen how these specific animals have adaptations that help them survive in their habitat, as do all animals. Also, there are some animals, such as the elephant, that are important to other species for their survival. The elephant is one of the animals that is listed as **endangered** from **poaching** for its ivory and loss of habitat. The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo works with the Tsavo Trust, which helps protect elephants and rhinos in the largest national park in Kenya. The Trust helps prevent illegal activity in an effort to keep these animals around for the future; they work to stop the killing of these animals for their ivory. As you leave our zoo today, you will have an opportunity to support your favorite animal at the Quarters for Conservation (your teacher will give all of you tokens you will use to vote). Your tokens contribute to wildlife conservation projects with the goal of protecting these animals.

Note: this essay was submitted by Kim Bunch-DeCou for CEC credit.

On Snake Bites

Spring, or at least pollen, is in the air! As the days warm up, we also will have more encounters with many of our wildlife neighbors, including snakes. Last year, tragedy

occurred when a child was bitten by a native rattlesnake and quickly passed away, raising the profile of venomous snakes in the media and in our community. Unfortunately, much of the information disseminated by various groups was outdated and does not match current research.

Luckily, the chance of death following a native snakebite is low in humans and there are pre-hospital steps you can take to increase your chance of a full recovery. In Colorado, approximately 200 people are bitten by rattlesnakes annually, yet most years there are no deaths. If you have the luck of seeing a rattlesnake in the wild, simply back away and wait for the snake to move along. If you are bitten by a venomous snake, here are some dos and don'ts:

- **Do not** kill the snake, you are risking another bite. All native crotalids (copperheads, rattlesnakes and cottonmouths) respond to the same antivenom. Unless you are in an area where coral snakes are present, treatment will be the same and there is no need to ID.
- **Do** remove all constrictive clothing and jewelry, as venom causes significant swelling in the bitten extremity.
- **Do not** use a snake bite kit. Extraction devices remove almost no venom (less than 2% according to some studies) and can be harmful. Tourniquets, once believed beneficial to slow the spread of venom throughout the body, are now known to increase damage to the localized area.
- **Do** immediately seek medical attention by calling 911. If you do not have cell phone service and are hiking alone, you may need to hike out.
- **Do not** take Benadryl or an NSAID, like ibuprofen or aspirin, for pain management or swelling. Benadryl is an antihistamine. Histamine is not a significant factor in a snake envenomation and Benadryl is of no benefit. NSAIDs have blood thinning qualities, which may be dangerously exacerbated by venom.
- **Do** elevate the extremity or keep it at heart level. This will minimize the amount of fluids that collect in the affected extremity and reduce damage. If there is a possibility that it is a coral snake bite, there are signs of systemic toxicity, or medical care is not available in a timely manner, heart level is more appropriate than elevation.

Once you are at the hospital, they should be familiar with the Unified Treatment Algorithm, which includes elevation, antivenom and appropriate blood work. If you do not feel you are receiving appropriate treatment,

encourage them to contact Rocky Mountain Poison Control for support.

About now, you may be wondering about your best hiking buddy, your pup. Fortunately, the dos and don'ts are much the same. Be sure to monitor swelling around the collar/harness area and loosen these until you are in a place they can be safely removed. Our local emergency vets do stock antivenom, however it is expensive. Pet insurance will often assist with treatment costs if you have it. Dogs are at greater risk of death from a snakebite, so if you suspect a snake envenomation, immediate care is advised.

Happy Trails and may you only meet snakes from a safe distance!

Additional Resources:

National Snakebite Support (Facebook page staffed by experts in proper snakebite management. Be sure to answer ALL membership questions if you request to join): <https://m.facebook.com/groups/national.snakebite.support/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvF>

Unified treatment algorithm for the management of crotaline snakebite in the United States: results of an evidence-informed consensus workshop: <https://bmccemergmed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-227X-11-2>

Pre-hospital management of pit viper bites: <https://btgsp.com/en-us/insights/don-t-just-do-something-stand-there>

Note: this essay was submitted by Meg Fossinger for CEC credit.

The Nebraska Flyway, by Cris Stoddard



I took a cold and snowy road trip up to Nebraska this March to visit the Crane Trust and see the great Sandhill crane migration on the Nebraska Flyway. For two nights and three days [0], the Crane Trust spoiled me and 22 other people on their expansive land, staying in their

luxurious cabins, watching educational presentations, going on excursions to visit their bison herd, feeding us a hearty three meals a day, and traipsing out to the blinds at dawn and dusk to view the cranes. The week I stayed there, on the half-mile stretch of river where we stayed, there were 60,000 cranes; along the eight miles of the Platte River they manage, there were 225,000 cranes [1]. This week, I learned there are now up to 450,000 cranes [2], with more on the way. By the time you read this article, the cranes will be headed up north to their breeding grounds and there will be less than 11,000 left on the river, dwindling until finally just a few that have learned to stay year-round. I missed Jane Goodall by one week! She describes the sandhill migration as one of the great animal migrations in the world. It is a must-see experience.

One of the perks of staying at the Crane Trust is meeting all the incredible people involved with the organization, like Bethany Ostrum, who wrote the two linked blog posts about the crane numbers. She showed us a video of herself and a pilot getting up at Oh-Dark-Thirty once a week to fly up and down the river counting cranes (yes, they do it by a visual count). We also met the president and CEO of the Trust, Brice Krohn, who told us the story of how the Trust came to be. I'll let their words speak for themselves [3]:

“The Crane Trust, Inc. was formed in 1978 as part of a court-approved settlement of a controversy over the construction of Grayrocks Dam on a tributary of the Platte River in Wyoming. The state of Nebraska and the National Wildlife Federation objected to the project, claiming it would jeopardize irrigation and wildlife downstream in Nebraska. The settlement satisfied requirements of the Endangered Species Act and allowed the Missouri Basin Power Project, owners of Grayrocks, to complete construction. The Crane Trust was funded by a payment from the Missouri Basin Power Project. The Trust is administered by three trustees who are appointed by the three participants in the settlement.”

Every spring, a half million or more sandhill cranes migrate from as far south as Mexico — their winter grounds — up to Canada and even Siberia (their summer breeding grounds). It is estimated there are 1.5 million Sandhill cranes. These birds depend on the wetland habitats for survival during their migration and stay in Nebraska until they gain about 5-10 pounds before venturing on. The Platte River provides a refuge for them to rest, refuel, and search for a mate. These cranes are monogamous and find long-term partners, and often stay together as a family group with their colts (young cranes). Joining them on part of the migration are snow geese, whooping cranes (our group actually got to see one!) and bald eagles. During the day, they ‘loaf’ in the

corn fields, getting fat on leftover corn, dancing with each other in elegant displays and throwing sticks around (why do so many birds like throwing sticks around?). At night, they roost on the river, foraging for invertebrates, crustaceans and amphibians. There is safety in the water for them at night.

However, mischief abounds! Bald eagles have, in recent years, been observed taking down cranes (a new scientific fact). We watched a bald eagle glide down the river at dusk one night; the entire flock took to the air when the scary sky carnivore flew by. Settling in between the cranes at night are the snow geese, who the cranes don't mind pushing around a little. The sound of 60,000 cranes trumpeting is remarkable [4]. On this trip, I learned their windpipes actually grow and then circle around their breastbone, penetrating it, which makes for the unique call they make since the windpipe is so long — akin to an oboe playing.

I have visited the cranes in Indiana, New Mexico, the San Luis Valley of Colorado and Nebraska. Wherever you get a chance to see and celebrate them, I encourage you to do so. In April, they fly away, but some stay near Steamboat Springs to breed. The Yampa Valley Crane Festival will be held from August 31 – September 3 this year [5]; I plan on heading up for that! They will have speakers, tours, booths and more... and maybe even a chance to see young colts that hatched over the summer.

I will leave you with a quote from Aldo Leopold, conservationist and crane lover (emphasis mine), “Our appreciation for the crane grows with the slow unraveling of earthly history. His tribe, we now know, stems out of the remote Eocene. The other members of the fauna in which he originated are long since entombed within the hills. When we hear his call we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution. He is the symbol of our untamable past, of that incredible sweep of millennia which underlies and conditions the daily affairs of birds and men.”

[0] <https://cranetrust.org/visit/vip-experiences/crane-safari.html>

[1] <https://cranetrust.org/news-events/the-prairie-pulse.html/article/2023/03/17/sandhill-crane-aerial-survey-week-5-3-14-23>

[2] <https://cranetrust.org/news-events/the-prairie-pulse.html/article/2023/03/09/sandhill-crane-aerial-survey-week-4-3-7-23>

[3] <https://cranetrust.org/who-we-are/history.html>

[4] <https://youtu.be/dvC6xsacnA>

[5] <https://coloradocranes.org/yampa-valley-crane-festival/>

CMZA Zooline Information



Please send all submissions – information, articles, pictures, etc. – to cmza.zooline@yahoo.com.

The deadline for the June issue is Monday, May 22. Thank you!

Joelle Shreves & Linnea McDonald, Editors

Articles and Information of Interest

- There Are Whales Alive Today Who Were Born Before Moby Dick Was Written, Smithsonian Magazine: <https://bit.ly/2NW2i2k>
- To reach an uninhabited island, this mountain lion did ‘something totally unexpected’, National Geographic: <https://on.natgeo.com/3nhVaTu>
- Africa’s Vanishing Wilderness; Rhino conservation activities in Kruger National Park: <https://bit.ly/3oZPtKf>
- CBS Sunday Morning, De-extinction: Bringing animal species back from the brink. <https://cbsn.ws/3AELpSo>. The Frozen Zoo in San Diego is at the forefront of the emerging field of de-extinction – resurrecting DNA to restore animal species that are in danger of disappearing forever, through such methods as genetic editing and cloning. Correspondent Jonathan Vigliotti talks with scientists at the Frozen Zoo (whose bank of frozen cells could help save an one-million species) about their efforts to bring back the black-footed ferret. He also talks with the founder of Colossal Biosciences, a Texas company working to bring back long-extinct species like the woolly mammoth and dodo bird.
- *From Janet Carlisle:* I recently read two books I thought others might enjoy! First, *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge is a fun book set in 1938 and based on true events. A couple of giraffes housed in Europe were to be added to the animal collection of the San Diego Zoo. To get them to San Diego, they first needed to travel by ship across the Atlantic Ocean. Near the end of this first part of their journey, there was a hurricane. The "hurricane giraffes" survived, barely... all true! Next, was a 12-day journey across the country. What an adventure! The book is a mix of facts, enhanced by very realistic possible adventure. Second, *There's a Hair in my Dirt! A Worm's Story* by Gary Larson, a hilarious cartoonist and naturalist. This graphic novel starts with a family of worms having a dinner of dirt. The adolescent child is disturbed because, oh no... there is a hair in his meal! Ick! The parents then dig into a "farm to table" type story describing where their meal (dirt) comes from. It's funny, yet a bit disturbing... but, if you are a fan of Gary Larson, it's a must read!

Photos





Photo Credits

- Mochi our new mountain tapir by Susan Hoxie, page 1
- Atka after his surgery by Susan Hoxie, top photo page 7
- Tulip by Alia Cooper, middle photo, page 7
- Juju is stylin' by Carrie Supino, bottom photo, page 7
- Kim Katalin, April 15 Denver Docent Luncheon (this page)