

Cheyenne Mountain

Zoo Auxiliary

Zoo



Line

Volume 48 Edition 4

December, 2018

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## President's Message

*By: Glenna French, President*

**Holiday Greetings!** The Tsavo Trust of Kenya, Africa was founded in October 2013 in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The Trust encompasses three national parks in Kenya – Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Chyulu Hills making it the largest national park in Kenya and one of the largest in the world. It is located between Nairobi and Mombasa. It comprises 49% of Kenya's protected area and conservation efforts are done through aerial and ground support. This area is home to the largest population of elephants approximately 12,866 in 2017. It is also the home of the last iconic big tuskers whose tusks can weigh up to 100 pounds each. Only 10 remain today. Other wildlife found there include 18% of Kenya's black rhinos, Tsavo lions (males have virtually no mane), Savanna, Maasai, and Serengeti lions, leopards, hippos, giraffe, and a vast number of other African animals. In 1963 following Kenya's independence, hunting was banned in this area and park management was turned over to KWS. The focus of Tsavo Trust and KWS is wildlife conservation.

Tsavo Trust's mission is "to give both the wildlife and the people of Tsavo the right to a future." The Trust's conservation projects seek to provide extra protection for Tsavo's extraordinary diversity of wildlife and wild places. The Trust has three main key programs – 1) Wildlife Conservation Program that includes the Big Tusker Project and Team Tembo, 2) Community Conservancy Program that centers on the Kamungi Conservancy Project and the Lucy King's Elephants & Bees Project, 3) Animal Welfare Programs where the concentration is on Tsavo Sanctuary and Animal Welfare Education.

In early November, the CMZoo had the privilege of having presentations given by Richard Moller, Tsavo Trust's Chief Executive Office and Co-founder. He was born and raised in Kenya developing a love of nature and the desire to preserve what he could. Since the CMZ is a partner of Tsavo Trust, Mr. Moller came

to share what the Trust is doing to help in the conservation of African animals. As a passionate conservationist, he communicated most of the information given above as well as his own experiences in Tsavo. He and his family live in the north central part of the park. He described their home as having window openings but no screens or glass in those windows. He also shared the fact that there have been times when he has had to go against his conservative passion when a cobra or a black or green mamba appear near his home. The action he takes is to make sure his own family is safe. He talked about how the people of Kenya view the elephants and other animals more as pests, a food source, or an income rather than as animals that should be saved. The Bee Fence project he described is just an example of what the Trust is doing to help "both the wildlife and the people to have a right to a future"

I know many docents were able to attend one of his presentations so most of the above information is a repeat. For those of you who were unable to attend I would encourage you to go to [www.Tsavotrust.org](http://www.Tsavotrust.org) to learn more about the Bee fences and how they are helping save elephants, ACE, the oldest conservation team member, and detailed information regarding the three (3) main programs of Tsavo Trust and their conservation impact. *Glenna French*

## 2018– 2019 CMZ Auxiliary Calendar

Meeting Times are 9:30 AM  
 Training Times are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM approximately  
 Education Committee Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Wednesday every month at 930 in Safari Lodge  
**Bolded items – date, time or location has been  
 changed**

### Dec 2018

No meetings

8 Holiday Party 2-5 PM Marie Poyzer

### Jan 2019

2 Board Meeting Safari Lodge

9 TE Meeting Safari Lodge

12 IE Meeting \*Library

12 Training Safari Lodge

19 Training Safari Lodge

26 Training Safari Lodge

### Feb 2019

2 Training Safari Lodge

6 Board Meeting Safari Lodge

9 Joint IE/TE Meeting LAML

9 Training / after Mtg Safari Lodge

16 Training Safari Lodge

23 Training Safari Lodge

27 Training Safari Lodge

## SOCIAL EVENTS & HOLIDAY PARTY

A huge THANK YOU to all the docents for the many delicious salads and desserts contributed to the Keeper/Staff Luncheon on November 14th.

This year we served over one hundred people!

Our yearly staff-luncheon is just one way we can show our appreciation for all the hard work and passionate care keepers give to the animals at our zoo to make us one of the best in the country.

Thank you, and a reminder that our Holiday Open House will be Saturday, December 8th from 2:00 -5:00. Marie and John Poyzer have again generously opened their home at 541 Vista Grande Drive for our Holiday event. Directions follow. There is limited parking in the drive and should be available for those who need to be closer to the house.

**Please bring a beverage of your choice and an appetizer or dessert to share. Coffee and tea will be furnished. We hope to see you all there.**

*Anne Wardrop and Eileen Derry*

And an important reminder from Andrew Witherow regarding Elephant Valentine's day! Valentine season is approaching quickly behind! If you would like to make donations to our wonderful African Elephants I will bring to the party envelopes as well as a mailbox into which you can put your donations. We are shopping for 6 BIG tires (non-steel belted); 6 "Nose It" feeders and 2 Forage bags. **The elephant depicted below will not be at the party.**



### **DIRECTIONS TO 541 VISTA GRANDE DR. FROM SOUTHBOUND I-25...**

Take exit 141 (Hwy 24 and Cimarron)

L at the light – Cimarron St (Hwy 24)

Follow Cimarron west bound for 1.5 miles to 21<sup>st</sup> St. then L on 21<sup>st</sup> St.

### **FROM 21<sup>st</sup> ST. AND CIMMARON (HWY 24)**

Turn South (toward zoo)

R at 4<sup>th</sup> light (Argus) about 1.5 miles

Pass entrance to Bear Creek Park

Come to T intersection (Orion)

R on Orion-go up a hill and over 2 large speed bumps

Vista Grande is the 4<sup>th</sup> left after the 2<sup>nd</sup> speed bump-about 1 mile from Argus and 21<sup>st</sup>

L on Vista Grande

541 is the 6<sup>th</sup> mailbox on the left, it is a flag lot with a 300 ft. driveway, but an easy walk

Look for balloons on the mailbox

In case you can't find it call: 576-2664

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

### TE Meeting

**January 9, 2019** – Jason Bredahl, Animal Care Manager, and Dr. Sara Ferguson, will inform us about their trip to Uganda this summer and the translocation of Nubian giraffe from Murchison Falls National Park to Kidepo Valley National Park.

### IE Meeting

**January 12, 2019** – Courtney Rogers, RMW Animal Keeper, will speak about her trip this month to India and her experience attending the Advanced Bear Care Workshop in Agra, home of the Taj Mahal. The workshop is sponsored by The Bear Care Group and Wildlife SOS India. Courtney will be attending workshops on Animal Sentience & the Role of Modern Care Facilities, Excellence in Captive Care, and Veterinary Care and will also get to visit the Wildlife SOS Bear Rescue Facility. You may recognize Courtney from recent CMZoo Facebook posts on Wolf of the Week and ZooU or from seeing her wandering around with raw meat up by the bears!

## CEC NEWS

### CEC'S ARE FLYING HIGH

Kudos to the 44 docents who have already completed their 2-CEC requirement for the year. So far, we have had three activities where a CEC could be earned. The Fall Recall was completed by 47 docents, the Life Cycle/Colorado Life Zone Refresher was completed by 44 docents and the Bird Presentation had 46 docents in attendance.

There are still many opportunities to gain a CEC credit. During the Class of 2019 Saturday Training there will be designated session available for credit. A sign-up sheet will be provided and you **MUST** sign in to get credit and also attend the entire morning or afternoon period. There will be a Spring Fling, another refresher course (to be announced) and a presentation for credit after the first of the year. Also, there are other miscellaneous activities that you can do for a credit. Any questions or suggestions just send me an email or call. *Charlotte Greene*

## MEET YOUR BOARD

### MARIE POYZER

I was born in Bristol, Connecticut – a relatively small industrial town. My earliest recollection of animals, other than our dog and cat, was my grandmother's chickens, and the rooster next door to us who would chase us out of his back yard. When I was quite young we visited Catskill Game Farm in New York State, where we could pet farm animals like goats and mules.

Upon graduation from college, I started teaching in Southern California, where I met my first husband. We moved to Iowa so he could complete his master's degree. After his passing from cancer, I met John. We moved to Des Moines, and then to Colorado in 1984. Winters were too cold in Des Moines (-17 on the thermometer plus a wind chill) and Chris, our son, would have his eyes swell up when bitten by mosquitos.

Before we actually moved here, we came on a house-hunting trip. As our brains were dizzy from looking at so many houses, we took a break and went to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. It was love at first sight. We met and talked to some docents.

At that moment I decided I wanted to be a docent.

While working for the airlines, I had to take a night shift one winter. This was my golden opportunity to train to be a docent. At that time, 1989, docent training was 3 mornings a week. I loved every minute of docent training and being a docent, and still do. Thirty years later, I still love it. I visit zoos every time I get a chance. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is still the best. The animals are up close and personal, and staff readily interacts with the guests. Docents are like a family – always ready to give you friendship or assistance if you desire it. *Marie*

### CANNOLI MAKING 101

As I was sitting in Moose Lodge that fine summer afternoon in June, reflecting on the wonderful, educational and enjoyable time I had just experienced through my CMZ Docent training, I was approached by the great Lisa Forbes. Lisa

introduced herself to me and inquired whether or not I would be interested in taking over the reigns as Enrichment Chair for the Auxiliary. I was pretty new back in town, and eager to get to know more people in the Auxiliary as well as the inner workings of the CMZ Docent program. Lisa went on to explain that it entails making cannolis as well as running an annual event called Animal Valentine's Day. About three words into her description I had already decided I would accept this challenge, I mean I love planning events and more than that I love to bake!

Ok, ok, I know what you're thinking, how is baking involved?? You would be right, and I would be wrong. Cannolis in the enrichment sense aren't the delightful little pastries you buy at Paninos' or Mollica but they are just as fun to make. I thought in this issue of our wonderful Zooline I would present to the uninitiated, Cannoli Making 101!

First and foremost, in order to assist in making cannoli's one needs to pass a TB test. Once a year the zoo will offer a convenient place to get your TB test, typically in the Admin building for a fee of around \$5. Rest assured it is painless and easy to do. If you would like to get tested and the annual testing is not an option, your primary care doctor can also provide the service.

Once you are free and clear of TB, you can set your sights on making cannolis. We typically assemble them after IE meetings in the DRC, but I think I am going to plan on making them after the TE meeting in January. I typically look for 4 or 5 volunteers, any more would be a little too crowded, any less, not quite as efficient.

We currently make cannolis for Asiatic Bears, Grizzly Bears, Monkey Pavilion, Elephants, and Primate World. Each group has a slightly different ingredient list, but with a common core of ingredients. Some common ingredients are: Almonds, Peanuts, Cheerios, Raisins, Craisins, Coconut flakes, other various dried fruits, and of course Popcorn, which is made in house by our lovely popper Marie Poyzer. The bears and Colobus monkeys are prohibited from raisins and Craisins, while Elephants cannot have dried pasta. Each animal has their own marked bin in which

we make the appropriate Cannoli mix. Once we have the correct mix for each animal, we are ready to fill the cannolis! If you haven't guessed by now, the paper towel tubes and toilet paper tubes that you have so generously donated over the years, are what we use as the Cannoli "shells". Each group of animals gets a certain amount, the elephants for instance get 80 paper towel tubes filled to the top, while Monkey Pavilion get 50 toilet paper tubes filled with only a quarter cup of their mixture. Once the cannolis have been filled with the correct amount of mix, we stuff the end with a piece of paper to keep the contents inside. We then drop off the newly "rolled" cannolis in the keepers' office and clean up any mess we have made in the DRC.

Some additional notes are that we keep the supplies for the cannolis in the shed right outside of the DRC, right now we are accepting food donations but we are not currently accepting toilet paper or paper towel tubes, but the day will come when we will, and I will let everyone know. I hope this didactic piece will encourage those of you who have not visited Italy in the DRC to stop by next time and give it a shot!

Lastly, please remember that we are in Animal Valentine's Day season! Please don't forget to donate, if you can, to help us purchase several wonderful and very necessary enrichment items for our African Elephants, and their keeper friends. If you are attending the holiday party at Marie Poyzer's we will be setting up a donation box! **How to give:** Make your check to CMZ, include Animal Valentine's Day in the memo line.

*Andrew Witherow*

## **EDVENTURE UPDATE**

### **OPPORTUNITY FUND REPORT**

As some of you may know, the Zoo has scholarships available for education based programs. People can apply for the scholarships year round and for tours, camps, or teen programs. Those scholarships come from an account called the Opportunity Fund. We have a separate scholarship opportunity for schools who are interested in ZOOMobile programs- and those funds come out of a completely different account.

The docents have contributed \$1,500 for the last two years to help Title One schools utilize the zoo as an educational resource, through scholarships from the Opportunity Fund. I keep track of the account and record how many scholarships we award and to whom those funds are going. I thought it might be interesting for everyone to see where the money for the 2017-18 fiscal year went!

**Docent \$1,500 Contribution:** Allowed for 7 schools to visit the zoo at a reduced rate. This turned out to be almost 600 people!

**Opportunity Fund Overall:** Awarded \$8,500 in scholarships to 30 schools from May 2017 to April 2018. This allowed nearly 1,300 people to be able to visit the zoo at a more affordable rate! Without the Opportunity Fund and especially the contributions from the Docent Community, there would definitely be school groups that would not be able to visit the Zoo, and would not get to experience the amazing tours and programs we all have to offer. *Stacey Graham*

## NOTES FROM A ZOOM DOCENT

A 10 year old girl came into the Treehouse dressed in a Halloween costume with her friends. I had Annemarie, a Tucson Blonde Tarantula, in my hands. Her friends screamed, but she approached and sat down next to me, listening to me describe the tarantula. She asked thoughtful questions, each led to the interpretation of another species there. Her friends finally dragged her off saying, "You said just one more question!!!" I wistfully thought, "There goes a future keeper, vet, or biologist." Such are the small moments one receives as a ZOOM docent.

My journey to ZOOM began when I signed up to cover lunch in Big Back Yard. The yard happens to get full sunshine all day long; I thought it would be an easy two hours then I could go off and interpret wolves or elephants or other enticing megafauna. I thought little about the impact our invertebrate, avian, reptilian and amphibian friends could make on guests (or on me!). About an hour into my first BBY shift, right before the keeper went to lunch, he told me, "Well, I guess I better tell you how to hold a chicken in case you need to grab one." He stuffed a chicken into my arms. I was hooked on handling.

I work full time, so I knew my chances to go on programs was limited; I thought that would hold me back. But there are so many ways to give kids goosebumps on grounds that I'm glad I put in the hours to do it. I probably spent more time in Big Back Yard than anywhere else, and now that I am signed off on all the Treehouse critters, it's both fun and moving to handle there.

Many guests come in with an awful look on their face at the 'creepy crawlies' but then their curiosity overtakes them as I talk about some aspect of the species in hand. If there is a chance to let the millipede crawl across their hand, they become hooked. They leave thanking me, saying, "I never thought I could like a millipede!" It's a chance to be educational, or playful, or to affirm that every species has a niche on this big blue orb that supports us all.

The species in the Treehouse allow a remarkable range of conversation. I have time to go deep on conservation, ecology, care and feeding, and special factoids on the species or the individual. Often, seeing an animal up close spurs adults to recall fond childhood memories; kids never tire telling me their knowledge of the species. It's a chance to engage with guests - I let them steer the conversation, which challenges me to find a new fact for the next time. Some guests want to know how they can best care for the tarantula they are keeping as a pet; others want to know how to find scorpions or salamanders in the wild.

Being a ZOOM docent is also about... life and death and the stuff in-between. I was with one of the teens, a Junior Zookeeper, the day the keeper taught us how to properly remove a scorpion from their habitat, feed and interpret them. We noticed a funny looking comb underneath Donuts and both pulled out our phones to Google that body part (it's a pectine). I greatly enjoy building a rapport with the Zoo Crew and JZK teens. The next day, Donuts, the scorpion, gave birth to about 14 scorplets (one of the keepers calls them donut sprinkles). To share that kind of an experience with the keepers, teens and the animal itself gave me a newfound appreciation for our stingy friends. I cannot honestly say I enjoyed her much before she popped out a dozen miniature sprinkles, but she really grew on me after that day. There's also loss. When we lost Rosie and Gump

(African Bullfrogs), the loss hurt. That empathy is part of being human. But sharing that grief with the other keepers and teens is also so healing.

It was a sunny day, and two kids came into BBY and starting feeding the chickens. Their mom explained she was recently divorced, a single mom at the zoo for the first time with the kids and without their dad. She started tearing up. I encouraged her about the special memories she was giving her children that day, memories that will override their struggles that they will cherish as adults. I gave her kids a little extra attention, flew Cinnamon for them, and gave mom some pro-tips for special experiences they could have elsewhere in our zoo. She thanked me deeply for just, well, just being there. The Zoo, and ZOOM, is about life - and everything that happens in-between. *Every kid, every time, goosebumps.*

*Cris Stoddard*



## FIELD TRIPS

We had 13 Docents and plus ones that enjoyed the Sandhill Crane Festival. We were up at 4am to catch the 5:30am bus for our Walk out to the Fly out site in 19 degree weather. (I'm wearing long johns and wool socks next time in Monte Vista.) Thousands of Cranes as well as thousands and thousands of Snow Geese brought oohs and aahs from us all. Rose and Sharon got to be on an evening bus tour (different buses) our last night and Sharon got to see many more animals that made the refuge their home.

Sunday found us at the Albuquerque BioPark Zoo where we were met by 3 fellow Docents, Mary, Cheryl and Mary Lou. We got to see our snow leopard Bhutan's dad AND his 6 month old sister. We spent 4 hours enjoying the Zoo's fellowship and hospitality. We are now looking forward to Monte Vista in March 2019 and Pueblo in April 2019. Happy trails, *Joan Adkins*





On the Field Trip many docents got to see Bhutan's father and young sister!

## SNOW LEOPARD

The snow leopard's build allows it to scale steep slopes with ease. The hind legs allow it to leap up to 6 times the length of its body. The long tail provides balance and agility but can also be used for protection from the cold, by wrapping around its body.

Snow leopards are found in 12 countries including China, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan, just to name a few, but their population is dropping. A recent WWF census found a total of 61 snow leopards in Russia's Altai-Sayan Ecoregion, a remote landscape where high, snowy mountain ranges offer a last refuge for the snow leopard. There are estimated to be fewer than 7,000 to live in the wild and remain endangered.

Their decline in the wild has been attributed to the fact that they have been hunted for their beautiful coat. But they have also been killed because the local farmers raise animals that are prey for the snow leopard. As more and more domestic animals find their way into the snow leopard's habitat, the cat occasionally preys on them and kills them. For the herders, who are often economically disadvantaged, such losses can be catastrophic. To protect their herds and livelihoods, herders will kill the snow leopards in retribution. This may account for more than half of all snow leopard killings.

The elusive cat faces a number of threats, including poaching. Since trading snow leopard parts happens in the dark, data is hard to come by. It is thought, that between 2008 and 2016 alone, one snow leopard has reportedly been killed and traded every day equaling 220 to 450 cats per year. Poaching also takes away the snow leopard's resources. Its main prey species, wild sheep and goat, are also threatened by illegal or unsustainable hunting in many parts of the snow leopard range. If their populations decline, so do the snow leopards.

Mining and climate change are two more threats. As if poaching were not enough, the snow leopard also faces threats that could destroy the mountain ecosystem it relies on, such as mining and other large-scale development. Climate change poses new challenges as well. Temperatures are on the rise across the mountains of Central Asia. The Tibetan plateau, home to more than half of the remaining snow leopards, has already gotten 3 degrees warmer in the last 20 years. The changes impact the entire ecosystem: vegetation, water supplies, animals – and they threaten to make up to a third of the snow leopard's habitat unusable.

Snow leopards are so important. They are top predators in their environment and their favorite prey are mountain sheep and goats. Without snow leopards, there may be too many herbivores, which could cause overgrazing the sparse alpine plants on the mountains, leaving no food for other wildlife.

The same landscape also provides food and other important resources for the people who live there, including medicine and wood for shelter, heat and fuel. By protecting the snow leopard, we're benefitting the whole natural environment in these areas and the people who rely on it. *Yvonne Weeres*



Photo in the wild from Snow Leopard Trust



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