

Zoo Line

Volume 45 Edition 5

January, 2016

President's Message

By: Ron Gray, President

Fellow Docents,

The holiday season is here! We are into Electric Safari and we are seeing some real crowds as a result of some good weather. I was in Aquatics last night and the word was that we had a 3200 gate. Seemed like they were all in Aquatics at once. We also had the AAZK folks holding their Bake Sale in Aquatics and Jeannette told me they were doing gangbusters on donations. The Zoo is beautiful and almost everybody is in a holiday spirit. The line was so long at the front gate that the staff extended the hours to 9:00 PM to give those guests who were delayed getting in because of the long lines. Didn't hear any grumbling about that (except from the Hippos). The new year is upon us and we have a new start for tours, Zoopeteers and Zoo School. I thank everybody for your efforts during the Fall season making a big difference for our Zoo. Let's continue our efforts in the Spring season to include welcoming our new Docents who will be joining us.

Cheers, Ron

**2015-2016
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**

January 2016

6	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
9	IE Meeting	Safari Lodge
13	TE Meeting	Safari Lodge

February 2016

3	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
6	Joint TE/IE Meeting**	Lodge at Moose Lake



SCAVENGE FOR VULTURES

SALE TO SUPPORT VULTURE CONSERVATION

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, starting at 8:45, before and then after the Docent Joint Meeting

Where: The Lodge at Moose Lake

Donations from keepers, staff, volunteers and docents are welcome.

Think.....clothes, books, sculptures, jewelry, knick-knacks, note cards, coasters, wood carvings.....if it has an animal theme, it's in! If it's no longer giving you joy.....perhaps it can give joy to someone else.

Set up is Friday, Feb. 5 around 2 o'clock in the Lodge at Moose Lake. You are welcome to come and help!! Please bring your treasures at that time. If you are unable to bring them on the 5th give us a call and we will pick them up from you at the Zoo. (Nancy Hochman 632-5494 or Glenn Carson 598-9323)

Premark all goods in whole dollar amounts. If it isn't worth a dollar, bundle it with something else! There will be a coat rack, but you will need to provide hangers for your items if needed.

Joint IE/TE Meeting Reminder

Don't forget about our joint meeting on February 6th at the Lodge at Moose Lake. Scavenge for Vultures to follow (see flyer above.)

Christmas Gifts for Animals!

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the campaign. CMZ animals will have fun with the donations.



Field Trip to Picket Wire Canyon

Lovice Riffe

Many of us have "bucket" lists. My list is not very long. One of those goals was to visit Picket Wire Canyon and I was sure I would never be able to do that as the trip I wanted to take, an all-day US Forest Service trip, required visitors to have a 4-wheel drive, my front-wheel drive sedan

wouldn't do. But thanks to the hard work of Ron Capen, Sandy Flynn, Caraigh Clarkson, and a willing Kathy Kidd, I was able to fulfill this dream. I was ferried to Southeastern Colorado and a visit to the Old Bent's Fort in La Junta and the major point of the trip, an all-day Forest Service guided tour through Picket Wire Canyon in the Comanche National Grasslands, and was able to finish it off with bird-watching at the John Wilson Reservoir, the second largest body of water in Colorado.

We drove there on the Friday before the tour and met up with fellow docents in La Junta - Spanish for "The Junction" as it sits where the Arkansas River intersects with the Santa Fe Trail. A short drive took us to Bent's Old Fort, a reconstructed replica of the fort on the actual site where it operated as a base for William and Charles Bent and Cerian St. Vrain in order to take advantage of the trade between the Plains Indians, trappers, and the wagons rolling between St. Louis and Mexico along the trail. Close enough to the Rockies to draw trappers, near the hunting grounds for the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa and other tribes, on the Santa Fe Trail, and close to a ford where the river could be crossed, the fort was built in 1833 and became an active trading hub. The Bents were such successful peacemakers that



DJ helping "Jose" in making adobe bricks.

the Fort became the headquarters for the Upper Platte and Arkansas River Indian Agency, in 1846. But in that year military operations were stepped up as America was going to war with Mexico and the location made it an ideal staging point for the military. The livestock brought in to support the military stripped the land and a growing stream of settlers and gold seekers disrupted the trade, and resulted in polluted waterholes, declining bison, and decimated cottonwood groves. The Cheyenne moved away. A cholera epidemic and declining prices for beaver pelts finally killed the trade. Charles, who had been named Provisional Governor New Mexico, was killed in Taos in



1847, William tried to sell the fort to the military and is rumored of having tried to burn it down in 1849. He finally built a new fort about 40 miles away a few years later. Our tour was guided by a docent for the Fort who not only told us about general history but, in costume, actually represented a typical Mexican laborer who would have resided at the Fort during that time. There was even an adobe making presentation!

Saturday was the trip to Picket Wire to see the largest dinosaur track area in North America (and perhaps the world, as just a few weeks before our trip they had uncovered another large area of tracks) The Forest service conducts all day 4 wheel drive tours each Saturday, weather permitting, during four months of the year. This is the only opportunity people have to take a motor vehicle into the area, and you must provide

your own four-wheel drive (all wheel drives are not enough). Picket Wire is in the Comanche National Grasslands and the track sight is along the Purgatoire River. And how did Picket Wire get its name? During the early days of Spanish exploration of the area, explorers had divided their troops in half, one going in one direction, the other half another. The group that explored this area had no priest, as he was with the other group. They were never heard from again apparently dying without benefit of clergy, so the River was named El Rio de las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, (The River of Lost Souls in Purgatory). When the French came they called it Purgatoire. When Americans began exploring they had trouble with the pronunciation so it became Picket Wire. Anyway, we saw ancient petroglyphs, an old Delores Mission and Cemetery, and the preserved Rourke family cattle ranch as well as the truly ancient specimens we came to see. The abundance of the dinosaur tracks here form a trail from one side of the river we waded through to the other and date to 150 million years ago and in just ¼ mile there are over 1500 prints and 100 separate trackways. We saw tracks where it appeared that the carnivorous Allosaurus (Theropods) are tracking a group of the plant eating Brontosaurus (Sauropods)! Scientists are discovering more and more about the way these ancient creatures lived – some in herds, they appear agile, and intelligent. The tracks shed light on their locomotion, speed, behavior and ecology. To find out more do an online search for Picket Wire Canyon US Forest Service you can find the forest service link and within that brochure there is a shortcut to a very informative article about the geology of this wonderful place. I never thought I would ever get to see this and am so happy I did.

On Sunday, we went even further east for a birding visit the John Martin Reservoir State Park, where we saw Sand Hill cranes, a Road

Runner, Scaled Quail, and osprey. On our way home we kept our eyes sharp for a possible view of Missy and Kimba Lou on their way to our zoo, but saw nothing that could even remotely tote an elephant!

Thoroughly Modern Millipedes

Giant African Millipedes

Volunteering In the Loft is so enjoyable because you get to interact with the guests and tell them something they didn't know about a critter that really gets a 'Wow!' or 'That is so Cool'. Even better is when guests can interact with an animal, especially one that they would not normally even think of touching. I like introducing the Giant African Millipede to people because it doesn't usually get the 'that's gross, kill it now!' reaction



that the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches get.

The Millipede story is simple: they grow to about 12" long; they live in the leaf litter on the forest floor; they turn decaying matter back into soil; they can't hurt us (well, actually, if they get really frightened they can produce a yellowish brown fluid that is an irritant, but I've never seen one get

that scared), and they live five to seven years. Surprisingly, it's easy to tell the boy millipedes from the girl millipedes – by looking at their legs. The boys have a space on the seventh leg segment from the head where the girls leg spacing is uniform. And no, they don't actually have a thousand legs, the one in the picture has about 250 or so.

You can explain the difference between a centipede and a millipede. The centipede has a flat body with two legs per segment and the millipede has a round body with four legs per segment. You might explain that scientists now believe that a millipede was the first air-breathing creature to walk on land about 428 million years ago. Sometimes, if I'm talking to a young person, I'll point out the clam-shell doors where the 'soil' comes out. Because - well, clam-shell doors! How cool is that!?

If guests are apprehensive about meeting the millipede, I'll have them touch the exoskeleton to see how hard it feels. That generally is just enough to break down mental barriers. I'll ask if they are afraid of it. If they say 'no', then I'll ask them to put their hand, palm down, on the table. About 10% of the adults and young people will decide to rethink that first 'no' answer, but someone will generally show the others that it doesn't hurt and comment that 'it tickles'. I tell guests that no matter what, if it tickles or poops or if they get scared, they cannot jerk their hand away. About half the guests really have to use substantial willpower to let the millipede move across their hand. Sometimes, you can see the stoic apprehension in their faces. But it is generally always followed by a broad smile and the words 'That was the Coolest thing EVER'!

2016 Docent Trainees

The 2016 docent training class has been filled. Saturday, January 16th will be the beginning of the auxiliary's 2016 training for new docents. We welcome the following individuals to our program:

Leanne Blaber	Merril Spielman
Robyn Colbert	Debra Compton
Judy DeGroot	Pat Dwyer
Lisa Forbes	Barbara Kalbli
Kimberly Katalin	Melinda Mahler
Paula Olmstead	Alice Tabor
Gloria Wiersema	

Earn CEC Credits Revised!!!

Just a reminder that being an active docent requires that two continuing education credits (CEC) be earned each year. If you have not yet earned these credits for the 2015/16-year, remember these are easy to earn by attending any morning (earn 1 CEC credit) or any afternoon (1 CEC credit docent training class. Spend the entire day with us and you have met the two (2) CEC credit requirement. Check the training schedule for presentations that might be good refreshers.

2016 CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO AUXILIARY DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE – 1/16

Morning teaching session = 1 CEC
Afternoon teaching session = 1 CEC

Session 1 January 16, 2106

9:00 – 9:30 - Introductions and overview of docent training

9:30 – 10:25 - Teaching Session – Manuals, Requirements (Nancy Hochman)

10:25 – 10:40 - Break

10:40 – 11:40 – Teaching Session – History of the Zoo (Kaiti Poehlmann)

11:40 – 11:55 - Ron Gray, President, CMZ Auxiliary

11:55 – 12:30 - Melanie Sorensen, Director of EdVenture

12:30 – 1:00 - Sack Lunch, Q &A, Information, Announcements (Glenna & Susan)

1:00 – 2:00 - Evolution/Taxonomy (Nancy Hochman)

2:00 – 2:15 - Break

2:15 - 2:30 - Hand out review sheets, information for next week, etc.

2:30 - 3:45 - Zoo Tour with mentor

Session 2 January 23, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, Announcements, Hand-in Review sheets

9:15 – 10:45 - Teaching Session – Basic Mammalogy (Nancy Hochman)

10:45 – 11:00 - Break

11:00 – 11:45- Teaching Session – Adaptations & Niche (Nancy Hochman)

11:45 – 12:15 - Practical Application Regarding Mammal Information – Visit

lions & giraffes (Glenna, Susan & Nancy)

12:15 – 12:45 - Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 - Teaching Session – Ungulate characteristic (Jean McKanna)

1:45 – 2:00 - Break

2:00 – 3:00 - Teaching Session – Artiodactyl/Perissodactyl/Elephants (Jean McKanna)

3:00 – 3:45 - Keeper

3:45 – 4:00 - Handout review sheets

Session 3 January 30, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, questions, hand-in review sheets

9:15 – 10:05 - Teaching Session – Introduction to Carnivora (Ron Gray)

10:05 – 10:45 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Felines (Ron Gray)

10:45 – 11:00 - Break

11:00 – 12:10 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Canids and Ursus (Jeannie Phillips)

12:10 – 12:40 - Lunch

12:40 – 1:10 - Introduction to Carts (Don Heinz)

1:10 – 1:40 - Cart talks, demo of cart presentation to guest (Sue Mayher)

1:40 – 1:55 - Break

Session 4 February 6, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Meet mentors to go to the lodge at Moose Lake for joint TE/IE meeting and potluck

9:00 – 12:30 - Meeting and lunch

12:30 – 1:10 Teaching Session – Characteristics of Birds (Sally Goldstein in Loft)

1:10 – 1:25 Return to Safari Lodge & Break

1:25 – 2:10 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Small Predators (Nona Hentschel & Sandy Flynn)

2:10 - 2:20 Break

2:20 – 2:55 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Small Predators (Nona Hentschel & Sandy Flynn)

2:55 – 3:55 - ARV Safari and tour overview, Baobab Tree, Maasai, difference between ARV and Am tours (Susan Gross)

3:55 - Hand out review sheets

Session 5 February 13, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, announcements, hand-in review sheets

9:15 – 9:45 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Primates (Becky Poole)

9:45 – 10:15 - Keeper

10:15 – 11:05 - Teaching Session – Characteristics of Prosimians, Marmosets, Tamarins (Nona Hentschel & Sandy Flynn)

11:05 – 12:00 - Teaching Session –
Characteristics of Old World and
New World Monkeys
(Art Schwall)

12:00 – 12:30 - Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 - Teaching Session –
Characteristics of Lesser and
Greater Apes (Art Schwall)

1:30 – 1:45 - Q&A, review worksheets,
collect uniform orders

1:45 – 2:30 - Discuss preliminaries to tours
and safaris (contacting teacher,
tour chair, calling docents if you
are tour chair, etc.) (Sue Sallee)

2:30 —4:00 - Group AM Tour (Sue Sallee &
other docents)

Session 6 February 20, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, Announcements,
etc.

9:15 – 10:00 - Teaching Session – Overview of
Rodentia and Pilosa (Don Haller)

10:00 – 10:15 - Break

10:15 – 11:05 - Teaching Session – Overview of
Cingulata (Don Haller) and
Marsupia (Don Heinz)

11:05 – 12:00 - Group ARV tour with docents

12:00 – 12:30 - Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 - Teaching Session – Ecology
definitions, vocabulary, biomes,
ECO systems, CMZ ECO
Environments, Human
Ecosystems (Nancy Hochman)

1:30 – 1:40 - Break

1:40 – 2:40 - Teaching Session – Ecology
Concepts (Nancy Hochman)

2:40 – 3:30 - Teaching Session – Food Chain
and Food Webs (Nancy
Hochman)

3:30 – 3:45 - Hand out review sheets

Session 7 February 27, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, announcements,
etc.

9:15 – 10:10 - Teaching Session –
Physiological Systems (Glenn
Carson)

10:10 – 10:25 - Break

10:25 – 11:10- Teaching Session –
Characteristics/Ecology of
Invertebrates (Ron Capen)

11:10 – 11:55 - Teaching Session –
Characteristics/Ecology of Fish
(Susie Potterat)

11:55 – 1:00 - Brown Bag Lunch & Sign up
for safaris – Sue Sallee, Jeanie
Baratono, Paula Charles

1:00 – 1:50 - Plant/Animal Relationships
(Kaiti Poehlmann)

1:50 – 2:40 - Keeper

2:40 – 2:50 - Break

2:50 – 3:45 - Sign up for tours (Sue Sallee,
Jeanie Baratono, & mentors)

3:45 - Hand out review sheets

-
- 1:20 – 2:05 - Keeper
- 2:05 – 2:45 - Ecology safari & overview of ECO, differences between AM & ECO (Susan Gross)
- 2:45 – 3:30 - Cards, CMZ structure, parking, IE hours (cart talks, special events, special tours, “on your own” hours)
- 3:30 – 3:45 - Hand out review sheets

Session 8 March 5, 2015

- 9:00 – 9:15 - Information, announcements, etc.
- 9:15 – 10:15 - Teaching session – Ecology of Ungulates (Jean McKanna)
- 10:15 – 10:30 - Break

10:30 – 11:30- Teaching Session – Characteristics Ecology of Amphibians/Reptiles (Pat Gray)

11:30 – 12:30 - Teaching Session - Ecology of Primates (Ron Capen)

12:30 – 1:20 - Lunch (pictures for directory)

Session 9 March 12, 2016

- 9:00 – 9:15 Information, Announcements, etc.
- 9:15 – 10:30 - Teaching Session – Ecology of Small Mammals (Jim Hunter)

10:30 – 10:45 - Break

10:45 – 11:30 - Teaching Session – Ecology of Feline Families (Jim Hunter)

11:30 – 12:15 - Teaching Session – Ecology of Ursidae (Jim Hunter)

12:15 – 12:45 - Lunch

12:45 – 1:35 - Teaching Session – Ecology of Birds (Sally Goldstein)

1:35 - 2:25 - Teaching Session – Ecology of Canidae (Lovice Riffe)

2:25 – 2:40 - Break

2:40 – 3:40 - Zoom (Pat Gray) and Zoopeteers (Marie Poyzer)

3:40 - Hand out final review sheet

Session 10 March 19, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 - Information, Announcements, etc.

9:15 – 10:00 - Complete evaluations, distribute uniforms

10:00 – 11:30 - Ecology tour with mentors

11:30 - Potluck with mentors and presenters

March 26 - Make up day, if needed

CMZA ZooLine January 2016
C. Patrick Ryer, Editor
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Society
4250 Cheyenne Mt. Zoo Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

