

Cheyenne Mountain

Zoo Auxiliary

Zoo



Line

Volume 47 Edition 5

January, 2018

President's Message

By: Jeanie Baratono, President

Greetings Docents,

Since Big Back Yard has had a rebirth this year I thought I would give you some of the history behind this very special space. All of this information is included in the manual but this is a condensed version.

My Big Back Yard was conceived in 2001 by Bob Chastain. It was intended to be a nature-themed playground and animal contact area. It allowed children of all ages to experience hands-on learning opportunities while playing. It was intended to teach about Colorado ecosystems and to demonstrate practical means of conservation.

The work of 6 principle artists can be seen in My Big Back Yard, one of which is Antonia Chastain. From the sculptures to the benches, and even the cone and leaf impressions were carefully thought out. Be sure to notice those special touches the next time you are up that way.

Through the years many species have come and gone in this area. There have been pot-bellied pigs, chickens, turkeys, amphibians, bugs, snakes, goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, honey bees, Koi, hermit crabs, rats, and even reindeer (in training) during Electric Safari. As these animals aged and passed away (except for the oldest turkey, Laredo) and keepers got busier and busier with other areas BBY needed some TLC.

Several ideas were proposed but Jenny Diaz and the Education Department prevailed. This is The Big Back Yard you see now. Honey bees were brought back to the Treehouse along with amphibians from Aquatics; African bullfrogs, Emperor Newts,

Southern Leopard Frogs, and Wyoming Toads. From the Loft came; Tiger Salamanders, a White's Tree Frog, Giant African Millipedes, Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, a Desert Bond Tarantula, and a Chilean Rose Hair Tarantula, to join a Curly Haired Tarantula that we had gotten from The Butterfly Pavilion previously.

Two rabbits from The Loft moved in with two rabbits that already lived in BBY. All of them love their new space! The larger tortoises from The Loft visit the area on warm days. The Koi have great new enrichment in their pond. A whole new flock of chickens were brought into the area and are very interactive with the guests that visit them. There still are aging animals in the area and they have a 'retirement area', several chickens share a yard with Laredo.

New ideas are in the works, there is always training and enrichment ideas going on with all of the animals. Kevin is doing an awesome job of organizing, building, creating, training, and keeping everything on track. Come and visit and sign up to cover a lunch shift. It has become a go to area once again!

****Don't forget about the Making Waves station on the nice days of winter. Guests want to know what special things are happening in that space. What a great way to get some IE hours! *Jeanie***

TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

The master schedule for training is at the end of this document for those of you receiving on email.

CEC NEWS

A CEC – one-half of your required CEC credit for this year – will be on **WATER** and will be presented on Saturday January 13th immediately following the IE meeting. The location will be at the Lodge at Moose Lake. So training will begin after you have time to walk there! The training will be repeated on Wednesday January 17th at 930 in the Safari Lodge. No sign up is required for this training. *Sue Potterat*

MEET YOUR BOARD

This month the featured docent is **Sandy Flynn**. I was born at the end of WWII at a Navy hospital in Chicago. Six weeks later I was in Southeastern Colorado on a dairy farm where I grew up. I learned to love the beauty of the vast high plains. Favorite critters were rabbits, deer, antelope, skunks, bull snakes (we had one as a pet), and hummingbirds.

Life decisions eventually took me to New York and Minneapolis where I enjoyed a career with The Thomson Corporation. But my heart was always in Colorado and I couldn't wait to get back. My retirement decision meant that I could finally go home.

However, as wonderful as retirement is, I needed something meaningful to do. I wanted to contribute in some way. A friend of mine told me about the docent program at the zoo and without hesitation I signed up.

My "career" at the zoo has been amazing. How many people can say they've touched an African lion (she was asleep at the time)? I've had so many memorable experiences with kids and their sudden realization about a certain animal they love.

After seven years of tours and interpretive education, I'm embarking on a new adventure, becoming a ZOOM docent. My life has come full circle. Once again I am interacting with my favorite critters.

2017-2018 Auxiliary Calendar

Meeting Times are 9:30 AM Training Times are 9:15AM– 4:00 PM appx. Education Committee Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 930 am in Safari Lodge ** Mandatory meeting **Bolded items - date or location has been changed.**

Jan 2018

3	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
6	Orientation -trainees only	Safari Lodge
10	TE Meeting	Safari Lodge
13	IE Meeting	Library
13	CEC – Water –after IE	Lodge at ML
13	Training	Safari Lodge
17	CEC – Water	Safari Lodge
20	Training	Safari Lodge
27	Training	Safari Lodge

Feb 2018

3	Training	Safari Lodge
7	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
10	Jt. Meeting	Lodge at Moose Lake
	Potluck lunch with new trainees. 930-12:30	
10	Training 1230-4	Safari Lodge
17	Training	Safari Lodge
24	Training	Safari Lodge

PROGRAMS

TE Program: Jan 10- Brett Tennis from the Garden of the Gods will present a program about Honey Ants and specifically a species of Honey Ant unique on the planet to Garden of the Gods.

February 10 - Joint Meeting -Dr. Liza Dadone, Vice President of Mission and Programs, will be the presenter. *Jeanie Baraton*

IE Program: January 13 - Lindsey Mitchell, a teenage volunteer in the Loft will speak about her volunteer activities and that includes educating people of all ages about Palm Oil! There is a CEC to follow all about Water. So, 2 opportunities await. Our meeting is in the Library and the CEC, immediately following, is at Moose Lake.

OCT & NOV FINANCIAL REPORTS

Restricted Account: Highlights from October and November: For both months, the total profit from King Soopers reloads was \$617. Keep using your cards!! A tile to be installed in Encounter Africa was purchased with a donation from the Hilde Wagner account in honor of Calvin Wagner. Income for the Valentine Animal Project was \$985. The zoo transferred \$715 to the Docent account for Docent memberships. Ending balance in the Restricted Account \$27,380.14.

Budget Account: Highlights from October and November: Staff Lunch expenses \$451.24, partial AZADV expenses \$690.47, Popcorn enrichment expenses \$396.09 and a black bear skull was purchased for \$179.97. Operating Budget ending balance \$1429.45

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

Nancy Hochman

FIELD TRIPS

The field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science was a great and enjoyable learning time for all of us. We saw the heart of a giraffe, we compared the different strides of animals from cheetahs to elephants. Plus so much more! Merry Christmas to all and Happy New year. See you in January.

Remember our next Field Trip is the Butterfly Pavilion in northwest Denver. More information to come, Joan



BULLETIN – BREAKING NEWS. This editor was just shocked to hear and see a Collared Dove crash into the window next to where this very newsletter is being prepared – but fly away – a Coopers Hawk close behind!!! Those predators miss many more than they catch. A lesson I learned in docent training! I also learned about invasive species like Collared Doves.



And remember, the new class starts training this month and you can earn CEC's by attending certain classes. The schedule is in this newsletter so copy it off, or save it, and schedule those classes you would like to attend in order to refresh yourself. (Editor)

KEEPER SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Salido

In the keeper spotlight this month is **Michelle Salido** from Monkey Pavilion, Tapirs, Bear Grotto, & Rocky Mountain Goats.

I have been visiting CMZ for over 20 years and it really sparked my interest in animals from a young age. My mother and I would eat lunch in Wolf Woods every time we came to visit and those hours watching the wolves is really what set me down the path to zoo keeping. After a couple of internships working with bears and primates, I found my home in Monkey Pavilion and couldn't be happier.

My typical day begins with cleaning the bear and tapir yards, feeding all of the animals' breakfast, and getting all of the animals out on exhibit. Then, we start cleaning for most of the morning. We do the Amazon tree trekkers show, then the Rocky Mountain goat show, then the rainforest review

monkey demo and before you know it, it's time for lunch. We spend the afternoon preparing diets, training, doing the bear and tapir demos, and working on projects. Then, we feed the animals dinner, bring them inside, and say goodbye until the next day!

Continuing to push the envelope with our training is always a challenge for me. I think we all want to do bigger and better things to connect guests to our animals and I try to always challenge myself to think outside of the box.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE – AND THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Happy New Year everyone! Hoping your Christmas and Holiday Season was a good one and that your new year is off to a great start. A big shout out and HUGE thank you to Marie and John Poyzer for their gracious hospitality and use of their home for our Docent family Christmas Party. Beautiful weather (what a great day to sit on the deck and enjoy the view); awesome food (the Docents sure can cook); plenty of good cheer (can you say “homemade” eggnog) with a wonderful time had by all!



LOWRY PARK ZOO

While our Charlotte Greene was traveling this fall she visited Lowry Park Zoo on December 8th, just one week after the birth, on December 1st, of a pygmy hippopotamus. According to staff Zsa Zsa's labor was encouraged by rousing choruses from the keepers of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas". Those of you that do not know this song are instructed to immediately look it up on social media and sing along until you know it by heart! Who knows, maybe we can sing this for Electric Safari in a couple of years in anticipation of the girls coming back.

From Charlotte: "This is Zsa Zsa's 4th baby. The sex isn't known yet. The baby was born on 1 Dec. I stood and watched for about an hour hoping to see it nurse but no luck. They were tucked up against the wall of their pool and the visibility was not so good. I had to hold my camera up over the wall and blindly point it down to get photos. I may spend another day at the zoo and watch them again. There are also have 7 orangutans that were interesting to watch."

She went back and got the second photo of mom and child. This little one weighed only 9 pounds when born – yes, much less than Fiona but Fiona is not a Pygmy Hippo! There are only 3000 or so of these guys left in the wild. Still no announcement of sex or name. Link for the zoo is lowryparkzoo.org.



Ron took this of Cris Stoddard doing her great docent work on December 11th (from Ellie Solomon and Ron)



CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine
January, 2018

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Colorado Springs, CO 80906



2018 CMZA DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 6, 2018

11:00	1:00	Orientation for Trainees		
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Session 1 - January 13, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:30	AM Safari	Marie Poyzer	
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:45	Basic Mammology	Nancy Hochman	CEC
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	1:45	AM Tour	Marie, Jean, and Nancy	
1:45	2:45	Taxonomy, adaptations, and evolution	Nancy Hochman	CEC
2:45	3:00	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 2 - January 20, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:30	Characteristics of Ungulates	Jean McKanna	CEC
10:45	11:00	Break		
11:00	11:30	Giraffe keeper talk	Keeper	
11:30	12:30	Characteristics of Artiodactyl, Perissodactyl, and Subungulates	Jean McKanna	CEC
12:30	1:00	Lunch		
1:00	2:00	Characteristics of Rodents, Armadillo, Sloth, and Hedgehogs	Cate Kelly	CEC
2:00	2:15	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		
2:15	2:45	Elephant Cart	Gloria Wiersema	
2:45	3:00	Elephant Barn and Elephant Cart	Keeper	

Session 3 - January 27, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:15	Characteristics of Carnivores	Judy DeGroot	CEC
10:15	10:30	Break		
10:30	11:15	Characteristics of Cats	Cris Stoddard	CEC
11:15	11:45	Lion cart	Dennis Akkola	
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	1:15	Characteristics of Wolves and Bears	Ann Marie Jackson	CEC
1:15	1:30	Break		
1:30	2:45	Characteristics of Ferret/Otter, Skunk, Meerkat, and Coati	Terry Pratt	CEC
2:45	3:00	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 4 - February 3, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:00	Characteristics of Marsupials	Susie Gross	CEC
10:00	10:15	Break		
10:15	10:45	Characteristics of Primates	Judy DeGroot	CEC
10:45	11:00	Break		
11:00	11:45	Characteristics of Lemurs and Marmosets/Tamarins	Nona Hentschel and Sandy Flynn	CEC
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	1:00	Characteristics of Old World Monkeys and New World Monkeys	Deborah Compton	CEC
1:00	1:45	Characteristics of Lesser and Greater Apes	Rick Decker	CEC
1:45	2:00	Break		

2018 CMZA DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

2:00	2:45	Monkey Pavilion keeper talk		
2:45	3:00	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 5 - February 10, 2018

9:30	12:30	Joint IE/TE Meeting		
12:30	12:45	Loft and ZOOM	Lynne Stefonik	
1:00	2:30	ARV Tour (Stations - Ron Gray and Mack Silvertooth)	Pat Gray and Susie Gross	
2:30	3:30	Order uniforms		

Session 6 - February 17, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:30	Ecology vocabulary, definitions, biomes, etc.	Nancy Hochman	CEC
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:45	Ecology concepts	Nancy Hochman	CEC
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	12:45	Food chain	Nancy Hochman	CEC
12:45	1:45	ECO Safari	Glenna French	
1:45	2:00	Break		
2:00	3:00	Physiological systems	Jean McKanna	CEC
3:00	3:15	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 7 - February 24, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:15	Plant/animal relationships	Lynne Stefonik	CEC
10:15	10:30	Break		
10:30	11:30	Ecology of Ungulates	Jean McKanna	CEC
11:30	12:00	Lunch		
12:00	12:45	Ecology of Rodents, Armadillo, Sloth, and Hedgehogs	Cate Kelly	CEC
12:45	1:00	Break		
1:00	1:30	Ecology of Marsupials	Susie Gross	CEC
1:30	2:15	Signup for tours and safaris	Marie Poyzer	
2:15	3:15	Australia keeper talk and Australia cart	Keeper and Sue Mayher	
3:15	3:30	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 8 - March 3, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:30	Characteristics of Birds	Jean McKanna	CEC
10:30	11:15	Ecology of Birds	Jean McKanna	CEC
11:15	11:30	Hornbill visit	Keeper	
12:00	12:30	Lunch		
12:30	1:15	Characteristics and ecology of Invertebrates	Ron Capen	CEC
1:15	1:30	Break		
1:30	2:15	Characteristics and ecology of Amphibians and Reptiles	Rick Jenkins	CEC
2:15	2:30	Break		
2:30	3:15	Characteristics and ecology of Fish	Susie Potterat	CEC
3:15	3:30	Hand out quizzes and information for next week		

Session 9 - March 10, 2018

2018 CMZA DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements		
9:30	10:30	Ecology of Cats		
10:30	10:45	Break	Cris Stoddard	
10:45	11:00	Lion Show		CEC
11:00	11:15	Break	Keeper	
11:15	12:15	Ecology of Wolves and Bears		
12:15	12:45	Lunch	Ann Marie Jackson	
12:45	1:45	Ecology of Ferret/Otter, Skunk, Meerkat, and Coati		CEC
1:45	2:00	Break	Terry Pratt	
2:00	3:00	Ecology of Primates		CEC
3:00	3:15	Hand out final and information for next week	Rick Decker	
				CEC

Session 10 - March 17, 2018

9:15	9:30	Information and announcements
9:30	10:30	Panel discussion (see below)
10:30	11:30	Miscellaneous information
11:30	1:30	Potluck with mentors and instructors

Panelists - Glenn Carson, Jim Hunter, Rick Jenkins, and Sue Mayher

March 24, 2018 Makeup day if necessary

June 9, 2018 After Joint IE/TE Meeting, general Q and A session