

Zooline

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary

Volume 50, #1 – July 2020

President’s Message – Sue Sallee

Dear Fellow Docents,

This is my first “official” president’s message to be able to welcome all of you to our “new” 2020 season as we move forward into uncharted zoo waters. I am excited to take on the president’s position with the incoming board, knowing this most likely will be the most “abnormally” normal presidency in the history of the CMZ Auxiliary! Thank you, Nancy, for your transitional help and guidance as I assume this position. A big thank you to Glenna French, the nominating committee, the outgoing and incoming board and all of you who completed the straw ballot and voted so we could put into place a new board that was done almost entirely virtually—by email and Zoom meetings! Thank you to the incoming board for “Zooming” along with me as we held meetings to get us up and moving.

While the zoo has been closed for over four months, we continue to anticipate with great hope when we can be on zoo grounds again. During this time, I continue to find myself reminiscing about what docent life was like before COVID appeared and the zoo closed. Previously, as docents, we scanned our cards at the gate, drove up the hill, or parked and walked up to the front entrance, waved to the cashiers at the window and went freely into the zoo. I thought about how much I miss the animals, the guests, the squeals of delight of our tour groups when feeding the giraffes, going to the schools and presenting, guests stopping at the carts and interacting with us while holding a biofact, guests stopping us to ask questions, where the nearest bathroom is or wanting suggestions of what not to miss if they have limited time to be there.

It was very strange not having school tours, no end-of-year celebration to acknowledge the many dedicated hours and hard work and years of service by our docents. I continue to miss the beautiful zoo scenery, the zoo staff, the guests and wanting to see the arrival of the new animals and exhibits! But, what I miss overall, is all of you fellow docents at the zoo, seeing each other in our uniforms, gathering at meetings, working side by side in an area or giving out a quick wave, a hello, a smile from all of you. It has been observed and noted, during the zoo closure, that some docents were spotted walking around the zoo parking lot in the hopes of seeing or hearing an animal or spotting a staff member going into the zoo. Oh, to be a full-fledged docent again!

Many of our Supplemental Activities chairs have been working hard behind the scenes. Greta has transitioned into the DRC chair position with Kathy’s help and has had the additional responsibility of securing approved cleaning and disinfecting supplies, and writing up safe and sanitary procedures for using the equipment in the DRC that must conform to Zoo and Public Health requirements. *(Continued next page)*

DATES TO KNOW

Meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 5 – Full Board video conference meeting via Zoom app

Sept 2 – Full Board video conference meeting via Zoom app

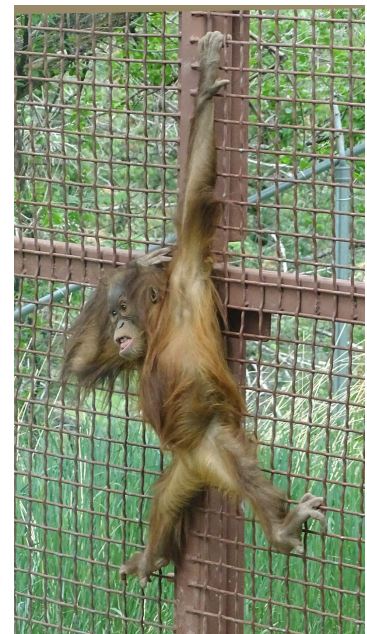
Stay tuned to your e-mails for further information about the Zoo re-opening and for meetings, tours and safaris being rescheduled.

CECs and TRAINING

Stay tuned to your e-mails for further information.

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Hang In There

President's Message – continued

Thank you to Jeanie and the ZOOM docents for your 288 hours in June interacting with guests on the deck, with animals in the exercise yards and on tables. ZOOM docents have been busy training teens, feeding, sunning and soaking animals from snakes to lizards to mammals, and encouraging guests to adhere to social distancing while still being able to connect with the animals. Frida the armadillo and Marigold the tenrec have been the all-time guest favorites.

Next was the reopening of the BBY. Thank you, Cris, for posting a sign-up schedule for IE docents and the necessary procedures to be followed when working in BBY. From June 24 to June 30, thirteen docents worked a total of 38 hours. There are still concerns for parking as many of the slots are taken, especially if you arrive for a 2 p.m. shift. Improvements in BBY have made it a special and enjoyable place to visit with the sunshade in the yard and with Marty and Mister loving their new habitats. Marty has been especially vocal about how great it is to be back on exhibit and the guests have loved Mister's playground.

Hip-hip-hooray, the hippos are back along with the adorable penguins with the opening of Water's Edge Africa! Biko, the new 17-year-old male hippo, has arrived and would love some hip-hop music and to be able to dance "cheek-to-cheek" with the girls! On June 14, a four-week-old orphaned male mountain lion arrived. He was found wandering alone on a logging road in Washington state and will be a great addition to Rocky Mt. Wild. Ohe (Oh-He), a male giraffe, arrived on June 1 and is transitioning well with the herd. Another arrival was an orphaned 8-week-old moose from Alaska. How fun that will be to watch him grow!

With all the new animal arrivals, there are mixed feelings about comfort levels, with some docents anxious to come back, others hesitant to come back, and others unsure about when they might return. Wherever you are in your comfort level, know that we will respect your position. Remember: to enter the zoo grounds as a docent, you must be scheduled to work the Loft or the BBY, dressed in your docent uniform (blue or green shirt) and wearing a mask. Follow the procedures and guidelines in your area and as difficult as it can be, be sure to leave the zoo after you have completed your shift. Feeling sick or having symptoms, stay home! Want to come to the zoo? Secure an online "golden" e guest ticket. Enter the zoo with the mindset of a guest, to enjoy, relax and experience our beautiful zoo. As hard as it can be, refrain from taking on the role as a docent when not in uniform and remember to be just a guest.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and hope you are, too! Board positions require a lot of time, energy, and

dedication to make it all come together to keep the Auxiliary running smoothly. It takes each one of us working together regardless of our designation or position on the board to work as a team. Together, we are better!
Best, Sue Sallee



Tours Update

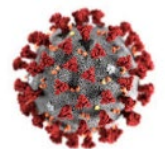
I know that we are all anxious to get back doing the things we love to do at the zoo—Interpret, Teach, Learn and Discuss. I am sure the zoo also would like things to continue to progress in terms of opening up for more visitors and tours. However, the zoo is following strict protocol from the State and the El Paso County Health Department. The zoo is, currently, waiting for guidance from the Health Department in terms of tours. Additionally, we have no idea how schools are going to deal with classrooms, much less visitors or field trips. I will keep you posted as to when tours and safaris will resume. As for now, the best thing we can do for the zoo is to remain patient and visit and enjoy the zoo as guests. (Although, if you are like me, it is hard to turn the "docenting" off, even as a visitor.)



Judy Sondermann, 2nd VP

COVID 19 Restrictions in Place for DRC

The DRC is only available for ZOOM docents and the popcorn crew right now. There is a clipboard on the desk to sign the Health form if you need to enter on official business, however, ZOOM and BBY docents should be signing in at the Loft.



Everyone will notice a few signs posted as reminders. The DRC library will be closed at this time, until docents are officially back.

The DRC was cleaned at the end of June, including the carpet (thank you Kathy Kidd and Kim Katalin). As you enter and leave the DRC, use the hand sanitizer on the desk or wash your hands in the bathroom. The computer keyboard has a temporary plastic wrap cover covering it until a more permanent plastic cover can be purchased. This will make it easier to clean and prevent damage to the keyboard. The copier has been outfitted with the same plastic wrap.

We need to use the supplied spray bottles of cleaning solution and paper towels and/or Clorox wipes to clean any surfaces we touch before we leave the DRC. Please note that isopropyl alcohol wipes—not Clorox/bleach wipes—should be used to clean the computer mouse.

I know these steps take a few more minutes but it helps reduce our risk. I am sure this will be an ever-changing process concerning our use of the DRC, and I will try my best to keep you up to date. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns. My cell is 719-351-5611.

Greta Johnson, DRC/Library Chair

Some Birds of Cheyenne Cañon

Last summer, I attended an evening presentation on birds at Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center (pictured) put on by the Friends of Stratton Open Space. The Starsmore Center is located at the west end of Cheyenne Blvd. where it splits into North and South Cheyenne Cañon Roads. This is very close to the zoo. If you follow Penrose Blvd. to its end when you leave the zoo (instead of turning right onto El Pomar Rd. toward the rear of the Broadmoor Hotel), you will be within a quarter mile of the Center.



While the Visitor Center is closed at this time, the Lower Columbine Trail starts just beyond the Center and is a gateway into Stratton Open Space on the Chamberlain

Trail or on up the Columbine trails into North Cheyenne Cañon. I would encourage anyone who has not visited this wonderful park area lately to consider spending some time here, perhaps before or after a zoo visit.

There was a lot of interesting information, but I thought you might enjoy a quiz on some of the birds you can expect to see in this area. Answers are included on the last page of this issue. As part of the presentation, the birders talked about seven common birds in Stratton Open Space and the part of Cheyenne Cañon leading up to the Visitor Center at Helen Hunt Falls. The descriptions are not in any particular order—**not** most common to least common—just in the order they talked about them.

1. This is the only songbird that regularly swims. In fact, it gets quite a bit of its food from and within rivers and streams, walking submerged along the streambed while foraging. It nests in the rocks along N. Cheyenne Creek, has a song like a thrasher's, and is in the area year 'round, migrating by elevation.
2. This bird is an ant lover that nests only once in a cavity and moves on to a different cavity the next year. The western form seen locally has a black-barred brown back, pale brown breast with black spots, and red wing accents, and the male has a red moustache stripe. They can hybridize with the eastern form, which has yellow wing accents. Forages in trees, shrubs and often on the ground, and also eats other insects, berries, and fruits. The males use a drumming technique to attract a mate, which is very annoying if they decide to do it on your metal chimney cap.
3. This is a large sparrow, colored black, orange (rufous) and white, with white spots on black wings. Usually builds a cup nest in dense bushes on or close to the ground. Forages for insects, spiders, seeds, and fruits by double-scratching in litter on the ground, usually beneath bushes. Also eats snakes and small lizards.
4. This bird has a newly changed name, being recently split off from its California cousin—it lacks the distinctive breast stripe of the California relative. It is an omnivorous Corvid, very intelligent, will cache food and even fake caching the food if it thinks a competitor is watching. It has a small pointed bill that allows it to extract pine nuts hidden in cones and will also pick ticks and other parasites off of mule deer.
5. Very small bird, both sexes mostly brown or brown-gray with a barred back and sometimes buff or light brown underparts. Primarily an insectivore that gleans food from leaves and shrubs. Only one species of this bird is found outside North America, in Eurasia. Has one of the loudest songs for a bird of its size.

6. Large tri-colored bird in the Corvid family with a year 'round range from Alaska down through the western half of the U.S. (except the coasts) to about the latitude just south of the Colorado border. Eats insects and carrion, also picks ticks off of the backs of ungulates. Will also sometimes feed on poultry eggs and orchard crops, so have been considered pests but are now protected. Forages on the ground by walking or hopping. Unlike most birds, they can use scent to locate food. The range for these birds does not include any state east of the Mississippi River, which is why so many zoo visitors do not know what kind of bird they are.
7. This omnivorous bird has amazing eyesight, which it uses to locate movement of food in the soil. It also "hunts" by feeling vibrations in the ground. It is a medium-size bird in the thrush family. It stays year 'round in Colorado, eating berries and suet in the winter, although it is more easily spotted in the spring and summer. During mating season, the male grows black feathers on his head to attract a female, then loses the feathers once the season is over. These birds have been observed wading belly-deep in water to catch small fish.

The names of the birds mentioned above are printed at the bottom of this page.

Linnea McDonald

Calling All Docent Journalists

While we wait for El Paso County, the Health Department and the State to give EdVenture the go ahead for docents to come back—this is a perfect time for every docent to consider researching a favorite animal or topic related to our work at the zoo and write an article for Zooline.



In addition to augmenting your own knowledge and that of your fellow docents, you could possibly receive a CEC credit for the article. Charlotte will explain this CEC credit process more fully in the September issue, but you may contact her before then if you have questions about the requirements for CEC credit.

Once you have completed your article, please e-mail it in WORD format to cmza.zooline@yahoo.com. Ready, Set, WRITE! *Linnea McDonald*

Information and Articles of Interest

- Check out this sloth robot: <https://earthsky.org/earth/sloth-robot-video>



- Palm Oil Is In Half Of Your Groceries And Destroys Forests. Can We Fix That? <https://bit.ly/3eN2CLY>

CMZA Zooline Information



Please send all submissions—information, articles, pictures, etc.—to cmza.zooline@yahoo.com. The deadline for the September issue is Friday, August 21. Thank you,

Linnea McDonald & Joelle Shreves, Editors

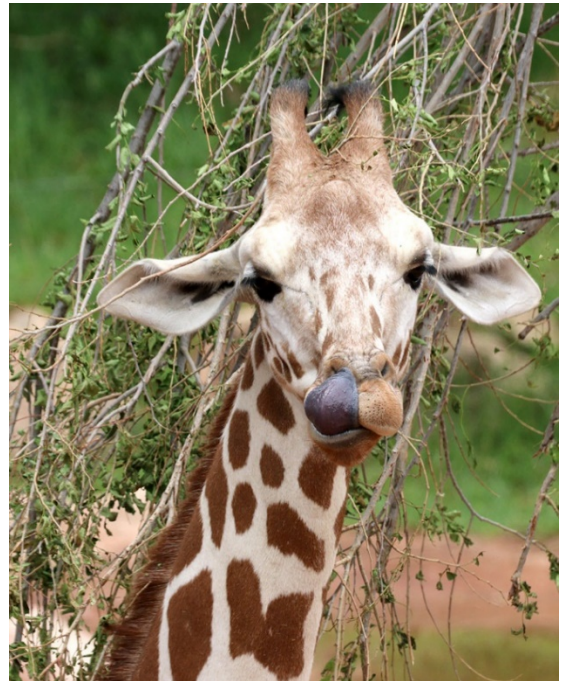


Photo credits: Linnea McDonald for Kera (on page 1), and Viv (above) who celebrated her birthday earlier this month; and Deborah Compton for Hippo (page 2)

Seven Common Bird Answers: 1. American Dipper; 2. Northern Red-shafted Flicker; 3. Spotted Towhee; 4. Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay; 5. House Wren; 6. Magpie; 7. American Robin