



President's Message

By: Sandy Flynn, President

Greeting Docents,

One of my goals for this year is to make sure that the Zoo Board of Directors has a good understanding of what the auxiliary does and the value docents bring to our zoo. Below is the presentation I gave to the CMZ Board of Directors on Thursday, February 9.

ØWe are in the middle of training our candidate docents and it is all hands on deck. Many of our current docents invest lots of hours to ensure that our new trainees are well equipped to become docents. They teach classes, mentor trainees, certify in tours and safaris, update the manual, and are supportive in many other areas.

The trainees attend class every Saturday for ten weeks from 9:00 to 4:00. They have a take home test each week and then a final at the end of the training.

It's the mentor's role to maintain contact with the trainee, to answer questions, help them with any issues and encourage them that yes this will be over soon, they will pass the class and become certified docents.

So what is involved in the process to become a docent? Here is MY version of my docent training.

On Day 1 - I got a high level dose of evolution with the caveat that it's just background information and to not get into a discussion with guests about evolution.

Week 2 Ø I spent the day learning basic mammology and the characteristics of ungulates

Week 3 Ø there were introductions to Carnivora, Felines, Canids and Ursus

By this time my eyes were glazed over with that deer in the headlights look and I was thinking, "How am I going to learn all of this, let alone retain it?"

Week 4 Ø was characteristics of Mustelidae, Mephitidae, Procyonidae and Herpestidae which I didn't fully understand until I started teaching it to the new trainees a couple of years later.

Week 5 Ø It's all about primates, marmosets, tamarins and monkeys. Whew, finally something I can relate to.

Week 6 Ø An overview of Rodentia, Pilosa, Cingulata and Marsupia. What?????

Week 7 Ø We began ecology of all the animals we've studied so far. Ecology is the study of the interrelationships of living organisms (plants and animals) to one another and their environment. I had to draw a food web for the test and the instructor made red marks all over it.

Week 8 Ø More ecology

Week 9 Ø More ecology Ø By this time I realized that ecology was very important and I needed to be able to get those concepts across to guests.

Finally, it's Week 10 and we get to put into action what we've learned. So we did walk-throughs of the tours we would be giving to our fellow docents for certification and fully realized we would need lots of practice. And by this time, we've read most of the big red book and also realize we will always need it as a reference.

But wait!! We also have to know the history of the zoo, the CMZ structure, all of the animals in our zoo, with stories and facts about each one (I've still not learned the names of every one of our giraffes but some docents have).

And most importantly where all the bathrooms are around the zoo because that's the number one question we get.

And as part 2, I am always amazed at what our keepers are able to do with our animals. They teach them behaviors that would have seemed impossible just a few years ago. CMZ is the forerunner in behavior training and recently we were able to help another zoo with their training.



Amy Schilz is the animal care manager for ARV and she recently traveled to Belize to help the keepers at the Belize zoo with their animal training. Even though her focus at CMZ is African animals, Amy could easily transfer her skills to other animals because as she says, "behavior is behavior."

The Belize zoo owner, Sharon Matola, is an avid environmental activist and animal trainer. Originally from the US, she found her true home in Belize. She believes in positive reinforcement for her animals. The animals in the Belize zoo are in their natural habitat as much as possible and this gives guests a very close and personal experience.

One of the special things they do are night tours which really give guests a whole different perspective of nocturnal animals.

Amy said the animals all seemed so happy! And they liked the people.

The keepers there didn't have any formal training and didn't have any information on why training works. Their training didn't cross the barrier between "tricks" and "behavior". They didn't realize they could capitalize on this to help with management and health issues.

So, Amy got to work. She started with a jaguar, "Hero" who was "untrainable," "aggressive" and "crazy". He was breaking his teeth on the mesh and the keepers were afraid of him.

Amy and the Belize keepers were able to train three jaguars for hand injections in that first week including "Hero".

Other behaviors Amy helped with were getting the jaguars to step on scales, building platforms for the monkeys to give them hand injections, and giving scratches to a tapir to get him to lay down to find his veins.

Their harpy eagle "Queen" was part of a captive reintroduction project. She had been doing well in the wild until she started attacking people. She was then brought back to the Belize zoo to be an ambassador animal. She was doing really well until she laid an egg this last summer. Once her egg broke she started calling loudly in her exhibit and attacking keepers when they tried to clean it. Amy reached out to different resources in her training network for information and to create a plan to help Queen. Queen started taking treats from keepers in a protected contact setting, which allowed the keepers to train her safely. Over the course of a few days, she was approaching keepers and working with them to get into a shift stall.

Amy was amazed at the passion the keepers had for their animals. The animals are so used to people as a result of that passion. But it isn't easy to be a keeper in Belize. They have 3 ½ hour commutes to and from work. Many of them hitchhike and some stay there all week because of the long commutes.

Amy's approach was to teach the keepers how to reinforce behaviors rather than doing the training

herself. So it was pretty much hands off on her part. She was amazed at how quickly the keepers were able to put their skills to use, and by the amount they had accomplished.

Amy felt very fortunate to be able to go to Belize and do what she loves most, teach others how to train behaviors in animals.

Thank you, Amy for sharing this experience with us!! And we are very fortunate to have you here at CMZ.

Sandy Flynn



2016 – 2017 CMZ Auxiliary Calendar

Meeting Times are 9:30 AM. Training Times are 9:00 AM ó 4:00 PM approximately. Education Committee Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Safari Lodge.

**** Mandatory meeting. Bolded items- date or location has been changed**

Mar 2017

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Board Meeting | Safari Lodge |
| 4 | Training | Safari Lodge |
| 8 | TE Meeting | Safari Lodge |
| 11 | IE meeting | Library |
| 11 | Training | Safari Lodge |
| 18 | Training | Safari Lodge |
| 21 | Training | Safari Lodge |
| 25 | Make-up Training (Snow Day) | Safari Lodge |
| 29 | CEC | Safari Lodge |

Apr 2017

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|----|---|--------------|
| 1 | CEC | Safari Lodge |
| 5 | Board Meeting | Safari Lodge |
| 8 | IE Meeting | Safari Lodge |
| 12 | TE Meeting & TB test | Safari Lodge |
| 15 | TB test & reading from 12th | DRC |
| 17 | TB test reading from the 15 th | DRC |

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

TE Program March 8 ó Ashley Arimborgo, Animal Registrar, will be our speaker in April teaching us all about the õins and outsõ of animal transport. The **April 12** program stars Charlotte Greene reporting on her AZADV sponsored trip to Madagascar. Elections are in **May**, so no program is scheduled.

IE Program March 11 ó More from Amy Schilz, ARV Animal Care Manager, who will discuss her trip to Belize.

TOUR AND SAFARI SIGN UPS

Due to the earlier slow response from schools for spring tours and safaris, the first opportunity to sign up for spring safaris and tours this year will take place immediately after the **TE** meeting in Safari Lodge on March 8th at approximately 11:30. Remember this is a restricted day so you can only sign up for 20 hours worth of tours. (New trainees will be signing up for their follows and certifications on the 4th.) After the 8th sign-up date tours and safaris will be announced on line and sign-ups will also be available at both IE and TE meetings. And, no worries for hours as reservations are now coming in! *Becky Poole*

TB TESTS

It's that time of the year! If you handle animals, prepare diets, pop popcorn or make enrichment for the animals you need the yearly TB test. Patsy McAteer will be giving and reading the tests for the docents this year. The dates will be Wednesday, April 12 before the TE meeting in the Safari Lodge. That test will be read on Saturday, April 15 at 9:30 in the DRC. Patsy will also be giving the tests that day in the DRC and those tests will be read on Monday, April 17. She is open to the times for that for those that work. The cost will be between \$3 and \$5. Your other option is to have the test on your own. We will be sending out the form that needs to be filled out as the dates get closer. All docents do not need the test only those that are ZOOM docents or prepare diets or enrichment for the animals need the test. If you think you might be interested in those activities please plan on taking the test. Questions?? Contact Patsy McAteer. *Jeanie Baratono*

CONTINUING EDUCATION

All active docents are required to complete at least two CECs each year. We are offering the following CEC opportunities.

Training content classes continue in March in the Safari Lodge. Sign in at the session(s) for CEC credit.

Spring Fling will be distributed on line or published in the April Zooline. Complete and submit to Jean McKanna by May 30th.

CEC – Colorado Life Zones – certification –

March 29: 9:30 Safari Lodge, or

April 1: 9:30 Safari Lodge Sign-up sheets at the IE and TE meetings will ensure we have enough handouts.

Towards the end of May there will also be training with CEC credit, on a new cart to be placed near Aquatics to explain what is going on there. Dates to follow.

Jean McKanna

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Restricted Account: In January, we spent \$300 from Docent Memorials and Donations to purchase an EZ-UP tent for the EdVenture Department to be used by ZOOM. We earned \$293.25 in King Soopers grocery card reloads. Three King Soopers reloadable cards were sold for \$30, \$180 was taken in for the purchase of Docent Education Manuals and the Zoopeteers received a donation of \$100. Ending balance in the Restricted Account \$26,359.73.

Budget Account: \$107.31 was spent for DRC cleaning and copier use, \$43 was spent for dividers, sheet protectors, power strip, surge protector and floor tape, \$330.39 was spent from enrichment for Kong balls, popcorn bags and 80 pounds of chicken breasts and finally \$7.88 was spent for a bin for Zoopeteer puppets. Operating Budget ending balance was \$3,004.25.

If you have a reimbursement request, please **paper clip** your receipts to the request form rather than stapling them. Thank you!!

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

Nancy Hochman

CMZA ELECTION PROCESS

Just when you thought that election season was over, we Docents have entered our own election process. Hopefully it will not be as drawn-out nor as contentious as our country's process. It starts with the Past President (That's me) creating a straw ballot for approval by the CMZA Board. That will occur at the March Board meeting. The next event will activate the Nominating Committee with a wake-up call by the Past President. The Committee consists of 9 people who will consider the results of the Straw Ballot process and produce a slate of candidates for the election to be held in May. The results of that election will produce the members of the Executive Board for 2017-2018. To complete our process, the Executive Board from the 2016/2017 CMZA year and the Executive Board for the 2017/2018 CMZA year will meet at the call of the President to select the Supplemental Activity Chairs. All of us will have roles to play over the next 5 months to produce a Board for our organization. This process is spelled out in our Bylaws, Rules and Policies. I remember when I was a new Docent, I knew nothing about this process so I just held on and rode it out. I hope we can make it easier for our new folks than I made it for myself but I encourage you to ask questions, research our Bylaws, Rules and Policies to understand the process and stay informed. It is not Rocket Science and this is merely the first step. If you have questions, call Ron Gray or send him an email. Thank you for your participation. I will send out more information via the Zooline, at meetings or via email as we move along through the process. Thank you for being a Docent at the best zoo in the country. *Ron Gray, Past President*

EdVenture Updates

I thought I would jump on the band-wagon of talking about our early connections with zoosí ..so here is my story:

I actually had never been to a zoo before college. The first zoo I ever visited was the Seneca Park

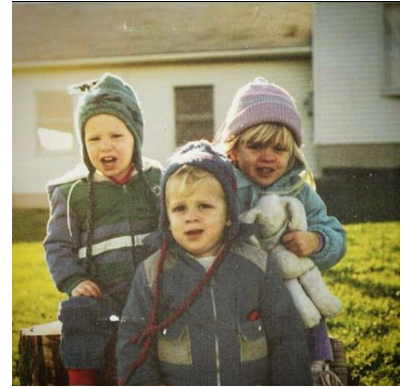


Zoo in Rochester, New York- my husband's home town. I was 22 years old visiting a zoo that my husband frequented as a small child. A few years later I visited Colorado Springs and visited Cheyenne Mountain Zoo- and clearly I fell in love and wanted to be a part of it!

I grew up in Vermont and zoos just weren't around. The closest thing to a zoo was the Montreal Biodome, but this was a 2 hour drive and was not something my family was eager to visit. I grew up on a dairy farm surrounded by animals, so visiting zoos and aquariums felt silly, since there were animals right in front of me. But this is definitely where my love and respect for living things flourished.

Obviously we had dairy cows (black and white Holsteins to be exact), but we also had chickens, turkeys, and we even had a few geese for a short time. The farm down the road had pigs, and another had horses. When I was 5 I smuggled a kitten in my jacket from a friend's farm- and she lived with us for the next 16 years. Farms have always been a part of my life- and I owe who I am to growing up in that world. Even the smell of each type of farm is engrained in my memoryí ..and trust me, some farms smell FAR worse than others.

We lived far away from town, and I didn't have neighborhood kids to play with. Instead I had four of the best friends I could ever ask



for- my three cousins and my brother. We spent hours playing outside together catching fireflies, pretending to drive tractors, and digging elaborate snow forts. My mom had to put shoes in my back pack- because I never wore them and would often forget them on my way to school. We grew up as wild children, and without knowing it, we all developed a deep love for wildlife and the outside world. And though we all grew up to do very different things with our lives, we have strong bonds still connecting us to the farm and the wonderful world around it. *Stacey Graham*

(Note: I have received a few first and early memories from you and will print them as space allows so please dig out those old photos or put on that thinking cap and forward some more. Editor)

BAHATI (Swahili for "Luck")

I decided to earn some IE time with one of my favorite animals from my childhood - yes, just one of my early memories. Before going to what I have dubbed "the wolf voyeur watch", I spent some time introducing our guests to our newest superstar, Bahati, on his first week into his new yard. He had it to himself as he had not yet met the crowned cranes, but he was very curious about both the giraffe and zebra. I had been able to meet him up close and personal a few days earlier and learned first "hand" what our **Manual** tells us about this wonderful creature. The education sheet says that Okapi have an oily skin which allows them to repel water in the rainforests. These before and after photos are courtesy of keepers, Diana Cartier and Kayla Ringuette. *Lovice Riffe*



Innocent looking creature



Before human contact with innocent looking creature



After human contact with innocent looking creature.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wishing you had a paper copy of the 2017 Manual? There are a few left! Only \$15. Contact Susan Gross if you want to get a copy.

Susan Gross

Our wonderful new docents have sent you some autobiographies. Be prepared to be amazed.

Susan McCreedy - I am a wife, mom, artist, and photographer. Also an animal and nature lover for my whole life. My most memorable wildlife experiences: taking an Eco.photo trip to the Arctic Ocean in Alaska to view polar bears, seeing moose and Alaskan brown bears in the wild, and spending a morning with a 5 year old orangutan.

Terry Pratt ó I have always loved animals. Until the age of 9 I was always disappointed when a "surprise" was not a dog. I always wanted an older brother . I have a sister who is 7 years younger. At 5'10", I am the tallest female on my mom's side. I lived in 7 states as an Air Force child. I have one son and a new daughter-in-law. They are both law enforcement officials in Maryland. I retired from the Federal Civil Service after 35 years. The CMZ brings together my passion for animals, people, and learning!

Rick Jenkins ó I've lived in Colorado Springs for 44 years and have watched the CMZ grow and develop. I was educated as a lawyer but found my true calling as a teacher. My wife and I have traveled extensively, visiting all 7 continents and we focused on any opportunities to experience the wildlife wherever we happened to be.

Cate Kelly ó I am a retired Coast Guard Officer. My favorite assignment was commanding officer of the Coast Guard Base in Honolulu. My husband David and I moved to Woodland Park 12 years ago when we retired. David and I enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, and traveling. I have been a zoo member for 11 years. We just got back from a trip to Australia!

Cliff Hicks ó I am a native of Colorado Springs and have a range of careers from medical, analytical chemistry, process engineering, and counseling. I retired as a school counselor. My spare time is spent flying the plane that I co-own with 4 other pilots.

Gisele Miyamoto ó I am an avid hiker, backpacker, and adventure traveler. The definition of a "Thru Hiker" is a homeless person who spends thousands of \$\$\$ on gear.

Chris Stoddard – I was a wireless network engineer, a wildlife photographer, and avid fan of zoos nationwide. I began my career as a SATCOM specialist, sailing the high seas on container freights. I am frequently found on weekends traipsing around Colorado in search of elk, lynx, and marmots. I am an avid fan of Amur Tigers and am owned by the mule deer buck who inhabits my back yard and the Manx cat who inhabits my couch.

Rick Decker ó I am a dual resident of Colorado Springs and Fond du Lac, WI. We have 4 grandkids and they live on Fort Carson. My 35 year career was with Purina where I worked in animal nutrition with all species but particularly with wildlife and exotics. I love the outdoors and usually spend at least a couple of weeks each year on a canoe trip in Canada or hiking.

Carol Maynard ó My undergrad degree is in biology and first job was a Washington State Game Dept. Biologist. But all that information learned was buried in the distant past as for the last 28 years I have worked as an Outward Bound instructor and psychotherapist. What a delight now to be coming back full circle to my interest in wildlife. I also love to travel, safaris in Africa being the high point adventures. Perhaps the most dramatic experience in my life with animals was being chased by 2 rhinos in Nepal when I was 18.

Sharon Ledlow - I am retired as an Early Childhood Teacher. My favorite grade, kindergarten, and my favorite non-teaching activity was to travel with my husband. We spent much time in nature ó hiking, rafting, and camping in our RV. We went coast to coast, 8 Canadian provinces and multiple trips to Hawaii, or favorite destination. He went to S. America when our son was working as an Astronomer in Chile. In addition to our happy memories we found that we experienced a pattern of being near disasters while remaining safe. We were in Oklahoma City for the bombing, In New York on 9/11, and in Maui when the tsunami hit the islands. Most dangerous was riding in the red bus over the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park. A landslide came down right in front of us but the driver saw it coming, backed up, and we were all safe. My husband, daughter and I moved to Woodland Park from Oklahoma

10 years ago and I now have a 7 year old grandson who loves to come to the zoo with me. My husband passed away in 2015. I had always wanted to become a zoo docent and now I am a trainee being immersed in new information, meeting wonderful people and becoming close to the animals is a dream come true. I am so grateful for this fabulous opportunity.

NEWS FROM MIDWAY ATOLL



Honolulu: The World's Oldest Known Seabird has a New Chick!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Thursday Wisdom's offspring hatched at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge last week. The Laysan albatross is at least 66 years old and is the world's oldest breeding bird in the wild. Fish and Wildlife Service project leader Bob Peyton says Wisdom has returned to Midway for over six decades. He says she has raised at least 30 chicks.

Midway Atoll is home to the world's largest colony of albatross. The island is about 1,200 miles northwest of Honolulu was the site of a pivotal World War II battle. Nearly 70% of the world's Laysan albatross relay on the atoll for its habitat. (from the Associated Press) *Sue Sallee*

Stay tuned for news about this photo (Ed.)





CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine
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