



President's Message

By: Jeanie Baratono, President

Greetings Docents,

How much do you know about our tapirs, Cofan and Carlotta? Do you know that CMZoo and LA Zoo are the only two places you can see mountain tapirs in the country? Mountain tapirs are estimated to have fewer than 2,000 individuals left in the wild. They are considered to be the most endangered large mammal in South America and are extinct in parts of the Andes Mountains of Ecuador, Columbia, and Peru. Illegal hunting and the loss of habitat to crops and livestock are the major threats to the mountain tapir's survival.

This is the second year that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has sent a team to help track and collar highly elusive mountain tapirs. Just like last year, the team was successful in the attempt to track and collar tapir. Unlike last year, the team was able to use satellite collars (instead of radio collars). This means even more data will be gathered on this secretive species! In a 2 week period the team was able to capture 3 mountain tapir and these individuals are now donning these fancy collars. This year our team was also joined by a reproductive specialist from the Smithsonian and it was a successful collaboration and team project! Joanna Husby, Michelle Salido, and Beth Genz just returned from this year's trip and I'm sure have many stories to tell!

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo was able to support the great work that the Andean Bear Foundation does thanks to the support of the Zoo's members and voting for this project for two years now. While our members may be excited about this unique species and its survival, many of our guest don't know what a tapir is. In fact, many people confuse them with an anteater! Think about how

much you can do, as a docent, to spread their message of conservation!

Attached is a picture of Carlotta testing out one of the collars that we took to Ecuador. With her help we were able to make sure that we had the appropriate size before we went into the field.



Jeanie Baratono

2017-2018 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

May 2018

2 Board Meeting Safari Lodge

5 Field Trip meet 10:30 SGTARGET EMU Farm

9** **TE Meeting – Election and Evaluations** Safari Lodge

12** **IE Meeting – Election & Evaluations** Safari Lodge

June 2018

6 Board Meeting Safari Lodge

9** **Joint IE/TE Meeting – Awards LAML (Lodge at Moose Lake)**

EDVENTURE

Summer Camp Opportunities!

If you did not know, Summer Camp is the biggest program we run in the EdVenture Department. With over 900 kids participating in just 12 weeks, we are definitely busy- but excited that we can reach that many kids connecting them to nature and wildlife in truly impactful ways. But- did you know that docents can be a part of summer camp too? We have had docents help with camp groups in the past and have had rave reviews about their experiences (especially since they have received their very own camp shirts!)

Docents in previous summers have helped our camp mentors with varying ages of campers. "Helping" with camp means walking with the groups to their next activity and engaging with the kiddos, participating in games and crafts, and helping lead interactive lessons about animals. It is a fun and informal way to connect with kids, staff, and animals on a whole new level (the best part is- you would not be in charge of your own group! Just there to provide assistance if and when needed!) You can also choose to participate in a short block of time, like an hour or two- or be super courageous and do a full day with us. You don't have to commit to a full week either, just a day or two here and there is much appreciated!

If you are interested in getting involved with camp, just shoot an email to me (sgraham@cmzoo.org) and we can get you some more information! Your time will also be tracked and can go towards your docent hours. Thanks!
Stacey Graham

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Restricted Account: Highlights from March: Zoopeteers received two donations totaling \$138. Remaining funds were shifted from the 2018 animal enrichment project to the 2019 animal enrichment fund for a total of 387.05 to begin our new Encounter Africa project. Total profit from King Soopers reloads was \$369.50 and from Safeway, \$280.15. Keep using your cards!! Year to date grocery reload profits from both King Soopers and Safeway is \$4,616.24. A grant was made to Dr. Liza Dadone for \$462.00. Ending balance in the Restricted Account is \$28,798.92.

Budget Account: Highlights from March: Normal monthly expenses for paper, social supplies DRC cleaning, copier fee plus the purchase of trainee name tags all totaling \$334.86. Operating Budget ending balance \$129.82

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

Nancy Hochman

ARV – WALKABOUT!

Do you know where the zebras sleep at night and how they get there? Or, where are those adorable long eye-lashed Hornbills? Thanks to Cris Stoddard's outreach on behalf of our Auxillary, 10 docents had a wonderful opportunity with Keeper Meagan to tour the basement of the Giraffe Barn and learn what goes on "behind the scenes". Docents: Cate Kelly, Sharon Ledlow, Juli Rich, Doris Banks, Mary McCann, Paula Rice-Charles, Gloria Wiersema, Carol Maynard, Rose Hernandez and I had the opportunity to see and hear about the care for the animals and birds when off exhibit due to weather and/or special needs. Informative and impressive!! And Cris shared at our April IE meeting that another IE tour group will get to walk about the ARV Basement this July. Plus – she shared that more opportunities will present themselves over the

summer and fall for our IEs at the monthly IE meetings! Don't miss out! *Terry Pratt*



WHAT IS A SAOLA?

The Saola is a phylogenetically distinct species living in one of the most (if not the most) globally biodiverse hotspots in the world. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and ranked #44 in the global Top 100 Evolutionarily Distinct & Globally Endangered (EDGE) species. The program to save the Saola will have a substantial added benefit of advancing conservation of the Annamite Mountains to where the Saola is endemic. This region is also home to species such as the Northern White-cheeked Gibbon, 2 newly discovered species of Muntjac, several unique species of turtles, and many more (Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has two pairs of White-Cheeked Gibbons).

Saola are threatened primarily by hunting, though as a by-catch through poaching snares. They are uniquely “unvalued” on the black market trade, which is a benefit to their cause. Poachers are not racing conservationists to find and eliminate the Saolas, giving significant hope to the conservationists cause. Small population size is the only other known threat to the species; small fragmented pockets of the species are found throughout the Annamite Mountains, and while an exact count on this rare species is unknown, it is an ideal time to begin efforts to learn more and save the species.

What is Catching Hope? Catching Hope is an organization that was created by someone who was passionate about conservation and helping save the Saola. Thousands upon thousands of snares have been collected from their habitats and ranges, and nothing was being done with them. The idea that there must be something “crafty” that can repurpose an item with a story and in turn help save the species that at one time that item had the potential to kill took root - and dream catchers, key chains, and ornaments have been the beautiful result! All proceeds raised from Catching Hope go directly to the Saola Working Group (SWG). The SWG work with local villagers in Vietnam & Laos to clear snares from the forest, and are actively working on setting camera traps to learn as much about the species as they can before they are gone forever. *Ashley Arimborgo*



Saola



Art from snares is now for sale in Thunderhead Gift Shop

The April Field Trip was to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. We met with Kathy Vires Educational Director, Marie, Barb other Docents from the Zoo that morning and then went in separate groups to go thru the Zoo. The first place was outside the Volunteer offices where we were introduced to the spitting fish. Many of us got to feed crickets to them and got wet in the process. Free tickets to ride the Sky ride were provided. A potluck salad lunch was shared by all and gave us time to Network and get to know more about their Docent Programs. What a fun and educational trip. After a full day and 17k steps on my Fitbit, we had supper at the Twisted Fork in Old Market.

Saturday was a free day for those that stayed. Some went back to the Zoo, some to the Gardens and Conservatory that shows art from recycled plastic, and we also were invited by the Zoo to the Wildlife Safari outside of Lincoln, Nebraska. Bison were walking so close to the front of our car it made us all a little nervous.



3 Docents in this photo also attended AZAD in Phoenix just days before! (photo by Linnea McDonald)



Photo from Joan

FIELD TRIPS



Homegrown coral. Photo from Linnea

The May Field Trip visits an Emu Farm in Rocky Ford. *Joan Adkins*

CEC REMINDER

The copies of the Spring Fling are available in the DRC for you to pick up. Thanks to all who participated this season. *Susie Potterat*

KEEPER SPOTLIGHT

This month's keeper spotlight is on **Patty Wallace** the lead keeper in Australia. Here are her words:

I didn't know I wanted to be a zookeeper until I interned at CMZ. I fell in love with the animals and decided this was the direction that I wanted to go.

We had just moved to CS and I didn't even know there was a zoo here. I was looking for internships to finish my degree and CMZ popped up on a google search, I applied because I thought it would be fun, it was extremely rewarding and I learned so much. I applied for the first available job after graduation and the rest is history. I started as a keeper assistant in the spring of 2010.

Right now I have taken the on the lead keeper role for the Australia area. I am looking forward to getting the hippos back and the possibility of hippo calves! *Patty Wallace*



Patty and the Girls

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TAPIR AND A GIANT ANTEATER



This is a Giant Anteater, one of two at the Reid Park Zoo, our own Kay Bard Gray is a docent at this beautiful Tucson Zoo during the winter months. Compare this photo to that of the Mountain Tapir aka Woolly Tapir on page 1 of this edition. Read on to find out more cool sites and information gleaned from the AZADV conference in Phoenix.

A FIRST TIMER'S REPORT FROM AN AZADV CONFERENCE

Part One of Two

I have been a docent since 2007 and was FINALLY able to attend an AZADV conference. This year the conference was early in the year – they are normally held in the fall – but it was in Phoenix and springtime is a much more comfortable time for guests that plan to spend a lot of time strolling through zoos and other animal and fauna habitats. I flew in early since I wanted to take advantage of all the field trips I could and they started on Tuesday, April 10th. An early start after a late flight in the night before for a long day down to Tucson to the Sonoran Desert Museum via the Saguaro National Forest (oh the “g” is silent - that is how Arizonans can tell outsiders) and then the Reid Park Zoo. Have you ever had a hawk fly so close over your head that your hair ruffled? That happened to most of us at the Desert Museum where we also saw the Harris Hawk hunting as a family in concert – like lions and wolves do. No pictures of that actual action but here is a Crested Caracara.



And at the Reid Park Zoo, I failed to see Kay Bard Gray there, but did see an animal I had never heard of before – brace yourselves – a Dwarf Screaming Hairy Armadillo, a native of S. America. This one is an outreach animal so used to people but go on line to hear and see.



The next day I was able to visit the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center and the Phoenix Herpetological Society. SWCC is basically staffed by docents like ourselves, who care for, rehab and release, when possible, animals that come into their care due to accident, poaching from the wild – including pets, often taken in with good intentions because found as orphans; but also some from commercial backgrounds like the hybrid jaguar/leopard we met. For more information go to (www.southwestwildlife.org). The Herp society (www.phoenixherp.com) has many animals as a result of similar circumstances, a similar mission to rehab and release when they can, but these are, for the most part our scaly friends. It has one of the largest collections of venomous snakes in America. It is also the home to an alligator called Mr. Stubbs, who had been recovered from a hoarder and had his tail bitten off by another of his relatives. He has a prosthesis for a tail in order to preserve his spine in the shape and function it should have. He was between prosthetics then, having grown out of the earlier one and still waiting for the correct fit. It reminded me of Winter, the porpoise at Clearwater Aquarium, whose tail was killed by a fishing net. There are 2 movies about her – she has her own website and she is an inspiration to disabled children. Below is a Javalina at the SWCC. Remember that historically they were the favorite prey of Mexican Grey Wolves – way cuter than I imagined. But I hear they have a very distinctive odor – so probably not the animal for your back yard.



On Thursday I was able to visit the Desert Botanical Garden which is in the same large park as the Phoenix Zoo. We took two trips to that area that day as the Ice Breaker – the official welcome to all us visiting docents and volunteers – was at the Phoenix Zoo that evening after the Keynote address and welcome back at the hotel. But at the Garden we were greeted by Chihully.



And I met a Snake cactus



And when we went to the Zoo for the ice breaker we found the room similar to the Lodge at Moose Lake. We have Ginger out the window. Phoenix has Sand cats!



This exhibit is only visible who are inside the rooms at the Neely Education Center. Luckily we got to see them more the very next day.



I will have more to relate next month in Part Deux. It will include more photos from me and our fellow docents and reports of topics including our own Dr. Lisa Dadone reporting about SAFE and our giraffe projects! *Lovice Riffe*



CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine

May, 2018

Lovice D. Riffe, Editor
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Society
4250 Cheyenne Mt. Zoo Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906



