

Cheyenne Mountain

Zoo Auxiliary

Zoo



Line

Volume 46 Edition 3

November, 2016

President's Message

By: Sandy Flynn, President

October was a busy month for us. Many tours, Boo at the Zoo and lots of bookings for Zoopeteers.

And what a great fall we have had. The weather has been spectacular making trips to the zoo pleasant and uneventful.

Jeanie Baratono, Sue Switzer, and I attended the October CMZ board meeting. At the meeting, we presented an overview of our Zoopeteer program. Jeanie brought puppets and she and Sue demonstrated how we use them. Marie Poyzer wrote a great description of what our Zoopeteers do and here it is!!

Zoopeteer Program

Our Zoopeteer program was started as a way to instill a love of animals in younger students. There is no cost for this program. We travel to the schools with our puppets and present animated stories for the children. We focus on Kindergarten, and first and second graders. We view this as a foundation for continual learning about the exciting world of animals.

We teach the students about the characteristics and habitats of select animals using an entertaining puppet presentation. We have a portable stage that the group carts around to all performances. There are 8 different performances and are geared to our youngest students.

Students at those ages sometimes think the individual animal puppets are real because we

provide a lot of magic and rewarding fun for our audience.

In 2015-2016, 25 Zoopeteers gave 140 performances at 40 different schools for approximately 3,730 students. Most of our performances are in Colorado Springs but we also travel to Ellicott and as far away as Canon City.

However, it's not always perfect. Last year our Zoopeteers encountered obstacles from snow days, make up snow days, two fire drills, and 1 false alarm fire drill. But for the most part it is a fun and very rewarding way to begin sparking a child's love for animals.

It was an eye opener for the Board. They were very impressed and asked me to thank all of you for the great work you do.

I also highlighted our numbers for the summer. Eighty seven of our docents provided 1,833 hour from June 1st through September 30th with 2,570 volunteer hour logged for a total of 4,402 hours. We are already \$2,000 over our budgeted revenue for the year.

Meet your CMZA Board of Directors

This month we are featuring Dennis Akkola or as he's better known, "Chef Dennis". Dennis' role on the board is service registrar but he has also graciously accepted the job of sending out all of those CMZ e-mails that we all just love to get.

Here are his comments:

The zoo is a wonderful place for me! I enjoy talking to people, seeing where they are from, and informing them of a little bit about our animals. I enjoy being “Chef Dennis” for the kids. They really enjoy helping to prepare a meal for one of the animals. I love seeing the look of apprehension on Mom’s face as the kids use a knife (plastic) for the first time or the look of mild terror in Mom’s eyes when I have the child pick up a tray to carry the lunch to the animal. And the times when a mom or dad tells me that I really made the day for their child – well, that just makes my day too.

One of my favorite animals at the zoo is Houdini – a European Glass lizard. Because he is legless and looks like a snake, I can show guests some of the basic differences between snakes and lizards.

My background: I’m an Air Force Brat, served as a helicopter pilot in the Army, and spent 24 years with the FDIC as a bank examiner. The last four years with FDIC were in the NYC regional office. My wife Patti and I followed our son to Colorado Springs when he retired from the Bernalillo County (Albuquerque) sheriff’s office.

Animal Highlights

For those of you who missed our October TE meeting here are some highlights:

- We have ten new peachicks running around the zoo.
- Basia Dann has been working on a really awesome prey drag behavior with Anya, the Amur Leopard. Anya has started doing it on exhibit and is looking good.
- Annie and Ilana have been working with Jumbe to establish a really solid blood draw behavior. They have had two successful blood draws since the re-training!
- We started using the microphone at the Emu demo and allowing people to walk through Australia while Dora is out in the wallaby yard. Dora is doing great at

walking among larger crowds and even eating from guests.

- African lion cubs “Elsa”, “Aslan” and “Boma” participated daily in the lion show with their buffalo, rock, and target behaviors.
- A vertical climbing structure was built for the pythons in order to help with introductions and give them more options on which to move around.

Here’s how we did with our Animal Revenue program in September and October:

- Animal Encounters \$6,847
- Keeper Shadows \$570
- Budgie Seed Sticks \$18,869
- Chicken Feeding \$2,153
- Elephant experience \$9,305
- Rhino experience \$3,640

Have a great November and Thanksgiving!!

Sandy

**2016-2017
CMZ Auxiliary Calendar**

Meeting Times are 9:30 AM
Training Times are 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Education Committee Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday every month at 9:30 a.m. in Safari Lodge. ***Bolded items - date or location has been changed.**

Nov 2016

2	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
9	TE Meeting	Safari Lodge
12	IE Meeting	Safari Lodge

Dec 2016

No meetings

3	Holiday Party 2-5 PM	Marie Poyzer
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Jan 2017

4	Board Meeting	Safari Lodge
11	TE Meeting	Safari Lodge
14	IE Meeting	Library
14	Training Begins	Safari Lodge
21	Training	Safari Lodge
28	Training	Safari Lodge

PROGRAMS

TE PROGRAM

November 9- Jenny Diaz will be presenting a program on Bird Training, incorporating what she learned at her advanced avian training class in Florida. There will be feathers, you may need a hat.

IE PROGRAM

November 12 – Scott Myers, Horticulture

SOCIAL EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for these important dates.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – Staff Lunch

This is our annual event to treat all those hard working CMZA Zookeepers and staff to lunch on us! The main course, lasagna and bread will be provided by Fazoli's. Docents please provide lots of salad and dessert options to share. Bring lots, those folks work up an appetite! Soft drinks will be provided by social committee.

Saturday, December 3, 2016- 2 PM- 5 PM

CMZA Holiday party at Marie Poyzer's. Bring an appetizer with beer or wine to share. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided by the social committee. *Deana Martin-Muth & Gayle Flora*



Kasai with a fall treat at Dickerson Park Zoo

EDVENTURE UPDATES

After what seems to have been a VERY busy summer, things seem to be settling down in the EdVenture Department. We tend to have fewer programs in the fall and winter months, though are still doing quite a few birthday parties. Our Wild Night programs are slower than usual, so feel free to spread the word and entice people to spend the night at the zoo!

Behind the scenes we are actually quite busy still. The fall is when we debrief from the summer and start building new ideas (while summer successes and areas for improvement are fresh in our minds). This is also the dreaded "Budget Season" (input ominous drum pounding here!). For those who may not be aware, the EdVenture department is held to a break even standard- meaning wages and expenses can only be offset by the amount of revenue that is brought in. The idea is not necessarily to make money (though that is always great!), but to make enough money to cover what we have spent. It is this very reason we rarely have staff come in unless there is a program, and why we have few full time staff. It is an interesting way to budget, and definitely holds us all accountable to trying to make budget monthly. Our team is busy calculating and estimating what our programs will bring in next year, based on previous year's statistics.

We typically spend some time re-training our current staff, hiring new staff, and refreshing as much as we possibly can, because everything gets crazy as soon as spring hits (as you all know too!). Our hope is that the fall and winter gives us enough time to prepare for the following summer and make it even more successful than the year before!

Stacey Graham

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Restricted Account: In September we spent \$1100 from King Soopers profits to send three staff personnel to the AAZK National Conference. Sustaining Docents paid \$10 and \$40 worth of grocery gift cards were sold. Two donations were made to honor Jack Carson. Ending balance in the Restricted Account \$27,022.

Budget Account: \$129 was spent for DRC cleaning and on the copier. \$180 was spent to purchase three suitcases for safari kits and \$78 was spent on social and tour supplies. Operating Budget ending balance was \$4907.

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

Nancy Hochman

A FOND MEMORY OF DJ MOU

This photo was taken just last October, one year ago, on our Auxiliary field trip to Picketwire Canyon. This was at Bent's Fort where DJ was asked to help make adobe. And she did. And she apparently enjoyed the experience!



DJ Mou (1927-2016)

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo docent 2000-2016

Ceremony for all her friends is at Garden of the Gods Club on November 4, from 2-4.

ZOOPETEERS

Thanks to Marcia Morris who overheard this comment from a preschooler at Wilson Elementary:

After presenting "Bear Cub Is Lost" using our best animal voices, one young child, in filing past us with our puppets on his way back to his classroom exclaimed, "It's a human, I just knew it!"

EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND TRAINING NEWS

Training for New Docents Scheduled

The new docent training school will begin on January 14, 2017. Training will continue every Saturday until March 18, 2017. (As usual, we have reserved one extra week in case of snow) Classes will be held in the Safari Lodge; they begin at 9:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM. Active docents may attend as many sessions as they wish. One CEC credit will be granted for attending each FULL morning or FULL afternoon, PROVIDED that there are teaching sessions during that half-day. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the room.

Each week, I will send out the handouts for the following classes to the entire auxiliary. If you plan to attend a training, you may print the handouts and bring them with you. There will be no printed handouts available at the school.

The 10 new trainees will attend a short "meet and greet" on January 7, 2017. The purpose of this short meeting is to become acquainted with each other and to receive the manual.

Thank you in advance for your support of these eager new trainees. They will be looking to you all for mentorship, wisdom, certification, and guidance. We will welcome them as they attend our meetings.

Susan Gross

We received an early Halloween Treat from Hadiyah on 10/29/2014



CMZ photo in early October 2016



Ember is two! (Can you clench your toes like that?)



FB from Dickerson Park Zoo – mid October 2016



Poster found on FB. Click to copy and enlarge. Or, if that doesn't work, contact me and I will send it to you as an attachment.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD TRIP TO THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY IN KEENSBURG

Photos courtesy of Linnea McDonald



Bolivian Lioness



Lion Enclosure



White tiger in shade



IMAGES OF AQUATICS





CMZ Auxiliary ZooLine
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