



President's Message – Nancy Hochman

Greetings Docents,

Where to start? October is behind us. Boo at the Zoo is always a hit with little ones and not so little ones having a great time gathering treats, checking out the animals and trying to stay warm. Boo lets us know winter is just around the corner. Winter won't slow things down too much for us. We have November tours and safaris and this is the season when the Zoopeteers are in high demand. ZOOM, of course, never stops.

While the temperature may drop (or not, who can predict?), we have indoor areas for house and cart talks as well as some sheltered spots. Always feel free to come up and check out a biofact and talk to guests about your favorite animals. Guests always enjoy your stories and after the CEC in October, we should have plenty to relate with enhanced techniques for interacting with the public. Go for it!

If you haven't been attending the IE and TE meetings, you are missing exceptional programs. In October, Mike Halby from the Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association and Cassie English from Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department gave wonderful presentations. Outside speakers have so much to offer us. This is not to say, in any way, our very own Zoo staff have less to offer, quite the contrary. If you haven't heard Jeff Halter's entertaining animal updates or Bob Chastain's in-depth Zoo updates, you are missing out on what is happening. Both continually share with us the latest news so we can better respond to guests' questions. It always helps to know what is going on at the Zoo. Attend the IE and TE meetings to keep yourself informed.

We do have some new additions to the Zoo's collection. Hutch, a Virginia opossum, is on display in BBY. He will, hopefully, be joining the Zoo's outreach program. Scutes will be the home for Western pond turtles, a Woma python and a Bavay's giant gecko. Also new is Karl, a Von der Decken's hornbill, who will be joining the flight show in ARV once the shows resume in the spring.

October brought Stacey back to the Edventure office. It must have been a shock for her to jump back in and pick up the reins, let's give her a chance to catch up before we pounce. Brittinie and Austin have done a wonderful job filling in. High fives to all the Edventure staff for keeping everything not only afloat but moving forward in Stacey's absence.

As a parting thought, the Zoo has had record attendance the past few months. There were 71,359 guests in September alone. The weather was gorgeous. There were fun events for the public and Docents were a part of it all. We helped facilitate the events, always making guests feel important and valued. Thank you.

Finally, a very Happy Thanksgiving to Eugene in RMW and Laredo in BBY.

Nancy

DATES TO KNOW

Meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

- Nov 6 Board Meeting ...Safari Lodge
- Nov 9 IE MeetingSafari Lodge
- Nov 13 ... TE Meeting and Staff Lunch
- Lodge at Moose Lake**
- Nov 20 ... Education Mtg.....**LML**
- December.....No Meetings
- Dec 7.....Holiday Party @ Marie Poyzer's
- Jan 4..... Trainee Meet & Greet
- 10:00-2:00Safari Lodge
- Jan 8..... Board Meeting ...Safari Lodge
- Jan 11 IE Meeting **Library**
- Jan 15**.... TE MeetingSafari Lodge
- Jan 22.... Education Mtg....Safari Cabin
- Feb 5 Board Meeting ...Safari Lodge
- Feb 8 Joint TE/IE Meeting..... **LML**
- Feb 26 Education Mtg....Safari Lodge

CECs and TRAINING

CECs start at 9:30 a.m. unless noted

- Nov 20 ... CEC.....Safari Lodge
- Nov 23 ... CEC.... **Lodge at Moose Lake**

Class of 2020 Training

- January 11 through March 21
- Saturdays ...9 a.m.-4 p.m. ...Safari Lodge

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Monthly Program Information

TE Meeting November 13 - LML

This month's TE Meeting will be in The Lodge at Moose Lake and will feature a presentation by ARV Keeper Phil Waugh. Rumor has it he will be bringing a "mystery" guest! Who will it be? Come and find out! Following the meeting, the annual Keeper/Staff luncheon will be held!



IE Meeting on November 9 – Safari Lodge

Bryan Oberg, Edventure Keeper, will be presenting a talk on labeling animals and demonstrating better communication with animals to guests.

Financial Report

At the end of September, the Operational Account showed expenditures for the year at \$4,290.19, leaving a balance of \$2,209.81. Expenses included popcorn supplies, new guides and name tags for Safari kits, DRC cleaning, supplies for cart repairs and the wonderful new computer in the DRC.

The balance in the Restricted Account at the end of September was \$24,350.33. This includes most of the 50th Anniversary expenses, but some reimbursements are still outstanding. King Soopers income through July was \$1,680.07.

November CEC Information

ADVANCED MAMMAL TOUR REFRESHER/CERTIFICATION

Another classroom opportunity to earn a CEC credit is coming your way this month on Wednesday 20 November at Safari Lodge and Saturday 23 November at The Lodge at Moose Lake.

Both sessions will start at 9:30 and last approximately 2 hours. The information given is not just for tour docents. It can help each of us to understand our mammals better.

After attending one of the classes, tour certification can be completed by doing a quiz and following a practice tour with a certified docent. Four dates are available for the practice tour: 3, 5, 10 or 12 December. Be prepared to sign up at the CEC for one of these tours if you are interested in being certified to lead Advanced Mammal Tours.

ATTENTION: Since the Saturday 23 November session is so close to a holiday, SEND ME AN E-MAIL IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. If there is not enough interest (10+ docents) this session will be cancelled.

Charlotte Greene, CEC Chairperson

Animal Report from Jeff Halter at the Oct TE meeting
Note: the following is Zoo family only information until it has been released by the Zoo to the media/public.

- The Wolf Petition Ballot initiative #107 could still use help from docents, as 125,000 valid signatures are needed to get on the 2020 ballot. 11,347 signatures have been collected at the Zoo so far, with 72% validated.
- 4 of our meerkats have moved to the John Ball Zoo, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Karl, a new Von der Decken Hornbill, will be added to the ARV Bird Show.
- 3 Western Pond turtles arrived from San Francisco Zoo, in Scutes.
- Marilyn Monroe, a new Guinea Fowl, has a breeding recommendation.
- International Vulture Awareness Day was a success.
- Alex, one of our warthogs, greeted donors at an event.
- Tujoh, our 25-year-old orangutan, participated in health care, even allowing a finger blood pressure cuff to be worn.
- Zwena, one of our lionesses, 12 years old, is experiencing some health issues, has had ultrasounds, x-rays, a biopsy and a surgery; she is recovering well.
- Beezler, 26-year-old Asiatic Black Bear, loved eating peanut butter while getting blood drawn.
- Horticulture department is now under Jeff Halter's management - he is now in charge of all living things at the zoo, except for guests, staff, etc.!

Annual Keeper / Staff Luncheon November 13

Just a reminder - the annual Keeper/Staff luncheon will be held at the Lodge at Moose Lake on Wednesday, November 13, following the monthly TE meeting.

This is just one small way we can show our appreciation for the amazing job the keepers and staff do every day to make our zoo one of the best in the country! The main dishes will be catered and there have been sign-up sheets for salads and desserts at the October meetings.

Thank you,
Kim Bunch-DeCou and Eileen Derry



CMZA Zoo Line Deadline

Please send all submissions – information, articles, pictures. etc. – to cmza.zoline@yahoo.com. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, **the deadline for the December issue is Monday, November 18.**

Being Prepared (A Note from Nancy)

Now that winter is upon us and temperatures are dropping, take a few minutes to find your CMZA hat, warm parka and a pair of gloves before the temperature really tanks. Toss them in your car so you are ever ready for what might come when you get to the Zoo. As the sun sets earlier and earlier behind the mountains, the Zoo feels the chilly change in temperature before the rest of Colorado Springs.

This is also the perfect opportunity to think about what animals will be active as the weather changes. Head for the Snow leopard, the Amur tigers and Amur leopards. They are totally different animals when the thermometer drops. You'll have a great chance to share their incredible winter adaptations.

Temple Grandin Presentation

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 10:30 am

Dr. Grandin will speak on "Understanding Animal Behavior" in the Foothills Ballroom at the Hotel Elegante at 2886 S. Circle Dr. C/S 80906



Tickets are \$40 per seat, and reservations are limited to 300 people. To receive a registration form, send an e-mail to: pamelaleland@msn.com, with the subject line "Temple Grandin"

This presentation is brought to you by Colorado Springs Dog Training Center, www.cosdtc.com.

Thanks to Greta Johnson for this information

Articles and Information of Interest

- The October issue of National Geographic is a special issue dedicated to vanishing species, with particular attention paid to giraffe and efforts to relocate them (page 90), rhinos (page 34), sea turtles (page 62), plus an article titled *What We Lose When Species Go Extinct* (page 40).
- For more information on the Western North Carolina Nature Center (mentioned in the AZADV article, below), go to: www.wildwnc.org/
- In the September National Geographic, *Alone With Wolves* (page 116) featuring wolves of the Arctic.
- Also in the September National Geographic, an article titled *Death Comes for a Crocodile* (page 32). It discusses the plan to save the species.
- For the most up-to-date information about threatened species worldwide, visit the IUCN website at <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- Lots of good information about many animals is available at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology website, Animal Diversity Web: <https://animaldiversity.org/>

Enrichment

Hello fellow docents! This has been a busy month for enrichment. First, thank you for providing requested items to support enrichment.



WE NO LONGER NEED: egg cartons, paper bags, toilet paper rolls.

WE DO NEED: paper towel rolls, dried fruit (including raisins, Craisins) and pasta. Below is the schedule for making cannolis – essentially, it will occur after IE meetings.

- Saturday, November 9 (after IE meeting)
- Saturday, December 14
- Saturday, January 11 (after IE meeting)
- Saturday, February 8 (after IE/TE meeting)
- Saturday, March 14 (after IE meeting)
- Saturday, April 11 (after IE meeting)
- Saturday, May 9 (after mandatory IE meeting)
- Saturday, June 6 (after mandatory IE/TE meeting)
- Saturday, July 11 (after IE meeting)
- Saturday, August 8 (after IE meeting)

Kathy O'Donnell, Enrichment Chairperson

2019 AZADV CONFERENCE

What a beautiful city! Greenville, SC welcomed the AZADV attendees with open arms! On September 23 several docents visited the AZA accredited Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville. It is home to regional native animals that cannot be released into the wild for various reasons. We saw two Red Wolves! We were then whisked off for a tour of the Sierra Brewery's eastern location where we learned not only about hops, but lessons in building in nature in a sustainable fashion. There were miles of trails, all the trees cut in order to build the facility were milled and reused either in the building structure, décor, or furniture and native trees were replanted. In fact, native plants are everywhere and they have a large organic garden. This brewery has large cisterns for collecting rainwater for re-use and all the waste from the brewing process goes to local farms.



Day 2 featured a visit to AZA accredited Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens in Columbia, SC. What fun to see animals that we don't have at our zoo, including flamingoes, seals, and koalas. Several docents made fast friends with very hungry lorikeets, Riverbanks' version of Budgie Buddies.

The delegates' meeting took place that night. One of the most anticipated topics was the October launch of the new website. The retirement of the AZADV travel programs was discussed as well as the Educational Grant program. The 2019 deadline for Education Grants is in December and then the program will be reevaluated for 2020. Delegates were encouraged to go back to our facilities and promote membership in AZADV. And we do encourage you all to sign up. Membership is inexpensive and it is worth it just for Symbiosis, the educational newsletter published several times a year. Board members reviewed and approved the budget, as well as the slate of officers and the nominating committee for the upcoming year. The Louisville Zoo made a presentation and that is where the 2020 conference will be held, Sept. 21-26, 2020.

The opening session of our conference was on Thursday and we were treated to a presentation by Chris Hagan, the Director of Animal Management of the Turtle Survival Alliance. The main goal of this Alliance is "NO EXTINCTIONS". Out of 360 species of turtles/tortoises, 60% are threatened due to pet trade, food, medicine, and habitat loss. The most endangered group is the Asian Box Turtle.



That evening we attended the icebreaker at the Children's Museum of the Upstate, a Smithsonian affiliate. Docents ate, took selfies, played their way through the museum, and bought raffle tickets for a behind-the-scenes with a Greenville Zoo orangutan family.

Friday was Zoo day at the AZA accredited Greenville Zoo. We could shuttle or walk the 1½ miles from our hotel along the Swamp Rabbit Trail - it runs 14 miles through Downtown Greenville along the Reedy River and is a remarkable walk along the creek and native plants and well-tended grounds.

At this very small Zoo – only 14 acres, but over 85 species – we were treated to monkeys, apes, Maasai giraffes, an assortment of birds and reptiles, red pandas, ambassador animals, and behind-the-scenes tours with Jeanie's favorite (the giant anteater) and Miles, a 20-foot tall Maasai giraffe.



We have a short-lived and sad attachment to Greenville Zoo as we were obtaining their elderly and alone female African elephant, Joy, who sadly died on the trip before she could meet all her new friends. Yet another reason for us all to join AZAD as we will have new contacts from zoos all over the country – and the world. We were often asked about certain of our animals, that we now see daily, which were transferred from other Zoos. And we often ask new people we meet about our animals that now reside at their facilities.

Saturday was the learning day and included the following opportunities:

- Action for Primates: PASA's Response to the West African Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Anteater: Nashville Zoo and the Pantanal
- Saving Mankind One Horseshoe Crab at a Time
- From Conflict to Conservation: Why Modern Zoos and Aquariums Matter
- Tigers United: Harnessing the Power of Land Grant Universities in the Fight to Save Our Mascot
- Volunteer Resilience
- Helping Zoo Guests to Reshape Their View of Snakes
- Biofact Usage and Interpretation with the Campbell Museum of Natural History
- An Up Close and Personal Look at Elephant Conservation Efforts in Kenya
- Inside Operant Conditioning with a Greenville Zoo Keeper
- Using Zoos to Foster Empathy

In between sessions we participated in the Silent Auction, voted in the photo contest, and spent money at the Wild Side Vendors (yes, Jeanie bought a lizard ring). That evening we dressed up for the banquet and listened to the amazing story as the Orangutan Birth Team recounted their efforts to save both mom and baby while performing a caesarean.

Several members stayed for the post trip to SC Botanical Gardens and Clemson. Again another fascinating offering of plants native to this part of the US. And also again, docents are a strange lot: while viewing the carnivorous plants (did you know Venus flytraps are actually a North American plant?) we witnessed a large black and yellow spider attack a Monarch butterfly. Thankfully the butterfly escaped, John Mayher was able to get a photo of the spider.

We look forward to Louisville, Kentucky next Sept. 21-26 and hope that many of you will join AZADV and come with us for another fun and enriching time!

Contributed by Jeanie Baratono and Lovice Riffe

Valentine's Day Project 2020

The EdVenture team submitted a request for support that became **our Valentine's Day project for 2020!** It is a VERY worthy project that will benefit our American Kestrel, Marty McFly, the chickens and the docents!



First, Marty lost a wing recently so the keepers requested a stand-alone kestrel exhibit in BBY to give Marty the best quality of life. He



loves people and he is currently isolated from guest interaction. They want to be able to give him a safe, warm, versatile, and adapted home designed perfectly for a one-winged bird.

Second, the keepers want to build larger wooden nest boxes that will look nice and professional. They will turn them south facing so the guests can view the chickens sitting on eggs while the ladies are resting and laying.

Our ladies certainly deserve nicer nest boxes than the plastic crate they have now. Can't you see Mrs. Butterworth and Betty Crocker in these lovely new boxes?



Scavenge for Vultures

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020 at the Joint TE/IE meeting we'll hold our fundraiser, Scavenge for Vultures, and we want your donated goods!



Clean out those closets and drawers to find jewelry, animal-themed clothing, stuffed animals and various knick-knacks to share with other docents. The money raised will be put into an account to use for supplies for IVAD (International Vulture Awareness Day). Funds are also donated to Vulture Conservation in Africa.

To donate do the following:

- PUT PRICE TAGS on every item, in even dollar increments (\$2, \$4, \$10, etc.)
- Put everything in a box or bag, nothing loosey-goosey!
- Hold your items until we announce the date & time to bring your goods up to the Zoo. This is typically the day before the event, but we will let you know as we get closer to the date.

If necessary, CALL or E-MAIL Merrill or Caz (see directory) to arrange for transfer. Do not bring items to meetings without contacting them first!

Fun Quote #1: "Vultures are the most righteous of birds: they do not attack even the smallest living creature."

~ Plutarch

Fun Facts #2: Vultures are somewhat social and often feed, fly or roost in large flocks.

What do you call a group of vultures? A committee, venue or volt.

What do you call a group of vultures in flight? A kettle.
What do you call a group of vultures feeding together at a carcass? A wake!

Field Trip to the Ice Core Facility

Ten docents and two hubbies braved the sub-zero cold inside the ice-storage repository while visiting the National Science Foundation Ice Core Facility in Lakewood, CO. Geoffrey Hargreaves (our host) taught us about the important work of the facility, which includes acquiring and preserving ice core samples from glaciers and ice sheets. These ice core samples contain a

continuous record of atmospheric conditions. The oldest continuous records extend back 130,000 years in Greenland and 800,000 years in Antarctica!



We learned how samples are drilled, removed, packaged, shipped, cut, cataloged and preserved. The ice core samples provide information about the Earth's historical climate and they allow for greater understanding of the elements contributing to current climate change.

The facility preserves the integrity and catalogs the core samples. Cuttings from ice core samples are provided to scientists for various research projects. Much of the research involves examining the air samples that are trapped in bubbles in the ice. Because the ancient ice reveals Earth's climate history, discoveries such as unrecorded volcanoes have contributed to a more complete geologic record.



The most urgent lesson comes from the CO₂ record preserved in the ice cores. The rapid increase of Carbon-12 isotope in modern times can be read in the ice core record. It proves the influence of human activity since that isotope is directly produced by burning fossil fuels.

A group of middle school students attended the lecture also, and their insightful questions at the end of lecture impressed us all.

After the lecture, we visited the exam room where much of the work is done on the ice samples. This room is maintained at -25° F so that the samples remain frozen but the workers can still do their work. Our hardy group felt that it was far too cold to get any work done... That is until we entered the archive! The archive is a 55,000 cubic foot freezer that is always -36°F.

We were able to see actual samples removed from their storage tubes – that is, we could see them until our glasses fogged over!

Susan Gross

The Buzz on Beekeeping



The August IE meeting had a very interesting, informative guest speaker, Tally, from Buckley's Homestead Supply. She and her husband have been beekeepers for 7 or 8 years and have 16 hives.

Here are some highlights:

- Importance of honeybees includes pollination, transporting pollen, making honey. One out of every three bites of food we take are a result of the work of bees. Bees also pollinate cotton, and almonds can only be pollinated by bees.
- Bees communicate by pheromones, dance, and vibrations. They can leave a pheromone on a flower to tell others that there is no pollen left. If a worker bee finds a field of flowers, she will go back to the hive and do a dance. This waggle dance tells the direction, distance, and intensity of the field, so the others can find it.
- Bees have a wide variety of behaviors. The worker bees do all the jobs in the hive – constructing, nursing, cleaning, attending to the queen, foraging, etc. They can carry their weight's worth in pollen pants or saddle packs. Bees fly 3-5 miles daily and forage for about 45 days in the summer.
- Queen bees reign but don't rule. They only lay the eggs; the worker bees determine if the egg will develop into a drone, a worker bee, or a queen by the size of the cell. Queen bees live 3-5 years, and there is typically only one queen per hive.

Other fun facts

- Don't eat bananas on the day you are working with bees. Their alarm pheromone smells like bananas.
- Honey lasts forever, it never spoils! It will crystalize but can be brought back by putting it in hot water – don't use the microwave.
- A bee makes one-twelfth to one-eighth teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Planting bee attracting flowers can help. They are attracted to blues and purples in the summer but like yellows in spring.

- Honey a great cough suppressant and is antiseptic so can be put on wounds
- If you have a swarm of bees, leave them alone. They will move on in about 24 hours. Bees are more docile when swarming.

If you have more questions, contact Tally at Buckley's Homestead Supply, 701 West Colorado Avenue or call 719-358-8510. www.buckleyshs.com on the Web info@buckleyshs.com by e-mail.

Thanks to Tami Dickens for this article

Photo Credits - Thank you to all who provided photos!

- *Jeanie Baratono & Lovice Riffe for the AZADV snapshots*
- *Cris Stoddard for the photo of our vultures*
- *Kathy O'Donnell for the Valentine's Project photos*
- *Susie Gross for the field trip pictures*
- *Deborah Compton for the primate birthday pictures*
- *Ellie Solomon for the picture of Diana's encounter*



Diana Gantz, Ellie Solomon, Ginger, and Loft Lead Keeper Jenny Diaz at the encounter Diana won

Birthday girls in Primate World this month (L to R): Western lowland gorillas, Asha (27) and Juju (39); Sumatran orangutan, Sumagu (32), and Bornean orangutan, Ember (5).



Snake enrichment, Greenville Zoo



Antoine the anteater, Greenville Zoo





AZADV Dinner. Seated: Michel and Sheree Lira, Jeanie Baratono, Charlotte Greene, Sue Mayher, John Mayher. Standing: Lovice Riffe, Cris Stoddard and Linda Gray.



AZADV Photos (clockwise from top right)

- Recycled lion artwork at Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia SC
- Informational sign along the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville, SC
- Swamp Rabbit Trail, looking back to the falls
- Beautyberry along Swamp Rabbit Trail
- Water feature near hotel, Lazy Goat restaurant in the background
- Miracle baby orang-utan (born by Caesarean section) with mom