



President’s Message – Jeanie Baratono

Spring has sprung???? Schools are coming and it will be a busy month to finish up your docent year. I hope you are getting those last-minute hours in before our year ends on May 31. There are lots of opportunities for tours and safaris, especially for the May 17 Ecology tour. Your help is appreciated. Come work the carts, too.

Meerkat babies are sure cute as well as Katt and Giggie’s joeys. Everyone loves elephants, hornbills, lions, penguins, hippos and Rocky Mountain Wild.

Don’t forget the much-appreciated invitation from Primate World. The chickens and Maras are waiting for you in Big Back Yard!

We Believe Statement: *We believe when we do things without an ego, we can accomplish anything if we don’t care who gets the credit, we will put what is best for the Zoo first and our personal preferences second.*



Cheeto (Saharan uromastix) above and on right, Montegue (collared lizard), taken by Jeanie Baratono

DATES TO KNOW

Most meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

CECs at 9:15 a.m.

Education Committee at 10:30 a.m.

May 1 ... Board Meeting DRC

May 8 ... Docent Meeting** SL

May 11 . Docent Meeting** SL

May 29 . Education Committee DRC

June 5 ... Incoming & Outgoing Full

..... Board Meeting SL

June 8 ... Annual Recognition Meeting &

..... Potluck** LML

Key: DRC = Docent Resource Ctr, LML = Lodge at Moose Lake, SL = Safari Lodge

**** Mandatory Meeting. If unable to attend, contact the president or president-elect**

CECs and TRAINING

Nothing to note at this time

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May (Mandatory) Docent Meeting

May is the time for docents to vote on our slate of officers for the upcoming docent year! Those dates are Wednesday, May 8 AND Saturday, May 11, at 9:30 in Safari Lodge. **Please remember that in order to vote, you must be present at one of the docent meetings.**

For the Wednesday meeting, Amy Schilz and Megan Sanders will tell us all about their recent trip to Belize.

For the Saturday meeting, Rebecca Zwicker will present about the bird migration tracking system installed at the Zoo and elsewhere.

Come and enjoy the presentations and cast your vote!

Marianne Brooks, President-Elect

2023-2024 End of Year Survey (Due May 15)

Thank you to all who have already sent in your End of Year Surveys! If you have not sent your survey in, they are due May 15. Here are four ways to submit them:

- Put your survey in the brown envelope on the desk in the DRC
- Turn it in at either the May 8 or May 11 docent meetings
- Email it to me at nmbrooks1988@gmail.com
- Mail it to my house

I look forward to your feedback!

Marianne Brooks, President-Elect

CEC Corner

The numbers are in! A total of 56 docents completed the Spring Fling (the quiz was based on a primate quiz I gave to the trainees this year). In total, 400 CEC credits were earned by the entire CMZA, even without the spring CECs (which I regret were unable to be held). Congrats to all!

At the behest of Jean and Nancy, I picked up Ed Yong's "An Immense World," first published in 2022. This is a must-read book. The book's concepts easily lend themselves to interpretive activities, too. Plus, it's an easy read.

The subtitle, "How animal senses reveal the hidden world around us," is the heart of the book. You and I, we are primates — our primary sense is sight. We see in trichromatic color, binocular vision, and we — like our ape cousins — mentally map the world visually in our mind. Pun intended, but we literally color our view of the world through visual imagery. It may be difficult for us (or not even on our radar, unless we work with the visually impaired) to see beyond that point of view, but Mr. Yong challenges us to do so.

When teaching Zoo School's Cats session, I often talk about their sense of smell as a form of text messaging or

email for cats. This is true of most of our non-primate mammal friends, whose vision is not as sharp as ours, or as far sighted, who typically only see in dichromatic color (they lose the red spectrum), and who map the world in their minds in terms of scent. This book goes into fascinating detail to reveal how there are hidden realms that we people just can't sense the way other animals do. What a fun concept to discuss with curious, playful children (of all ages!).

Yong goes beyond mammals to investigate birds who can see into the ultraviolet spectrum (a concept that I entertain folks with in BBY), beetles that are drawn to fires, fish that fill rivers with electrical messages (!), and so much more.

I'm deeply grateful to the docents who encouraged me along the way, that I was able to teach zoo school for six years, that I had the best time ever holding CECs. I wish you all well in your docent journeys. Do what you love doing, teach yourselves and others, and be well.

*Always be learning and a fond farewell,
Cris Stoddard, CEC Chair*

AMP Update (Animals, Missions, Programs)

- About every 18 months, Q4C raises 1 million dollars for our wild counterparts
- On the Q4C celebration day, 2000 guests filled in their cards for a feeding experience. Docents got a shout out for their help on that day
- EdVenture hit one million dollars in revenue
- Two teens from our teen program spoke to legislators in Denver about a Climate Literacy Bill. They persuaded the legislators to pass a bill to include Environmental Education as part of schools' curriculum
- The mid-year AZA Conference was held at the Memphis Zoo. Representatives from CMZ presented on SAFE giraffes
- Gorillas, Asha and Goma, have bred multiple times
- Six penguin eggs are incubating with one due to hatch, fingers crossed
- Pelican training is underway to diminish time on the public path
- Lemur, Hercules, was seen displaying courtship behaviors with both Allagash and Rogue
- Hippo, Biko and Warthog, Alex, are doing well in yards together
- Ornate Uromastix, Cleopatrik, is swapping with Cheeto, our Saharan Uromastix in Scutes
- The maras have names, Poa is the male and Briza is the female

- Sumatran orangutans, Sumagu and Kera, have had a prolonged howdy with Bornean orangutans, Hadiyah and Ember

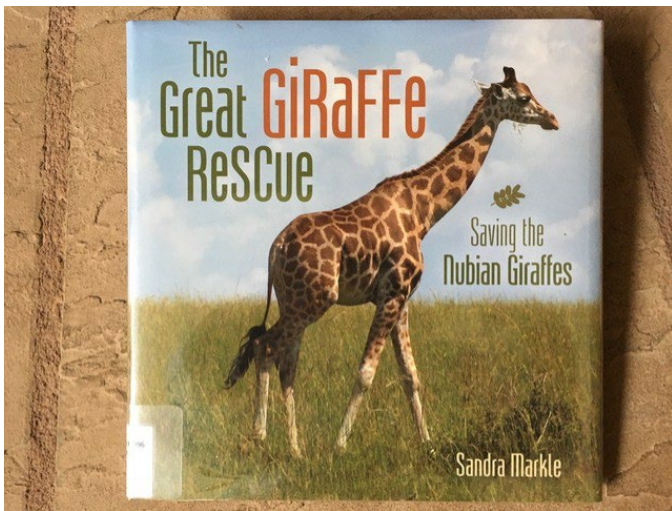


Ember (Bornean orangutan) taken by Deb Compton

Note From Your Cart Master

In looking in the children’s section in our library, I came across this book, copyright 2023. It’s about the numerous Operation Twigas that have taken place. Our own Amy Schilz, Jason Bredahl and Dr. Liza Dadone are listed in the acknowledgments! Looks like it’s meant for 3rd grade on up. Good maps and photos!

Greta Johnson, your Cart Master



Field Trip Updates

A total of 31 docents and friends went to the Denver Zoo on Thursday, 25 April 2024. The Denver Zoo docents were so impressed with the tour and lunch they received

when they visited us last year that they picked National Volunteer Appreciation week to host us. Our group had tours before and after lunch with Denver Zoo docents. We hoped to see the new baby sloth, but mom and baby were out of view in the enclosure. We were given tickets to enter the extra activities at the zoo such as touching a sting ray and the 4D experience. The docents provided lunch and there was a presentation about the Denver Zoo’s conservation efforts after lunch. Most docents passed on the talk and spent time visiting the animals with a Denver docent and watching the elephant demonstration. It was a beautiful day, and everyone had a great time.

A trip to the Albuquerque Zoo is planned for Friday, May 3 to Monday, May 6.

If you want to plan field trips for the next two years, please contact me. It is a fun job, and you get to spend time and get to know other docents.

Kathy O’Donnell, Field Trip Coordinator



Docents at the Denver Zoo 4D experience



Denver Zoo Epaulet fish that “walk” and swim

having hardwired solutions to the challenges posed by their environments.

CMZA Zooline Information



Please send all submissions for the **June** issue — information, articles, pictures, etc. — to cmza.zooline@yahoo.com.

The deadline is Wednesday, May 22.

Thank you!

Joelle Shreves and Bailey Southard, Co-Editors

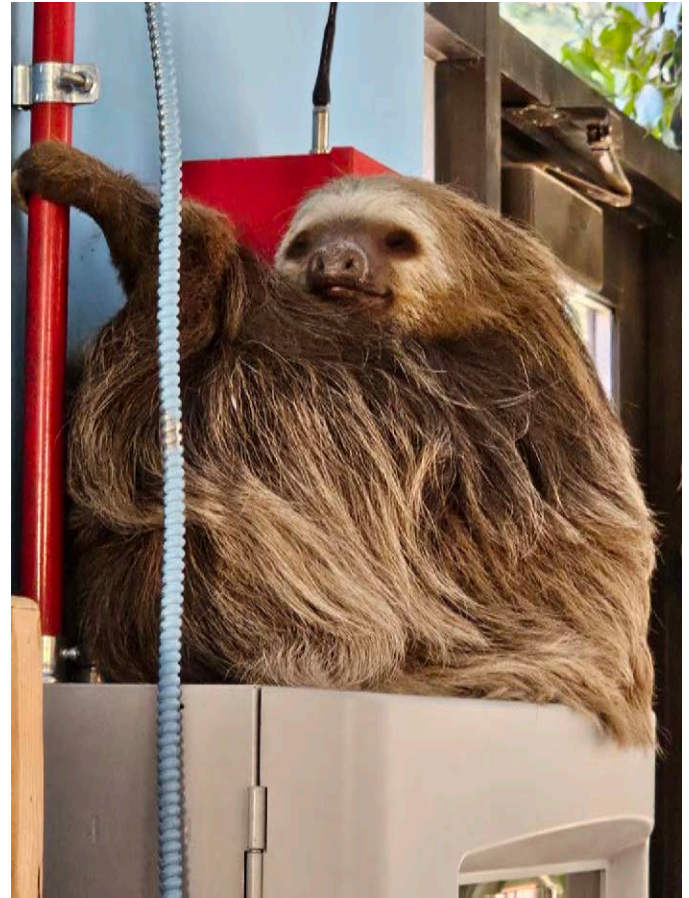
Zoo Photos



Denver Zoo Komodo dragon



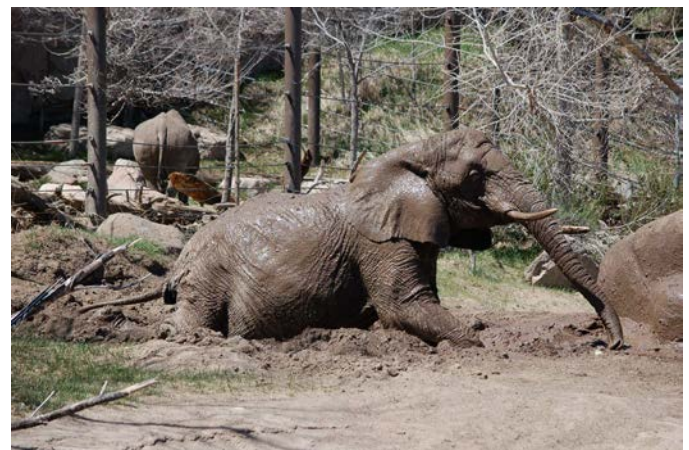
Denver Zoo Hyena



Bean taken by Jeanie Baratono

Articles and Information of Interest

- Why this rhino-zebra friendship makes perfect sense. [Read Here](#)
- Fatou, the world's oldest gorilla, celebrates her 67th birthday. [Read Here](#)
- On the verge of extinction, one of the world's most misunderstood creatures receives a lifeline. [Read Here](#)
- Baby penguins dive off 50-foot cliff in 1st-of-its-kind footage from National Geographic. [Read Here](#)
- [The Dance of the Dung Beetle](#). A dung beetle has a brain the size of a grain of rice, and yet it shows a tremendous amount of intelligence when it comes to rolling its food source — animal excrement — home. How? It all comes down to a dance and



Kimba loving the mud with Jumbe in the background, taken by Susan Hoxie



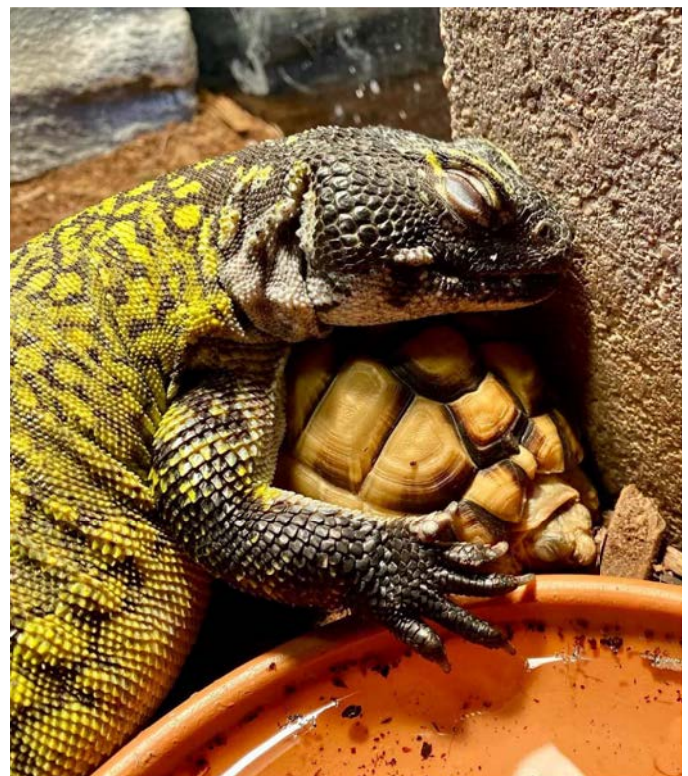
Canada lynx taken by Deb Compton



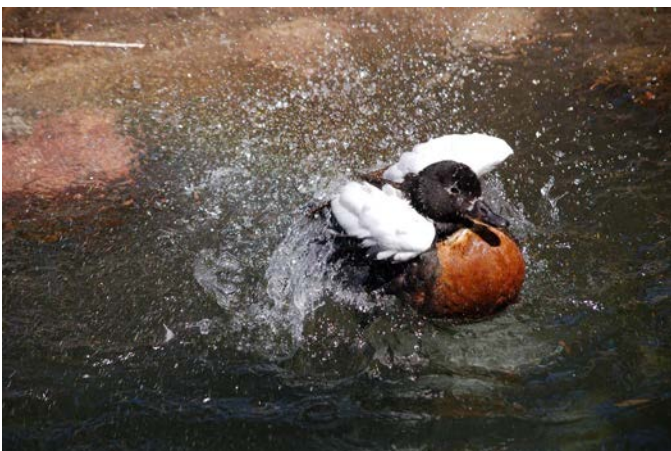
Basha taken by Susan Hoxie



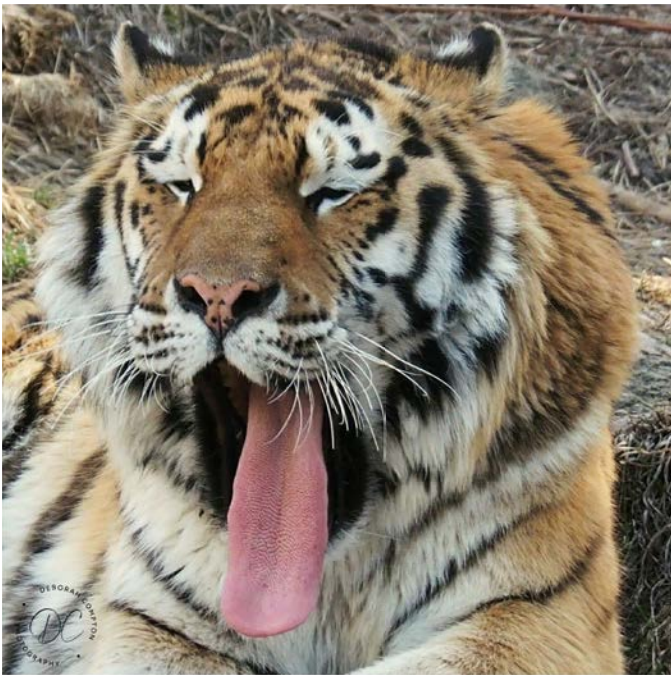
Deborah (white-cheeked gibbon) taken by Deb Compton



Wakanda (Moroccan spiny tailed lizard) and Tut (Egyptian tortoise) taken by Alia Cooper



Scallop (female Shelduck) taken by Susan Hoxie



Chewy taken by Deb Compton



Meerkat babies taken by Susan Hoxie



Katt and her joey taken by Susan Hoxie



Mexican wolf taken by Deb Compton

From Debbie Might and Mark Steinberg: In April, we went to Portugal and visited the Lisbon Zoo. Seeing an Indian rhino there was very special. We enjoyed their exhibits and spent an hour talking with two independent volunteer educators with a table of biofacts (picture below). We watched them grab and hold the attention of young visitors who stopped by. I took note of the way one was extra expressive in her presentation! The photo with Mark is from when he put the CMZ website on their phones, which they were very excited about!

We also visited the Lisbon Aquarium, which has been rated one of the top aquariums in the world. “Because it is urgent to know the biodiversity that inhabits the ocean to stop an imminent extinction crisis, the Oceanário Lisbon Aquarium became the first IUCN Center for Species Survival, integrating the network of the Species Survival Commission.” (from their website)



The oryx (pictured above) is a species that in 2000 was declared extinct in the wild on the ICUN Red List. However, it was downgraded in Dec 2023 to endangered! It is a scimitar oryx, also known as the scimitar-horned oryx or Sahara oryx. Here is an article from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums that tells about them being downgraded from extinct in the wild to endangered and the collaboration that made it so. [Read here.](#)



There are only about 200 Indian rhinos (pictured above) left in the wild as of the beginning of the 20th century. But conservation efforts have increased the numbers by 20 times over since then! “It is the only large mammal species in Asia to be downlisted from endangered to vulnerable in the IUCN Red list in 2008.” (WWF India)



We also visited the Barcelona Zoo. It was a very good zoo, but unlike Lisbon, we saw no keepers or zoo personnel we could talk to there. All of their giraffes are Rothschild (pictured above).