



# Zooline

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary

Volume 54, #8 – April 2025

## President’s Message – Marianne Brooks

Dear Docents,

Congratulations to the Zoo for being named the **#2 Best Zoo in the U.S.** through USA TODAY'S *10 Best Readers' Choice Awards*! An equally exciting honor goes to **Rocky Mountain Wild (RMW)**, which was ranked **#2 Best Zoo Exhibit** in the country.

This comes as no surprise!

With warmer weather ahead, there are plenty of opportunities to get outdoors and volunteer. Consider signing up for shifts in **BBY, Penguins & Pelicans**, or leading **tours**. Carts are also a fun way to engage with guests while getting service hours.

At our **March monthly meeting**, Bob joined us to share some exciting updates on the **new giraffe habitat** construction. His insights into the progress and future plans were greatly appreciated—it is always fascinating to hear about the growth and improvements happening around the zoo.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our next **monthly docent meeting on Saturday, April 12**. This is an important one, as we will be **voting on the updated version of the Bylaws**. Linnea and the Board have been working hard at refining the updates to ensure they reflect our practices. The proposed changes were shared in the **March Zooline** and again via **email in mid-March**. If you have not already, please review the materials ahead of the meeting. **Your vote counts**, so we encourage everyone to attend and participate.

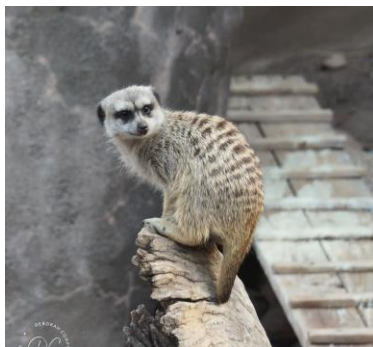
Thank you for your continued dedication and passion.

**See you on April 12!**

Marianne

### Zoo Vision Statement

**Every Kid. Every Time. Goosebumps! Every kid, of any age, will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit.**



## DATES TO KNOW

*Most meetings start at 9:30 a.m.*

*CECs at 9:30 a.m.*

*Education Committee at 10:30 a.m.*

Apr 2 .... Exec Board Meeting.....DRC

Apr 12 .. Docent Meeting ..... SL

Apr 23 .. Education Committee .....DRC

May 7 ... Exec Board Meeting.....DRC

May 14 . Docent Meeting (elections) . SL

May 17 . Docent Meeting (elections) . SL

May 28 . Education Committee .....DRC

### Key:

DRC = Docent Resource Center

LML = Lodge at Moose Lake

SL = Safari Lodge

\*\* = Expected Attendance

## CECs and TRAINING

Spring Fling ..... Due 4/30

## IN THIS ISSUE

April 12 Meeting ..... 2

May Field Trip ..... 2

Scavenge for Penguins Sale ..... 2

CEC Report..... 2

The Library ..... 2

Behind the Scenes ..... 3

Zooline Information ..... 3

Tours ..... 3

That’s a Wrap: 2025 Zoo School ..... 4

Amazing Animals ..... 6



*When your style is sleek, but your defense mechanism is...well unique.*

*Courtesy of Deborah Compton*

---

## Speaker for April 12 Docent Meeting

Greta Johnson  
President-Elect

Join us for our April meeting, where we will welcome Jason Bredahl, the Curator of Environment and Enhancement. He will be sharing insights into the zoo's browse program and the innovative apparatuses used as feeders for the giraffes.

---

## Field Trip to See Reindeers

Greta Johnson  
President-Elect

Exciting news! I have arranged our one and only field trip for this docent year. This is always a fun job, and if you would like to see more field trips like this, we'll need someone to step up and volunteer for the 2025–2026 docent year.

"The reindeer have shed their antlers, and according to Beth, they are 'friendlier' without them.

### Details...

**Where: Hilltop Reindeer Ranch** – Home to Beth, Kathy, Jingles, and his reindeer friends

**Address:** 6030 Peerless Farms Rd., Peyton

**When: Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m.** at the ranch

**Carpool Option:** If you would like to carpool, meet at 9:30 a.m. at the east end (near the gas station) of King Soopers, located at the southeast corner of Constitution Avenue and Marksheffel Road. There is an ENT Bank there that's easy to spot. It is only a 17-minute drive east from there.

For those interested in joining the trip, a sign-up sheet will be available at the April meeting. This will help us estimate attendance and ensure we can contact you in case of inclement weather. Looking forward to seeing you at the ranch!

---

## Scavenge for Conservation Sale

Eileen Derry  
Debbie Might  
Social Committee

Support Conservation by joining us for a special event on **Saturday, June 7**, at the **Lodge at Moose Lake!**

### Sale Details...

**Start Time:** 8:45 a.m., before the Joint Docent Meeting/Potluck (meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.)

**End Time:** The sale will continue following the meeting.

Animal-themed donations from docents, keepers, staff, and volunteers are encouraged—this includes clothes, books, sculptures, jewelry, knick-knacks, photos, note

cards, coasters, and wood carvings. If it is no longer bringing you joy, it might bring joy to someone else while supporting conservation efforts!

We will also accept docent uniform items in clean, good condition. These will be sold to other docents for their use. Stay tuned for more information as the event approaches.

---

## CEC Report

Charlotte Greene  
CEC Chairperson

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has participated in our CEC activities this year. We are thrilled to see nearly 100% compliance with the 2 CEC requirement—a fantastic achievement!

For those still looking to earn their CECs, the Spring Fling remains available until the end of this month (i.e., end of April). It is a wonderful opportunity to delve into the Zoo's conservation programs, a cornerstone of our tours and docent activities. This month, 13 docents earned a CEC for completing the Spring Fling.

Zoo School has officially wrapped up, and many of you attended classes to enhance your knowledge and refine your docent techniques. We are proud to report that 13 CECs were awarded to attendees and presenters this month.

In March, we held an Advanced Mammal Tour Refresher/Certification session. The material presented was tailored for the tour but provides valuable insights into all docent activities. We awarded 36 CECs for attendance and presentations, and 15 docents signed up to complete the quiz and become certified for this tour.

Thank you once again for your dedication and participation in completing the CECs this year. Your efforts truly make a difference.

---

## The Library – Articles, Videos and Books of Interest

- [A Simple Yet Powerful Solution: Protecting Livestock and Snow Leopards in Nepal](#)

In Nepal's Himalayan region, local women have crafted an innovative approach that ensures the safety of both livestock and snow leopards—fostering coexistence between humans and wildlife.

- [Parrots that went from the tropical jungle to the concrete jungle](#)

The colorful birds have become a common sight across Los Angeles County, and in addition to amusing locals, they may provide a lifeline for threatened populations in their native habitats.

- **U.S. Birds Declining Sharply Across a Range of Habitats**

Scientists checked in on species all over the country for the latest State of the Birds report. Everywhere they looked, birds were struggling—including some that have been resilient in the past.

- **State of the Birds 2025**

A comprehensive assessment of bird populations across various habitats. It highlights key findings, such as the decline of over one-third of U.S. bird species.

- **How Life on Earth Adapts**

Ted Talk: Nature is now changing at breakneck speed to keep up with the world humanity has built.



*Here lies the Giraffe Lettuce Hut, immortalized in this last photograph before it crumbles into history—literally!  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*

---

## **Behind the Scenes: Animal Update for Zoo Family Only**

- Giraffe **Muziki** has hardened cartilage in her right knee, which is causing some walking problems. She is being treated and has shown improvement.
- 7 of the **giraffes** have participated in voluntary hoof care with a power tool.
- Giraffe **Mishama** has voluntarily worked with keepers and a specialist for acupuncture for health issues.
- The Zoo is supporting **SANCCOB** for a Robben Island Ranger, which helps with all seabirds, not just penguins.
- Rocky Mountain Goats **Albert, Lena, Tava and Antora** are doing well with their intros—**Blanca** is being introduced slowly as well.
- African Spurred Tortoise **Chobe** is now out doing walks as weather permits.

- **Elephant** feedings are (for now) 2 cups of Gatorade due to their restricted diet—elephants really enjoy this new treat along with guests.
- Mountain Lion **Sitka** has had more dental issues with a back tooth. The Vet Department is trying to save the tooth with a filling.
- Emperor Tamarin **Chico** has more red blood cells than needed, which makes him itchy and groom a certain spot on his arm more than normal. He is being treated with medicine for both concerns.
- **Chickens** with bumblefoot are being treated with new “shoes” made by a 3-D printer to help with foot health.

---

## **CMZA Zooline Information Reminder**

*Joan Thorn – Editor*

Send in your submissions—whether it is information, articles, pictures, or ideas for articles to appear in the May issue by

**Tuesday, April 22 to**

[cmza.zooline@yahoo.com](mailto:cmza.zooline@yahoo.com).



---

## **Busy Season Ahead: Flexibility is Key for Zoo Tours**

*Tami Dickens*

*Tour Coordinator*

Wow, tours have been keeping us on our toes lately! I deeply appreciate everyone's incredible support—everything is running like clockwork!

Here are some major upcoming tours to mark on your calendars:

**April 21: ARV** – 14 tour docents and 4 station docents

**April 24: C&C (K)** – 6 tour docents AND **ARV** – 7 tour docents and 3 station docents

**April 28 & 29: Zoogeography** – Apr 28: 21 tour docents and Apr 29: 19 tour docents

**May 9: AM** – 14 tour docents

**May 19: C&C, ARV, AM, ECO** (Grades K-5) – 45 tour docents (in two shifts) and 4 station docents

Remember, flexibility is key to ensuring success at the zoo this year—and tours are no exception! We will keep you updated with any significant information or changes as they arise. Watch out for emails letting you know when tours are available to sign up on SignUpGenius. Don't forget, there are plenty of smaller tours coming your way, too!

I'm excited for the busy season ahead and grateful to be working alongside such a talented group of docents. Your dedication and flexibility make all the difference!

---

## That's a Wrap for 2025 Zoo School

Joelle Shreves VP Education

Michael Stein – VP Education Elect

This year's trainees completed the zoo school portion of their training and are on to the certification stage! They

celebrated with a potluck and cake, surrounded by their mentors and instructors on Saturday, March 15.

All 15 trainees are certifying on carts and soon to be following and certifying on Safaris and Tours. A big thank you to everyone involved in the Zoo School program and those guiding our future stars!



*The 2025 Docent Class is all set and ready to lead the way—armed with the knowledge, enthusiasm, and just a little cake for good luck. Not pictured, Pam Peters, who was unable to attend.*



Lisa Heckel w/mentor Madalyn Kae



Lorraine Fishman w/mentor  
Judy Sondermann



Amber Chapman w/mentor Sue Sallee



Mary Norman w/mentor Marsha Fogarty



Andrea Fackler w/mentor Charlotte Greene



Mary Sisko w/mentor Greta Johnson



Hyperion Chinavare w/Jim Hunter  
(Hyperion's mentor, Jane Emerson-Brown and Jim's trainee Pam Peters were unable to attend)



Kay Beim w/mentor Marianne Brooks



Mary Moore w/mentor Janet Carlisle



Michele Benoit-Koski w/mentor Mark Steinberg



Maria Clifford w/mentor Marie Poyzer



Rebecca Whittaker w/mentor Tami Dickens

---

## Amazing Animals



*Little Foot—the red tegu—mastering the art of relaxation,  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Just a pond turtle living the dream... one step at a time,  
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*Zambezi and Omo chillin in the pond,  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Small size, big charm—this domestic rat is the definition of  
adorable!  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Alexander is in muddy bliss:a warthog's spa day!"  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Mr. Slithers halfway through his shedding—hard work!  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Statue depicting a tender moment between Penny and her mother, Muziki—honoring Penny's legacy! Courtesy of RaNae Duran*



*Ed, the Pond Turtle, rocking that camera-ready look! Say cheese! Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



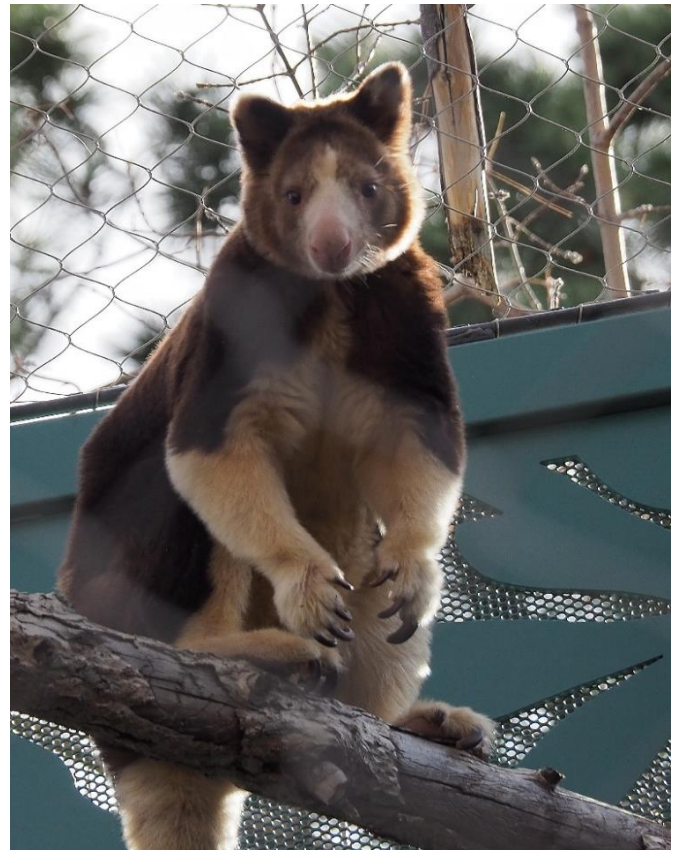
*Daryl, the Blue tongue skink, 25 years young—proving that age is just a number—especially when you have style like this! Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*Ayson and Olive—sloths know there's nothing stronger than a mother's love." Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



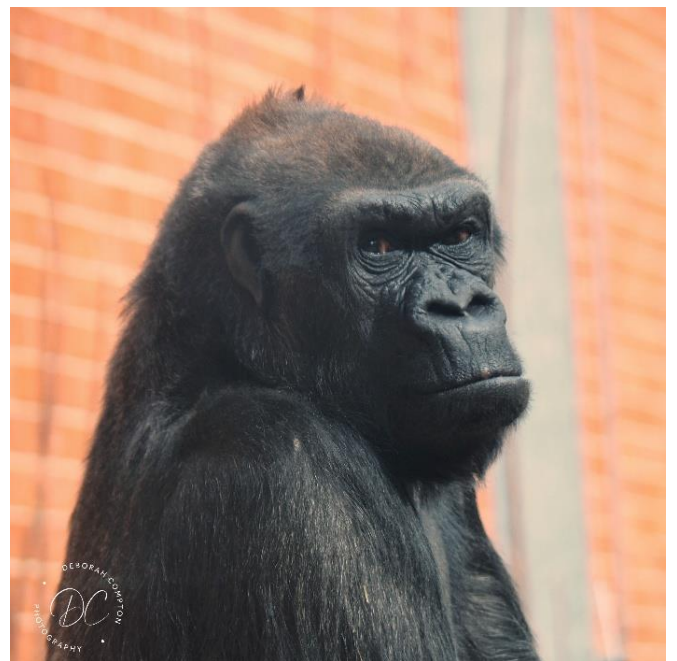
*An ultimate mix of chaos, charm, and cuteness—Bean nails it all! Courtesy of RaNae Duran*



*Som – the Matschie’s tree kangaroo looking stunning today! Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Goma and his gorilla size enrichment. Goma’s living his best life, one enrichment at a time, courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Why rush through life when you can reflect like Roxie? Grace takes time, courtesy of Deborah Compton*