



President’s Message – Jeanie Baratono

As November closes out and December begins, I am thinking about thankfulness. I am thankful Boo at the Zoo was such a success; 20, 895 tickets sold, 17, 240 guests, 6 out of 7 sold out night and \$400K raised the highest ever! I am thankful for the time that the docents have spent doing tours and safaris this fall. I am thankful for those docents who worked Boo, Penguins & Pelican, Big Back Yard, Carts, Scutes and the Loft. It takes effort to go to a school or to come to the zoo and I am thankful for your efforts. I am thankful for the board members, both Executive and Supplemental, who give their time to make sure things are moving smoothly. They all are trying their best and I am grateful for their efforts. I am thankful for a CEO who is visionary and a Board of Directors who also can see that vision so that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo continues to be a front runner in conservation, animal care, and preservation. I heard many times in this last month what a truly special zoo we have from out-of-town guests. I am thankful that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo allows our docent organization to function the way that it does. I was reminded of this once again when our docents returned from the AZADV convention. Other docent organizations are not like ours; we are very lucky to be supported by Bob and Stacey. We can have our own board and run ourselves and we have 2 seats on the Zoo Board of Directors. After going to numerous AZADV conferences I have learned that most zoos have consolidated their docents and volunteers and the special things that docents once did have been taken away from them. Are we perfect? Not by a long shot. Is there room for improvement? Always! I am hopeful that we can all work together, be supportive, and help each other improve in all ways.

We Believe Statement

We believe by sharing our passion for wildlife and wild places, our enthusiasm will be contagious.



Mocha the Prehensile-Tailed Porcupine by Susan Hoxie

DATES TO KNOW

Most meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

CECs at 9:15 a.m.

Education Committee at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 2.....Holiday Party @ Marie Poyzer’s House, 2-5 p.m.

~No Meetings in December~

Jan 3.....Board Meeting..... DRC

Jan 10....Docent Meeting.....SL

Jan 24....Education Committee DRC

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

CECs start at 9:15 a.m.

Training sessions start at 9:30 a.m.

Jan 6....Zoo School startsSL

Jan 13, 20, 27 .. Zoo School contSL

Note: CECs will be available for some Zoo School sessions. Details yet to come.

CMZ Upcoming Special Events

Dec 7....Electric Moonlight (5:30-8:30 p.m.)

Dec 1-3, 8-23, 25-Jan 1...Electric Safari (5:30-8:30 p.m.)

IN THIS ISSUE

December Monthly Meeting	2
December Cannolis	2
CEC Corner.....	2
Cart Updates.....	2
Animal Update	2
Staff Appreciation Luncheon	2
Field Trips.....	3
Articles of Interest	4
Photos	4

December Monthly Docent Meeting

There is no docent meeting this month. Please join us at the holiday party at Marie Poyzer's house from 2-5 PM on Saturday, December 2nd.



Marianne Brooks, President-Elect

December Cannolis

We will be making cannolis on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m. I would encourage any new docents to give it a try – it's a lot of fun and a great way to meet fellow docents. Let me know if you want to help.



Jean Bennett, Enrichment Chair

CEC Corner

Electric Safari is upon us! I love the zoo's winter interpretation opportunities - they just hit differently, you know? 'Tis the season for merriment!

A reminder that all active docents are required to earn two CECs by May 31, 2024. You can earn CEC credits at the 2024 Zoo School sessions (keep an eye out for that calendar), completing the Spring Fling (published in February), or by attending the Advanced Mammal CEC this April. Please note that the Birds of CMZoo CEC is canceled. Instead, check out Jean's training sessions on Birds at Zoo School to learn all about our birds (and earn a CEC!).

Once again, I am re-reading Aldo Leopold's [A Sand County Almanac](#), as I do at the end/beginning of every year. I invite you to join me in reading that book this holiday season. Did you know you can earn a CEC for writing a book report? Just check in with me *before* you start writing!

Have a very happy holiday season and a stellar New Year. Take care of each other!

Cris, CEC Chair

Notes from the Cart Master

1. There is a new biofact in the giraffe cart: a giraffe vertebra. It is a clone, but please be gentle with it.
2. Thanks to John and Sue Mayher the Grizzly Cart has new wheels! Go up and try it sometime, it is much easier to get out now. And if anyone sees evidence that guests are sitting on this cart please alert me and I will make another cover for it.

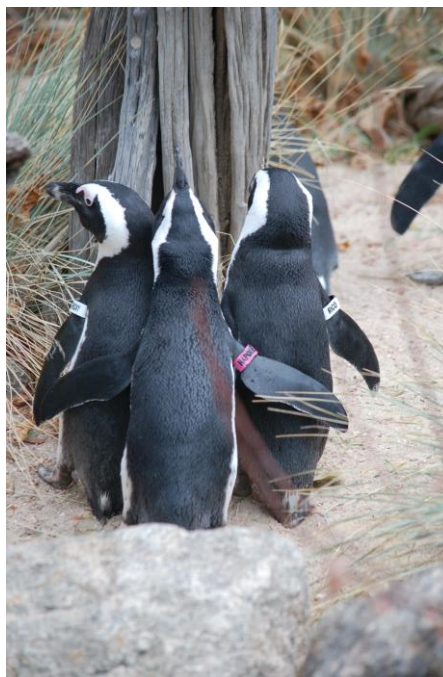
3. There is a cheap plastic cover on the Wolf Woods cart to protect it from spills and gross stuff. Please leave the covering on the cart.

4. There is a need for large clear plastic bags, like the ones comforters come in. If you have any, you can leave them in the cart shed or the DRC with the name "Greta" on them. We have plenty of smaller bags. And if you have any extra bubble wrap that you aren't using for packages, that is always helpful also. Thanks so much!

Greta Johnson, Cart Master

Animal Update (December)

- Blizzard, a female ferret, will be joining the other domestic ferrets in the Loft when she clears quarantine.
- Curry, a male Rosy Boa, will be joining Scutes when he clears quarantine.
- Female sloth Ayson had an ultrasound and is not pregnant but still hopeful.
- Prehensile-tailed porcupine Mocha is getting more comfortable with meet-and-greets.
- Opossum Hubble is loving his exercise wheel.



Three's A Crowd: Bonded Pair Roxy and Rico with Bachelor Napoleon, by Susan Hoxie

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

The annual Staff Appreciation lunch was on Wed, Nov 8th, following the monthly meeting. We are so fortunate to have the close working relationship we share with all of these talented, dedicated individuals. When I called

to order the soup from Zoup, he thanked me for “doing this”. I thought he was referring to patronizing his business. Then he said, “My wife is a keeper at the Denver Zoo, I think this is wonderful that you (as docents) make this effort to acknowledge them.” I think I can speak for all of us in saying this is the highlight of the year. I heard many times how much they look forward to this day! Thank you all, again for all that was contributed to make the day a success.

Kim Katalin



Above and below: tigers and wolves at the Wild Animal Sanctuary



The field trips for January through April 2024 are below. Final dates will be coming soon...

**Sunday, January 14 at 1 pm (leave Colo Spgs at noon): Downtown Aquarium, Denver
YOU CAN SIGN UP AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY**

The public aquarium boasts more than a million gallons of underwater exhibits that highlight fascinating ecosystems around the world. Downtown Aquarium houses over 500 species of animals, the interactive Stingray Reef touch tank, Aquarium Restaurant, Dive Lounge, the Nautilus Ballroom and amusements for the entire family. With a full-service restaurant, an upscale bar, a fully equipped ballroom, aquatic & geographic exhibits and shopping, Downtown Aquarium has it all! There is also a behind scenes tour. It is 45 min and includes views of the filtration systems, animal food preparation area and more. You will experience a unique view of the sea turtles and sharks as you gaze into our Under the Sea and Sunken Shipwreck exhibits from a new perspective!

- Entry only - adult \$17, senior (65 and over) \$16

Field Trip Memories and News

Sixteen docents and friends braved the fog to Keenesburg, CO to visit The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Once there, our hostess said the boardwalk was very slippery and required us to sign a third liability release form. Ten docents and friends opted out. Six docents and friends stayed and were well rewarded. Although it was chilly weather, almost all animals were out and playing. Only the bears were looking drowsy with their heads sticking out of windows in small dwellings within their large, open enclosures. We saw a white lion, white tigers, wolves, bears, tigers, panthers and caracals. Lunch was chilly since it was in an unheated enclosure, but the food was good. The Sanctuary is a wonderful experience for visitors and animals.

- Entry + behind scenes tour - adult \$36.50, senior \$35.50

<https://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/default.asp> Early dinner in Denver for those that want to stay

Mid- March Butterfly Pavilion 6252 W. 104th Avenue Westminster, CO 80020
<https://butterflies.org/> \$14.95 for adults, \$12.95 for seniors (65+) lunch in Westminster.

April or May Albuquerque BioPark Zoo, Aquarium and Botanical Gardens Possibly the Turquoise Museum, New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Petroglyph National Monument. . **A survey will be coming out through the Auxiliary email to evaluate interest.**

Kathy O'Donnell, Field Trips



Beezler the Asiatic Black Bear getting some exercise while reaching for food, by Susan Hoxie

Articles and Information of Interest

-African penguins tell each other apart by their polka dot patterns. [Read Here!](#)

CMZA Zooline Information (JAN Issue)



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

The deadline for the January issue is Friday, December 15 to accommodate for the holiday. Thank you!

Joelle Shreves and Bailey Southard, Co-Editors

Zoo Photos



If He Fits, He Sits – Baka, Sumatran gorilla, by D. Compton



Mountain Lion by D. Compton



*Sully the Gila Monster (with the identifying "S" on their head)
by Susan Hoxie*



Ouray the Bald Eagle by D. Compton



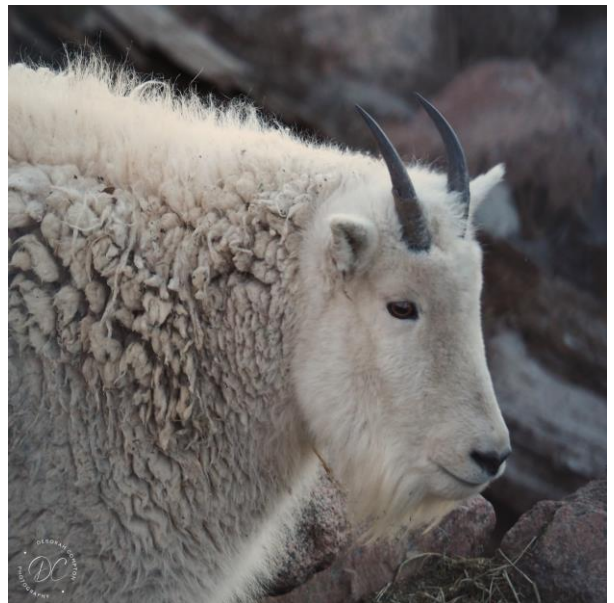
Omo Porpoising Under the Waterfall by Susan Hoxie



Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun by D. Compton



Plato the Pink-Backed Pelican by D. Compton



Mountain Goat by D. Compton



Female Emperor Tamarin by D. Compton



Hootenanny the Eastern Screech Owl by Alia Cooper



Wasabi the Prehensile Tailed Skink by Jeanie Baratano



Debbie the White-Cheeked Gibbon recovering from all of the celebrations – she celebrated her 40th birthday this month! By Susan Hoxie