



President’s Message – Marianne Brooks

Dear Docents,

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving—I am thankful for everything you do for our zoo!

Many thanks to the Social Committee for organizing such a fantastic Staff Appreciation Luncheon! It was a tremendous success, and I have heard from many staff members how much they appreciated being celebrated and enjoyed the wonderful food.

Thank you as well for the impressive response signing up to support Santa’s Lodge for Electric Safari. Every slot was filled quickly, and the zoo is greatly appreciative! One of the most rewarding things about being a docent is making the holidays brighter for our guests and bringing smiles to the faces of families enjoying the holiday season.

An updated version of the Rules & Policies was recently sent out. This was a significant undertaking—my sincere thanks to Linnea McDonald for her dedication and attention to detail. It is efforts like these that help keep our Auxiliary organized and on track.

As the holiday season continues, I wish you and your families all the warmth and happiness the season can bring. Although there is not a monthly docent meeting this month, I am looking forward to seeing you at Marie’s for our docent holiday party on December 7!

Happy Holidays,
Marianne

Zoo Vision Statement

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



*Prehensile-tailed skink smiling and happy
Courtesy of Jeanie Baraton*

DATES TO KNOW

Most meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

CECs at 9:30 a.m.

Education Committee at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 7 Holiday Party @ Marie Poyzer’s House, 2-5 p.m.

~No Meetings in December~

Jan 8 Exec Board Meeting DRC

Jan 15 ... Docent Meeting SL

Jan 22 ... Education Committee DRC

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

**** Expected Attendance**

CECs and TRAINING

Fall Recall deadline 12/31/24 (see Sept Zooline for info)

Jan 18, 25 Zoo School SL

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 Zoo School SL

Spring Fling coming in Feb

Conservation CEC Feb 19 and 22

Note: CECs are available for some Zoo School sessions (see page 7 of this issue for the full schedule)

CMZ Upcoming Special Events

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

Dec 6-23, 25-Jan 1...Electric Safari (4:00-8:30 p.m.)

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Monthly Docent Meeting

There will be no regular docent meeting in December. See you at the holiday party and then in the New Year!

Greta Johnson, President-Elect

Palm Oil Documents

The handouts from the last docent meeting are on Page 15. They are interesting reading!

CEC Report

Our Continuing Education Program is moving right along this year. We've had 57 docents complete the Fall Recall. It covers some of the principles of Section X on Interpretive Education. It is still active until the end of the year. If you would like a copy, just let me know.

We also had a refresher/certification for the Life Cycles Tour this past month. There were 43 docents who participated and eight who signed up to certify. There was an informative slide show. Jeanie demonstrated the reptile station and briefly discussed the bird and invertebrate stations. Nancy Hochman discussed the two types of insect life cycles, including complete and incomplete metamorphosis. A mini-tour from the Safari Lodge to Australia and back was led by Marianne, Charlotte, Jim, Greta and Jean M. Big thanks to everyone who helped make this CEC a success.

After the first of the year, we will have more opportunities to earn CECs. There will be a Spring Fling published in the February Zooline. A general CEC on Conservation will also be in February and a refresher/certification on the Advanced Mammal Tour in March. The Zoo School Schedule is included at the end of this issue and has opportunities to earn CECs by attending specific Saturday lectures.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming CEC opportunities, please contact me.

Charlotte Greene, CEC Chairperson



New Buff Orpington chicken, Courtesy of Susan Hoxie

AMP Update (Animals, Missions, Programs)— Zoo Family Only Information

- Roger the porcupine is happy with the colder weather and enjoys eating pine needles this time of year.
- Grizzlies Emmett and Digger are slowing down, eating less and seem to really enjoy their new yard.
- Amur leopards Basha and Mango have moved to their new homes. Basha is at the Greenville Zoo (SC). We do not yet know where Mango is living.
- Primate World is having success with voluntary injection—one of our male orangutans who was previously scared of seeing his blood being drawn has now been successfully trained for blood draws.
- Primate World is also working with more guest/animal interactions.
- All orangutans are getting to experience “howdy gate” interactions. It is going very well. They are trading objects and have even played tug-of-war through the mesh.
- Looks like the Naked Mole Rats are in a Queen war—there are now 2 females always on top of the pile, so it's believed the war will soon be over.
- The Zoo received 2 new male pink-backed pelicans replacing Plato and Pandora, who moved to Florida.
- RMG Tava was given access to the main yard mid-November and Lena received a birth control implant, which now allows her access to the main yard as well.
- Chuckwalla “Nora” has follicles on her ovaries. The Vet Staff is monitoring her closely.
- It is beginning to be penguin breeding season.
- Sloth Ayson's radiograph shows a well-developed baby. Dr. Eric expects her to give birth in February.
- There was a new release site for Black Footed Ferrets—of 33 released on site, 3 were from CMZ!



Rocky Mountain goat, Courtesy of Debbie Might

Obscure Cart Biofacts

Did you know that within our carts we have over 140 biofacts to share with guests? Ten to 20 get used each month. As we move into the colder months, it might be easier to highlight some of our smaller biofacts—many are small enough to store safely in your pocket.

For example, guests find porcupine quills intriguing. Both North American and African porcupine quills are in the Rocky Mountain Wild cart. Comparing quills from varied species can be very educational to guests.

If you are near the habitat of either of our porcupine species, it is also enjoyable to compare quills from each. It allows guests to see the unique characteristics and variations, making the experience even more engaging and educational.

Another small biofact found in the lion cart that guests enjoy is the acrylic-cased scorpion. Meerkats are always fun to interpret, and many guests are surprised to see an example of one of their favorite foods!

Also located in the Rocky Mountain Wild cart are bald eagle feathers. Presenting these feathers to guests can spark insightful conversations about conservation, including information on the National Eagle Repository located in Commerce City. Conversations can certainly continue in many directions from there... guests have a lot of questions relating to the bald eagle, our national symbol.

Whatever you choose to use as a biofact, have fun and keep interpreting!

Janet Carlisle, Cartmaster

Making Connections through Animal Stories

We still need volunteers! Could you make it your New Year's Resolution to adopt one animal at the zoo to share the newest information for the cart? Here are some helpful hints for animal information to collect, which are questions our guests ask.

- Relationships with others in their habitat
- Where they were born—age—lifespan
- Births and personal stories
- Origin of their name
- Favorite food
- Compare/contrast to other animals and humans

A wealth of information can be accessed through CMZ social media and YouTube videos, educational material supplied by Stacey in the Ed department, and keeper talks. If we each take one favorite animal, we can have this done before spring and we will all share personal and heartwarming tales to captivate and inspire our guests and give them a greater connection to the animals.

Send your volunteer spirit or questions to jkhenderson2814@gmail.com.

Janis Henderson, Connections Coordinator

Tours/Safaris

There are no tours or safaris scheduled at this time. Typically, things will start back up in the spring. Watch your email for signups. Have a wonderful holiday!

Tami Dickens, Tour Coordinator
Amy Momber, Safari Coordinator

The Library—Articles, Videos and Books of Interest

- [Giraffes need endangered species protection for the first time](#), according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has called for federal protections for giraffe species for the first time
 - [The Surprising Social Lives of Pythons](#)
Ball pythons were long assumed to be solitary, but scientists discovered the snakes in captivity prefer each other's company when given the chance to live socially
 - African Penguins on Endangered list. [Help by signing petition](#). Recent studies show current conservation measures are not enough to ensure their future
 - [Florida Burmese pythons are swallowing deer, alligators whole](#). The scale at which the Florida Burmese python—an invasive species is decimating wildlife population
-

CMZA Zooline Information

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

The deadline is Thursday, December 19

(earlier than usual due to the holiday). Thank you! *Joan Thorn, Editor*



Zoo Photos



Beezler, catching some ZZZZs in the warm sun
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie



*Kajika – one of the elusive Canadian lynx
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Beautiful Cora – getting settled in her new home
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



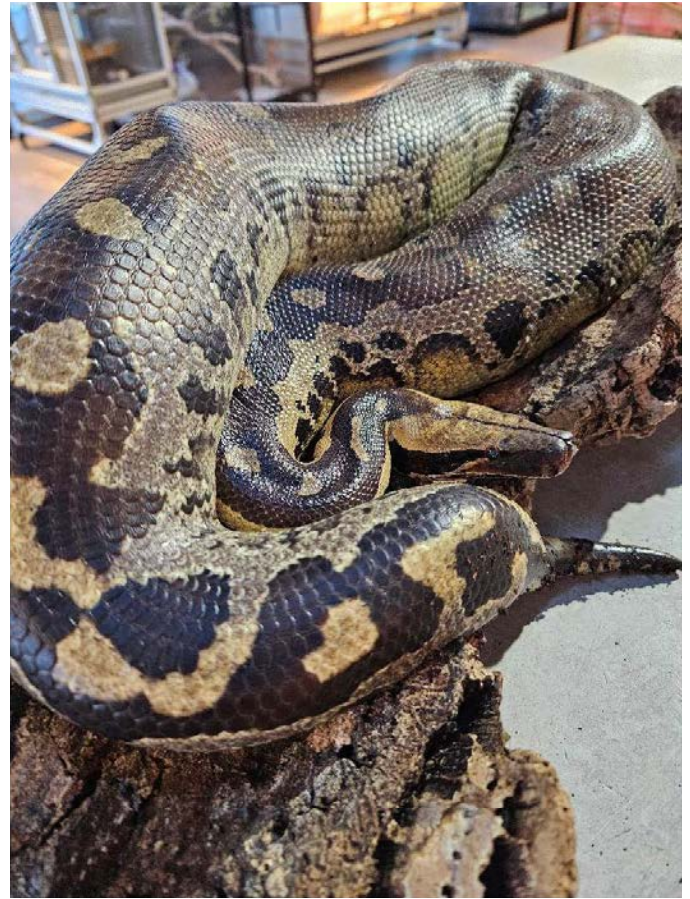
*Chewy having some quiet time
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*One of the raccoon brothers
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Everyone knows Omo —the favorite of most children
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Puddles, Bornean short-tailed python
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



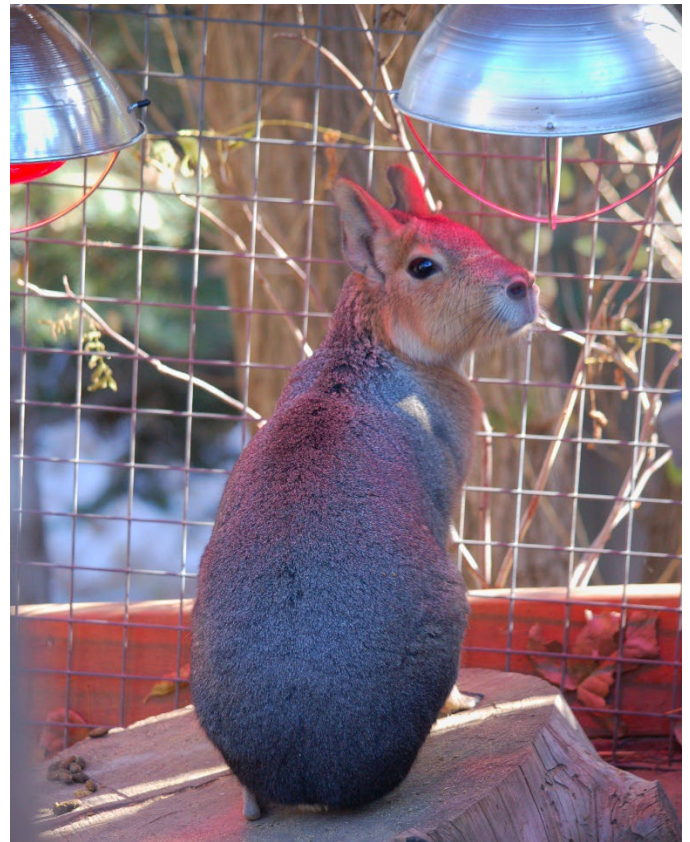
*Atka with his impressive antlers
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Bean (2 toed sloth) enrichment fun
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*Loving each other – mountain lions
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Patagonian mara enjoying the heat lamp
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Inzi – East African crowned crane with pumpkin
enrichment, Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Lucky eating snow
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Acorn – a North American beaver out for a walkabout
Courtesy of Debbie Might*

2025 CMZA DOCENT TRAINING SCHEDULE

Only trainees are to attend zoo excursions

CEC Credit: You must attend the entire block (orange or blue) to get 1 CEC credit

New Trainees Meet & Greet (Trainees Only) – January 4, 2025

Session 1 (Trainees Only) – January 11, 2025

Session 2 – January 18, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:30	Announcements		
9:30	10:30	Taxonomy & Evolution	Jeff Oram-Smith	CEC
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:30	Adaptations	Jeff Oram-Smith	CEC
11:30	12:00	Lunch		
12:00	12:15	Break		
12:15	1:15	Basic Mammalogy	Nancy Hochman	CEC
1:15	1:30	Break		
1:30	2:30	Physiological Systems	Jean McKanna	CEC
2:30	3:00	Connections Overview	Brittinie Ford	
3:00	3:30	Info for next week/Break		
3:30	4:00	Zoo excursion (Lions)	Trainees only	

Session 3 – January 25, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:30	Announcements		
9:30	10:30	Ecology (vocab/definitions)	Nancy Hochman	CEC
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:30	Ecology Concepts	Nancy Hochman	CEC
11:30	12:00	Lunch		
12:00	12:15	Break		
12:15	12:45	Food Chain/Web	Nancy Hochman	CEC
12:45	1:00	Break		
1:00	1:45	Biomes	Jean McKanna	CEC
1:45	2:00	Break		
2:00	2:45	Zoo excursion (Giraffes)	Trainees only	
2:45	3:00	Break		
3:00	3:45	Ecosystem Engineers (beavers and porcupines)	Jim Hunter	CEC
3:45	4:00	Review/info for next week		

Session 4 – February 1, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:30	Announcements		
9:30	10:30	Intro to Ungulates	Jean McKanna	CEC
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:45	Aritodactyl: Giraffe/Okapi/Hippo	Jean McKanna	CEC
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	1:15	Perissodactyl: Rhinoceros/Tapir	Jean McKanna	CEC

1:15	2:15	Elephants and Rock Hyrax	Michael Stein	CEC
2:15	2:30	Break and Walk to Elephants	Trainees only	
2:30	3:15	Zoo excursion (Elephants)		
3:15	3:30	Break		
3:30	3:45	Connections Examples	Michael/Joelle	
3:45	4:00	Review/info for next week	Trainees only	

Session 5 – February 8, 2025 (Lodge at Moose Lake Meeting)

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:30	12:00	Monthly Docent Mtg/Potluck		
12:00	12:15	Return to Safari Lodge		
12:15	1:15	Intro to Carnivora	Judy Sonderman	CEC
1:15	1:30	Break		
1:30	2:30	Big Cats	Judy Sonderman	CEC
2:30	2:45	Break		
2:45	3:45	Small Carnivora	Judy Sonderman	CEC
3:45	4:00	Review and info for next week	Trainees only	

Session 6 – February 15, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:45	Announcements, Q&A	Trainees only	
9:45	10:00	Break/Walk to Asian Highlands		
10:00	10:45	Zoo excursion (Asian Highlands)		
10:45	11:45	Wolves	Janis Henderson	CEC
11:45	12:15	Lunch		
12:15	1:15	Bears	Jane Emerson Brown	CEC
1:15	1:30	Break		
1:30	2:30	Rodents, Sloth, Armadillo...	Tricia Trifilo	CEC
2:30	2:45	Break		
2:45	3:45	Reptiles/Amphibians	Jessica Mann	CEC
3:45	4:00	Review/info for next week	Trainees only	

Session 7 – February 22, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:30	Announcements	Trainees only	
9:30	11:00	Lesser/Greater Apes	Greta Johnson	CEC
11:00	11:15	Break		
11:15	12:00	Lemurs/Tamarins/Colobus	Greta Johnson	CEC
12:00	12:30	Lunch		
12:30	1:45	Tour Practice	Trainees only	
1:45	2:00	Break/Walk to Primates		
2:00	2:45	Zoo excursion (Primates)		
2:45	3:30	Cart practice/Walk to WEA		
3:30	4:00	Zoo excursion (WEA)		

Session 8 – March 1, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:45	Announcements/Q&A	Trainees only	
9:45	10:00	Break/Walk to RMW		
10:00	10:45	Zoo excursion (RMW)		
10:45	11:00	Break/Walk to Australia		
11:00	11:45	Zoo excursion (Australia)		
11:45	12:30	Break/Lunch		
12:30	1:30	Birds at CMZ (gen/pel/pen/chk)	Jean McKanna	CEC
1:30	1:45	Break		
1:45	2:45	Birds at CMZ (vul/eag/emu/owl)	Jean McKanna	CEC
2:45	3:00	Break	Trainees only	
3:00	3:45	Safari Practice		
3:45	4:00	Review/info for next week		

Session 9 – March 8, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:30	Announcements		
9:30	10:30	Marsupials	Charlotte Greene	CEC
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:15	Invertebrates	Barbara Kalbli	CEC
11:15	11:45	Lunch	Trainees only	
11:45	1:00	Zoo excursion (Loft and BBY)		
1:00	1:15	Break		
1:15	2:45	Cart Practice		
2:45	3:00	Return to SL/Break		
3:00	3:30	Visit from Mocha		
3:30	4:00	Review/info for next week		

Session 10 – March 15, 2025

Start	Stop	Topic	Instructor	CEC Status
9:15	9:45	Announcements/Review		
9:45	10:30	SignUp Genius	TBD	
10:30	10:45	Break		
10:45	11:30	Conservation/Palm Oil	Trainees only	
11:30	12:00	Q&A	Joelle/Michael	
12:00		Potluck w/Mentors/Instructors	Trainees/Mentors only	

Make a Difference for Wild Orangutans

KIDS! Check out these **5** ways you can



Ask **1** parent to download WAZA's PalmOil Scan app and to use it when they go to the grocery store.

Write to **2** companies rated "Excellent" in the app to tell them "thank you" for protecting rainforests, orangutans, and native people in Indonesia and Malaysia who depend on the rainforest to live.

Recycle **3** types of paper products like paper, cardboard, and paperboard (like cereal boxes) every day to reuse paper that already came from trees.

Find **4** companies using palm oil that are rated as "No Commitment" and write to them asking them to join the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and to make a promise to use **ONLY** certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) that is deforestation free.



Tell **5** or more friends about how you are helping orangutans and ask them to do the above four steps!

Find sample letters on Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's website!

Together we can all make a difference for wild orangutans!

Learn More!

cmzoo.org/palmoil



Rev. December 2022

Make a Difference for Wild Orangutans

KIDS! Learn about Orangutans...

Orangutans:

- Orangutans depend on the rainforest for their home and their food. They are the only great ape in Asia and are the largest arboreal mammal in the world.
- All three species, Sumatran, Bornean and Tapanuli orangutans are critically endangered.
- The biggest threat to orangutans is NON-sustainable palm oil farming.
- Extinction for these great apes could be just around the corner without our help!



What is palm oil?

- A type of vegetable oil. You probably eat and use palm oil every day because it is found in many foods and bath products.
- Oil palms come from West Africa, but can grow in other tropical climates. Most oil palms are currently grown on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. (The only place in the world orangutans live!)
- Palm oil is not part of the rainforest; it's an introduced crop that grows in plantations. A LOT of rainforest is being cut down to plant more oil palms.
- Palm oil plants can produce 10 times as much vegetable oil as soy or other plants farmed in the same amount of space. So it can be a good crop but ONLY IF it is grown sustainably.

The WAY palm oil is grown makes all the difference.

- There is a group called the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm oil (RSPO). They make sure that palm oil is grown in a sustainable way that does not hurt the rainforest or the people and animals that live there.
- When palm oil is grown in a non-sustainable way, rainforest that is home to orangutans, and many other animals, is often cut down.

Native people in Borneo and Sumatra

- Millions of farmers and their families work on oil palm farms and this allows them to provide basic essentials such as food, clean water, housing, and medical care. It also allows many of the smallholder (small-scale) farmers to send their children to school.
- Sometimes palm oil plantations take land away from indigenous populations and leave them with nowhere to live and no way to find food. When palm oil is grown in a sustainable way, people and animals do not lose their homes.

What can you do to help?

- Turn this page over to find out! Or go to www.cmzoo.org/palmoil



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