



President’s Message – Jeanie Baratono

We are in a quieter time at the zoo right now. Zoopeteers is going strong as well as BBY and the Loft. During this quieter time, I want to bring to the forefront all the conservation projects the zoo supports.

International Center for the Care and Conservation of Giraffes

- Veterinary Medicine
- Behavioral Husbandry
- Emergency Response Teams Worldwide

Q4C

- Orangutans and Palm Oil
- Giraffe
- Black Footed Ferrets
- Wyoming Toads
- African Elephants and Rhinos
- Amur Tigers
- Panamanian Frogs

Members’ Votes

- Protect Fountain Creek in Colorado Springs from pollution
- Continue Reforestation of a Wildlife Corridor and help save orangutans in Borneo
- Track and protect local migratory birds in Colorado
- Support kids’ education camps to help protect African lions
- Foster, raise, and release African penguin chicks
- Support Spotted Owl research and conservation in Colorado
- Protect Pancake Tortoises through community conservation in Kenya

Ongoing Projects

- African Vultures and African Penguins

We Believe Statement: *We believe our animals have the important job of helping people develop passion for the natural world and we must honor their stay with us by providing first-class experiences.*



Mr. Slithers, the Burmese python in Scutes, courtesy of 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.

Feb 7..... Board (w/Supp) Mtg..... SL

Feb 10... Docent Meeting/Potluck.. LML

Feb 28... Education Committee DRC

Mar 6 Board Meeting DRC

Mar 13 .. Docent Meeting SL

Mar 27 .. Education Committee DRC

Apr 3..... Board Meeting DRC

Apr 6/10 .. CEC (Adv Mammal) SL

Apr 13... Docent Meeting SL

Apr 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

Training sessions start at 9:30 a.m.

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24..... Zoo School..... SL

Spring Fling coming in Feb..... Due 3/31

Note: CECs will be available for some Zoo School sessions (see page 6 of the Jan Zooline issue for the full schedule).

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February Docent Meeting

Please join us for our monthly docent meeting on Saturday, February 10 at 9:30 am in the Lodge at Moose Lake. Our speaker this month will be Dr. Eric. In addition, the new docent trainees will be introduced, and we will enjoy a potluck lunch! See you on the 10th!

Marianne Brooks, President-Elect

Tidbits from the Cart Master

The Auxiliary owns 2 Kodak Carousel slide projectors we used to use years ago to put on our safaris. As members of CMZA, you all get first choice at owning one of them for a donation to the Auxiliary of \$75 each! Contact Greta Johnson at 719-351-5611 by phone call or text. I will dust them off and make sure they work.

Due to the construction of the new trail to the grizzly exhibit, the biofacts in the grizzly cart have been relocated to bins in the cart shed for temporary storage. They will be returned to the cart when construction is finished and we have access once again.

Greta Johnson, Cart Master

CEC Corner

Well, that was a frigid January, wasn't it?! Just a few more weeks until the pasque flowers show their faces, then spring will be on the way. Our zoo is so delightful in the snow; to me it is the prettiest time of year. But spring brings its own promise.

Guess what? The Spring Fling will be published by email on February 15! It will also be published in the March Zooline. The due date will be March 31. Get all brushed up before the fabulous Spring tour season starts! This quiz will have ~25 questions on it, covering a variety of topics. All answers will be found in the 2024 Docent Training Manual. If you did not order a hard copy, you can download the file onto a USB drive from the DRC computer — it's up there now! Of course, I will also send a link to an online version.

Some notes:

- The Spring Fling will not be accepted by snail mail because I am moving! If this presents a hardship for you, email me and we can work something out.
- There will be an online version, or you can return it by email or drop it off in a box in the DRC. Please pick up any graded quizzes currently in the DRC box before Feb 15 because they will be recycled after that date.

I have a blog recommendation for you this month: [Wild Idea on Ground Nesting Birds](#). Shameless plug: I get all my beef (bison!) from Wild Idea, and I love reading Dan's blog. Here, he writes about the co-evolution of ground-nesting birds and bison. It's a great read. One of

these days, we should take a field trip up to tour Dan's ranch.

See you at the Zoo, Cris, CEC Chair



*Cris and prehensile-tailed opossum, Mocha,
photo courtesy of Cassie Spero*

AMP Update (Animals, Missions, Programs)

- Gorillas Goma and Asha bred multiple times over a couple of days.
- Gorilla Roxie continues to eat and take meds after JuJu's passing. She has been isolating herself from the troop more than she was prior to the passing but still is spending some time with the troop.
- Lions Lomela and Aslan are doing well with mesh-to-mesh howdies.
- Red River Hogs: 2 females transferred in from Caldwell Zoo for a breeding recommendation with Gus. Zena was transferred to another zoo.
- Emperor Tamarin Dot is living in the basement of Scutes as she and Rio were not getting along. She's very enthusiastic. The keepers in Scutes tell me that she screams every time she sees Little Foot the Red Tegu who also lives in the basement of Scutes.
- Little Foot, our Red Tegu, walks around the Scutes building every Friday starting at 11:30.
- Eclectus parrot Mister has had some scary moments with seizures.
- All three beavers are now coming out weekly for mini walks across the public area.
- Rainbow trout are stocked in the penguin pool on Tues/Thurs/Sat at 9:30 am.

- Grizzly bear Digger and mountain lion Sitka had successful dental days.
- Atka (*pictured below, courtesy of Susan Hoxie*) made it through the peak of rut without breaking an antler due to an enrichment intervention plan.



February 2024 – Election Season

Article from the Past President

This is the time of year when we begin considering who will be an officer in the Auxiliary. As you may remember, last year we revamped the nomination process to make it more easily understood. There are steps to this process, and I will briefly go over them.

1. In February, you will receive by email a list of present and former CMZA positions held by Active Docents. This is updated yearly so you have an idea of the various jobs people have done. This will be helpful for the next step.
2. In February, you will receive the Proposed Nominations Form. This is an interest survey where you can suggest people for the various officers' positions. Just remember, the people holding the positions VP-Elect automatically move into the VP position the following year. That is how we ensure the President-Elect understands his or her role, the VP-Elect for Education, etc. This also distributes



duties equitably. Do suggest people to fill the “Elect” positions. When suggesting people to fill a position, be sure and ask that person first to make sure they are willing and able. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself for a position. Please suggest people (yourself) to fill Supplemental Chair positions, also. But remember, when the new Executive Board is elected in May, they will meet and ask people to be Supplemental chairs at that time (mid-May). They will look at the suggestions you made.

3. The Nominating Committee will meet in March to review your suggestions and will make a proposal for Executive positions. The Nominating Committee's selection is NOT final, anyone can make a nomination from the floor at the May meeting. The Past President chairs the Nominating Committee but has no vote.
4. Election of the Nominating Committee is the last issue to be decided. The Nominating Committee for 2024 was elected last spring at the Annual Meeting in June 2023. There are nine groups of docents on this ballot. You will vote for one from each group. All members are grouped primarily based on the year they joined the Auxiliary. You must be in good standing to be selected for Nominating Committee or for an officer role. A person serving in an “Elect” position may not be on Nominating Committee because they are automatically serving in their next role. People on the 2023 Nominating Committee are ineligible to serve again the following year.

I do hope you will seriously consider who should serve in the various roles. Through the years, if a job has become too cumbersome, we changed the job description, so they made sense for the people serving in them. That is how we came up with the “Elect” positions. Those roles now work well and prepare the person for their next job. The Auxiliary is a well-functioning organization. Help continue that trend by participating in choosing next year's leadership.

Marsha Fogarty, Past President

New Docent Trainee Bios

Come and meet our docents-in-training at our February meeting and potluck lunch! Keep reading for information about each of them...

Sharon Stephenson Black grew up with the zoo, being from fourth generation ranchers from the Colorado Springs area. She then shared it with her children and grandchildren. She is a retired nurse and local health food store owner. Her husband, Tom, recently sold his business of 40 years, Tile Traders. Currently, she is an artist who

loves capturing an animal's personality with paint and a brush, then teaching others how to do so step by step. She respects CMZ's mission regarding education and conservation and is honored to be a part of this team.

David Colon. The reason why David chose to volunteer as a CMZ docent is two-fold. First, he would like to share his love for animals with others. As a military working dog handler in addition to working with his dog every day, he found enjoyment in speaking to children at schools about the military working dog program and demonstrating the dogs' capabilities. Second, he strongly feels there is a need to educate the general population about the importance of the diversity of animals and how they impact our environment.

Steve DeCou grew up in Michigan (where his dad was part of the auto industry) and entered the Air Force out of high school. He met and married his wife Kim (a docent since 2019) when he was assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. They have three grown kids who live in the Denver and Seattle areas. Steve and Kim have lived in Colorado Springs twice and have a deep attachment to CMZ. After retiring from active duty in 2008, he retired again from his job as a defense contractor at Schriever SFB in February 2023, and now plans to have great fun as a docent!

Heather Ingraham was previously a docent at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo for 10 years. In addition to her docent duties, she was an animal ambassador handler and provided animal care. In 2019, she was part of a volunteer team that raised a baby gorilla. She also spent 10 years volunteering with Nebraska Wildlife Rehab where she cared for injured and/or abandoned wildlife. Her specialty was raising and releasing doves and bats. She loves to share her love for animals and show zoo patrons that animals many find to be "ugly" or "gross" are actually beautiful. Now that she has moved to Denver, she is excited to become a docent at CMZ.

Sarah Miller is in her sixth year of teaching kindergarten. Before becoming a teacher, it was her dream to work in a zoo. She is so excited to be able to combine her love of teaching with her love of animals.

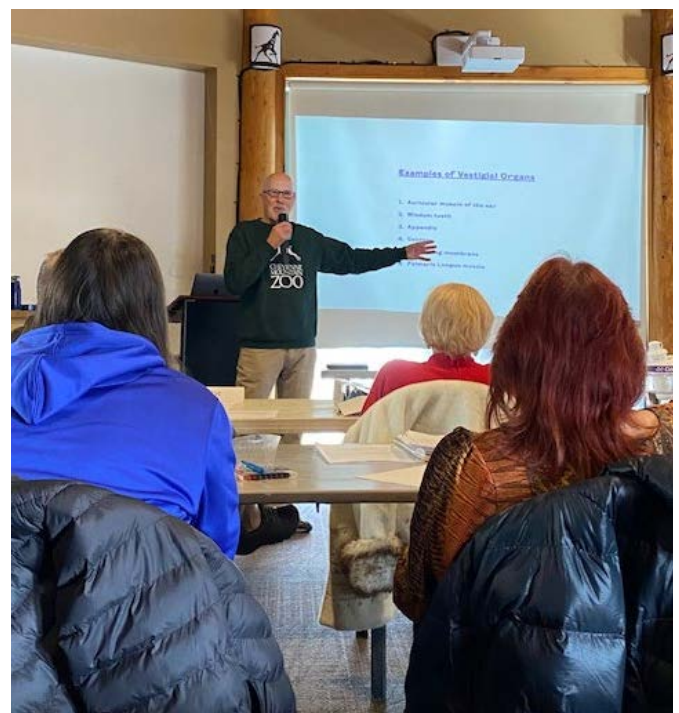
Amy Momber retired from the Air Force in 2019 as a colonel, after serving for almost 23 years on active duty in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. As a JAG, she had the opportunity to litigate criminal and civil cases, teach at the Air Force Academy, and advise on unprecedented constitutional, environmental, and operational law issues, among other things. Although her time in the Air Force was invaluable, it is still no match for the time she spends with her family, especially her two remarkable teenagers, Hannah and Ben, her wonderful Aussie husband, Simon, and her spunky black lab, Ollie! As a zoo docent, she is looking forward to being part of something bigger than herself (the zoo

team and its community), sharing what she learns with children, and giving back to the zoo, which has always been a uniquely special place for her and her family.

Nora Ricks is not a Colorado native but was raised here. She is a retired truck driver and doting nana. As a child, she loved going on school field trips to CMZ and as an adult, she still loves being there and sharing it with her grandies. When the opportunity arose to become a docent, she quickly applied and was ecstatic to be chosen. She is looking forward to learning and sharing new knowledge with anyone willing to listen. She loves the sense of wonder on a person's face when they find out something new and interesting and is looking forward to experiencing that firsthand.

Sheryl Rix is a passionate educator and lover of animals. She has served as a faculty member at Pikes Peak State College Department of Communication since 2021 and has over 20 years of teaching experience in higher education. As a California native and a relatively recent Colorado transplant, Sheryl and her husband Jim became members and enthusiastic visitors and volunteers at CMZ shortly after moving to Woodland Park, CO. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to explore the natural wonders of Colorado and loving becoming a member of the community, especially the CMZ Auxiliary.

Joan Thorn grew up in Los Angeles, California. She is married with three daughters, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, three dogs, and four cats. She spent most of her adult years as a software trainer, traveling all over the country. Her love of animals and people brought her to be a volunteer at the zoo.



Jeff Oram-Smith teaching taxonomy and evolution

Field Trips – Pictures and Upcoming Trips

A total of 13 docents and friends braved single digit temperatures to visit the Downtown Aquarium in Denver on Sunday, 14 January. In the Behind-the-Scenes tour, we saw the water filtration system and how they make salt water. We also saw the fresh water and largest saltwater tanks from above with close-up sharks and sea turtles. It was a great afternoon followed by an early dinner at the aquarium watching more fish as we ate.



With our guide, Cameron, at the Aquarium Bar



Eel and ray in the shipwreck exhibit



Fish in the coral reef exhibit



Moon jellyfish

You will be able to sign up for the Butterfly Pavilion and Albuquerque BioPark Zoo at the February and March Docent Meetings or email or text me if you want to attend either or both of the field trips.

If you would like to be the next Field Trip Coordinator, please email me and I will be happy to meet with you to talk about the position. It begins 1 June 1 2024.

Monday, March 18: Butterfly Pavilion

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

Friday, May 3 thru May 5/6: Albuquerque BioPark Zoo, Aquarium and Botanical Gardens

Possibly the Turquoise Museum or New Mexico Museum of Natural History, or shopping in Albuquerque. If you took the survey for this trip, I have you on my list to attend.

Kathy O'Donnell, Field Trip Coordinator

Articles and Information of Interest

- The patient weighed just 30 pounds and needed a hysterectomy. How OB-GYNs assisted a mandrill at Denver Zoo. [Read Here](#)
- British zoo has new plan to rehabilitate its potty-mouthed parrots. [Read Here](#)
- Alligator submerged in frozen water breathes with nostrils sticking up through the ice. [Read Here](#)
- Scientists spot previously unknown penguin colony in Antarctica. [Read Here](#)

CMZA Zooline Information (MAR Issue)



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

The deadline for the March issue is Thursday, February 22. Thank you!

Joelle Shreves and Bailey Southard, Co-Editors

Zoo Photos



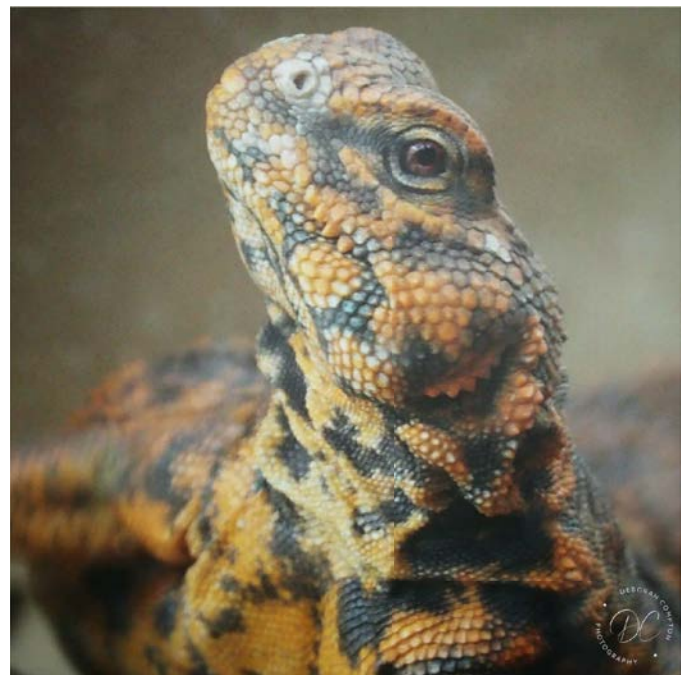
Ring-tailed lemur, courtesy of Deborah Compton



Sumatran orangutan Baka Keri courtesy, of Deborah Compton



*Aysan (2-toed sloth) on left courtesy of Susan Hoxie, and
Aysan and Monty (Stimson's Python) on right
courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



Spiny-tailed lizard Cheetoh, courtesy of Deborah Compton



Omo getting a snack, courtesy of Susan Hoxie



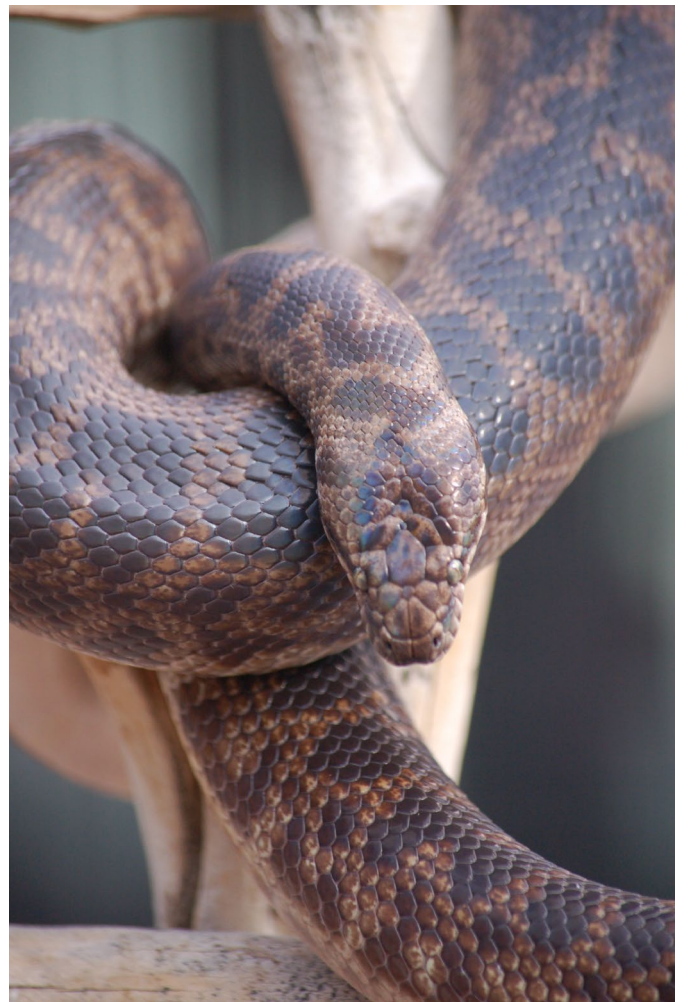
Flying squirrels (above and below) tummies glow pink under black light, courtesy of Alia Cooper



Prehensile-tailed skink Wasabi, courtesy of Deborah Compton



Close-up of Rocky Mountain goat's cloven hoof shows two toes spread wide to improve balance, courtesy of D. Compton



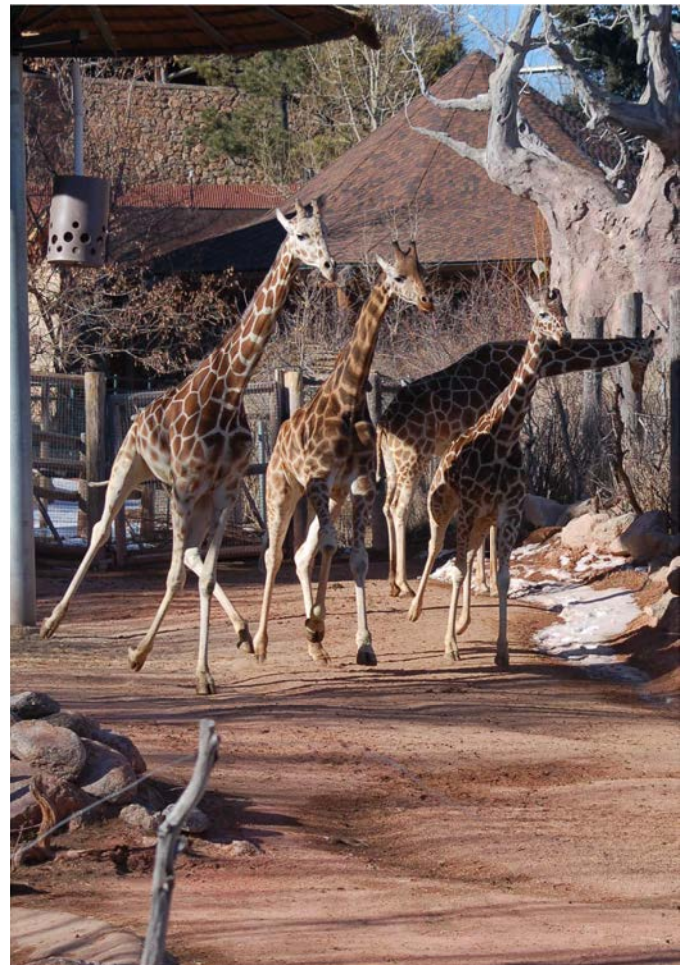
Undara (spotted python) getting some sun, courtesy of Susan Hoxie



Magnificent Chewy (above and below), courtesy of J. Shreves



Unknown lynx soaking up the rays, courtesy of Susan Hoxie



Giraffe (l-r Mashama, Ohe, Panya) outside for first time in a couple of weeks, zooming, courtesy of Susan Hoxie