



**President’s Message – Marianne Brooks**

Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope this message finds you well and that you all had a joyful and relaxing holiday season. As we begin 2025, let’s take a moment to reflect on an incredible accomplishment—our Zoo was voted #2 Best Zoo Lights in North America in the USA Today poll! This is the highest ranking our Zoo has ever received!

AND

As we move into the new year, I am thrilled to welcome the 2025 Docent Training Class! Let’s give them a warm welcome as they train to become new docents. Joelle and Michael have been working diligently to organize and prepare for this year’s program, and we look forward to the energy and enthusiasm new docents bring to the Auxiliary.

For those looking to complete your Continuing Education Credits (CECs), there will be plenty of opportunities during Zoo School. Won’t be able to attend Zoo School for your CECs? Charlotte has some great plans for you to finish your CECs in the Spring!

Looking ahead to June, we are planning our annual Scavenge for Conservation (formerly known as Scavenge for Vultures) sale, a meaningful event that supports important Zoo conservation efforts. I am seeking two volunteers to help lead this initiative, which will be held at the June meeting. If you are interested in lending a hand, please reach out to me or Greta by January 31.

Thank you all for everything you do to make our Zoo such a special place. Your passion and dedication are at the heart of our success.

Here’s to a wonderful 2025!

Marianne

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



*Our growing Red River Hog Family,  
left to right: Mamma Finn,  
baby Tumbo and Papa Gus  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*

**DATES TO KNOW**

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

*CECs at 9:30 a.m.*

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

Jan 8 ... Exec Board Meeting..... DRC

Jan 15 . Docent Meeting .....SL

Jan 22 . Education Committee..... DRC

Feb 5... Exec/Sup Board Meeting .....SL

Feb 8... Docent Meeting / Potluck.....SL

Feb 22. CEC on Conservation.....SL

Feb 26. Education Committee..... DRC

Key:

DRC = Docent Resource Center

LML = Lodge at Moose Lake

SL = Safari Lodge

\*\* = Expected Attendance

**CECs and TRAINING**

Jan 18, 25 .....Zoo

School.....SL

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22.....Zoo

School.....SL

Conservation CE...February 22 .....SL

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

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## **Volunteers Needed for “Scavenge for Conservation”**

We need 2 docents to be in charge of the Scavenge for Conservation sale at the June 7, 2025, docent meeting.

Volunteers will be responsible for:

- Having tables/clothes rack available for those wishing to sell items
- Taking the money for items purchased
- Total the money collected at the end of the event and turn it over to the Treasurer

Those who are interested, please contact me or Greta Johnson by January 31, for more information!

Thank you, Marianne

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## **CMZ Certified as Sensory Inclusive Venue**

*Donna Greenfield*

*Grants and Developments Officer Cheyenne Mountain Zoo*

I am excited to share with you all that CMZoo has officially been certified by KultureCity as a sensory-inclusive venue! Thank you so much to all the staff that took the online training. I know the training was somewhat of an epiphany for many of us!!

The Zoo now has sensory bags, equipped with noise-reducing headphones, widget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads, available for guests to borrow at admissions and base. The bags are free to check out. We hold a photo ID when guests check out the bag and return it when the bag is returned at the end of the visit. We have been checking out 2-3 bags per day on busy days!

The Zoo now has designated Quiet Zones to provide a calm and quiet area for visitors with sensory needs. Designated Quiet Zones include the Asiatic black bear viewing area, the elephant demo area (when demos are not scheduled) and the top of Old Gnarly play area between The Loft and My Big Backyard. We have also incorporated Headphone Zone signs to indicate environments with lots of sensory stimuli, in which our guests with sensory needs may want to use their headphones prior to entering. These areas include The Loft, Scutes Family Gallery, and Grizzly Grill.

In support of our inclusivity efforts, the zoo has also installed a universal changing table in the bathroom near the lower-level African lion viewing and the Colobus monkeys! The universal changing table is designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities and assist their caregivers. The table is 6 feet long and can accommodate up to 500 pounds, with features that specifically cater to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities, such as powered height adjustability.

We are thrilled to be able to provide a safe and sanitary changing environment for all!

Thank you for all you do to help make CMZoo accessible to all!

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## **CEC Report**

*Charlotte Greene*

*CEC Chairperson*

Conservation is at the heart of CMZoo's mission. As docents, we have a wealth of inspiring messages to share about our vital conservation efforts.

Join us for an exciting General CEC on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Nicole Cheney, the CMZoo Conservation Manager, will discuss the conservation programs we help support. Following the presentation, we will take a walk to one of our zoo areas where she will provide us with valuable pointers on conveying meaningful, concise messages to our guests.

Nicole is currently assisting me in creating a handout on conservation. We will utilize it during the General CEC and our Spring Fling event, which will be featured in the February Zooline.

Another terrific opportunity to refresh your knowledge and earn a CE Credit is by attending designated Zoo School classes. Check the December Zooline pages 7-9 for details. You must attend all the sessions marked and sign in on the roster to receive credit. Please remember that these training sessions are for the new class. During the instruction, hold your comments and questions. After the class, feel free to contact the instructor with any areas that need clarification.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall Recall. As of mid-December, 59 participants completed it. The animal knowledge we impart and the relationships we build with guests are crucial to our conservation mission. Additionally, 8 docents took the initiative to certify on the Life Cycle Tour after the November refresher class. By mid-December, 3 docents completed it, and the remaining 5 are diligently working on their quiz and finalizing their tour routes.

Even though most of us have completed our 2 CEC requirement, the spreadsheet shows that around 18 docents still need to meet this goal. There are lots of opportunities in the next couple of months. Make it your goal to complete this requirement soon.

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## **Alias Reed to Speak on January 15 Meeting**

*Greta Johnson*

*President-Elect*

Our speaker for our Wednesday, January 15, meeting will be Alias Reed, Senior Maintenance Technician along with his co-workers.

Our Auxiliary awarded Alias grant money to enable his team to attend the AZFA Conference (Aquarium and Zoo Facilities Association). As part of the agreement, they

will present to us what the team learned at the conference. Also, during their stay, they visited the Audubon Aquarium, Insectarium, and Zoo in New Orleans. We are looking forward to hearing about their trip.

Additionally, we will be hearing reports from Halter in the animal dept. and Bob Chastain, our President and CEO.

See you all in the new year!

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## Important DRC Reminders and Updates

*Judy De Groot*

*DRC/Library Chair*

I check on the DRC periodically and I have a couple of reminders for everyone.

- With the wintry weather upon us, please remember to keep the DRC Bathroom Door OPEN after you use it. By leaving it open, it prevents the water pipes from freezing by allowing warm air from the main room to keep the pipes warm. I posted red signs recently to remind everyone to keep the bathroom door open.



- As you know from the past, the DRC has a rat/mouse issue especially when there is construction and of course with colder weather. If you eat in the DRC, please look around you to make sure not to leave any food items, even crumbs, on the table or floor. We do not want to entice them!

- A small group of docents will be cleaning out the DRC, which may include old paperwork, pictures, and nicknacks. If you have items in the DRC you donated but want to keep, please retrieve them.



*Godric, Cape griffon vulture—  
Nature's clean-up crew—  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*

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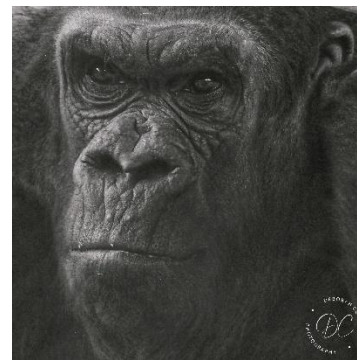
## The Library – Articles, Videos and Books of Interest

- [Two Orphaned Siberian Tigers Reunite as Mates After a 120-Mile Trek Through Russian Wilderness](#)  
Conservationists hope the love story between Boris and Svetlaya might indicate a new, successful chapter in tiger repopulation efforts
- [If we stop now, they are gone forever': The Nordic countries breeding Arctic foxes.](#)  
Arctic foxes were almost hunted to extinction in Sweden, Norway, and Finland.
- [Interesting graphic of the depth of different sea life species](#)  
Illustration that shows the different sea life species at various ocean depths.
- [World's oldest-known wild bird lays an egg in Hawaii at age 74](#)  
Wisdom, the world's oldest known wild bird, recently returned to Midway Atoll.

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## AMP (Animals, Missions, Programs) Update, Note: Zoo Family Only Information

- The Vultures can now choose whether they would like to go outside.
- Red panda, Cora, is enjoying the snow.
- Amur leopard, Basha, is doing well in his new home – he came out of his crate quickly which is credited to wonderful CMZ training!
- Snow leopard, Valens, is getting accustomed to his new home here at CMZ and hopefully will be on exhibit within a couple of weeks.
- Warthog, Alex, has some arthritis on the foot where his toe was amputated, but he seems to be doing fine.
- Western lowland gorilla, 48-year-old Roxie, is in hospice and has not been doing well for several weeks. Read more about her status and treatment [on the CMZ website.](#)



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## Zoopeteers at Centennial Elementary

*A fantastic learning experience for school students as well as the Zoopeteers*



*Getting responses from the audience  
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*The class enjoyed the puppet show and learned about Conservation—Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*A wonderful learning experience  
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*

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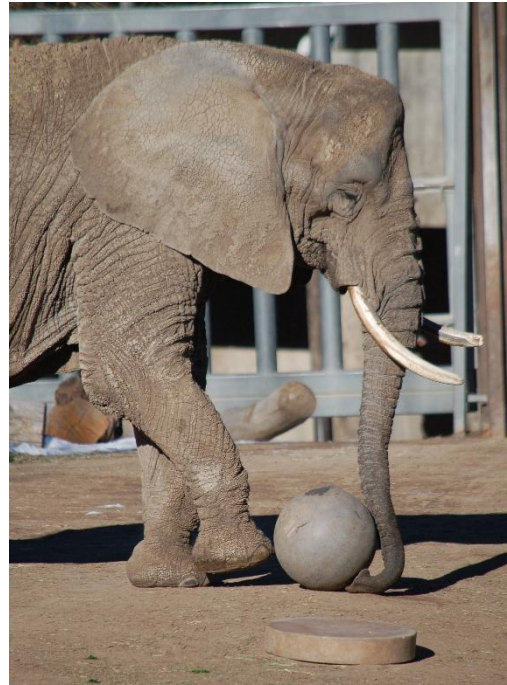
## Antics at the Zoo



*Asha in deep thought  
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Muscovy duck sisters, Athena, and Francisca (Franny) out for a stroll—Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



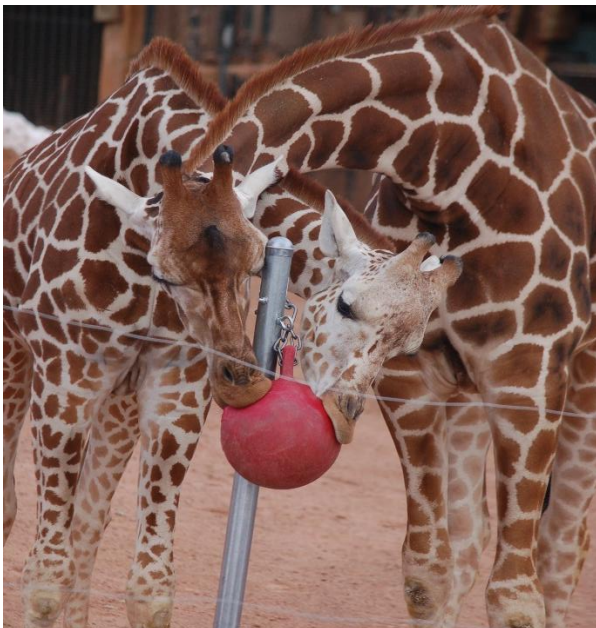
*Missy, engaging with her enrichment activities  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*The soles of Kasai's feet: A rare new perspective on Hippo's feet—Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Hubble looking over his crate and appearing to be reviewing his own biography  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Wednesday and Kay enjoying their enrichment  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



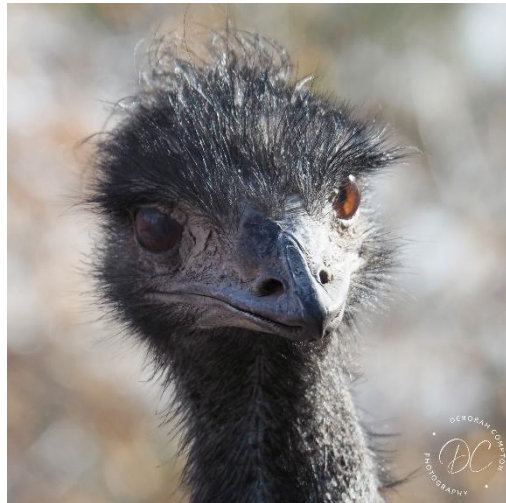
*Diego, the Degu in his dust bath bowl  
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Mr Slithers showing off for the guests...up close and personal—Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*So photogenic  
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Dora—watching the guest pass by  
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Asha—just chillaxing today  
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Mexican Gray Wolves enjoying the sunshine—Guardians of the Wild—Courtesy of Joan Adkins*

### **CMZA Zooline Information**

Please send all submissions of information, articles, pictures, etc. for the February issue to:

[cmza.zooline@yahoo.com](mailto:cmza.zooline@yahoo.com). The deadline is Sunday, January 22.

Thank you!  
Joan Thorn, Editor

