



## President’s Message – Jeanie Baratono

At the January all staff meeting and the AMP (Animals, Mission, and Programs) meeting Nicole Chaney presented on Water Conservation at CMZoo. Here are the main points:

We are in a 20-year drought. The worst drought in 1,200 years. The Colorado River is the water source for 41 million people. There is \$15 billion in agriculture and \$26 billion in recreation at stake. The flow has reduced by 20% since 2000, whereas usage has increased by 3.7 million since 2000. Lake Meade is at 29% and Lake Powell is at 23%. They were at 95% in 2000.

70% of our water comes from the Colorado River Basin, some from the Arkansas River and some from Fountain Creek. Our per capita water usage has reduced by 41% since 2000 due to conservation efforts.

CMZoo’s water usage was the highest in 2010, 34.9 million gallons compared to 15.9 million gallons in 2022. Three giraffe stalls were converted to substrate and higher aquatic maintenance infrastructure modifications saved 1.9million gallons /year. The purchase of in-house water testing equipment and maintenance changes saved 5.5 m/gal/year. The grow pods in the short term are saving 420,000 gal/year and in the long term are predicted to save 670,00 gal/year.

We also give back, specifically we partner with Trout Unlimited to offset our water usage and to maintain winter river flow for 47 mi of streams. Staff and board members traveled to the San Juan Valley to learn more about this partnership and to visit several sites where our water offset is making an impact restoring flows to the ecosystem.

**We Believe Statement:** *We believe long term conservation only comes with education and behavior change, but focused breeding programs and the humane care of wild animals are vital to preventing a species from becoming extinct while bridging that gap.*



*Atka post-antler shed, 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.*

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.*

Due Apr 15.....Spring Fling

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

March Docent Meeting ..... 2

Note from the Treasurer..... 2

CEC Corner..... 2

AMP (Animal) Update ..... 3

Call for Docent Apps..... 4

BBY Updates ..... 4

Docents in Print..... 4

Articles of Interest ..... 5

Photos ..... 6

Spring Fling ..... 8

## March Docent Meeting

Our monthly docent meeting will be Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in Safari Lodge. Our presenter this month will be Bryce Oberg and he will be talking about Pancake Tortoise conservation. He will have all of the latest information and updates about these wonderful animals! Hope to see you there!

*Marianne Brooks, President-Elect*

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## A Note from the Treasurer

For those of you who participated in the 2023 Scavenge for Safety fundraiser, I wanted to update you on our efforts. At that event we raised \$550.00 for the 2 key locking system they desperately needed.

Basha Dann (Lead Animal keeper, RMH) had been trying to find out the best way for the donation to make an impact on the Belize safety program. Her recommendation was to send the money to the Milwaukee County Zoo “Pat Gives Back: Belize Conservation” funds. That check went out February 28, 2024.

Basha was able to collect a donation of the locks from another zoo this year, so with our donation, they will be able to replace all of the Belize zoo locks with the 2 key safety locks (two keepers, two keys. – e.g., Blue key and Yellow key make green, and that combination will unlock the enclosure.). Additionally, they will also be able to install “shift” gates which Belize is very much in need of. She said, “She is very grateful of our support!”

## Who is Pat and what is Pat Gives Back: Belize Conservation?

Pat the Great Cat was a well-known jaguar in Belize and was accepted into The Belize Zoo’s Human Jaguar Conflict Program. Once he was healthy and comfortable around people, the decision was made to integrate him into a new life at the Milwaukee County Zoo (MCZ) in 2007. Pat went on to sire two litters of cubs and brought much-needed genetic health to the jaguar population in North American zoos. Pat has made a huge impact on jaguar conservation.

The Milwaukee County Zoo coordinates annual workshops at the Belize Zoo and offer staff keeper exchange opportunities and scholarships to attend conferences. The staff here at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo regularly – annually if they can – take trips to the Belize zoo for workshops and conferences. These are taken with the combined assistance of the CMZ Auxiliary grant program (this year \$760.00 was awarded for rental car and gas), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo funds, Milwaukee County Zoo funds and personal monies and time.

Over the years our staff has participated in conservation and research along with the Milwaukee County Zoo staff who provide direct support to conservation and research efforts of imperiled Belizean wildlife, including jaguar, tapirs, howler monkeys, migratory songbirds, and other imperiled wildlife.

Each and every one of you who helped with the fundraiser has made a great difference in the Belize Zoo staff safety program. Hopefully no more keepers cleaning enclosures thinking the Jaguar’s had been shifted outside - only to find out that creepy “I feel like I am being watched!” feeling is because you are! *Yes, that did happen.* The Jaguar was watching him from the exit tunnel to the yard. No keepers were injured in this experience, but he had a great story to tell.

Thank you all – our efforts do make a difference!

*RaNae Duran, Treasurer*



*Ayson and Boscoe the Two-Toed Sloths Just Hanging Out, photo by Jeanie Baratano*



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## CEC Corner

It's so wonderful to see that the majority of docents already have their 2 CECs for the year! If you are missing any, there are only two opportunities left to earn one: the Spring Fling and the Advanced Mammal CEC in April.

The Spring Fling is published in this issue and was sent out by email at the end of February. The due date is April 15, 2024. See the email sent out for my new mailing address and the full instructions to complete and submit it. Hopefully, you just email it back or take the online one!

What am I reading this month?! So sorry, but the move to a new house in town has consumed all of my reading time. I will have new recommendations in April for you.

As some of you have heard, I will be going sustaining at the end of this docent calendar year. It's been a ride, hasn't it? I specifically loved that I was able to chair CECs for the past two years. Thank you all for making every minute of it so memorable! You'll still see me around the zoo.... But in blue! I'm an adult volunteer for the Loft / BBY and usually there on Saturday mornings.

*Always be learning,  
Cris, CEC Chair*



*Rey and Finn, red river hog "sister wives", photo by Susan Hoxie*

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## AMP Update (Animals, Missions, Programs)

Conservation reported regarding Sancob has saved 2000 penguins with CMZ's donations. Also 700 chicks and 300 eggs have been hand-reared and returned to the wild. CMZ has sent a donation to an emergency fund to

aid in the Avian Influenza outbreak which has been contained. Amazon has joined the RSPO. Lastly, the Motus tower has been installed at Fountain Creek Nature Center.

### Animal Updates:

- Bailey, the female giraffe, is one of the first giraffes to try artificial insemination
- Bean the sloth, and Armadillos Friday & Flora have been training for blood draws
- Gorillas Goma & Asha bred multiple times over a couple of days
- BFF breeding season has begun
- Meerkat Hullabaloo confirmed pregnant on ultrasound
- Deaths: Flip the Naked Mole Rat, Houdini the Domestic Guinea Pig, Natasha IV the Black Widow, Pillsbury the Chicken, and Girl George the Girl George
- Rainbow trout are back in the penguin pool
- An Ornate Uromastyx and a Panther Chameleon, Bowie, arrived for Scutes
- Gorilla Roxie doing well, resting with Asha more after JuJu's passing
- Giraffe Mahali doing well
- Lion Lomela doing well
- Eclectus parrot Mister doing well
- Gorillas locked inside for the first time as a troop, they navigated social situations calmly
- Loft and ARV Brought animals on a field trip to primate world
- Guinea Pigs are training on the bridge that Jeremy built
- Ring-tailed Lemur Hercules has been practicing coming off Lemur Island over the hippo pool
- Emperor Tamarin Dot is living temporarily in the Scutes basement
- Ring-Tailed Lemur Allagash is having her birth control implant removed
- African Lions Lomela & Aslan had a successful first introduction
- Katt's joey poked its head out of the pouch for the first time
- Red River Hogs Gus, Finn, & Rey have been making progress with their howdies
- Mountain Tapir Mochi turned 25
- Loft staff and Rick have started a beaver dam project with the 3 beaver girls

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## Call for Docent Applications

### Docent applications for 2025 are now up on CMZ website!

We as CMZ Docents provide unforgettable experiences to kids of all ages as we connect them with wildlife and our natural world.

Docent applications are now up and running on our CMZ website until June 22, 2024. Interviews will be conducted after that. Remember that an applicant must be at least twenty-one years old.

Help us spread the word about this amazing volunteer opportunity! There are new CMZ Auxiliary cards to pass out to those who may be interested. You'll find them in the carts.

Any questions? Contact Janie Levis or Nancy Hochman



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## Big Back Yard Updates

The BBY keepers have provided suggestions to improve the docent experience for lunch coverage in the Big Back Yard. There are optional tasks that docents can do in the BBY area, if they want to do so. These will be listed on the Dry Erase Board above the sink. Keepers will provide chicken training to docents to practice with the chickens as time permits.

Effective January 1, 2024, the On-Grounds Program V.P. (Sue Mayher this year) is tracking the BBY docent hours. A Keeper will provide a 15-20 minute encounter with an animal after a docent has 25 hours of service in

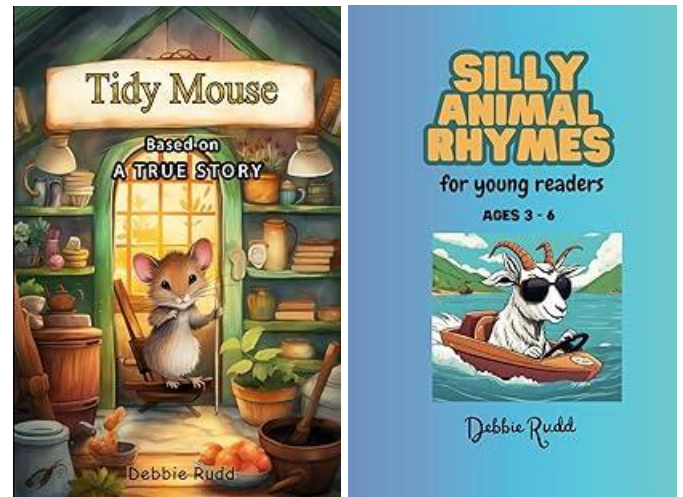
the BBY, and the next 25 hours, etc. Keepers decide which animals are available for the encounter. This replaces the quarterly drawings at docent meetings.

Staff is fine with docents coming for a shift of less than 2 ½ hours. Docents should put a note in the comment section in their Sign-up Genius signup for shorter shifts and alert staff to this when they arrive for their shift. Staff will happily accommodate this. Also, docents should let staff know if they need to leave exactly on time at the end of their shift or not.

*Sue Mayher, VP on Grounds Programs*

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## Docents in Print



Debbie Rudd, a previous docent, has published two children's books that can be ordered on Amazon. "Tidy Mouse" is based upon a recent viral video posted by a Welsh retired man who found an empty box on his workbench filled with all kinds of objects each morning. He set up video only to find that a mouse was behind the items! "Silly animal Rhymes" has humorous cartoons for all the rhymes.

Debbie was a Docent with us until about 12 years ago when she moved to Costa Rica to be more comfortable financially with her retired teacher salary. She does not recall when she left us exactly but does know that she literally gave Jeanie the (docent) shirt off her back!

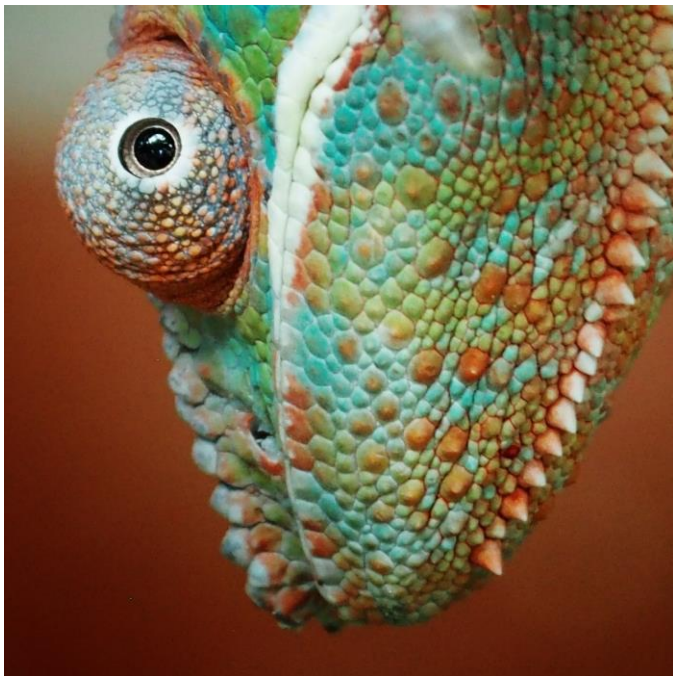
Debbie isn't the first Docent to have published. Mary Stevens Humphreys wrote not one but two booklets about our Cog Train. The first was sold in the Gift Shop with proceeds coming to the Auxiliary. The second "Mountaineer" book



chronicled the efforts to locate and restore the engine that now decks the Northeast side of the parking area. She gifted us with copies of the books plus her research right before Covid hit. Hopefully we can find a place in the DRC for them.

Another book about the Zoo you may or may not be aware of is the children's book, titled "A Mom for Umande" and is about Kwisha's youngster. Kwisha rejected her baby and Umande, whose name means "Swirling mists" in Swahili, was cared for by keepers and vet staff. This story is about that and the search for a new mom. This book is still available on Amazon as well.

*Lovice Riffe*



*Bowie the Panther Chameleon, Scutes's Latest Resident  
photo by Deborah Compton*

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### Articles and Information of Interest

- Brilliant birds use anti-roosting spikes to their advantage. [Read Here \(Must Subscribe to Read\)](#)
- Stingray will have 'miraculous birth' with no mate as aquarium staff believe that a shark may have impregnated it. [Read here](#)
- Stunning photo of lone polar bear is a reminder: Melting ice is a real threat. [Read here](#)
- Nail-biting moment camera team witness endangered spider monkey giving birth in the wild

for first time ever...which almost ends in tragedy.

[Read here](#)

- Palm oil supplier to Nestle, Kellogg's linked to Peru deforestation in report. [Read here](#)
- Pablo Escobar's hippos are now attacking people in Colombia: Drug kingpin's four pets have multiplied into 200-strong herd that dominates the nation's largest river. [Read here](#)
- Smithsonian scientists discover new species of hedgehogs hiding in plain sight. [Read here](#)



*Western lowland gorillas Asha and Roxie relaxing together, photo by Deborah Compton*

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### CMZA Zoline Information (APR Issue)



Please send all submissions for the **April** issue — information, articles, pictures, etc. — to [cmza.zoline@yahoo.com](mailto:cmza.zoline@yahoo.com).

**The deadline for the April issue is Thursday, March 21st.** Thank you!

*Joelle Shreves and Bailey Southard, Co-Editors*

Zoo Photos



*Gargoyle Gecko, photo by Deborah Compton*



*Katt's Joey, photo by Susan Hoxie*



*Roger the Porcupine, photo by Susan Hoxie*



*Gidgee's Joey, photo by Susan Hoxie*





*Aslan the African Lion, photo by Deborah Compton*



*An African Fruit Chafer Beetle, photo by Deborah Compton*



*Hubble the Virginia Opossum, photo by Susan Hoxie*



*Togo the Fire Skink, photo by Susan Hoxie*

**True | False Questions - Indicate T (true) or F (false) for each question**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Male orangutans take part in child-rearing
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Female gorillas have close bonds with their young
3. \_\_\_\_\_ All infant white-cheeked gibbons are beige
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Golden lion tamarins are endangered in part due to yellow fever
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow fever is an airborne disease

**Short Answers, Fill in the Blanks or Multiple Choice: Use a separate sheet of paper if printing!**

6. Name the four primate species at our zoo that have tails (or state 'None'):
7. Name all primate species at our zoo that have prehensile tails (or state 'None'):
8. List the primates at our zoo that are listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCNRedlist:
9. List the primates at our zoo that are listed as Endangered by the IUCNRedlist:
10. List the primates at our zoo that are listed as Least Concern by the IUCNRedlist:
11. Female orangutans have the longest \_\_\_\_\_ of any primate species.
12. Explain how ring tailed lemurs engage in stink fighting:
13. Generally, name **three** causes for endangerment that primates face in the wild:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Colobus monkeys have a \_\_\_\_\_ stomach to get full nutritional value from leaf matter.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ are quadrupedal on ground, but do not knuckle-walk. \_\_\_\_\_ are quadrupedal; use soles of feet and backs of long fingers to move on ground (knuckle-walking).
16. Describe the locomotion of white cheeked gibbons:
17. Describe how the coat and tail of a colobus monkey helps them survive:
18. Describe primate 'apartment living' as it relates to competitive exclusion:



**Definitions: Write-in the correct term that matches the definition provided from the glossary in the docent manual:**

**Ruminant**  
**Hindgut Fermenter**  
**Competition**  
**Irrupt**  
**Insectivore**  
**Folivore**  
**Frugivore**

19. \_\_\_\_\_: some degree of overlap in ecological niches of two populations in the same community, both are somewhat dependent on the same food source, shelter or other resources.
20. \_\_\_\_\_: an animal that eats mainly leaves.
21. \_\_\_\_\_: an animal that eats mainly fruit.
22. \_\_\_\_\_: animals that feed on insects
23. \_\_\_\_\_: to increase the size of a species' population suddenly, abruptly and irregularly
24. \_\_\_\_\_: animals with a 2-4 chambered stomach and a regurgitation system that allows them to "chew their cud".
25. \_\_\_\_\_: herbivores that break down (ferment) plant tissue in the cecum and colon rather than in the rumen or fore stomach.