



President’s Message – Marianne Brooks

Dear Docents,

Thank you for volunteering for all the wonderful tours, safaris, and special events last month! We had quite a few, and the guests were excited to see what was happening.

As a friendly parking reminder for Electric Safari, you should park in the lower lot since you will not be able to drive on the zoo road during evening events.

I also want to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated in the **Albuquerque BioPark** visit to our Zoo – they brought 22 docents and 4 staff members with them. It was a team building event for them and the feedback I received was that they appreciated and enjoyed the tour, visiting with our CMZ docents and staff, along with the luncheon!

Looking ahead, do not forget that our **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** will be held on **November 13th**, right after our monthly docent meeting. This is a perfect time for us to show our appreciation for all that the Staff does. Please check with Eileen Derry or Debbie Might if you have any questions about what to bring.

Lastly, we’re excited to announce the launch of the **Docent Facebook Page!** The page is a closed group with docent administrators. This will be a fantastic way for us to share pictures, stories, and items of general interest.

Keep an eye on your inbox for an email invitation to join within the next month. It will be a wonderful way to stay connected and celebrate the work we do.

****You will not miss any critical Zoo information if you are not on Facebook – this is simply another way to share personal items of interest, particularly for things that don’t go in Zooline or docent-wide emails**

****Thanks again for all you do – I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!**

Marianne

Dates To Know:

Most meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

CECs at 9:30 a.m.

Education Committee at 9:30 a.m.

Nov 6	Board Meeting	DRC
Nov 13	Docent Meeting/Keeper Appreciation Lunch	LML
Nov 20	CEC	SL
Nov 23	CEC	SL
Nov 19	Education Committee	DRC
Dec 7	Holiday Party Marie Poyzer’s House, 2-5 p.m.	

There will be No Meetings in December~

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

**** Expected Attendance Meeting. If unable to attend, contact the president or president-elect.**

CECs and Training

Fall Recall... Deadline	12/31/24	
Nov 20	Life Cycle CEC	SL
Nov 23	Life Cycle CEC	SL

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Frida, a banded armadillos is embracing the Fall season.

Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono

November 13 Docent Meeting

Greta Johnson, President-Elect

Our speaker at the Nov.13 meeting will be *Kylee Meeker, our Palm Oil and Conservation Programs Coordinator.*

She will give us an update on the palm oil app and introduce it to those of you who don't have it.

It's easy... I got it, and I am not tech savvy. I show it to students and people who are in Primate World. If you are doing a tour, it only takes 2 minutes to explain and hand out our palm oil cards.

Appreciation Luncheon for our Amazing Keepers and Staff

Eileen Derry and Debbie Might, Social

Wednesday, November 13, 9:30 A.M.

Location: Lodge at Moose Lake

The Auxiliary will provide the main course.

Docents: please bring salads or desserts:

A – L: bring desserts

M – Z: bring salads

Honoring Nancy Hochman on a Memorable Milestone

Happy Birthday to our cherished docent, Nancy, who has dedicated 37 years to the zoo! She is truly a role model to us all.



CEC Report

Charlotte Greene, CEC Chairperson

Almost half of our group has completed the Fall Recall. It is open until the end of the year, so there's still time to do it and receive one CEC.

This Fall, there have been loads of opportunities to use our interpretive skills during Boo at The Zoo, Sloth Day, Black Footed Ferret Day and of course during cart talks, at chickens and at penguins/pelicans.

Also, we have had a super General CEC on Interpretive Education techniques. There were 52 docents who attended and the comments I heard have been very positive. Brittinie Ford from the Edventure Office gave a very informative slide presentation on memory and how we can best get our information across to guests. Vickie Pokaluk organized a small group role playing/discussion session to practice the ideas Brittinie shared. This was definitely a confidence building activity. Everyone I spoke with commented they gained some helpful new information and perspective. As we continue to gather and share stories about our animals, we will continue to improve our skills as interpretive educators.

Next month on **November 20 and 23**, we will have a **Life Cycles Tour Refresher/Certification** at Safari Lodge, 9:30-11:30am. The handouts will be emailed after the first of November through our CMZ Auxillary address. There will be a slide presentation and open discussion about the principles covered on the tour. A short 30-minute demonstration tour led by certified docents will go from Safari Lodge to Australia Walkabout and back. One animal each from placental mammals, marsupials, birds, amphibians, and reptiles will be covered. Arthropods will be covered using models during the presentation. A short recap session will be held at the end. If you are certifying on the Life Cycles Tour, you will be required to complete a quiz.

Thanks to everyone for participating in CECs. It is vital we stay current and use good techniques as we support the education/conservation functions of our beautiful zoo on the mountain.

Zoo Vision Statement

Every Kid, Every Time..Goosebumps!!

**No matter the age, everyone is
a kid at the zoo!**

AMP Update (Animals, Missions, Programs)

- The vultures are in training to come in at night and have a new log to perch on making it easier to see them.
- The Red River hoglet is now going out into the yard sometimes – do not know the sex yet.



My first time out to greet our guests.

They loved me...of course!!

Courtesy of Susan Howie

- Atka, the moose is in rut. The new enrichment objects to spar with seem to really help keep him away from the mesh and from breaking his antlers. Although, he did take out a tree recently.
- Australia is having good luck training alligator “Sally” to do voluntary blood draws.
- It is going well with the Orangutans who are also working on voluntary blood draws and blood pressure training.
- The Emperor Tamarins are back in Primate World. “Dot,” the female, is training for voluntary radiographs.
- We have a female Hyrax “Hasselback” in with our male – there is NOT an SSP recommendation for them to breed.
- Both “Plato” and “Pandora” our Pink Backed Pelicans will be leaving for different zoos as they both have SSP breeding recommendations. We will be getting 2 new males (same species) in their place.
- Rocky Mountain Goat “Tava” is back in the yard, and they just increased the size of the yard he can explore.
- Both elderly White Cheeked Gibbons passed due to kidney failure.
- Amur Tiger “Chewy” had dental surgery due to another broken canine tooth (his 3rd) and they just took down the 4th one to match.
- Giraffe “BB,” who moved to the Denver Zoo, is pregnant!

Report: Safaris/ Tours in September

Tami Dickens, Tour Coordinator

Amy Momber, Safari Coordinator

- **Safaris:** 29 Safaris for 662 students is a major achievement. Hats off to the 10 dedicated docents for making such a profound impact.
- **Tours:** In September we had 6 tours, October is slated for 12 tours and November has 5 tours scheduled to date.

What an impressive effort!

Please continue to be flexible during our construction.

Sign in at BBY, and Penguins and Pelicans

Sue Sallee

Just a reminder for BBY and Penguins and Pelicans teams: Don't miss out on logging your hours! Print your name ONLY once on the sign-in sheet and mark your hours under each appropriate date on one line. Don't let your hours slip away!

Obscure Biofacts – Carts

Janet Carlisle, Cartmaster

As Cartmaster, I have noticed some interesting things.

First, we, as docents, do an impressive job using biofacts with our cart talks! We log hundreds of hours each month interacting with guests and interpreting our amazing animals.

We have a lot of interesting biofacts to share and it's great that we have the autonomy to use what we feel guests will enjoy as we are working carts of our own choosing.

I would like to invite you to “mix it up” a bit next time! There are many favorite and well used biofacts: elephant dung, elephant teeth, rhino horn, hippo tusk, etc. which are all great biofact choices.

Next time, consider experimenting with something more unexpected — perhaps a skull? It will add a unique twist and keep things fresh!

To add depth to your interpreting, consider contrasting skulls from two different carts. This approach highlights anatomical variations, enhances learning, and provides a unique visual twist. Each cart boasts a fascinating array of skulls, ranging from the tiny — like meerkats, lemurs, and penguins — to the impressively large, such as bears, lions, and primates. This diverse collection offers a rich visual and educational experience, comparing a wallaby's skull to that of a colobus monkey — both unique in their own ways, with different dietary adaptations and lifestyles reflected in their bone

structures. Or how about contrasting the skull of a reptile like a snake with that of a bird? There are a lot of possibilities. Be creative.

Whatever you choose, keep getting out there and having fun! Guests really enjoy interacting with our docent team.

AZADV on My Mind

Marsha Fogarty, Past President

AZADV stands for the ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUM DOCENTS/VOLUNTEERS. This is the organization of accredited zoos and aquariums who have active docent or volunteer programs. AZADV has 881 individual members and 51 organizational members.

They meet annually in a host city to offer excellent programs on animals, zoo initiatives, networking with other zoos, and conservation topics. Throughout the year, members receive a quarterly newsletter, access to their active Facebook page, and invitation to join their online book group. Many CMZ docents have been loyal members for years.

This year there was no in-person meeting, so I volunteered to represent the CMZ Auxiliary at the Delegate Meeting by ZOOM. The exciting news is that next **October 14-20, 2025**, the AZADV conference will be in San Diego, hosted by the **San Diego Zoo and Safari Park**. That should be amazing.

In 2026, the **Kansas City Zoo** will host the meeting. I would like to recommend that if you are not a member, join this year. If you need to renew, please do so. You will want to keep updated on the plans for next year's conference.

We have a unique docent program at CMZ, and I really believe we have a lot to share with others. Conversely, I love meeting docents from other zoos and learning about their programs. That is a win all around.

If you have any questions or problems with their website, let me know. I am in touch frequently with their Membership Director. Hope to see you in San Diego, we need to make a great showing!

[Click here](#) to join or renew your membership today.

The Library – Articles, Videos and Books of Interest

- [The Global Movement to Restore Nature's Biodiversity](#) 2020 Biodiversity is crucial for Earth's survival, says ecologist Thomas Crowther. His groundbreaking reforestation research sparked the *UN's Trillion Trees Campaign*. Crowther also launched *Restor*, a platform empowering global efforts to restore ecosystem biodiversity.
- [“How Poop Turns Into Forests”](#) Did you know the world's largest tropical forest is partly formed by seeds emerging from poop? Ecologist Ludmila Rattis sharing how the digestive habits of tapirs spread seeds that help regenerate the forest and promote climate resilience worldwide.!
- [Do Trees Talk to Each Other](#) Scientific evidence shows that trees of the same species are communal and will often form alliances with trees of other species. Forest trees have evolved to live in cooperative, interdependent relationships, maintained by communication and a collective intelligence similar to an insect colony.
- [Wildlife Populations decline by 73% in 50 years](#) The 2024 Living Planet Report by the World Wildlife Fund monitored 5,495 species from 1970 to 2020, revealing significant declines in wildlife populations across the board.
- [How the Teddy Bear Taught Us Compassion:](#) How we feel about an animal dramatically influences its future survival. In his words: “Storytelling matters now. Emotion matters. Our imagination has become an ecological force.”
- [Wesley the Owl](#) *Recommend by Lovice Riffe* Hand-raising a barn owl sounds like an extraordinary journey. I can see why others keep going back to re-read it—rich with detail and emotion. The connection between the author and the owl is heartwarming. I love how books can create such lasting impressions. You can purchase the book or check it out at the library. So, in honor of Hoosier, our Barn Owl, give it a try!
- [“Fur for the Future”](#) Parachuting beavers! A 14-minute “color film” (circa 1950 and complete with audio) produced by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to show live trapping and transplanting of muskrat, beaver, and marten Still important today.

Happy 22nd Birthday to Biko, Omo's dad!



Contribution by CMZ Facebook

Biko has his own unique way of snacking. Instead of chomping his oranges in one bite, he juices them! He squishes them between his lips and the ground, then slurps them up. Keepers say it sounds like a wet-vac. Guess what? Omo has picked up the same habit!

Mice are back! In the DRC!!!!

Marie Poyzer

Together, we can prevent and control this problem.

Whenever you use any food items, please vacuum the floor, and clean the countertops.

With the cold setting in, the problem is increasing and more difficult to control. No one wants to come in and see droppings all over. **Please help all of us!**



Sign in Reminder for BBY, and Penguins and Pelicans

Sue Sallee

Just a reminder for BBY, Penguins and Pelicans teams: Don't miss out on logging your hours! Print your name **ONLY once** on the sign-in sheet and mark your hours under each appropriate date on **one** line. Don't let those hours slip away!

Needed! Zoo Stories to Reach the Hearts of our Guests

Janis Henderson

We have four areas of the zoo that still need zoo stories. When doing cart talks, don't you want something special to tell our guests about the animals? Things like their names, if they are related to other animals in the habitat, what their favorite food is, where they came from? These are the questions we get from guests.

Most of this info is available through CMZ social media, YouTube videos done at the zoo, educational material supplied by Stacey in the Ed department, and keeper talks. Once the information is gathered, all that will be left is to compile everything in one place, making it accessible in our cart notebooks and on Zooline.

If you have a special interest in any of these areas, please email me for instructions, examples and animal updates.

- ARV Lions and Colobus Monkeys
- Asian Highlands
- Water's Edge
- Primate World

Let's get this completed so we can 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. Thank you!

Zoo Photos



*RaNae Duran sharing with excited guests
at Boo at the Zoo
Courtesy of the Marketing Department*



*Sloths at Boo at the Zoo
Kim and Steve DeCou*



*Kasai enjoying an encounter with guests
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



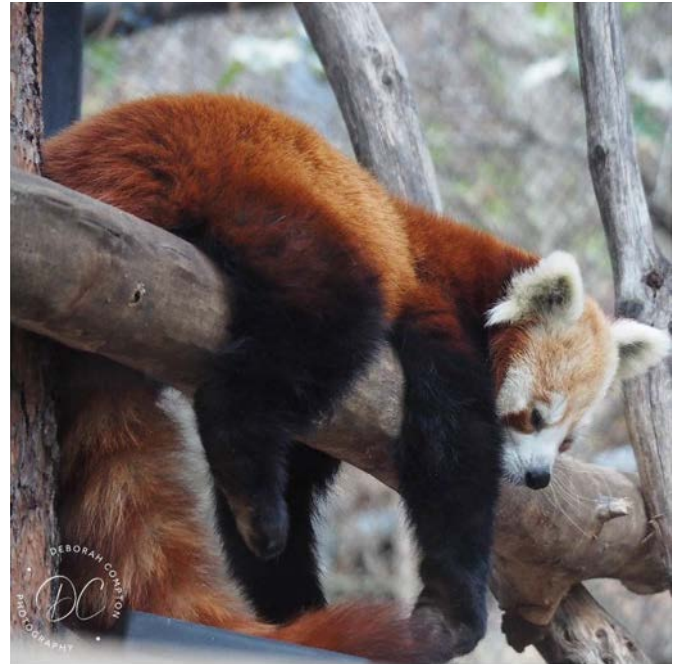
*Sloths at Boo at the Zoo
Kim and Steve DeCou*



*Another joyful day at the Treehouse
for our Tiger Salamander
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono*



*Sloths at Boo at the Zoo
Kim and Steve DeCou*



*Cora...living the good life
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Hedgehog demonstrating a behavior known as
"anointing." They spread their saliva over their body
for protection.*

Courtesy of Deborah Compton



*Rocky Mountain Goat kid reaching for the carrot
stick... Got it!*

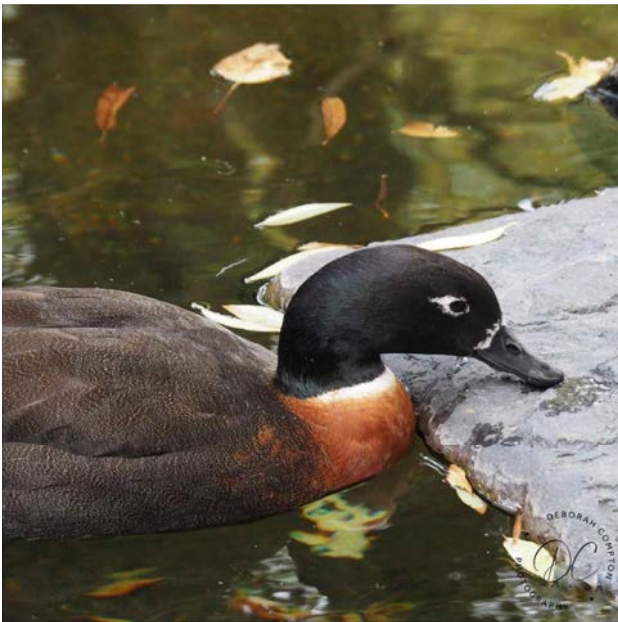
Courtesy of Deborah Compton



*Dahlia, Von der Decken's Hornbill
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



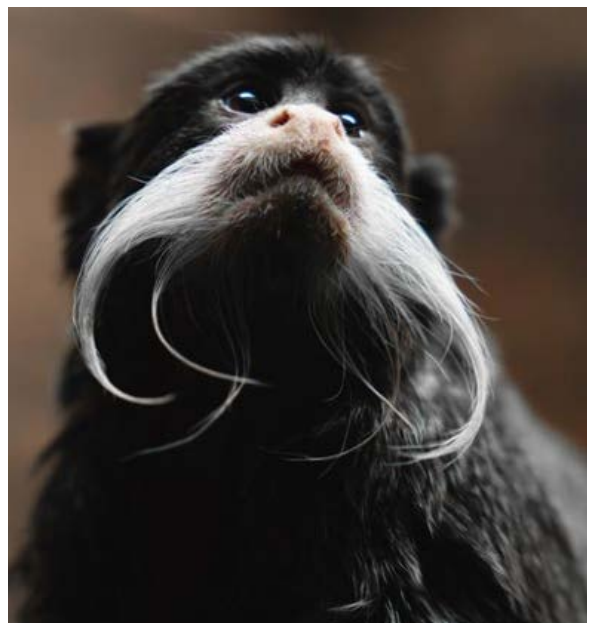
*Hashbrown gathering wood
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



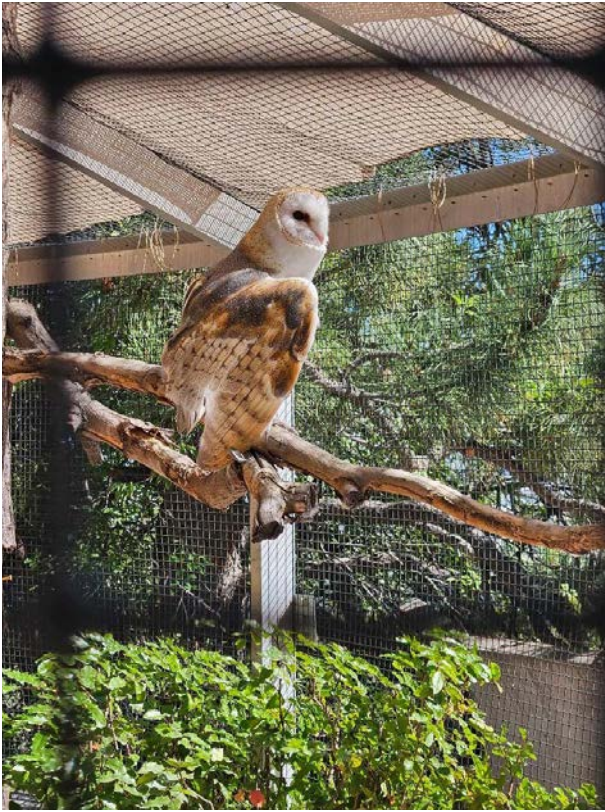
*Scallop – Female Australian Shelduck
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



*Hashbrown working hard on their dam
Courtesy of Susan Hoxie*



*Dot, the Emperor Tamarin
Courtesy of Deborah Compton*



Hoosier the Barn Owl
Courtesy of Jeanie Baratono



Albuquerque BioPark Docents visiting CMZ
Courtesy of Marianne Brooks



Hoosier, the Barn Owl
Courtesy of Deborah Compton



One of our Majestic Mountain Lions
Courtesy of Deborah Compton

**A Warm Welcome to trainees of the
Upcoming 2025 Docent Class**
Introductions made by their Mentors



Courtesy of Joelle Shreves



Susan showing how Cinnamon will jump up and perch for a treat.

Courtesy of Joan Thorn

Submissions

Joan Thorn – Editor



Please submit your information, articles, pictures, and other contributions for the December issue to
cmza.zooline@yahoo.com

by the deadline of **Friday, November 22.**

