

Volume 2 Issue 3
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INTRODUCTION

Many of you have wrapped up your hunts for the year or will do so soon, so hopefully everyone enjoyed a safe and successful season, with clients, friends and colleagues, both old and new. And hopefully everyone will get at least a short break to rest and recuperate before plunging into the busy marketing trips/convention season which is right around the bend.

CONVENTION DATES

11 – 14 January = Dallas Safari Club – Dallas, Texas

19 – 21 January = Houston Safari Club Foundation -- Houston, Texas

31 Jan – 3 Feb. = Safari Club International -- Nashville, Tennessee

15 – 18 Feb. = Western Hunting & Conservation Expo -- Salt Lake
City, Utah

***** IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AT THE DSC CONVENTION *****

Elections

Our AGM will be held on 10 January 2024 at 330PM. The room is yet to be determined, but we'll announce it in an email when known. We hope many of you can attend, and that you'll have lots of great ideas to share and enthusiasm for helping us make 2024 a banner year for APHA!

As Mike said in his President's Message, this is an election year, so it's especially important to attend, if possible, or to vote by proxy. We will send a separate email with the official proxy form in the near future for those who need it.

Our officers currently, who have held these positions since 2021, are as

follows:

President: Mike Angelides

Vice President: Paul Stones

Secretary: Graham Jones

Treasurer: Sean Kelly

All of these gentlemen, along with Michel Mantheakis, Lance Nesbitt, and Jeff Rann, constitute the Executive Committee. And they all deserve thanks for their service, because, as we all know, every organization requires some members to step up to the plate, oversee its functioning, and make decisions. Rarely is there ever a huge line of people willing to do this, but it's essential nonetheless. And it needn't be sheer drudgery. If we all work together with even a modicum of enthusiasm, commitment and shared vision, it can actually be exciting and fulfilling to be a part of moving our organization forward in positive directions, and expanding our services and sense of community for our membership.

If you are interested in being in the running for any of these positions, please let us know. We're also happy to answer any of your questions about what being an officer or committee member entails. And know that if you are interested in being on the ballot, we try our best to minimize any officers' time and effort involved in conducting business, as we all acknowledge and respect that life is already busy enough. And that often any or all of us are in the field, where communications can be difficult or non-existent.

Party Time

After the AGM, we will be holding an informal get together/cocktail party, beginning at 6PM at the Y.O. Ranch Steakhouse, which is only 0.7 miles from the Convention Center (address is 702 Ross Avenue).

The fun will run from 6 til 9PM, with a full premium open bar and various starter

food selections - enough to constitute a meal. I'm finalizing the menu, but tentative offerings include prime rib sliders, carved roast turkey, crab cakes, venison roll ups, smoked salmon, southwestern smoked corn bisque, scalloped potatoes, and salad.

Price for members is \$50, and \$70 for non-members. Members will of course be given priority, with the assumption that some will prefer to attend with their non-member spouses, partners, family members, etc. who will also be prioritized. If we have space available, we will then open it up to more non-members. I'm looking into the possibility of also renting a shuttle van service to transport attendees from the Omni to the restaurant, but that might be pricey. If it doesn't work out, Uber rides are of course a quick and reasonably affordable option, with Uber XL capable of transporting six people at a time. If you're unfamiliar and uncomfortable with Uber, I'd be happy to help you arrange it. Taxis and walking are options too. I know some are hesitant to venture into downtown Dallas on foot, but I've done it every year so far and never felt unsafe.

If you wish to attend, please confirm with me ASAP. We will send information later on how to pay and such. Right now it's just important to get a count of who's definitely attending. I'll keep everyone posted on a regular basis as to how many spots are left, beginning with the first update on 15 November.

A silent auction will also be held at the party, with an option for those not able to attend to submit a highest bid offer via email or text. Throughout the year, thus far, we have received several donations featured in previous newsletters, which we are quite thankful for! And our gratefulness now extends to these recent donations:

A wonderful bronze, titled "Head Full of Notions", from our well-known member TD Kelsey, who is a widely acclaimed artist and passionate African hunter. This beautiful 6x12x12 piece he generously donated to us is valued at \$3900 and features a rusa stag in full rut, antlers filled with twisted up grasses,

a testosterone-fueled headdress creation of sorts to impress the females. This sculpture, casting number one of a limited edition of only five, was specifically set aside by TD to donate to our fundraising efforts. Quite special! To view it and to learn more about TD's very interesting life and accomplishments, please visit his website via this link. And note that his artistry also created the gorgeous bronze for our Selous Award.

<https://www.tdkelsey.com/>

Also in the artwork category, acclaimed artist, Peter Stewart, of South Africa, generously donated us a limited edition print, 74x55 inches in size, of his stunning elephant painting titled "Ivory of Ilaroi". Peter describes his art as "the breathable air and tactile forms of Africa's wildlife", and indeed it is. The print of his we are thankful to receive captures strongly the magnificence and reverence evoked at the sight of a true tusker up close. A magnificent mammoth amidst the iconic dust and signature colors of Africa. To view it, other outstanding works by Peter, and to learn more about his work and travels in Africa, please visit his website via this link.

<https://www.peterstewartfineart.com/>

Along with fine art, so many of us also adore good books, particularly ones chronicling adventures in years past. Hence, we were delighted to receive a book donation from Ric Palmer-Wilson, who was a PH in East Africa up until Kenya closed hunting. The book is about his father's life, who was a prominent PH primarily in Tanzania from 1920 until 1973. Both Ric and his father were members of EAPHA and IPHA. Ric is the brother of our member Mike Branham, friends with member Franz Lang, and met Executive Committee member Michel Mantheakis years ago whilst hunting in the Selous. Ric's book title is, *The Legend of a Hunter In a Bygone Era*, and is available for purchase on Amazon books as a paperback or an e-book. Or, more notably, as a signed copy in our upcoming auction! I've perused it a bit and can assure you that it is gripping reading that stirs the imagination and yearnings to be able to experience such an adventurous life in a world much different from today's.

Many heartfelt thanks to TD, Peter and Ric for their generous contributions that will help us fund APHA'S further reach and future goals. Greatly appreciated!

We are still gladly accepting contributions for this upcoming auction. If you or someone you know has artwork, books, jewelry, experiences, services, etc. to donate, please let us know. Or if anyone is interested in sponsoring the cocktail party in full or part.

WINE AUCTION UPDATE

Our Vice President Paul Stones has been working on finalizing plans for the eagerly anticipated wine auction, featuring a few of our legendary members on the labels. Paul has been collaborating with an agency specializing in online auctions, and plans to open the auction during our cocktail party so that we may all help promote it during the DSC Convention. Details shall be forthcoming on this important fundraiser that no doubt will see many bidders vying for these fantastic and beautifully presented collectibles evoking the desire to sit around the fire, wine glass in hand, recounting hunting tales from the past.

APHA AWARDS

The end of the year is rapidly nearing, which means the deadline for our annual award nominations is too. Please have all nominations and applications submitted to us by 15 November. A prodding is in order, as thus far we have received none. Rather unbelievable as undoubtedly we have many worthy potential recipients to consider.

We no longer have any awards dedicated to specific animals hunted, as we re-designed the Spiral-horned Award to honor the PH or outfitter account that best represents hunting on social media. We are currently working on the judging process and determination of that award.

Our Selous Award recognizes a hunter (or couple) who has a deep-rooted passion for hunting in Africa, desire to ethically hunt African game, and an abiding love for African wildlife. A prestigious pinnacle sort of award that recognizes those who hunt Africa for various, valuable, intrinsic reasons that encompass and embrace the full safari experience. To honor any of your clients with a nomination, you simply need to send us an email.

Are you actively engaged in any conservation programs that could benefit from additional funding support? If so, you should definitely apply for our Ox of Okavango Award. This award, which celebrates annually an APHA member who has contributed significantly to big game conservation and its habitat, is one of great importance, as the efforts it rewards and recognizes are essential to hunting and nature's future, as well as the community support that sustainable use programs can provide. Our honorary member, Fred Mannix, is the generous sponsor of this award, which confers to the winner a \$5000 prize to be used to further their good, imperative work. Further information on how to apply can be found in the following link. As we are confident that many of you are involved in such commendable efforts, we look forward to receiving your applications! Don't delay! Apply today!

<https://www.africanpha.com/ox-of-okovango-award>

NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a warm welcome, if you will, to our newest PH full member, Divan Labuschagne, who is currently licensed to hunt in Namibia. So pleased to have you join us, Divan!

As a reminder, we have three types of memberships available – Professional Hunter Full, Honorary, and Corporate. Perhaps you know someone whom you might recommend applying? Application materials for each can be found on our website, via the following link.

<https://www.africanpha.com/membership-application>

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

On 22 September, The UK's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill was blocked by filibuster tactics, when 11 peers in the House of Lords made the bill run out of time by tabling more than 60 amendments they wished to debate individually. Peers who opposed the bill argued that politicians didn't listen to experts and African government representatives, and ignored the science on trophy hunting. Yes. Definitely. But this bill will no doubt be resurrected, as campaigning against hunting trophy imports has been a very lucrative fundraising pitch and attention getter for anti-hunting and animal rights NGOs ever since its introduction in 2019. Their donor dependency is not something they'll let common sense, reality and truth stand in the way of continuing.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER

The pressure to ban hunting trophy imports has seemingly currently decreased. Groups who were grappling constantly to be in the media limelight showcasing their overdramatized, misinformed nonsense are now rather quiet. Like what about these celebrities, for instance?

<https://www.africanpha.com/not-your-stage>

However, we must not be silent ourselves. Several of our members have quite rightfully suggested that now is no time to rest on our laurels.

But what exactly does that term mean? And how do we activate our own advocacy?

In ancient Greek and Roman societies, high-ranking or high-achieving people were awarded crowns made of laurel leaves to mark their accomplishments. The laurel tree, also known as sweet bay, is an evergreen that became symbolic of nobility, honor, truth and victory, based upon a series

of events described in Greek mythology.

We, in the hunting community, have lots of laurels that we should be proudly displaying. Entire forests of them, actually, within our own membership alone. What do those who wrongfully criticize us have instead? Phony self-appointed crowns gilded with the donations and support of those whom they've brainwashed with their propaganda. All the while accomplishing truly nothing for conservation.

Where are the celebrities and activists now? Where are we? Still where we've always been. Afield. In the midst of, surrounded by, encroached upon by, all the very real, very impactful problems going on every single day. Clearly seeing firsthand what the threats to Africa's nature are, struggling to maintain what wildlands and wildlife we can, whilst receiving no tangible, effective help from those whose crusades are limited to misguided social media and legislative campaigns. Worse than no help actually, as their actions typically work against us, squandering time, efforts and funding in a world and age where we are in serious need, on all fronts, for these resources to save Africa's nature for the future.

It's frustrating, daunting, and exhausting, but we absolutely must continue the fight for all we hold dear. We must stand up for ourselves, steadfastly and unwavering, in times of rest and attack. We are the professionals with the extensive experiences, historical perspectives and firsthand witnessing of what happens when legal hunting is removed as a conservation tool and habitat is lost.

But we are also the best tellers of our own conservation success stories. Professional hunters and outfitters were engaged in these efforts long before any others were in Africa, and remain so, particularly in areas of the continent that others have no concern for or knowledge of.

Our best strategy is likely two-pronged, where we don't just expose the follies,

foibles, and failures of the anti-hunters seeking to eliminate us, but we also broadcast our own successes, assert our own insights and experiences, and show the world that our laurels were well-deserved, and will continue to be. Evergreen, constants throughout the seasons and changing conditions.

I'm here to help you do that, ready and eager to fly your flags and help you fight the fights, and looking forward to hearing from you as to how best we can.

Sincerely,
Karen Seginak
Executive Officer

