

APHA'S STAYING ON THE TRACKS

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December 2022

Welcome to both the final newsletter for 2022 and to the New Year! Hopefully everyone enjoyed at least a little rest and relaxation in December. Especially those who are now touring the North American and European hunting conventions and are no doubt busy meeting old friends and new, making plans for lots of safaris in the coming year.

FORMAL RECOGNITIONS:

APHA does not gratuitously pass out many year end AWARDS, believing instead that the conservation REWARDS from engaging in responsible hunting are the true “trophies” that we should all strive for, acknowledge and treasure. But one important pinnacle of recognition is our Selous Award, a unique one not based on numbers or sizes of animals hunted, but on a hunter’s deep-rooted passion for Africa and African hunting, their desire to hunt respectfully, and their attitude towards success and failure instead.

Members of APHA can nominate their clients, and we encourage everyone to consider nominating an individual hunter or hunting couple whom they feel is deserving. This year we had thirteen

nominations and those who did not win will have their names carried over to 2023 for consideration.

The 2022 winners, John and Chrissie Jackson, of Conservation Force in Louisiana, truly need no introductions, as they are legendary and well-respected in the hunting community and industry, not just for their many safaris in Africa but their contributions to conservation, communities, and legislative affairs, and their many publications, collaborations, and media presentations. And, no less importantly, their genuine interest in, dedication to, and hospitality towards African professional hunters and outfitters. Their lists of accomplishments are impressive in scope and length. I invite you to visit their website for more information and to read their very interesting and involved biographies.

<https://www.conservationforce.org/>

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS:

Non-lethal Woundings:

In mid-December, the Finnish government passed the Nature Conservation Act, containing a provision on banning the importation of hunting trophies from all species in CITES Appendices I and II.

Apparently. I say apparently because the press release on it was rather

vague. Although no one can truly justify full bans, in reality Finland (and the entire EU) does not import many hunting trophies. This ban is, therefore, more of a virtue signaling exercise than a serious blow to hunting in Africa. The real danger lies in other countries following suit simply to jump on a misguided bandwagon.

On the Sticks and In the Crosshairs:

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting is still pushing members of Parliament to work towards passing the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill. It is currently in the Committee Stage and said to be formally considered sometime early in 2023. I have written two articles addressing the misinformation the supporters of this bill are shamelessly presenting. I will be sending them to some members of the UK parliament, particularly the most vocal ones. The first one, Clarity, was linked in our November newsletter. The second one, Superiority Complex, can be read by clicking on the link below.

<https://theconservationimperative.com/superiority-complex/>

I am also working on a position statement for APHA to send to the USFWS during the open comment period on the proposed revision to the Section 4(d) Rule for the African elephant. (See November newsletter for a brief discussion of this proposal). The comment period ends on January 17, and the number of comments has increased to over 750 now. I encourage everyone to comment and to urge your

clients (especially Americans) to comment as well. The anti-hunters always show up en masse to these public participation events, and so, too, should we. Especially since proper conservation via legal hunting is ultimately what is at stake.

JOINING OUR CAMPFIRE:

Pull up another seat around the campfire, if you will, please, and welcome our newest members.

Professional Hunter Members:

Peter Dafner -- A life member of SCI and TPHA who has guided in 11 African countries over the years and is currently licensed in Tanzania. Peter invites everyone to follow him on his Instagram account – pdsafaris, where he hopes to contribute to a better understanding of safari hunting by the general public.

Falko Schwarz -- Currently licensed in Namibia.

Honorary Members:

Kevin Conry

Thank you for joining us, gentlemen! Anyone else interested in applying for membership or nominating someone for honorary membership may find pertinent details on our website.

BACK TRAILS:

African professional hunters and their clients have a rich and storied history that has been captured in some interesting early films, like this short one I incidentally encountered recently. A now retrospective look into how hunting used to be in the Kenya/Tanganyika area in the 1950's. I encourage you to enjoy watching it, as the footage of a spectacularly large rhino is worth the viewing time alone.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=olnrll_a-Q

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER:

APHA was founded in 1993 by a group of now legendary professional hunters, who wished to defend against the rapidly increasing commercialization of safari hunting with the resulting profusion of inexperienced PHs and large commercial companies whose frequent lack of integrity and experience tarnishes the reputation of the industry.

2023, therefore, is APHA's thirtieth anniversary! The traditional 30th anniversary gift is the pearl, a symbol of wisdom gained through experience. Dear members, be you thirty year veterans or newly accepted into APHA as properly qualified PHs, you have many pearls of wisdom to share about your profession, your passions, your protection and conservation of flora and fauna, your support of communities, and your camaraderie afield and afar. I'd love to feature such pearls in

social media posts, celebrating the spectrum of APHA's origin to its current members' concerns, collaborations and contributions. You have much to be proud of from many collective years of firsthand experiences, and so much more that you are currently working on with honorable dedication and commitment. I warmly invite you to contact me at executiveofficer@africanpha.com with any ideas, stories and photos you'd like to share and see featured. Looking forward to hearing from you!

PARTING SENTIMENTS:

January and February are whirlwind months for many of you, traveling across the globe to shows and conventions. Safe travels to all! May 2023 be a most memorable and enjoyable year. One that when we turn the calendar again in now less than twelve months we can look back upon as being most progressive and productive. Together we can accomplish great things.