

APHA'S STAYING ON THE TRACKS  
Volume 2 Issue 1  
June/July 2023

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the revised newsletter schedule, which is now bimonthly, to facilitate a more feasible turnaround time and hopefully increased content. If any timely matters requiring prompt attention arise in between issues, we will send an email to alert you to them. Our last newsletter was the March issue, published in April. We skipped April and May issues to reorganize.

Last year, in June, we published the first issue of Staying On the Tracks, so it's now our first anniversary of origin. Cheers to hopefully many more years! As always, we'd love to hear what all of you might like to see featured, discussed or announced, as the newsletter truly should reflect members' interests and be of interest. Please send any suggestions or information to us at [executiveofficer@africanpha.com](mailto:executiveofficer@africanpha.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

MEMBER RECOGNITIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Our Executive Committee member, Michel Mantheakis, was honored with a Silver Certificate of Merit at the 69th General Assembly of the International Council For Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) that was held 20-23 April, 2023 in Paris, France, with a theme of Biodiversity 2030, Restore-Rewild-Remind.

This award is given to individuals to acknowledge their invaluable services rendered to global wildlife conservation, in recognition of their major contributions to achievement of CIC's mission and vision, and as recognition of inspirational contributions to CIC and a demonstrated personal commitment to the highest degree. An admirable achievement as the CIC's mission is to promote and support the conservation of wildlife and related landscapes, local communities, and traditions through sustainable use including hunting. Their vision is a world where wildlife is valued and conserved as part of nature for the benefit of humanity. Goals and values shared by APHA.

Congratulations Michel! Bravo for your many, varied and essential efforts and contributions!

To learn more about the CIC, please visit their website.

<https://www.cic-wildlife.org>

Michel was also the keynote speaker at DSC's Foundation Gala in early May. His impassioned, eloquent speech helped inspire the audience to contribute a record breaking amount of over \$1 million USD that evening to DSCF'S important programs, which notably includes grants that support some of our members in their anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring efforts.

In response to a social media post I wrote about Michel's speech, our executive committee suggested doing a mini series of posts featuring APHA members who had done similarly, with Paul Stones creating the hashtag *whathaveidone*. We encourage you also to use it, along with *africanpha*, in any posts you create discussing your conservation contributions.

Also at the Gala, honorary APHA members John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force were presented with the DSC Foundation Legacy Award. This award honors hunter-conservationists who, through their passion and dedication, have contributed in many ways, more than just personal ones, to the legacy of the conservation through hunting model.

For a summary article and video of this year's DSCF Gala, you may click on the following links.

<https://www.biggame.org/what-a-night-thank-you-for-a-successful-dscf-gala/>

<https://youtu.be/JbsxswpSMbg>

Robin Hurt Safaris announced in a May 5 social media post that Robin was a judge in the inaugural Rigby Dagga Boy Award contest. An initiative commemorating an ultimate in safari hunting -- pursuing the oldest buffalo, of the true, time-tested warrior type. This contest was described by Robin as embodying everything that hunting should be about – the search for adventure and the oldest possible quarry.

The winning bull, estimated to be late 14-years-old, was hunted by a client of Buzz Charlton. Buzz expressed his hopes that this competition will encourage the taking of post-mature bulls rather than younger, higher scoring, pre-breeding or breeding bulls. Beyond the obvious sustainable, conservation incentive such an approach offers, the awards from this age-based competition are enticing too, as Buzz and his client were presented with .450 and .416 Rigby Big Game rifles, respectively.

More information on this unique award can be found in the links below, and in the book of contestant stories published, available for purchase from John Rigby & Company.

<https://www.johnrigbyandco.com/rigby-publishes-limited-edition-book-of-dagga-boy-hunting-stories-as-part-of-project-to-promote-ethical-sustainable-hunting-in-africa/>

<https://www.johnrigbyandco.com/franklin-d-cean-wins-inaugural-rigby-dagga-boy-award/>

## MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA:

We can all be proud of our members who are sought out as authoritative voices in the hunting industry and community, whose comments are included in various forms of media. It's commendable that they're willing to take the time to represent the professions and passions important to us all.

The more positive exposure we can get in the media, the better. If you're ever contacted and asked to make any statements, however, it's wise to do some due diligence and make sure the person or group seeking your input is legitimate. And, always ask if you may review their finished piece before it runs. Not everyone will offer you this professional courtesy, unfortunately, but if so, it is in your best interest to review it and discuss any inaccuracies or misinformation if present. A responsible journalist or videographer should respect that.

Members Rob Lurie of Zimbabwe and Danene Van Der Westhuyzen, of Namibia, are featured in this video about elephant concerns.

[https://www.fieldsportschannel.tv/roomtoroam/?fbclid=IwAR1a9fOlqgHdl6\\_UQYkux2rkCT5BzmnSdS3Pza7-7Lmr5bpp\\_mVT6S4zMd8](https://www.fieldsportschannel.tv/roomtoroam/?fbclid=IwAR1a9fOlqgHdl6_UQYkux2rkCT5BzmnSdS3Pza7-7Lmr5bpp_mVT6S4zMd8)

And Danene is featured in this one as well, regarding introducing new people to hunting, particularly women.

[https://www0.sun.ac.za/awei/posts/she-learns-to-hunt?fbclid=IwAR0M8M94\\_07ct0yoz\\_CKwPUo9R7Yhg5U77P9tN2ytdeIBw7Vt0fTd3TLPPA](https://www0.sun.ac.za/awei/posts/she-learns-to-hunt?fbclid=IwAR0M8M94_07ct0yoz_CKwPUo9R7Yhg5U77P9tN2ytdeIBw7Vt0fTd3TLPPA)

This article, which I wrote, discusses the charcoal poaching problem in acacia forests and the anti-poaching efforts of Michel Mantheakis Safaris to combat that serious ecological threat.

<https://www.patrolling.org/smoke-signals/>

Roger Hurt of Robin Hurt Safaris was featured in a Meateater/Steven Rinella podcast in early June, where much of the discussion centered on the importance of hunting to conservation of wildlife and habitats in Africa, particularly in Tanzania. The podcast is over 2 and ½ hours long, so if you find that length daunting, skip the earlier, not entirely Africa related content, and listen from about the 1 hour 30 minute mark until the end.

<https://www.themeateater.com/listen/meateater/ep-446-when-an-african-cape-buffalo-beats-your-but>

#### AWARD NOMINATIONS:

In the last newsletter, we listed the first set of nominees for the Spiral-horned Award. This issue will add, in alphabetical order:

Mike Angelides

Mark DeWet

Graham Jones

Thor Kirchner

Danene Van Der Westhuyzen (Aru Safaris account)

Cliff Walker

Please remember that all APHA full members are eligible for consideration, provided they follow the rules. Two major ones are that the social media account must be public access and the hashtag africanpha must be used.

Whilst you're busy guiding hunters this season, also consider nominating any that you think would be good candidates for the Selous Award as well. If you nominated any clients last year who were not chosen, their names, however, remain in the list of nominees.

And, as always, please consider nominating any currently licensed fellow PHs whom you think should apply for membership, or anyone else whom you would recommend honorary membership or sponsorship to. Details of qualifications and the application process can be found on our website.

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

## FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES:

Paul Stones, our Vice President, has been busily continuing with the finishing touches on his wine fundraising project, assembling promotional photos and materials, and deciding marketing and auction strategies. Some wonderfully evocative and alluring professional photos he envisioned have been created. They are sure to inspire thoughts of reflection on past hunts with a nice wine in hand, whilst gathered near a crackling fire. As part of stimulating interest in these fine offerings, we will do a series of social media posts featuring the PHs depicted on the labels. A fine vintage of folks on a fine vintage label.

Members Brooke Chilvers Lubin and her husband Rudy Lubin have graciously donated to us a copy of Vivian J. Wilson's book, *Duikers of Africa Masters of the African Forest Floor: A Study of Duikers, People, Hunting and Bushmeat* to be auctioned at our cocktail party in conjunction with our AGM at the DSC Convention in January. This book was published as a limited edition in 2005, is difficult to now obtain, and is valued at \$1200 USD. The author spent more than a decade traversing over 20 Sub-Saharan countries to gather the research for this book, which is described as being by far the greatest contribution to the overall knowledge on Africa's duikers that's ever been written. Detailed profiles are presented on 16 duiker species, with highlights on their evolutionary history, behaviors, and current plights. Many thanks to Brooke and Rudy for this wonderful contribution to supporting APHA'S efforts. Much appreciated!

If you, too, might wish to donate an item, please contact us by email.

## AS PUBLISHED BY APHA:

Anti-hunters often claim that wildlife should only be shot with cameras. And that photo tourism is non-consumptive and eco-friendly, making it a superior model to hunting tourism. Our recent association article explores the follies of that line of thinking, yet acknowledges that a variety of conservation tools are necessary.

We simply all should do the best we can whilst capitalizing on our strong points and minimizing our negative effects within our chosen programs. You may read the full article in the following link, and we strongly encourage you to widely share it as these uncomfortable truths are often ignored in important conservation conversations.

Focus Lost

<https://www.africanpha.com/focus>

We have also begun an initiative to present and discuss topics relating to critical responsibilities and considerations within the hunting industry and community. Topics of important concern to PHs, outfitters and their clients that will help ensure hunting's future. Our first piece in this series is a brief overview of the Lacey Act. We suggest sharing it with your clients as adhering to it is their responsibility as well as yours.

[https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?e=8d08d4fbbf&u=35ed47614dc117f95a0bbc798&id=ef584d5b7d&fbclid=IwAR3ekfghLObyMmp4UZgguV3fWHLK9\\_dmGI5h0kApemtWhwkHumXdcFG9jC8](https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?e=8d08d4fbbf&u=35ed47614dc117f95a0bbc798&id=ef584d5b7d&fbclid=IwAR3ekfghLObyMmp4UZgguV3fWHLK9_dmGI5h0kApemtWhwkHumXdcFG9jC8)

We also now have shareable forms of some of our social media posts available on our website, along with instructions on how to do so. Thanks to honorary members Britt and Ricardo Longoria for this excellent suggestion, and to the APHA members and supporters who have begun sharing these posts and spreading the word. Greatly appreciated!

<https://www.africanpha.com/about-3>

And remember, we are always looking for more content material. Please send your photos or ideas to me at [executiveofficer@africanpha.com](mailto:executiveofficer@africanpha.com). Anything utilized will be given proper credit as to its source.

## LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS:

### On the Sticks

In response to the German government's withdrawal from the CIC in recent months and their mention of potentially banning (in full or in part) certain hunting trophy imports, the Botswana government issued on 2 June 2023, a press release announcing their disapproval of ill-conceived, misguided bans and the effects such bans would have on their critical conservation efforts. More African countries should be urged to follow their commendable, proactive lead in these matters.

### In the Crosshairs

On June 16, the UK's proposed Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill will

have its second reading and general debate in the House of Lords. Resource Africa published a document, accessible via the link below, that summarizes why this legislation is flawed.

[https://www.resourceafrica.net/the-hunting-trophies-import-prohibition-bill-risks/?fbclid=IwAR0LxIHqGsAM\\_Y3ES0Zfx9cK6D83fKafMma0iggTKx8Pydc0We2InCL-LoQ](https://www.resourceafrica.net/the-hunting-trophies-import-prohibition-bill-risks/?fbclid=IwAR0LxIHqGsAM_Y3ES0Zfx9cK6D83fKafMma0iggTKx8Pydc0We2InCL-LoQ)

Our member, Peter Fick, composed an insightful, firsthand experience-based, pragmatic letter containing important perspectives that he submitted, via filmmaker Tom Opre, to Lord Mancroft, who is leading the rightful opposition to this bill. Peter graciously agreed to share his email with us, which I transferred directly into this link for you to read. Thanks Peter for taking the time to voice your essential concerns and insights, and for allowing us to share your highly qualified, factual opinions with all members.

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Agkndr13tQDQgkBpn1PeKj4UT774>

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS:

The British All-Party Parliamentary Group On Banning Trophy Hunting (now defunct) produced a report in June 2022, stating their case for a ban. In this report, they used 78 photos of hunters without their permission and without paying them. These hunters sent them an invoice in April 2023, requesting payment approaching 100,000 British pounds total. As expected, payment has not been rendered and it seems a lawsuit may be in the works.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12029827/Trophy-hunters-threaten-sue-group-MPs-using-photographs-anti-hunting-report.html>

I recently finished reading Peter Beard's classic book, *The End of the Game*. With uncanny timing, a new "End of the Game" surfaced, this one being an art exhibition currently in Johannesburg. From the news report in this link, I suspect this show will only fuel more misguided anti-hunting sentiments, unfortunately.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/nation-world/story/2023-06-09/renowned-artist-confronts-destruction-of-african-wildlife-in-latest-art-show>

#### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER:

This section in the last newsletter mentioned a brief Walter Cronkite 1971 news story about Pan Am airlines restricting some hunting safari passengers back then. I inquired whether any of our members knew more about this somewhat puzzling matter, and, much to my delight, someone did! Joe Coogan sent a wonderful email clarification.

Joe's family lived in Kenya at that time, and his father was a Pan Am pilot. He explained that back in the late 60s and early 70s, Pan Am's travel agency actually booked safaris (both photographic and hunting), mostly in East Africa. They even had brochures that featured field photos of clients with their hunted animals. Joe stated they didn't ban anyone from their flights, but rather announced they would no longer book clients on safaris with outfitters that were hunting any endangered species listed by the World Wildlife Fund. He described it as a publicity stunt playing to the world's reaction to the terrible level of poaching Kenya had then, primarily of rhinos and elephants. He also noted this was an era when long guns could still be hand carried onto planes and stowed in the coat closet. Very interesting look back into the not too distant past. Thanks, Joe, for sharing those missing pieces of the story with us!

#### PPARTING SENTIMENTS:

Many of you who are fathers will likely be in the bush, away from your children, guiding hunters on this upcoming Father's Day on 18 June.

But remember that love knows no geography. Regardless of where your physical heart is, emotionally it can always have a strong presence in your children too.

In this modern age where we communicate mostly electronically, maybe spare a few moments next to the campfire or in your favorite camp musing spot to actually pen a few thoughts to your kids. A tangible token from where you were, in the wild that day, that they can treasure as a forever keepsake. Present it to them whenever you can or whenever, in the future, it feels right. One of the greatest gifts is acknowledging that someone occupies your mind and enriches your heart and soul.

I leave you with this holiday appropriate quote:

"I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by the little scraps of wisdom. " -- Umberto Eco Italian philosopher, novelist, cultural



critic, and social commentator

Until next time.....

Karen Seginak -- Executive Officer