

## APHA'S STAYING ON THE TRACKS

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September 2022

Another month has rolled around once again, and some of you may now be approaching the end of your season. Hopefully all went well and continues to do so.

As we near the end of 2022, that also means the 2023 conventions are now on the horizon. Below are some dates and locations to consider if you haven't already finalized plans.

A money saving tip, if you try to travel budget-minded, as I do, is to search the Airbnb and VRBO websites for lodging. Great, affordable options typically exist in most areas, and most include kitchen facilities too, which can help you cut costs as well.

If your travel plans include travel within the USA, you should consider booking those flights ASAP, as domestic flight prices have been rather crazy this year, especially around any holiday times.

Dallas Safari Club == January 5-8, 2023

Dallas, Texas

International Sportsmen's Exposition == January 12-15, 2023

Denver, Colorado

Houston Safari Club Foundation == January 20-23, 2022

Houston, Texas

Jagd & Hund == January 24-29, 2023

Messe, Dortmund, Germany

Western Hunt Expo == February 2-5, 2023

Salt Lake City, Utah

Die Hohe Jagd & Fischerei == February 16-19, 2023

Salzburg, Germany

Safari Club International == February 22-25, 2023

Nashville, Tennessee

**IMPORTANT TRAVEL NOTICE:** The Zambia Tourism Agency announced that effective 1 October 2022, there are NO visa requirements for travelers from the following countries:

United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Norway, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Gulf States and the European Union.

## LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

In the Crosshairs:

The Interior Appropriations Bill, HR 8294, discussed in last month's newsletter, is currently being considered by the U.S. Senate. I contacted Erica Tergeson, DSC's Government Affairs Director, in late September to inquire about any updates. She stated that DSC had sent leadership to Washington, D.C. to present information in numerous meetings for legislators to consider. And, thankfully, it was favorably received. They were assured that it was extremely unlikely this de facto trophy import ban would be included in the final bill. She added that of course anything can happen, but current feelings were cautiously optimistic. So, fingers crossed that reality and fairness prevail, and another thank you extended to all of you who may have urged your American clients to voice their concerns to their state representatives.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER

On September 27, 2022, blog writer Jared Kukura, of Wild Things Initiative, published a blog criticizing and attempting to discredit not just the very real problem of human encroachment on hunting blocks in Tanzania but also some people and organizations who are working hard to raise awareness and hopefully stop these actions that are harmful not just to nature but to people as well. He included APHA, DSC, and SCI indirectly, and APHA President Mike Angelides and myself directly.

Jared is an anti-sustainable use advocate who states on his website that, “Wild Things Initiative was created to promote a shift in wildlife conservation philosophy away from resource management.” As a biologist, I honestly cannot even imagine how anyone would think that could possibly work. Anywhere in the world.

Although I hate to direct any attention to his platforms, here is the link to the blog he wrote.

[https://wildthingsinitiative.substack.com/p/why-is-a-trophy-hunting-outfitters?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://wildthingsinitiative.substack.com/p/why-is-a-trophy-hunting-outfitters?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)

Interestingly enough, his account motto on Substack is, “Unmasking the systems and institutions that enable the biodiversity crisis”. How can someone unmask anything or anyone else when they are blindfolded themselves?

I do care about biodiversity, the conservation through hunting model’s contributions to it, and the necessity for both people’s actions and nature’s needs to be considered in any effective conservation programs. As such, I don’t suffer fools like Jared gladly, who are not only contributing nothing to solving the challenges at hand but are detracting from efforts of people who are. Therefore, I wrote a response, which you can find in this link.

<https://www.hankvoice.net/don-t-send-in-the-clowns>

This is the type of piece that my Hank’s Voice project was designed for. Presenting the uncomfortable facts and combatting the disconnect from reality that is so prevalent in the anti-conservation campaigns. Of course, such an approach invites hatred, diversion and persecution from those who are pushing false narratives and misinformation to suit their own personal causes.

I received mostly positive feedback when I posted this on my Facebook and Instagram accounts. However, Twitter sparked some interesting blowbacks.

An activist, blog writer from Sweden whose profile states she is seeking the truth about land grabbers in Loliondo was the major opposition. Her comments reflected that she is completely ignorant about the hunting industry, in general, in Tanzania, and she thinks the Loliondo complexities and controversies are fully representative of its entirety. In her view, bullets are flying everywhere, people are getting displaced and killed, hunting outfitters are engulfing entire villages and displacing people, and anywhere you place a needle on a map of Tanzania, blood from innocent people is soaking the ground. Definitely a flair for the dramatic, blatant ignorance, and a show of disrespect for many who live and operate in Tanzania. But what might you expect from someone who thinks a hunting block is simply permission granted to hunt an area, is intolerant of alleged illegal activities in Loliondo but condones illegal encroachment elsewhere, and honestly dismisses the fact that there are serious conservation issues on human settlement lands that need solved for everyone in Tanzania? And the entire African continent, for that matter.

The other opposition was a man from the USA who stated, like Jared, that he doesn't advocate for sustainable use and that his

concern was human rights, not animal rights. Upon me asking him if he instead advocates for unsustainable use that degrades and depletes resources, in turn affecting humans who depend upon the ecosystem services nature provides, and correcting him by stating I do not advocate for animal rights, I advocate for animal welfare, he promptly blocked me. This man initially stated that he was just trying to find middle ground. It seems he was not brave enough to traverse the terra incognita of reality to do that, though.

I apologize for this bit of a lengthy treatise on this subject, but I do think it's an important illustration of what we are facing from the opposition now. Previously, it was primarily people just being opposed to legal hunters killing animals. But now there are people and groups even claiming that biodiversity should not be protected because it's only a land grabbing scheme meant to oppress and displace local people. Locals who universally live in harmony with nature. Globally, not just in Africa. I have no word to fully describe the level of ignorance that such ideology encompasses.

**PERSECUTORY PURSUITS**

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting group in the UK, whose Facebook page is Ban Trophy Hunting, had several posts recently, urging the public to contact their MPs and ask them to back the trophy hunting ban. (They still don't seem to understand that it is a ban on trophy hunting imports as they have no direct ability to ban trophy hunting outside of their own country.) However, they have posts featuring these Shadow Ministers at a recent Labour Party Conference as backing their proposed ban:

Jess Phillips, Domestic Violence and Safeguarding

Ellie Reeves, Justice Minister

And Daniel Zeichner, Food, Farming and Fisheries.

## PARTING SENTIMENTS

Please keep in mind that this newsletter is of course yours, and, as such, I welcome suggestions on what you might like to see featured? Feel free to contact me at [hanksvoice@gmail.com](mailto:hanksvoice@gmail.com). I'm happy to try to serve you and honor your requests in any ways that I can.

I'll end this one with an inspirational quote from outdoor writer John Madson, who penned – “I do not hunt for the joy of killing

but for the joy of living, and the inexpressible pleasure of mingling my life however briefly, with that of a wild creature that I respect, admire and value.” An excellent attitude to embrace every day spent afield and to illustrate in your own words and actions. Safe and enjoyable safaris to all of you!