

INTRODUCTION September 2023

This year has certainly been swiftly flying by, with over half of it now history. Hopefully everyone has been enjoying safe, successful and enjoyable seasons afield thus far, creating many memories with friends both old and new.

A critical part of any safari is properly planning and preparing for it. These processes begin when a client chooses to hunt with you and starts the booking process. Therefore, we've created an essential list of questions they should ask and information both you and they should know. This piece, Particulars Of the Pursuit, is an important component of the "know before you go" approach that is a critical responsibility of all hunters, PHs and outfitters. Everyone should be knowledgeable about and in compliance with these details. Failure to do your due diligence on these matters can result in negative repercussions for all involved. Be alert to your inboxes, as we will soon be sending an email containing this document.

NEW MEMBERS

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest honorary member, Rick Steiner, of Wyoming, USA, who was nominated by Michel Mantheakis. Welcome aboard, Rick! Pleased to have you joining us!

If there are any professional hunters, or potential honorary or corporate members whom you feel would be valuable additions to our APHA community, please refer to our website for application forms.

MEMBER NEWS

Our Journeying Journal, the traveling leather bound PH diary that we initiated at the 2023 DSC Convention, is still slowly making its rounds in Tanzania. Dan

Moore was the first PH to carry it afield, followed by Harpreet Brar, who has now passed it on to Mike Angelides. Thanks gentlemen! Anxious to see where and whom it will head to next!

Stay tuned, hopefully, for news of cocktail party plans. A few members have suggested that we try to hold it and the AGM on the same night, in the same setting, and perhaps on the evening of 9 January. That would eliminate scheduling conflicts with those who attend the Weatherby Award Presentation the following night, but it could also be problematic for those who might wish to attend the AGM (free) but not the party (which will require some payment). I do know of one venue close to the Convention Center that could accommodate us with an open bar and food the evening of 9 January. Another option is to pay for a bar and simple appetizer catering at the Convention Center, but the price will probably be similar for less offerings. Any off-site options should likely be reserved soon, as this year the Convention dates overlap with the start of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, meaning Dallas is going to be busy then.

I'd greatly appreciate any feedback or suggestions you might have on planning this event? And, if anyone is interested or knows any individuals or businesses interested in sponsoring this event, in full or in part, it would bring individual members' costs of admission down and be much appreciated.

We are also still graciously accepting donations (artwork, books, experiences, services, etc.) to be auctioned off at the party. A thank you is in order to Danene van der Westhuyzen, who has recently donated a copy of her cookbook, *From the Veld*, to our auction. After firsthand experiencing dining at her and husband Gysbert's Namibian lodges, I can assure you there must be some truly fantastic recipes in that book!

APHA AWARDS

Since most of you are busy hunting now, spending significant time getting to

know new clients and furthering your relationships with previous ones, it's the perfect time to consider nominating someone you feel might deserve the special recognition our Selous Award confers. Nominations are carried over from the previous year, so you needn't re-nominate those hunters. The nomination process is easy. Simply drop us an email. Of course there is only one winner (an individual or a couple) each year, but none of your outstanding clients who hunt Africa for all the right reasons can win if they're not nominated. So let's see some names! DSC has graciously offered, once again, to allow us to present this award at one of their convention banquets, like we did last year.

The Spiral – horned Award is also still in progress. A new nominee is Robin Hurt Safaris. I'm saddened to see that some previous nominees have either decided to drop out of consideration or have just been forgetting to use the hashtag africanpha in their posts. It's a requirement for the contest.

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

As always, merchandise with the APHA logo on it continues to be available at our online shop.

<https://www.africanpha.com/apha-shop>

Over 60% of our collectable bronze shields have so far been sold. For those interested in purchasing one, they can be held in reserve, as pick-up is currently limited to either Arusha, Tanzania or the DSC Show in January 2024.

In June, honorary members Ricardo and Britt Longoria of Longoria Hosmer Hunting kindly offered to online auction on Instagram a signed copy of the book Archer In Africa by William Negley, donating the proceeds to APHA. It was a rapid success, with the highest bidder (an American who avidly hunts in Africa) quickly, generously pushing the winning bid up to \$1000 USD. Thanks so

much to all involved for this unique and much appreciated effort!

CONVENTION/MEETING NEWS

The 2024 DSC convention will be held once again in Dallas, from 11 to 14 January. Note the later dates compared to previous years, and note that this now overlaps with the beginning of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, meaning two things – Dallas will likely be crowded so you should reserve your lodging as early as possible, and you may want to incorporate a visit to the Stock Show into your travel plans!

Beginning in 2025, due to massive, lengthy renovation plans for the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, the DSC venue will switch to Atlanta, Georgia for the following five years. A more detailed explanation can be found in the following video. Along with the news that a second, smaller convention will now be held, starting in 2025, in conjunction with the DSC Foundation Gala held every May.

Some people are voicing severe disappointment at the move to Atlanta and already saying they simply won't go. But conventions are what we make of them, so hopefully despite the unwelcome change, the hunting community rallies and makes the most of it, as these conventions are indeed important to hunting's future.

<https://youtu.be/jRwVMCvdTiY>

The 21st African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) will be held 8-13 October 2023, in Swakopmund, Namibia. It is described on the AWCF website as being, “ the SCI Foundation's premier activity in Africa, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, senior government officials, professional hunting association leadership, community-based support organizations, international policy experts and wildlife biologists to discuss sustainable use wildlife conservation issues across Africa “.

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

The UK Trophy Hunting Imports Prohibition Bill is now in the committee stage, with amendments being discussed. After all the pomp and circumstance, blinding virtue signaling, and massive misinformation campaigns, it appears likely that a so-called “smart ban” may be the ultimate outcome. A restrictive approach similar to the way that the USFWS decides upon trophy importation for certain species, requiring either non-detrimental or enhancement findings. Amidst all the posturing for attention, begging for support, and pleas for donations, was this probably what was going to happen all along? If so, shame on all the charlatans who profited handsomely from deceiving the public and diverted critical funds and attention from the true conservation issues at hand.

What’s happening with a possible trophy import ban in Belgium? On 14 July 2023, Humane Society International and Humane Society of the United States, along with several other anti-hunting/vegan/animal rights groups, issued press releases on this topic, stating a ban was now in effect. But further reading suggested it was simply a drafting of a bill that got passed for further consideration. Rumor mongering or truth???

No official word yet from the USFWS in regards to their proposed revisions to the 4(d) Rule on African elephants. However, some anti-hunting groups and individuals, most notably a group called Global March For Elephants and Rhinos, GMFER (See link below for a description of their anti-hunting campaign), has launched a social media campaign urging easily manipulated by misinformation, fully acting on emotions followers to write to the USFWS to implore them to stop all elephant trophy imports from the KAZA region until the most recent survey results from this area have been publicly released. Their concern? They suspect too many poached carcasses have been found, which could lead to a decrease in the population. A desperate accusation in the ongoing attempts to shut elephant hunting down simply because some people

don't approve of it? That seems quite possible, as, honestly, many knowledgeable people have serious concerns about the current population levels, what habitat damage is being done, and what the effects of a likely, mass die-off in the future may be. And, GMFER states on their website that they aim to ban all legal trade in elephants – and other species – so this campaign is dishonest. They clearly have zero intentions of accepting any survey results.

<https://gmfer.org/our-work/gmfers-collaborative-campaign-to-end-trophy-hunting/>

Their website, in general, is skillfully misleading and uses all sorts of buzzwords to tug at unknowing heartstrings in the hopes of opening up ill-informed people's wallets. Every problem has a solution, they say – DONATE!!!! And they claim animals have few rights, but they do have a right to be here. Maybe, however, it's truly a violation of any animal's "rights" to lie about the challenges they face simply to fund an organization? An organization whose actions are supported, to no one's surprise, by notorious antis Ricky Gervais, Jane Goodall, Richard Leakey and Daphne Sheldrick.

TIPS FOR CLIENTS

If you hunt in the southern African countries, you'll have probably experienced some unusually cold weather recently (most notably in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia), with snow even in some places. You may, therefore, want to remind your clients that it's winter in the southern hemisphere so they should pack accordingly. It may seem an unnecessary reminder, but much of the USA, at least, has been experiencing extreme heat lately. So chilly temperatures are not likely on Americans' minds, even if they are traveling to different seasons.

If you hunt in areas where insect harassment and potential disease

transmission is high, consider suggesting to your clients that treating their clothing with permethrin in preparation for their safaris can be helpful. Also, the use of the insect repellent picaridin can help, especially in regards to tsetse flies. It is much gentler on your skin and far less harmful to plastics and other objects than DEET is. Although no preventatives are 100% effective, of course, using at least some can lessen the agony, distraction and risks that biting insects can present, sometimes, sadly, to the point that it seriously detracts from the hunter's safari experience.

Domestic rescue/medical assistance and evacuation plans offered by the country your clients are hunting in are of course essential. But you should also encourage them to consider purchasing a global plan of some sort as well. Hunters' travels typically traverse multiple countries, therefore potentially requiring emergency assistance in ways one might not even readily think of. Only global plans can help them with that.

An incident that occurred on my recent return flight from Johannesburg to Atlanta made me keenly aware of such concerns. A woman developed an undisclosed severe medical emergency shortly after we were flying over open ocean, immediately west of the Namibian coast. The start of many hours with no land to land upon. Options for hospitals that could handle her emergency were limited to only two – Senegal or Brazil. To Senegal we went. Fortunately a doctor was on board who tended to her throughout her obviously very painful and frightening ordeal until hospital ground crews could whisk her – and her traveling companions – away to an emergency room.

A situation like that makes one readily think, and also be grateful that it isn't happening to you personally. But what if it were? Upon returning home, I contacted the company whose annual global plan I subscribe to, and asked if they would have covered such an emergency and got me back home when well enough to travel. Absolutely, yes, was the answer. With the additional comment that although airlines have air to ground communications options to speak with medical personnel and make the best plan possible, global medical assistance

plans typically have an even more exhaustive network for airline personnel to speak with.

Such emergencies, of course, are thankfully not common. But considering the relatively very affordable cost of these global coverage plans (some less than \$1 USD per day), it seems very prudent and pragmatic to invest in one, should misfortune find you.

OVER A SUNDOWNER/FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

In July, I accepted generous invitations by members Johan Calitz in Botswana and Gysbert and Danene van der Westhuyzen in Namibia to visit the areas they operate in, and to learn more about the challenges they face and the contributions they make. Familiarizing myself with the different conservation through hunting models each country utilizes, and gaining more knowledge to better compare and contrast these models, is quite helpful in representing and showcasing the importance of all of our members' efforts, in my opinion.

I'm thankful for the quality time we got to spend together, in person, which provided plenty of additional insights. And the many hours we spent afield and around campfires during this trip rekindled many sparks within of why we as hunters should truly fight to maintain – or better yet, strengthen – our hunting heritage.

Daily, urban dwellers that are so disconnected from our cherished, requisite wild worlds, rage and rant on social media and in the media about how awful we are and how we, ultimately, will be the demise of wildlife. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We are the old guard, the current guard and the ones responsible for passing the torches on to the future guards. Our critics know very little to nothing truthfully about us or what we do, the wildlands we hold dear, the people who comprise our communities, and the nature that we nurture, both directly and

indirectly. They are primarily following mob mentality hatred, with no concern for the negative effects their reckless persecution may result in. Are their lives really that shallow and full of angst? It seems sadly so.

In both countries, I witnessed experienced, knowledgeable and responsible PHs dutifully mentoring young people in camp etiquette, hunting ethics, the history of hunting, and the natural history of hunting areas. All of our members have extensive knowledge, perspectives, experience and passion for the profession like this that should not be lost or allowed to fade away. Or worse yet, taken away by ignorant, intolerant critics of hunting. Instead, these things should be used as powerful tools to encourage others to attain such a respectable status, and to show the reasonable people in the world that although not all humans are hunters, all hunters are indeed humans.

Respect, amongst those who value it still, is earned, not given. A concept unfortunately many people in today's world don't subscribe to. But we do, and our ambassadorship for the importance of and insistence on that, and on how our lives and livelihoods depend upon wildlife and wildlands, should be strong.

Until next time.....

Karen Seginak
Executive Officer

