

## APHA'S STAYING ON THE TRACKS

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Hopefully everyone's New Year has gotten off to a great start! Always such a busy time with travel, conventions, and visiting clients. The turn of the calendar usually is an extra inspiration to be more productive. So cheers to keeping that momentum going!

### NEW ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE:

APHA's Executive Committee recently created a new members' incentive for excellence by re-inventing the Spiral-horned Award, which will now be defined as follows:

The spiral-horned antelopes are renowned and admired for being elegant, poised and regal. Readily recognized and held in high esteem. Alluring characteristics that make them sought after and symbolic of safari hunting programs from the most general to the most specific, by beginning hunters on up to those with vast experience.

In that same spirit and style, the APHA Spiral-horned Award will annually honor a member whose social media presence consistently delivers stories of conservation through hunting, and the importance of sustainable use of our precious, widely beloved wildlife and natural resources in Africa. Distinctive, attractive posts that appeal to a wide

range of audiences. And just as it takes proper time and conditions for a spiral-horn to reach maturity, illustrate the importance of long-term commitment and dedication to responsibly and respectfully representing the professional hunting industry and the various ways it contributes to nature's future.

The competition is open to all APHA full members who are currently licensed professional hunters in good standing, who can nominate themselves or be nominated by others.

There's only ever one chance to be the first at something, and this is it! Don't miss out! We anxiously await seeing what creative and important content you create whilst afield.

#### ONGOING ASPIRATIONS:

We are also pleased to announce that both the Selous and the Ox of Okavango Awards will be continued in 2023. Criteria for both can be found on our website.

Although worthy recipients are not decided until later in the year, it's never too early to consider nominating someone. As a reminder, in regards to the Selous Award, any names nominated in 2022, who did not win, will be carried over to this year for consideration.

INSPIRED BY THE PAST, CREATED IN THE PRESENT, FOR THE FUTURE:

Safari hunting in Africa has a rich and storied past that was traditionally recorded by handwriting and sketches in treasured journals that were toted afield and recorded in by campfire or lantern light. Tales and observations of each day's journey, its trials and tribulations, inspirations and perspirations. Journals that often went on to become beloved, legendary books, offering a glimpse into the past. Full of important historical perspectives and both reminiscent and daydream material for those of us now in the present.

In light of that cherished tradition of recording safari memories, APHA has begun a new, similar tradition. Hank's Voice has donated a nostalgic-looking leather bound journal that will be carried by professional hunter members throughout Africa to their hunting camps, wherein they will record their memories whilst afield, passing the journal on to other PHs as they can, to circulate it as widely as possible. Upon its pages becoming full of living history, it will be auctioned off as a relished keepsake, with a new one also purchased to begin each subsequent edition. Esteemed sculptor Patrick Mavros, of Zimbabwe, has agreed to design a special, African-themed "key" that will secure the front closure of this journal, adding greatly to its appeal and uniqueness.

Some APHA members initiated this journal's journey at the DSC Convention, by signing the first pages. Our professional hunter member, Dan Moore, of Zimbabwe, graciously agreed to be the

inaugural author afield, carrying the journal from Dallas to Africa, where he will begin its stories in the camps he hunts from in Cameroon and Tanzania. Stay tuned for updates on the journal's whereabouts so that you may contribute and help circulate it as well.

#### APHA PEARLS:

In the previous newsletter, I asked for members to kindly share their pearls of wisdom, to celebrate APHA's 30<sup>th</sup> year. And that invitation is ongoing, of course.

First to respond was Honorary Member Peter Flack of South Africa, winner of the 2016 Selous Award, who generously shared with us a recent blog he wrote that will eventually be published on his website in several months. It's an evocative piece that I think many can relate to, about hunting books stirring the imagination, inspiring our outdoor adventures, and becoming prized resources that we repeatedly return to. You're warmly invited to read and enjoy it via this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13ANPYXwahOWbStAU2Mw2Wel1n-5AaOjXox8RV3Zdd6M/edit?usp=drivesdk>

I'd also encourage you to visit Peter's website, full of very interesting content gleaned from his many experiences throughout Africa. A veritable treasure trove of his books, articles, DVDs, blogs and newsletters.

<https://www.peterflack.co.za/>

#### ONGOING ASSOCIATION SUPPORT CAMPAIGNS:

Sales of the limited edition APHA Bronze Shield have been vigorous, with less than half now remaining. Don't miss out on this beautiful, collectible piece! We will soon open sales to non-members, to see which numbers are still available, and reserve one for yourself, please visit the APHA website for more details.

Also on the website, you may check out our Corporate Membership option, wherein businesses are invited to annually contribute in cooperation with us to work together to better the future of African hunting and conservation. Perhaps you know, or own, a business who might be interested?

#### LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS:

On the Sticks:

The UK Private Member's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill continues to make its way through the legislative process. Most recently, it passed the Committee stage on 25 January 2023. You may listen to an audio recording of the proceedings via this link. Warning, though, it is chock full of disinformation, virtue signaling, and resistance to truth, as you might expect.

<https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/471395b1-f65c-4d47-ad83-009149c7a6e6>

Some supporters of this bill apparently forget they once stated that they approved of alternatives to the proposed ban in DEFRA commentary form, and they currently have links to organizations that approve of sustainable use via safari hunting. If interested, you may learn more by reading the Hank's Voice article in this link.

<https://theconservationimperative.com/conned-tradictory/>

In the Crosshairs:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended their comment period on the Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Revision to the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant to 20 March 2023. More information on this can be found via the link below. All stakeholders and interested parties are urged to comment with salient suggestions, pertinent data, and legitimate concerns for the USFWS to consider. Currently there are over 1800 public comments, some of which are

anti-hunting petitions numbering in the tens of thousands of signatures.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/17/2022-25010/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-revision-to-the-section-4d-rule-for-the-african>

An attempt to ban the importation of some hunting trophies has resurfaced in New York State. APHA wrote an open letter to the politicians and citizens of New York last year regarding the follies and impotence of this bill (<https://www.africanpha.com/a-dangerous-game>), and reiterated these points in a recent social media post ([https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid035uonDxHvfV8VGkSiARmyhxB73nxbFKfhGNoFubnsVXXJrTwduueC9dRRwTdi8VAgl&id=100064928644412&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid035uonDxHvfV8VGkSiARmyhxB73nxbFKfhGNoFubnsVXXJrTwduueC9dRRwTdi8VAgl&id=100064928644412&mibextid=Nif5oz)). Although some pro-hunting organizations and factions are claiming this proposed bill is a violation of human rights, neocolonialism, etc., the very bottom line is that this bill is a reflection of the level of ignorance of many involved parties promoting it, as federal law supercedes state law. So even if passed, the bill is illegal and invalid. Truly embarrassing to the people staunchly supporting it.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER....and PARTING SENTIMENTS:

Additional responses to last month's Pearls request were submitted by legendary APHA professional hunter member John Sharp, of Zimbabwe.

One item he shared was a piece written by his friend, Pamina Naisbit, that she penned for the Wilderness Leadership School in South Africa.

Hunting requires wildlands that aren't always truly wilderness, but I think her words, as follows, are applicable to the important heritage of hunting that helps to define who we are, what's important to us, and the level of commitment and knowledge we collectively have.

Pamina's prose included, "Just as you can learn the *theory* of a foreign language through online tutorials, but real fluency requires immersion on a daily basis – so it is with Wilderness Wisdom. It needs to be *experienced*. Encoded in our cellular memory, so we become one with its eternal dance of innovation, adaptation and creation." And she concluded with, "How can anyone be a wise steward or passionate advocate for the wilderness if they have no relationship with it?".

Absolutely! Seize any opportunities you may have to further your own relationship with wildlands and wildlife, and to foster a greater appreciation for and understanding of nature with others.