

# APHA'S STAYING ON THE TRACKS

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## INTRODUCTION

My humble apologies for the tardiness and brevity of this issue of the newsletter. I've been in the bush in Tanzania these past several weeks, with a hectic schedule and patchy internet service. I promise March's newsletter will compensate for these shortcomings.

With the bulk of the 2023 convention season completed by now, hopefully everyone is once again back home or in the field, focusing on the preparation and execution of safe and successful seasons with both new clients and old friends. From all reports, the hunting market seems to be reasonably vigorous, with many novel and repeat bookings for 2023 and beyond.

As part of our ongoing commitment to responsible, sustainable hunting that contributes to conservation, we encourage members to discuss with their clients the importance of investing wisely in their safaris with reputable, dedicated operators. Therefore, a relevant APHA document that you may want to include on your website, social media accounts, or as part of your information packet for hunters is included in the link below. If you'd like a jpeg version instead, please drop us an email and we'll gladly send it to you.

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Agkndr13tQDQgWUtJoSZTTSsl6Mu>

## MEMBER NEWS

### In Remembrance:

The APHA community sadly bid an all too early, earthly farewell to Professional Hunter member, Alain Lefoil, who passed on to the eternal hunting grounds, at age 74, in early March. Regrettably, I did not have the opportunity to meet this remarkable man, but Professional Hunter member, Robin Hurt, kindly shared some insights about Alain from his book, which I now include in this memoriam.

Robin respectfully described Alain as The Great Bongo Hunter, one of the most experienced PHs in the C.A.R., whose toughness, determination, and dedication as a successful hunter was legendary. Alain, along with his wife Elaine and son Kewin, operated huge hunting concessions on the Chinko River. Areas with little to no human habitation and rich with western lowland bongo, Lord Derby eland, western savannah buffalo, lion, leopard, and giant forest hog.

Sincere condolences and strength to Elaine and Kewin at this most difficult and troubling of times. And extended sympathies to all else who were fortunate to have had treasured times and friendships with Alain.

Safari njema bwana! May we see you around the campfire again when our own safaris eventually take us there too.

New Endeavors:

Honorary members Ricardo and Britt Longoria, who have global experiences hunting extensively with a compound bow, and crossbow, respectively, will be supporting Ashby Bowhunting Foundation research by testing various broadheads in the field, via hunting various game animals. The Ashby Bowhunting Foundation is dedicated to the research of arrow and broadhead lethality and to educating bowhunters as well. For more information on their work, visit their website via this link.

<https://www.ashbybowhunting.org>

## APHA INITIATIVES AND ASPIRATIONS

Spiral-horned Award:

In the last newsletter, we announced the redesigning of the Spiral-horned Award. Hopefully it aroused curiosity in some members and a potential desire to compete? The criteria for consideration can be found in the link below. We look forward to receiving nominations of members willing to accept the important challenge of representing hunting and its essential roles in conservation in genuine, educational, creative, and inspiring ways. Feel free to email us at

[executiveofficer@africanpha.com](mailto:executiveofficer@africanpha.com) with your nominations and any questions you may have.

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Agkndr13tQDQgWdkV4UmE2AMA7LC>

#### Cocktail Party:

In conjunction with our 2024 AGM at the DSC Convention, it would be nice if we could hold a cocktail party. The sooner I could organize it, the better, so I now invite you to contribute any ideas, feedback and concerns that may assist in my potential planning. I know one possible venue is the Y. O. Ranch Steakhouse, but its short distance from the Omni Hotel would require either walking or taking an Uber, and some members have voiced opposition to that. But their menu and price is good. Anything held at the Convention Center itself, although conveniently located, is more expensive and limited in options. Any sponsor or fundraising/door prize ideas you may have would be greatly appreciated as well.

#### APHA'S Journeying Journal:

This idea, first announced in the January newsletter, was very well-received when posted on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. (Don't forget to follow, like, share and comment on them if you haven't already). Commenters loved the idea of recording the day to day adventures of our members afield, recording the collective knowledge Africa's best PHs have acquired, and having each year's stories collected for posterity. Some expressed interest in having the journal

printed in book form, to be offered for sale after each original edition is auctioned.

Currently the journal is in Tanzania with Professional Hunter Dan Moore. Many thanks to him for graciously getting this exciting endeavor started! The initial photo he shared of it, which we used on the social media posts, included his APHA hat, which, in itself, generated additional interest in our association.

He is ready to further the journal's travels and increase its content, so please contact him if you can take it elsewhere, particularly Cameroon, as that's now a timely destination

#### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION/OVER A SUNDOWNER

Mainstream media typically casts any African hunting issues in a negative light, full of untruths and emotionally manipulative language. But an all-time low of such irresponsible journalism occurred recently, when one of the world's largest media sources, Newsweek magazine, published an article about lion hunting that was hugely false. (See link below). And then failed to correct it even when contacted multiple times by multiple people (including my own Hank's Voice/Conservation Imperative rebuttal to their story – see link below). They blatantly violated their own publicly stated journalism standards to uphold the truth, and their closest competitor, Time magazine, also apparently doesn't care about irresponsible journalism, as they, too, ignored my

email encouraging them to expose this damaging, disrespectful behavior.

This willingness to openly print lies is highly problematic, particularly since mainstream media rarely accepts pro-hunting articles that ARE factual. The truth cannot be heard if all that is presented are falsehoods. I'm unsure how we change that, but I'm positive it DOES need changed. Truly shameful that the same people who claim hunting is immoral and unethical blatantly violate their own stated professional codes of conduct!

<https://www.newsweek.com/cecil-lion-brothers-now-trophy-hunters-prime-target-after-pride-exile-1774638>

<https://theconservationimperative.com/no-pride-in-prejudice-continued-concocted-cecil-the-lion-claims/>

## PARTING THOUGHTS

The March newsletter will follow this delayed one in a more prompt fashion, but, just as a reminder, we welcome any input, suggestions, news, and announcements you might wish to see included in any newsletter. Send them as you wish! Until next time.....

