

# MATWETWE SAFARIS

## 2024 NEWSLETTER

When you look around into the world out there with all the hatred and turmoil that people create for themselves, one can not be thankful enough that we still have the privilege to roam God's creation into the deepest corners of the beautiful wilderness that He created for us, to enjoy and manage responsibly.

In 2024 we again had the great responsibility to be entrusted with people's time. A precious commodity indeed. We've made a bunch of new friends and caught up with a bunch of old friends and so did the year develop into yet another success story. Let me tell you about a few of the highlights.

We had 2 days to unpack after getting back from the annual marketing trip in the US before Matt Bird and Tim Bjornberg showed up. I was impressed with the quality of hunting gear and marksmanship that they brought with them. Matt was the first to win the Harold King Award for the year with the 6 animals he put down with a single shot each. Tim took an outstanding Kudu that dressed out at 517 pounds of carcass weight. A record in all the years of kudu hunting that we have done.



While Harm had his hands full guiding and entertaining Edward Rijstenbil and his wife Jenny along with his buddy Jason Olver and his girlfriend Kerry in a neighboring camp, I had Steffan & Jessica Welch as well as their son Cameron hunting out of the Matwetwe main camp. The Welch's are running a hunting & Fishing camp in Canada, and it was great to learn from each other about how people do things in different corners of the world. I enjoyed the true hunting experiences when stalking critters with these guys. We were rewarded with some nice trophies. In the meantime, Edward took the biggest Blue wildebeest (31") for the season and Jason took a big Kudu deep into the mountains that they had to carry out piece by piece like true North American Elk hunting.



Stefan, Jessica & Cameron



Edward, Jenny, Jason & Kerry



Jason's Kudu



Just after Easter weekend Kenn & Jenny Young had their week of new experiences. They each took some nice animals and explored some of the surrounding uniqueness South Africa has to offer. Jenny was one of the best lady "Marksman" we have had in camp this year.



Jenny's Blesbuck. Kenn's Impala





After meeting Joe & Stacy Lucas at the Flint SCI dinner, I knew we were going to have a good hunt. Joe took some beautiful trophies with excellent shots. Stacy took her first animal ever when she bagged this big Blesbuck. We are already looking forward to their 2026 hunt that they have booked with us.



Joe & Stacy



Seasoned hunter John Verbeek brought his buddy Don Murphy to get his feet wet in the South African way of hunting. Don enjoyed the abundance of animals and took a few good representative's home.



John



Don

Keith Carter brought his buddies Cory, Mike and Jerry on a first time SA - Hunt. They made sure they didn't miss out on any fun activity we had to offer. I will never forget the perfect running shot that Mike took on his Blue wildebeest. None of us expected the shot, but he put it right on the money and the beast only ran 50 yards with a hole through the heart. The bird hunt was a great way to end the hunt on a high note.



Mike



Keith



Cory

With another double booking, Harm had his hands full with Tom Moss & Justin Kaier in our neighboring Ubique Lodge. They hunted hard and played hard and saw a whole lot of different terrain while doing so. Tom lucked out with his 30-inch Waterbuck and won the 5<sup>th</sup> place on the Matwetwe Top Ten. Justin took a beautiful Springbuck with Harm's new .30-06.



Tom

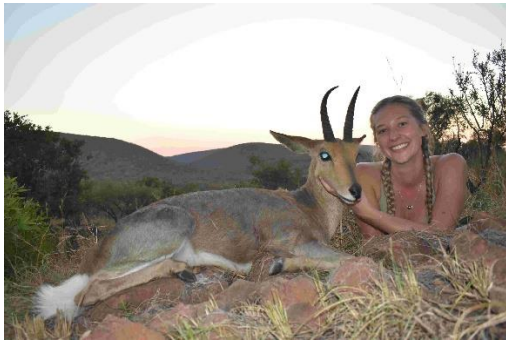


Justin

In Mid-May our dear friend Craig Stull from Kalamazoo joined us for yet another safari. Craig who has been here multiple times bringing multiple friends over, brought his wonderful daughter Emily for her second trip. The focus however was on Craig's nephew, Patrick. If you have the coolest uncle in the world then you get to do stuff like Patrick did this year. On his first hunting day Patrick took one of the most beautiful Kudus I have ever laid eyes on. That was only the beginning. Craig wanted a Giraffe with his bow. He made a perfect clean



shot, and the Giraffe was dead within seconds. The crocodiles didn't want to cooperate so that will most likely happen sometime in the future. Emily took one of the biggest mountain reedbucks in Matwetwe history that brought her the number 6 position on the Matwetwe Top Ten. Craig's neighbors' Ronald & Connor Cavanaugh joined in on the fun and took several prize trophies themselves. What is a "Craig Stull trip" without delivering a Blue Bag to someone in need. This time Emily carefully packed the 6 bags that made many kids smile from ear to ear. Thanks for the best Rum I have ever tasted with every celebration.



Richard Russell and his friend Jeff Fisk joined us for Richard's second and Jeff's first hunt in South Africa. I was very impressed with not only the trophy quality of that week, but also the marksmanship of both hunters. They both received the HKA. Jeff's sable reached the no. 9 position on the MTT at 47  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Jeff became the first guy hunting with Matwetwe that has done the spiral horned slam on his first hunt. Richard took a "specie" that we have

never hunted before. He took a very unique Blesbuck/Tsessebe hybrid, we named it a Blessebe. What a great time we've had!



Jeff



Richard



13 Hunters, 6 PH's, 9 days and a positive attitude. Result = 87 beautiful animals down and memories to last a lifetime. To even try to describe how much fun and good hunting there were, would be impossible. Dustin Alexander and his buddy Montana Oberwegner have been planning this for a few years. Dustin brought his daughter Ayva, brother Garret and his dad Brad along. Montana's lovely girlfriend Holly joined in and took her first animal ever and had to be initiated with a little impala blood in the face.



Other friends that were present was Doug Nelson, Nathan Boyer, Joel Breiningner and John Forgash. John Castle and his 2 grandsons Alex and Joey also joined in and had a blast. During daytime we hunted hard and at night played hard, smoked cigars and tasted the odd



bourbon or 2. Some outstanding animals came in. Montana took the biggest caracal cat in Matwetwe history. The big Tom weighed in at 41 pounds. This gave him the second place on the Matwetwe Top Ten this year.



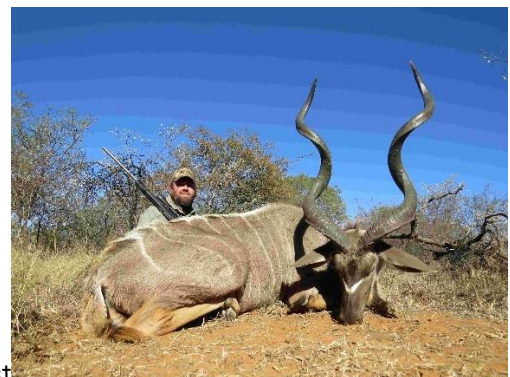
John Castle's no 1 animal was a Buffalo. He had to wait 4 days for his specially built .375H&H to show up before he took this brute of a bull after a colorful hunt. In the meantime, Joey and Alex went down their own lists with priorities being the Roan and the Sable.



Dustin wanted good horn size and took two of the most beautiful animals of the season, a perfect sable over 46" and a perfectly symmetrical kudu just under 56". Garret's kudu ended up being the biggest for the hunt at just over 56".



Dustin



Garret

All the other guys filled their wish lists and made some memories to last forever.





Ayva



John



Doug



Nathan



Brad



Delta airlines made sure that Don Selden didn't make it over after cancelling two flights on him. Tammy, Elanor and Cody decided to still come although they lost a few days. Harm and Cody stalked this nice old warthog up to 22 yards and Cody made a perfect shot. Tim and Amy De Witt came along like last time, insisted on hunting with Herman and had a blast. Tim finished his Spiral Horned Slam on a high note with an eland and this brute of a bushbuck.



Cody



Tim & Amy

Lance De Voogt was on top of the world when he took this beautiful impala with his traditional bow at 17 yards. A dream he wanted to fulfil. The baboon didn't want to come in that close, so Lance grabbed the old faithful 06 and did the job. Congratulations Lance!!!



We welcomed Matt Ewing back for his second safari with us. He brought his dad Steve along with him on mainly a cull hunt this time. They also wanted a trophy red hartebeest and warthog. They filled their wish list early and went for a bird hunt (John Wayne style). We laughed non-stop and felt like the whole camp was on vacation. They made sure all the staff and their kids had a gift packet before they went home. Thanks for the kindhearted gesture.



Matt & Steve



Harm & Herman had their hands full.



Rob Harms had a very colorful but successful hunt with us 11 years ago. This year Rob brought 4 of his friends over with him. Dustin & Kara Van der Woude also did some sightseeing to Kruger park but took a few gorgeous trophies in between. It was Brandon Mechling's birthday while he was here. He made sure he would never forget this year's birthday by taking 4 trophies before 2pm as a gift to himself.



No 1 on MTT



Rob himself had one animal on top of his list - Sable. We knew where a few good ones were hanging out and randomly walked through a thicket that the bulls favored. As luck would have it, we walked straight into two bulls. They were both big, but I told Rob to take the one on the left because he was a little more open but facing us straight on. Rob made a perfect



shot but when we walked up to him, I realized for the first time what had played out in front of us. At 49  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches this is the biggest sable that we have ever taken in Matwetwe history. A prime example of how the bush will provide what and to whom it wants. The sable brought Rob the number 1 position on the Matwetwe Top Ten this year. Congratulations my friend!!!



Richard Pyle took this nice old kudu at quite a long range as well as several other animals. What a fun bunch to have in camp. Celebrating the day's hunt with a few Amarulas is a must do.



Rich

Dustin & Kara



Another fun group from Canada joined us during July. Chris & Sherry along with Rob & Tina Dalgety had a holistic approach. They had a great hunt, used all the equipment in our armory and did a whole lot of sightseeing in between. They visited Entabeni as well as Adventures with Elephants. Thank you for bringing some blue bags for the not so privileged and for all the fun and laughter we shared.



Joe Miles is a good friend that hunted with us 2 years in a row, by himself. Joe knew all along that hunting at Matwetwe Safaris would be a dream in paradise for his family. I have not met a more dedicated hunting family than this one. Joe's son Don, his wife Christine, sons Hunter (8) and Leeland (6) were on it from the first minute to the last. Joe also brought his other grandson Jordan. It was a week of records. Firstly, Joe became the first person ever to win the Harold King Award for a third time. Jordan became the youngest person to win the HKA and Christine took the biggest sable ever with a bow. The two youngsters also took 6 animals each and came very close to the HKA.



Jordan. Grandpa Joe



Don made a perfect shot on his croc, but night hunting was his thing. He added a beautiful Serval cat to his collection. A great privilege indeed to host these wonderful people.





Chris



Leeland



The 3 beasts



Nice Serval for Don

During mid-August we welcomed the Babcock family in camp. It was a ball to be Dan's guide. Not only did he very much enjoy the thrill of the hunt, but his sense of humor made us laugh constantly. Being the owner of Taxidermy by Dourlain in Clio, MI, he used the time to collect some great specimens for the new showroom. Dan's wife Laurie did not hunt but enjoyed the time with the guys. Everyone could learn from Dan's son Micah, how to truly appreciate the animal and the moment. Micah is a great taxidermist artist. He took an exceptional 26" Impala that got him the no. 8 position on the MTT. I can't wait to see the finished products.





Micah. Dan's Blessebe



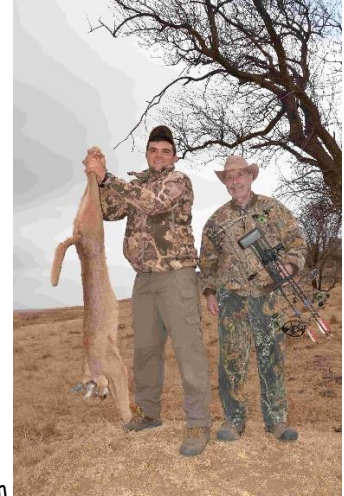
Harm had the privilege to guide Mark & Jason Haglund. A father and son hunt that will be remembered for a long time. Well prepared and up for a good time and new adventures every day on safari. They took some nice trophies and spent some quality time together. They went on a bird hunt one day and broke the Matwetwe record. 64 Birds of 10 different species in one day between the 2 of them. Well done!!!







Wayne



Glen & Harm

Our good friend Glenn Brown hunted with us a few times in previous years. If you've ever been to his basement, you'll know that he is a true hunter and formidable bow hunter. This year Glenn had a "crazy list" for any bow hunt. At 80 years young he is a great example to many hunters out there. Any seasoned bow hunter will tell you that hunting small cats with a bow is next to impossible. Glenn did it! The only trophy that he took with a rifle due to the blind set up, was the Honey Badger. He also took a beautiful 31" Roan that brought him the no. 7 position on the MTT. Wayne Jaruzel accompanied Glenn and took a few very good trophies himself. It was an honor to have these guys in camp.



Genet with a bow at night



Red Duiker



Blue Duiker

Never was I more positively surprised after thorough research than the Coutada 11 hunt in Mozambique with my good friend Andy Edwards. As part of his Tiny 10 collection, Andy had to go after Red- and Blue Duiker, Suni and Oribi. Here in the Coutada 11 hunting paradise we could not only go after all 4 of them, here the horn quality was supposed to be the best in Africa. Not being record book chasers at all, we were very pleased with 3 gold and 1 bronze medal trophies after this very good and unique experience. This area is definitely one of the gems in Africa where hunting is the only reason why there is any wildlife left. At 11 7/8" (SCI score), I just had to put Andy's Red Duiker at no. 3 on the MTT.



Oribi



Suni

Seeing a Pangolin (most endangered mammal in Africa) carry her baby around was one of the most spectacular sightings I have ever seen in my career. Huge trees in the untouched forest can hopefully be protected for generations to come.







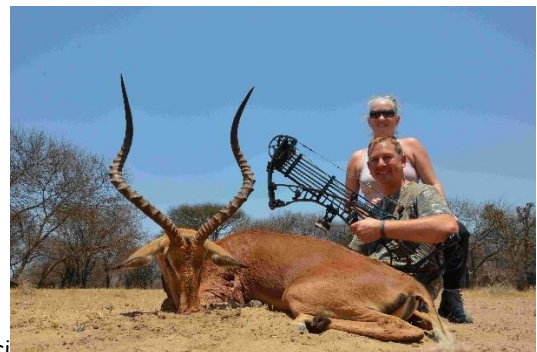
Paul & Martha Davis joined Roger & Shanell Littlepage for another adventurous safari towards the end of our season. This 10-year-old kudu bull was hiding all season long, but when Harm & Roger laid eyes on him, it was game on. They wanted that bull and hunted hard for it. Eventually they were able to put a tape measure on him and he made it just over 54". A superb trophy. Paul had a fun hunt for his zebra and a few other critters and was also rewarded in the end. The bird hunt and some other outdoor activities had them occupied for the rest of the time with us. A great bunch to spend time with.



Roger & Shanelle



Staci Dan & Staci



Our dear friends Dave & Jane Owen brought their daughter Staci and her husband Dan on safari with them. It was Staci's first trip to us, and she also wanted to take an animal home. She prepared well and had many seasoned instructors. Luckily, she could withstand all the

pressure and made a perfect shot on this beautiful kudu. Dan didn't have an Impala on his list because he took a beautiful impala on his first trip with us. But when this monster stepped out in front of the bow blind there was no stop to Dan. Dave had some good luck on the night hunt and took two beautiful Genet cats on the same night. Dave & Dan also took two Steenbuck on the same afternoon that both measured over 5 inches. The mass on Dave's Steenbuck horns was just incredible.



They all helped with maintenance and new projects at Annie's school. A little different than in the northern hemisphere, but very appreciated. We ended the last evening with sundowners at the baboon cliffs, just after Dan took a big old baboon at 340 yards from the cliff.





We couldn't have asked for a higher note to end the season on when Jerry & Tina Jackson brought their son in law Alex on safari with them. All I knew when the hunt started was that Jerry wanted to fulfill his dream of getting a Cape Buffalo. He did that with a perfect one shot kill, but that is not where it ended. Jerry went on to finish his wildebeest slam with a Blue, Black and a Golden. Then went on taking a Nyala, Eland and Bushbuck to finish his Spiral Horned Slam. As if that was not enough, his wife Tina loved the majestic look of a Sable, and he had to get one for his precious wife.



Alex was also not sitting on his hands. He took 6 animals and together with Jerry received the Harold King Award for their outstanding marksmanship.



As you all can see this was a full and long season. We have so many people to thank for making it the huge success that it was. Thank you to all the new members of the Matwetwe Family. Also, to all the existing family members, a warm thank you for trusting us with your precious time. Trusting us with your dream Safari. Thank you to my biological family especially my wife Annie for the long hours away from home. A very important thank you to all our dedicated staff. Without them nothing would be possible. Lastly and most importantly I must thank our Heavenly Father that gave us the strength and created the environment that we live and work in.

I want to wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May all your dreams come true. May you walk in the footsteps of our Lord, for our time on

earth might be gone in the blink of an eye, but eternity with Him is the only important goal to seek.

Until next time.

Hendrik Botha