

**SPRING & SUMMER 2004**

## **REPATRIATION OF THE BONGO**

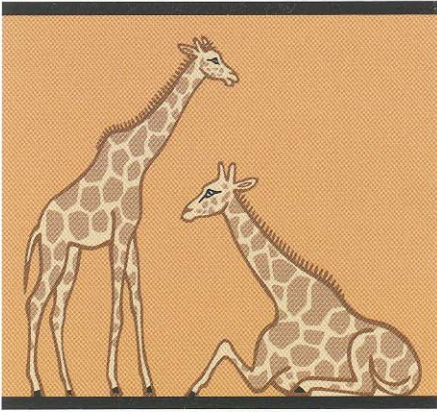
Coming Home to Mt. Kenya



**"MISS KENYA" FIRST U.S. BABY BONGO BORN ON MT. KENYA**







## William Holden Wildlife Foundation

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### DIRECTORS

Stefanie Powers

Don Hunt

Iris Breidenbend Hunt

Tom Mankiewicz

Julian McKeand



### DEAR FRIENDS:

Welcome to our newly reformatted newsletter. I hope you will enjoy some of the features of our new concept and please do send us your opinions. Our designer and newsletter coordinator Mary Lissone would very much enjoy hearing from you.

The feature story in this issue is the bongo repatriation project of the Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (formerly the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch). This project is a groundbreaking effort to reestablish a species in the wild by returning captivity bred bongo to their original habitat. The gradual reintroduction will take perhaps 10 years so we will be reporting on the progress as a regular feature. You can also access the conservancy at: **[www.animalorphanagekenya.com](http://www.animalorphanagekenya.com)**

My recent visit to Kenya was very productive and we have found a new project which will enable us to work with an enthusiastic community neighboring the education center. Mlima Kenya is the name of the school where we will be installing, among other projects, an agro- forestry plot to better teach reforestation as a means of soil conservation and habitat restoration.

We are still receiving compliments for our fund raising concert last November and we are exploring the possibility of another concert for this year in October. Your support and encouragement is the lifeblood of the WHWF and all our students, and our staff join me in thanking you for your generosity.

Warmest regards,

Stefanie Powers





## OUR TEXAS POLO PALS

When Charles "Chuck" Simmons returned to Kenya, which he last visited in 1983, he came back as the winning bidder of the **Houston Polo Club's** Safari to Kenya prize at their October 12, 2003 benefit for the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. The Out of Africa theme for **The Stanford Group USPA Silver Cup**, had Chuck digging deep into his pockets – as did all our Texas polo pals who once again overwhelmed us by their generosity.



We wish to especially thank Mr. & Mrs. John Goodman who hosted Saturday afternoon polo, Shari Roan (marketing director), Roane Stanford Group president Jay Comeaux, Sandi Ritchie (managing director) and Mr. & Mrs. Gene Van Dyke who kicked off the event with a great cocktail party on Friday evening.

## NEWS FROM KENYA



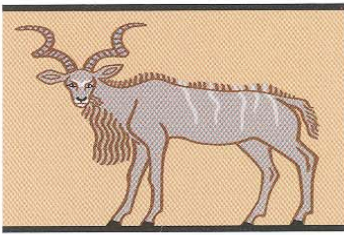
## NURSERY NEWS

In order to prevent any further erosion of precious top soil caused by over exploitation of forests, tree planting has become an extremely important priority in Kenya.

Our tree nursery continues to propagate indigenous trees that are given to all our visitors and our rural schools. Last year WHWF sponsored a pen pal program that bought together the Wathitgu Primary School in Nanyuki, Kenya and St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School in Texas, in a tree planting effort. In honor of their new friendship, each school planted a Friendship Tree and pledged to do all they can to encourage others to plant indigenous trees. Restoring native trees and plants to the land is a great way of benefitting local conservation – and local efforts translate into global benefits.







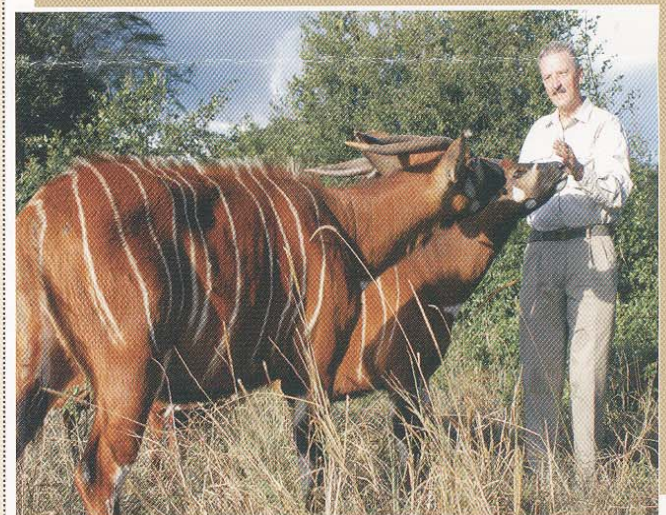
### COMING HOME

Over the years the bongo has often graced our newsletter covers. Many wonderful stories have been written about the Mount Kenya Game Ranch's resident herd, but none so important as this one. The bongo story began 35 years ago when William Holden, Don and Iris Hunt and Julian McKean founded the Game Ranch. In 1967 Don and Bill began what would become a 10-year project of planning and capturing 20 young bongo in an effort to save a species that was in serious decline and threatened with extinction. With approval of the Kenyan government these animals were sent to zoos in the United States to form a nucleus-breeding program, with safe gene pools for eventual return to Kenya should extinction of bongo in its natural habitat occur.

More than a dozen zoos lovingly nurtured the U.S. Foundation stock while the Game Ranch continued to successfully breed bongo from their own herd. Each year saw the captive bongo herds increase, while predation of the wild bongo made sightings a rare occurrence.

Over the years the Animal Orphanage at the Game Ranch was established and began to grow with increasing demand for its work in the care and rehabilitation of young and abandoned wildlife. Since the formation of WHWF in 1982, the Animal Orphanage has hosted the students from the WHWF Education Center and visits to the Orphanage have become a crucial part of the education program.

In 1994 the remains of the last known bongo on Mount Kenya were discovered by the Senior Warden, Kenya Wildlife Service, Mount Kenya National Park and Reserve. Meanwhile in the United States the bongo population had grown to several hundred. This sad discovery and the success of the American program, was perhaps the inspiration for Dr. Paul Reillo of the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Florida to develop the concept



Ron Surratt - Chairman of the Bongo Species Survival Program & Curator of Ft. Worth Zoo





of repatriating mountain bongo to Kenya. He contacted Don Hunt, without whom the project would not be possible, and in 2002 the Bongo Repatriation Advisory Group was founded. The group consists of Ron Surratt – curator of the Fort Worth Zoo and S.S.P. Coordinator for bongo with the American Zoological Association, also fellow board members, Dr. Mark Davis – Executive Director of the Peace River Reserve, Don Hunt – Chairman – Mount Kenya Game Ranch, Dr. Richard Estes of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Mr. Bongo Woodley – Senior Warden, Kenya Wildlife Service, Mount Kenya National Park and National Reserve.

After tireless work on everyone's part the first 18 bongo stepped onto Kenya soil on January 30, 2004.

To add an especially wonderful and touching note to this story, within days of their arrival, the first baby bongo of "American" parents was born in the foothills of Mount Kenya. A very pregnant bongo had arrived with the herd from the U.S. and gave birth to a beautiful little female. The Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy staff proudly named her "Miss Kenya". Miss Kenya is doing well – she and her mother will rejoin the herd in April.

WHWF is adding support to the Bongo Repatriation Project through the Bongo Awareness Program sponsored by the UNDP/GEF/SGP. For the Mount Kenya Game Ranch, the realization of a lofty goal set into motion so long ago is all the more sweet because they have seen the formation of an entire society dedicated to preserving and seeing bongo flourish. The plan to return 100 of the American bred bongo has successfully started the repatriation process – complete with good omens. The ranch was recently designated as a non-profit Wildlife Conservancy and is seeking funding separately from WHWF – and as always, we will be there to help and continue chronicling this remarkable story.

For information on the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and Bongo Project updates log on to:

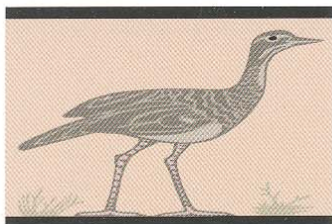
[www.animalorphanagekenya.com](http://www.animalorphanagekenya.com)



First baby bongo "Miss Kenya" doing well and ready to rejoin the herd in April







## THREE OF "THE GIRLS" VISIT KENYA

Under the direction of long time fan Nancy Dugan, 75 of Stefanie's loyal fans have formed an organization called **STEF Save the Earth's Future**. Pooling their resources, as well as collecting from friends, these loyal fans have raised well over \$25,000 for the Foundation in the last two years. "The Girls" have also made trips to see special events and performances over the years, but no trip quite as special as that of the lucky three who came to Kenya. **Silvia Leuchter, Anja Winkelmann, Marie-Lyne Watzky** are seen here surrounded by the name tiles of the other ladies. All the tiles will be fixed to our permanent structures as a reminder of their generosity for all who come to the Center, to see. **If you are curious STEF has its own website [www.stef.org](http://www.stef.org)**

## "The Girls"

- |                           |                         |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Amber Shipley          | 20. Guzzo Family        | 39. Maike Spiewak                     | 58. Sheri Atkins           |
| 2. Amy Dunn               | 21. Heather Williams    | 40. Maja Rath                         | 59. Sheri Dever            |
| 3. <b>Anja Winkelmann</b> | 22. Helen Jones         | 41. Marie Brantley                    | 60. <b>Silvia Leuchter</b> |
| 4. Anna Krebs             | 23. Ilena Samsel        | 42. <b>Marie-Lyne Watzky</b>          | 61. Simoun Levit           |
| 5. Anne Barker            | 24. Ilene Schwartz      | 43. Mary Ellen Leyser                 | 62. Stefanie Pol           |
| 6. Anto Mele              | 25. Jan Miller          | 44. Melanie Gahres                    | 63. Susan Aydellette       |
| 7. April Graham           | 26. Janet Wong          | 45. Meredy Leonard                    | 64. Susanne Schroeter      |
| 8. Belinda Salinas        | 27. Janine Leyser       | 46. Michelle Pero                     | 65. SuzieDugan-Stylec      |
| 9. Betty Leyser & Family  | 28. Jennifer Herrington | 47. Michelle Young                    | 66. Tammy Chin-Revell      |
| 10. Carole Guillen        | 29. Joanne Smith        | 48. Myra Owens                        | 67. Tammy Dupuy            |
| 11. Caroline Bernes       | 30. Judith Moose        | 49. Nancy Dugan                       | 68. Tammy Grieb            |
| 12. Carrie Dunn           | 31. Kary Bruce          | 50. Pat Rey                           | 69. Tammy Neill            |
| 13. Claudia Borden        | 32. Linda Agens         | 51. Paula Simpson                     | 70. Teresa Arms            |
| 14. Cora Hummel           | 33. Lis Therkindsen     | 52. Penny Goldberg                    | 71. Teresa Hatfield        |
| 15. Dayna Ferro           | 34. Liz Mackenzie       | 53. Regina Samsel                     | 72. Tracy McCormack        |
| 16. Deb Delaney           | 35. Lo Vie              | 54. Rhonda Surbaugh                   | 73. Vicki Demchick         |
| 17. Donna Dunning         | 36. Lori Baginsky       | 55. Sandra Zitzelsberger              | 74. Victoria Winningham    |
| 18. Donna Ziegler         | 37. Lorraine Chandler   | 56. Sarah Davidson                    | 75. Virginia Dugan         |
| 19. Georgette Baginsky    | 38. Lynn Ransdell       | 57. Shasta & Tina McCullough&nbsp;bsp |                            |





## HARAMBEE HOOPS - PEN PALS RAISING FUNDS



This year the Vernon County Middle School students decided to let Dr. Seuss's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday be their inspiration when they held their annual basketball shoot-a-thon in February – now named **"Harambee Hoops"**. In Swahili, harambee means to pull together and their goal

was to raise enough funds to buy and ship 100 nature and wildlife readers to Kenya. Fifty books were slated for the WHWF Education Center library and fifty for the Nyariginu's library collection. They raised \$1,350 and purchased the books from Crabtree Publishers – an excellent publisher of non-fiction materials for students. The students chose the titles themselves and found that after all the costs were covered, they still had \$500 remaining which they are sending on to the WHWF Education Center to be used for other educational projects.



**CLASS HAPPILY DISPLAYS BOOKS THEY CHOSE**

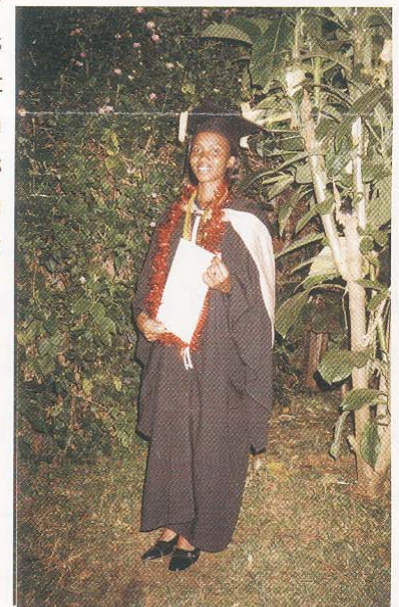
## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Beatrice Wamuyu has had a long and fruitful relationship with the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. Currently completing her nursing internship at Moi University Referral Hospital in Eldoret, she attended Wathituga Primary School (where WHWF has the Ken Norris Library) and emerged a top student which then qualified her for the best girls' school in the country -- Alliance High School. Her ambition and good character won her a WHWF scholarship to the Ascot Health County Infant School in Berkshire, UK. Ascot Health School have had strong ties to the Foundation's chairman Stefanie Powers since her first visit to the school in 1988. Beatrice graduated with top marks and pursued her dream, graduating in November 2003 with a BSC in Nursing.

Stefanie has been particularly attentive to Beatrice's efforts by paying for her entire nursing education and has continued to inspire and encourage not only her education, but her love of Kenya wildlife and conservation. Beatrice has spent many vacations volunteering at the Education Center that has been such an important part of her life.

### BEATRICE WAMUYU

**Our proud graduate!**

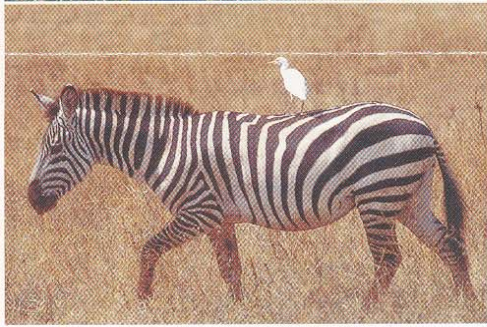
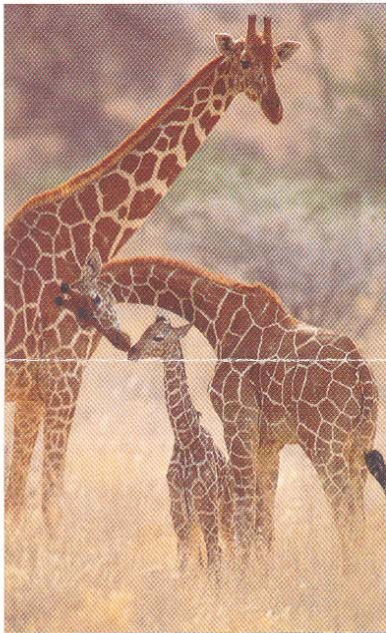






## WHWF Merchandise

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