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THE SAVÉ VALLEY CONSERVANCY:

By John Laing

I recently had the privilege of guiding out of Sango and Ingwe Camp, tucked well within The Savé Valley Conservancy.

The Conservancy is one of the largest private game reserves in Africa. Located in the South Eastern lowveld of Zimbabwe, bordering on the Save River on its eastern side, the Conservancy comprises 750,000 acres of diverse wildlife habitat.

Visitors to the Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) have the opportunity to see most of southern African game species, including the Big Five (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhino). The SVC is home to one of Africa's largest populations of black and white rhino, and to a healthy population of rare African Painted Dogs. Both of these critically endangered species are carefully monitored and protected within the Conservancy. Over three hundred species of birds can also be found in the Conservancy during the year, including many raptors.

The SVC consists of privately owned, Government owned, and community owned properties that are aligned under a constitution to manage animal populations on a landscape scale. Individual properties operate tourist lodges that offer different types of accommodations in varied ecological settings.

The Conservancy is a vast and varied natural landscape. Unlike some game reserves where animals are confined to smaller spaces and well habituated to humans, the animals in the Conservancy are wild. This sometimes makes them harder to photograph, but finding them and observing their behaviour is truly an adventure. The SVC is not a destination for people who measure the success of their safari by completing a checklist of animal sightings. There are no zebra-painted buses in the SVC and no competition between photographers at leopard or lion kills. Lodges are small and have thousands of private areas around them which limit access and create exclusive game viewing experiences.

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CHESTNUT-BACKED SPARROW-LARK:

By Dharmesh DAYA

Whilst out on a walk in the magnificent Matusadona National Park, I came across the nest of a Chestnut-backed sparrow-lark. The only reason I was able to find the nest was because of the male. He flushed out from the ground in front of me, less than 10 meters from my feet. Naturally, this behaviour got my attention and made me want to investigate.

Very carefully, I walked towards the area he took off from and found the nest. It was evident that the male had been sitting on the eggs. On further research, I learned that the male sits on the eggs during the heat of the day and the female sits in the cooler hours. The species is monogamous and both male and female build the nest. Interestingly, they build their nest on the south or east side of a tuft of grass or a large stone to maximize shade during the midday heat. Incubation only starts after the last egg is laid, to allow for synchronized hatching.

If you are a chick of a Chestnut-backed sparrow-lark, then your ability to make a lot of noise when your parents come to feed you is a key note to your survival. Voluntary brood reduction is a process where the loudest chick gets fed and the others starve and this is something that they practice. When it comes to food, the adults are well adapted to husking seeds found on the ground using their distinctive conical shaped bill. During their breeding time the adults will also eat insects to satisfy their protein needs.

Something intriguing to look out for is their flight during the midday heat, you will notice that they fly with their legs dangling to help with heat loss.

The wonders of nature just never stop producing beautiful moments, all we have to do is stop and pay attention.

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INTO NATURE
AND THEN YOU
WILL
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING
BETTER.”

~

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VICTORIA FALLS COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE CENTRE

Introduction to VAWZ Victoria Falls

The Victoria Falls Community Animal Health & Welfare Centre is situated in the rural village of Ntabayengwe, 15 km from the tourist town of Victoria Falls. Set up in 2016 by Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Zimbabwe www.vawz.co.zw the Centre serves the rural community as a facility to treat their domestic animals and livestock – at no cost for those in genuine need.

Rural communities often face challenges in taking proper care of their animals, especially dogs and donkeys. Poverty and lack of understanding are major issues. In addition, livestock is generally over-stocked, resulting in poor nutritional status. Cattle and goats are highly valued in rural communities but much still needs to be done regarding donkey and dog welfare. As this is a wildlife area – with few fences - transmission of disease between domestic animals and wildlife, and human/wildlife conflict are ever present threats. The community knows we will help them when their animals are attacked by lions, hyenas or baboons, which reduces retaliation which, in itself, can poison non-target animals, such as vultures. Successful livestock production should reduce poaching.

The Centre is staffed by Veterinarian, Dr Isaac Moyo and Assistant, Themba Moyo. It has an examination room, an operating theatre, access to X-ray, kennels, paddocks, water troughs, a dog dipping station, office and storeroom. It runs on solar energy and tanks are in place to store the somewhat sporadic municipal water.



The Victoria Falls



Centre in Ntabayengwe Village



Team – Sue Chenaux-Repond, Dr Isaac Moyo & Themba Moyo

Zambezi Motorcycle Offroad Club (ZMOC) Enduro – thank you!

The on-going covid pandemic, with the ensuing loss of jobs, made life even more difficult for people and their animals, and the funds raised for us by the annual ZMOC Enduro are very much appreciated, especially in a time when fundraising is an extra challenge. That this fundraiser is initiated and run here in Victoria Falls is extra special. The Enduro runs through the area we serve and the local community also assists and can see the benefit of their participation. **We thank the ZPGA** for their support on this fun and exciting event! Come and watch if you can next year!



VAWZ Vet and Community Member help a Biker out of Ken's Crack



VAWZ VF Time Marshalling at Ken's Crack Enduro 2022

Activities and Achievements

We have pleasure in listing some of the activities and achievements that were made possible with the funds raised by the Enduro last year. Without support from our donors giving their time and money our work could not continue. **Thank you ZMOC, ZPGA and Riders once again!** You can download a full report on the 2021 activities on the www.vawz.co.zw website or contact vfadmin@vawz.co.zw and we will send you one. Please do not hesitate to visit us, write or call if you would like to learn more.

Victoria Falls Clinic Activities 2021

Cases

1152 cases (excludes routine vaccinations and sterilisations)

Dogs	Cattle	Goats	Donkeys	Cats	Pigs
721	154	185	67	19	6

Treatments and surgeries - reducing suffering

- 14 dogs treated for Transmissible Venereal Tumour (TVT), a sexually transmitted but curable cancer in dogs (neutering prevents this)
- 8 animals, including dogs, cattle and donkeys, treated for injuries from animal bites, mainly from baboons, lions and hyenas
- 32 goats and 15 cattle treated for eye infections, a common problem in this environment.
- 1 eye enucleation (removal) performed on a goat with a cancerous eye
- 3 dogs with pyometra (puss in the uterus) underwent emergency ovariohysterectomies
- 5 dogs treated after being involved in road traffic accidents



Dog being treated for baboon bites

Sterilisations - better lives, fewer unwanted animals

- 149 dogs
- 65 cats
- 9 donkeys
- 16 calves



Neutering a dog in the field – thank you Liquorama for gazebo

Field Campaigns - going out to the people

- 17 field campaigns for sterilisation, deworming, treatment & vaccinations



Community members waiting patiently for vaccinations

Vaccinations – protecting animals and people

- 1125 dogs - against rabies
- 440 dogs - against distemper
- 645 cattle - against blackleg, anthrax, botulism, brucellosis and lumpy skin disease (assistance to Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust project)



Dipping a young dog at the Centre

Deworming & Dipping – improving health, preventing discomfort and biliary

- 1372 dogs dewormed at the Centre and during field campaigns
- 26 dogs dipped per week on average



Dr Moyo and volunteer vaccinating

Donkey Welfare Workshops

- 2 donkey welfare workshops:
 - exchanging unsuitable harnesses and yokes for more donkey friendly ones and educating on their use
 - issuing reflective collars for protection from vehicles at night
 - issuing comfortable bell collars



Providing donkey friendly harnesses and education at Jembwe

Trap-Neuter>Returns - better life for cats, less impact on wildlife

- 73 feral cats trapped, neutered and returned to their colonies

Welfare Cases

- 4 cases of neglect of dogs in town investigated and resolved

Rescues and Rehoming

- 7 kittens from urban Victoria Falls rescued and forever homes found



Rescue kitten with foster mother



Trapped feral cat waiting for sterilisation and a better life

2022
START

Z.P.G.A. Diary

www.zpga.org/zpga-events

JULY 2022

- Wed 13th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 15th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Harare & Bulawayo)

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Wed 14th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 16th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Sun 18th - Shooting Proficiency Harare
- Mon 19th - Oral Interviews
- Tue 20th - LPH written exam
- Wed 21st - LPH written exam

OCTOBER 2022

- Fri 7th to Sun 9th - Upper Zambezi Canoeing proficiency

NOVEMBER 2022

- Tue 1st to Mon 7th - Proficiency Exam
- Wed 9th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 11th - Z.P.G.A. Talks
- Wed 30th - Z.P.G.A. VIP Event

DECEMBER 2022

- Thurs 1st - Z.P.G.A. VIP Event
- Fri 2nd - Z.P.G.A. AGM (Harare)
- Sat 3rd - Z.P.G.A. Safari Dinner (Harare)
- Thurs 22nd - National Unity Day
- Sun 25th - Christmas Day
- Mon 26th - Boxing Day
- Tue 27th - Christmas Holiday



Ethics Are Everything!

The Safari Rally

By Dave Dell

Hwange National Park (HNP), situated in the northwestern corner of Zimbabwe, is an immense wilderness area that lies between the Kalahari Sands of Botswana and the savannah woodlands and teak forests of Zimbabwe. This area is home to a rich variety of wildlife including its famed elephants and Africa's Big Five. The Park has very little natural surface water during the dry winter months and, because of human encroachment, the wildlife has been cut off from access to perennial rivers. Water must be pumped from underground sources to surface pans to enable the wildlife to drink.

Contrary to mis-leading information that has been circulating recently, we'd like to reassure our loyal donors and the public at large that the more than 100 boreholes working in HNP have been equipped with solar powered pumps supplied by Friends of Hwange Trust (FOH) in the southern areas of the park and Bhejane Trust in the north. The private lodges have assisted with water supplies within their concessions.

As well as provision of water, FOH works on clearance of firebreaks, maintenance of access roads, medical support for Parks staff and their families, assistance with anti-poaching operations, animal rescue work, deployment of rangers and we are involved with the conservation of highly endangered bird species and the habitat that supports them. Recently, FOH has worked to upgrade some of the camps and picnic sites which were badly in need of basic maintenance. Contributions, particularly from Zimbabweans, have been essential to achieve this. It's an ongoing process, we still have a long way to go, and need further support to continue this work.

Friends of Hwange dredges and scoops pans both natural and pumped, taking great care to maintain the healthy ecosystems in and around them. In another new venture, FOH is promoting and supporting the creation of buffer zones around the Park's boundaries - a major but important task to assist in the protection of iconic Hwange animals that periodically cross the park's boundaries. Humble gratitude to the donors with the vision to support this.

We have just returned from HNP after The Classic Car Safari Rally run by Taylors Africa. Not only do events like this help raise funds for the work we do in the park, but they create awareness and huge goodwill. The event was superbly organized by Charles Taylor and Bernie LeesMay.

Many other people helped to make the event a success including two guides from Z.P.G.A., Godfrey Walsh and his truly amazing team of mechanics, the Taylors Africa staff and the FOH back-up teams. Sincere appreciation to the Parks Authorities at Main Camp and Robins for their co-operation and assistance. Grateful thanks to Taylors Africa for including FOH as their beneficiary.

The Park is looking wonderful. The bush is green, thick, and lush after late April rains with both pumped and natural pans full. We drove past Masuma Dam where a new battery system has been installed to pump water at night. Never has the pan been so full, testament to the success of the new system. Grateful thanks to the donor that made it possible.

Dave Dell is the Chairman of FOH. He has been involved since its inception and works extremely hard to ensure that adequate funds are available for FOH to carry out its vital work.

Gary Cante is FOH's Man on the Ground in Hwange. In close collaboration with the Zimbabwe Park and Wildlife Management Authority, Gary continues his work unabated despite many challenges.

The Trust relies solely on donations, and all contributions are made to count. Our work depends upon support from loyal donors to whom we extend heartfelt appreciation. Our most grateful thanks to you all.



**D.Dell; B.Edwards;
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MEMBERSHIP

Membership Statistics - 2022

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Z.P.G.A. Members Breakdown by Qualification		
Number of Members	Qualification	
62	ASSOCIATE	
4	CONSERVATION PARTNER	
34	CUBS	
55	FULL PG	
135	FULL PH	
5	LIFE MEMBER	
63	LPH LICENSE	
6	RESTRICTION	
4	SERVICE PROVIDER	
Thursday, 02 June 2022		Page 1 of 1



Innovation grows out of membership and a sure sense of responsibility people feel for their work and the organizations that employ and / or support them.

"Z.P.G.A. Membership is a Privilege NOT a right"



Potato & Leek Soup

BY JACO KOK

Clean 10 large leeks by cutting off the bottoms, 1cm above roots and about 5cm from where green starts. Cut the leeks in half lengthwise and be sure to rinse all soil out.

Proceed to finely chop the leeks in half moon slices,
2 large onions, finely chopped
1 bunch celery, only stalks, finely sliced

Combine these ingredients in a cast iron pot with some cooking oil and fry till translucent. You do not want any discoloration, so watch the heat.

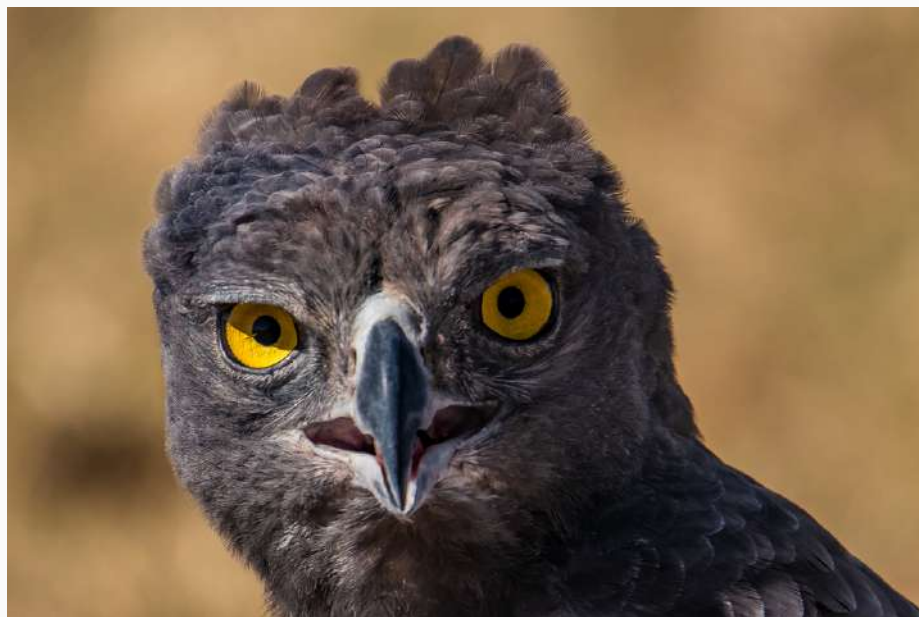
Add 8 large, peeled and diced potatoes and add to pot.
Add 3 litres of warm water and boil until the potatoes start to break up.

Watch water level constantly and ensure that the contents of pot remains at about 3 litres.

Add 500ml fresh cream, salt and white pepper to taste, just before serving.



Members Photo Gallery - Martial Eagle



The Z.P.G.A.'s commitment to sharing information and knowledge.





Z.P.G.A. Talks 2022

The Z.P.G.A. is proud to bring you a series of talks designed to bring our community together under the umbrella of growth through shared knowledge. Presentations will be informative, entertaining and offer a springboard for discussion, engagement and sharing of ideas that can help jumpstart our COVID-decimated industry and further our conservation causes for a more productive future.

We will be facilitating an evenings talk by three guest speakers, to be run simultaneously, every two months in:

- Harare - Armadale Lodge
- Bulawayo - Hillside Dams Conservancy
- Victoria Falls - Shearwater Village

Dates for your diaries are as follows:

- Thursday 2nd June (Victoria Falls)
- Friday 15th July
- Friday 16th September
- Friday 11th November
- Time: 17:00 for 17:30 start
- Cash bar and restaurant
- Free admission

**An event put on by the Z.P.G.A
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SAFARI BALL AGM 2022

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES, FURTHER DETAILS
TO FOLLOW

VIP EVENT:

DATE: WEDNESDAY 30TH NOV &
THURSDAY 1ST DEC 2022

AGM:

DATE: FRIDAY 2ND DEC 2022
WHERE: HARARE

SAFARI BALL:

DATE: SATURDAY 3RD DEC 2022
THEME: "A DAY AT THE RACES"
WHERE: HARARE



Z.P.G.A.

Ethics Are Everything!



ISSUES ABOUT MEDICAL AID & FIRST AID

Health is something that we take for granted and tend not to think about until something goes wrong. That's why you need to be with a good medical aid provider who can help you protect both your health and your wallet.

The reality is that your health, and that of your family, holds immeasurable value to you. It's also the least predictable factor in your life. This unpredictability is precisely what makes medical aid so important, because you can't tell for certain when you'll need it. Sports injuries, road accidents, stress-related illnesses, and terminal illnesses are not examples of things that afflict the elderly. Rather, they're representative of what can go wrong in anyone's health at any time.

Having a good, reputable medical aid is an essential part of alleviating the stress of worrying what's behind every proverbial corner. More importantly, it provides you with the necessary financial cover when you need it.

Fortunately, there are a wide variety of plans for you to choose from within each medical scheme, making it easy to buy the level of cover that you need and can afford. These range from basic and relatively inexpensive hospital plans to the more all-inclusive, comprehensive plans.

When it comes to choosing your ideal plan, it's best to assess your life and understand what the implications would be if you needed medical treatment. For instance, if you're single and have no dependents, then at the very least a good hospital plan is a practical option as the most expensive comprehensive plan might not be necessary.

Of course, if you're the sole breadwinner with a few dependents then it goes to reason that you will need more cover to protect your family's financial safety while you are treated.

At the end of the day you can't know when or if something will happen, and unless you have considerable financial funds to help you pay for medical costs, you might have a problem if you don't have medical aid.

Mednet Zimbabwe is here to help! Mednet's team of professional healthcare consultants are on hand to provide information and support with international health insurance, local medical aids and travel insurance. Mednet is an agent for the leading healthcare providers.

The Harare Office

Michelle Carvalho

Tel: +263 78 316 7667

Email: pa@mednet.co.zw

The Bulawayo Office

Raquel Fouche

Tel: +263 77 679 1741

Email: raquel@mednet.co.zw



Contact Us

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

The Z.P.G.A. committee is here to assist you. To enable us to answer your questions in a timely manner, please would you firstly contact Belinda (Bee) Geraghty on secretary@zpga.org and request to be put in touch with one of the following sub-committees and the relevant committee member will gladly assist you.

Below you will find the various sub-committees, a short description of what their role and function is and a contact email address should you want to get in touch.

- Z.P.G.A. – Chairman Rob LURIE - chairman@zpga.org
- Z.P.G.A. – Vice Chairman John LAING
- Z.P.G.A. – Legal & Ethics - Pete FICK - legal@zpga.org
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.G.A. – Finance - Belinda GERAGHTY - finance@zpga.org
 - All payment issues
- Z.P.G.A. – Marketing & Advertising - John LAING - marketing@zpga.org
 - All branding Membership Cards
 - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
 - Fundraising
- Z.P.G.A. – Education and training - David CARSON - education@zpga.com
 - Study Packs
 - RIFA & SAVE Valley Conservancy initiatives
 - Devil's Gorge Conservancy training program
- Z.P.G.A. – Recruitment - Justine MCGREGOR - cv@vicfallsrecruitment.com
 - A Tourism Industry employment resource for both employers and employees
 - To verify candidates authenticity as far as possible
 - Assess candidate suitability for position placement
 - Make recommendations to potential employers
- Z.P.G.A. – Research - Spike CLAASSEN - research@zpga.org
 - Ensure compliance with trophy off-take in terms of ethics as well as sustainability
 - Cat ageing & Research
 - Attendance to & at quota setting workshops
 - Assistance with any NDF requirements that may come up from time to time
- Z.P.G.A. – Awards - Duncan WATSON - awards@zpga.org
 - To discuss and agree what awards shall be current or pertinent to the industry
 - To look at and agree end of year award nominees
- Z.P.G.A. – A.G.M. & Dinner - Michelle LURIE (2022)

"If you want to support others you have to stay upright yourself."

Peter Hoeg



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