



# MIGRATIONS

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE AFRICAN BUSH & BEYOND

Dear Friends and Fellow Travellers:

These are truly difficult times for the world and we hope that now that the war is over, the world can start its healing. Traveling always makes me realize the fortunate lives many of us lead and the responsibility that comes with our good fortune. I have recently returned to the United States after an active, enjoyable and productive three months in Kenya. It was an exciting time to be there as we had our

Farley and Marett then took a couple of weeks to visit Egypt so that they could learn more about that fascinating country. They had a wonderful time and will enthusiastically encourage people to visit – they sailed the Nile on Sunboat IV which they can recommend without reservation.

In February, Farley led her first “Invitational” safari (I went as “sup-

camped in net-tents under the stars with all ones needs taken care of in this vast arid wilderness. How fortunate we are to have the opportunity to live without walls or machines – even for a few days! The silence was deafening!

In this newsletter you will find the first invitational for our Western Safaris. We are excited to begin offering these trips in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and the Yellowstone Park Foundation and hope they will become a tradition. It is beautiful in the West at this time of year and our group will have the opportunity to meet with Park researchers and get a behind the scenes view of conservation issues out west.

I hope you will pack your suitcases and allow us to help you plan your next vacation to places that will heal the soul. I will be guiding another invitational to Kenya in February next year for those who might be able to join me. I would love to welcome you.

In the words of Rudyard Kipling

*...there are two kinds of people in the world: Those who stay at home and those who do not. The second are most interesting.”*

Let us be the second!

Anne Kent Taylor



elections in December, which went very peacefully and brought with them a change of Government. The energy and excitement in the country is palpable – the people spoke and we hope for a better future.

We left for Kenya in mid-December to prepare for Jim’s family who were joining us on safari over the Christmas Holidays. I, particularly, enjoyed being able to share my country with them as for many it was a first visit but hopefully not a last one!

port” for Farley - I was not really needed but had a great time anyway!). We had a varied itinerary starting off with a rare opportunity to go on a camel assisted walking safari, in the wilds of Northern Kenya, operated by a friend of mine, Helen Douglas Dufresne, an exceptional woman. There was something spell binding and primal about walking along the dry riverbeds, accompanied by the gentle Samburu tribesmen and camels, stopping for water in the shade of an acacia and finding lion tracks in the sand. At night we

## *Ursus horribilis* Grizzly Bear Tracks

### IN THIS ISSUE Pages...

- 1...Hello Letter
- 2...Western Safari
- 3... Tanzania and Kenya Invites
- 4... Conservation
- 5... Samburu Tribe An Affair



# EXPLORE YELLOWSTONE AND TENSLEEP PRESERVE AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

**The cost for this trip is \$2849.00\* per person (includes all meals, activities, and accommodations).**



A.K. Taylor International is excited to offer our first Western Safari invitation in partnership with the Nature Conservancy (WY) and the Yellowstone Park Foundation. The idea of this trip is to expose people to a “behind the scenes glimpse” of the wonders found in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Wyoming – in and around Yellowstone National Park– “America’s Serengeti.”



At Tensleep, we will learn about the conservation issues facing the Nature Conservancy, both on the 8,500 acre Preserve and in the state, while soaking in the beautiful private surroundings. In Yellowstone Park we will be hosted by the Yellowstone Park Foundation (a wonderful organization devoted to assisting the Park with conservation issues). Along with our guides who will accompany us throughout the trip we will have the opportunity to meet with and spend time in the field with researchers and park staff learning about some of the issues facing park managers.

**We will have the opportunity to view rarely visited thermal areas, archeological sites, and search for wildlife from the road and on short hikes.**

Tensleep Preserve is an exclusive Nature Conservancy property situated in breathtaking canyon country in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains. The heart of Tensleep is a twelve mile stretch of Canyon Creek that slices through the property creating a unique landscape with many different habitat types.

A beautifully constructed log lodge is located in open meadows above the canyon system, allowing expansive views and easy access to spectacular view points. Accommodations are in rustic, yet comfortable, walk-in wall-tents with single beds and a wooden floor. Sleeping under canvas is a wonderful experience and allows one to wake to the sounds of the birds and to breathe the fresh night air. Modern bathroom facilities and showers are available in the main lodge, which is within walking distance from the tents.

We will have two days to explore the many wonders of the Preserve with both Nature Conservancy naturalists and our guides. With so many guides, we will have the option to split up into smaller interest groups to visit ancient pictographs and Native American gathering sites, and learn about the wildlife and birds in the area,



including black bear, mountain lion, elk, and beaver. For your full enjoyment, we suggest that all participants be in relatively good health and enjoy hiking.

From Tensleep we will drive through the rugged east entrance of Yellowstone Park. We will arrive in time for lunch at the classic Yellowstone Lake Lodge. After eating lunch and settling in, we will head out for

the afternoon in small groups to search for grizzlies and wolves in the magnificent Hayden Valley.


September is a beautiful time to visit Yellowstone as the aspen and cottonwoods start to show their fall colors, the grasses in the lower meadows become golden and the wildlife becomes active with bears trying to store up fat for the winter and elk, bison and bighorn sheep congregating for the rut.

**Meals will be eaten in the Yellowstone Lake lodge, taken as picnics and even served in the “bush”.**

Each day in YNP will consist of a portion of the day spent with a YNP researcher to learn about their particular




study and the conservation issues in YNP. The other half of the day our group will split into smaller groups to further explore the Park.

Further extensions to nearby Dude Ranches and Fishing Lodges can be arranged for those interested in extending their western experience. For luxury in the west we recommend the Mangani Resort in Jackson, WY and the Big EZ Lodge at Big Sky, MT. Call for more details and space availability. 

## September 2003

### Southern Tanzania


### Walking Safari

Explore Southern Tanzania with Kayhan from September 15 – 30. Share in Kayhan's passion to visit and explore some of the last vestiges of truly remote wilderness in the Selous and Ruaha Parks in Southern Tanzania. Starting with several days in the Ruaha we will venture out in search of game on foot and in vehicles. The Ruaha landscape is stunning, dotted with the majestic baobabs (tree of life), many of which have been around for several thousand years. From the Ruaha we will travel to the Selous where we will go on a 5 day walking safari – an opportunity which is rarely offered in this day of modern conveniences. It is hard to describe the difference in experience of a walking safari compared to a vehicle safari. There is an added sense of excitement as all of ones senses are heightened as we step into the ecosystem instead of just viewing it from a vehicle. Humans evolved as a species that walked the plains of Africa. This innate behavior that is ingrained in all of us soon becomes apparent as we adjust to the daily rhythm of life that is dictated more by the sun, moon, weather and animal movements than by a clock. Participants on this trip need not be super fit but must be comfortable walking from 5 – 8 miles each day. For more detailed information please call (406) – 294 – 9430. Participants are limited to just five people with a cost of \$7,000.00 per person in double accomodations, not including international airfare. 

## Kenya Bush Homes Safari February 2004

This coming February 10 – 21 join Anne as she visits some of her places in Kenya. Travel through southern Kenya and then north to visit a community run lodge in the Laikipia region. Kenya is a forerunner in the development of community run lodges, which help communities directly realize benefits of wildlife conservation and sustainable development. Several of these



lodges have recently won awards for their level of service. For the last few days of this safari you will have the chance to visit the Masai Mara. It is here that Anne will expose you to our community based conservation program that has been ongoing in the Masai communities for the past four years. Guests will have the chance to meet with team members in their villages, on patrols and visit schools where we conduct educational programs. This is often the highlight of many people's trip. For further information please contact Anne at 406 – 656 – 0706. This trip will be limited to 10 participants and will cost \$7,500.00 per person based on double occupancy, not including international airfare. 




# COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION

Thanks to kind donations from many of you, we purchased and delivered more books to two schools, bought netball uniforms for the girls' team, with which they were thrilled! (It is a VERY new trend to offer sports for girls and we are doing what we can to encourage it!) With money obtained from selling cards painted by the Maasai students (part of our project), we built twenty new desks to accommodate the influx of students who are now attending school since Kenya's new government




instigated free primary education. We thank the WildiZe Foundation, Born Free, Friends of Conservation, Abercrombie and Kent Global Foundation, Sony Corporation, Conservation Corporation, Olonana, Musiara, Governor's Camp, Kichwa Tembo, Air Kenya and many individuals for their support.

This year we organized a field trip for our Maasai team members to visit another grassroots project in the Kakamega Forest, one of our last indigenous forests in western Kenya. Both Abercrombie and Kent and Conservation Corporation donated vehicles for the trip. None of our members had ever traveled outside the Mara region before and returned invigorated and even more dedicated to continue their work in the Mara. They were in awe of Lake Victoria as they had never seen a body of water before, and even more surprisingly had never seen domestic pigs, which caused a lot of excitement. 



Yeaolo Grade 4

Our environmental education programs continue in the schools as well as our antipoaching and desnaring patrols, which are very successful. We removed literally hundreds of snares from the forests making the animals that much safer. The team is still ably led by Evanson and the team members should all be applauded for their dedication and hard work. Our team is now using a GPS unit to more accurately mark their findings and successfully coordinated with an aerial surveillance unit and the local authorities to apprehend several poachers. For detailed information on our project results from last year please visit our website.

In conclusion, I am sincerely grateful and want to assure you that we will continue to use your dollars wisely and that, with your help, our project will continue to make a big difference and benefit not only the community but also the future generations and indeed the world – the livelihood of the local people and animals are deeply intertwined. That is the basis of our conservation project and it is working but we need your help. Thank you. 



Tyson Magoma Grade 8

Over 65% of our funding comes from private donations. For more information please look on our website. If you wish to assist us with any of the following needs please send tax deductible donations to: Friends of Conservation  
Ref: Anne K. Taylor Fund  
2724 Arvin Road  
Billings, MT 59102

## ANTIPOACHING

Each 2-week project costs \$3,000.00, (half of this is the vehicle expenses). We also need a set of radios for \$1,500.00.

## WILDLIFE RESCUES

We assist with about six animal rescues each year. The cost for one rescue is \$250.00 for a lion, \$500.00 for a giraffe and \$1,000.00 for an elephant. Vet drugs cost \$2,000.00 a year.

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

It costs \$2,000.00 to build 3 classrooms, to install a water catchment system for drinking water is \$1,500.00, to purchase textbooks for 300 students costs \$1,000.00, to install 20 desks \$500.00.

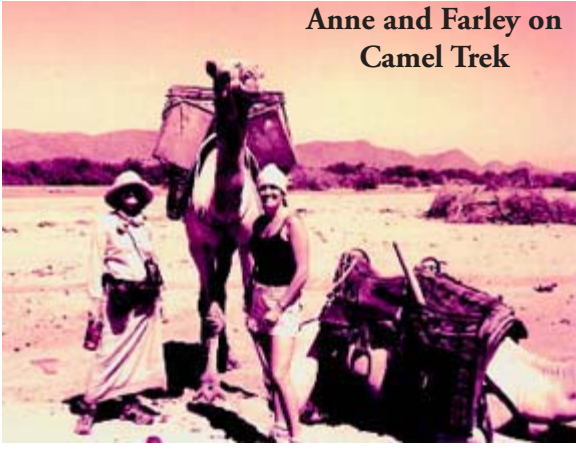
We have used these beautiful images here painted by the Maasai children, to make cards that we sell to help support the educational programs in the Maasai schools. Please contact us if you would like to purchase cards. Cards come in a pack with 12 images in a pack of 24. The price is \$47.00 which includes shipping and handling.



Ceciilia Kinianjoi Grade 5

# The Samburu Tribe of Northern Kenya


Anne and Farley on Camel Trek



This past February we were lucky enough to travel with the Samburu people in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya. Their beauty is dramatic as their tall sleek bodies are always adorned with colorful beaded jewelry and stark red fabrics (*shukas*). As nomads their lives revolve around their livestock (cows, sheep, goats) and even camels as they make their way across seemingly uninhabitable land in search of water and grazing land. They have maintained a culture rich in tradition, yet they also see the inevitable need to understand how the new world works. They maintain their slen-

der muscled bodies by consuming milk from their livestock which they often mix with blood tapped from cattle and goats. For special occasions, they will sacrifice a goat for meat but also use their natural environment as a food or medicine source by making soups and treatments from roots and bark. An important rite of passage is when a young boy becomes a warrior (*il - murrán*) which begins with the mother shaving her son's head and the performance of the circumcision ceremony. The *il-murrán* period lasts for about five years, during which time the young men have their pick of the unmarried girls in villages. Once the warrior becomes a senior *il-murrán*, he is allowed to marry (a 12-15 yr old) and must pay a bride price of cattle and sheep to the bride's family. On the wedding day, the elders perform rituals and as the bride leaves for her new home with her husband she passes through two rows of elders who bless her.

We feel lucky to have been able to travel through Samburu land accompanied by these

warm and loving people. They never appeared to have a down moment – always dancing and singing songs as we walked rhythmically down the dry river bed with the camel caravan. They have seemingly so little, yet they have more than we will ever truly understand. 



Our Samburu Bush Guide



## A Love Affair that Benefits All



The African environment is full of examples of mutual relationships between species, from the whistling thorn acacias and their resident ants, to the cellulose-digesting protozoans in the guts of worker termites. The most stunning example of a symbiotic relationship in the tropics begins with the majestic fig trees. With over 800 species, fig trees (*Ficus spp.*) are considered a keystone species as they influence the ecosystems and lives of thousands of animals and plants. The fruits of the fig tree, which ripen in a staggered rather than seasonal manner, provide food for birds, primates and insects. In addition, the trees themselves create islands of habitat in practically every tropical ecosystem from dense forests to deserts. Interestingly, the fate of fig trees is intertwined with a miniscule wasp, barely visible to the naked eye. Each species of fig tree requires fertilization from only one or two species of fig wasps – an example of complex coevolution.

The fruit of the fig tree, known as the synconium, is actually an enclosed cluster of small flowers with male, female and sterile parts. At the end of the fig is a small opening called an ostiole. It is through this opening that the female fig wasp (the size of a pinhead) enters the fig. The opening is so small that she tears off her wings to obtain entry. Only her progeny will escape the fig. Once inside, pollen from the “mother” fig she escaped from is deposited on the flowers. She then seeks out the sterile flowers to lay her eggs in. After laying her eggs, with specially long ovipositor, exhausted and injured, her life's work is done and she dies. The fig, now pollinated, begins to develop into a fruit as do the male and female eggs laid by the wasp. The male wasps hatch first. Wingless and hunch backed they are rather grotesque with their only striking feature being their aedeagus (penis) which is the entire length of their body. With this highly evolved organ the male wasp mates with the unhatched larval females by piercing the

walls of the sterile flowers that house them. After the males have mated they chew a hole through the fig to the outside world. Tragically, for all their efforts they never escape and die in exhaustion from creating the escape hole. The females after continuing their development soon hatch out of their floral chambers already mated. They make their way to the small opening created by the male wasps, and covered with pollen from the male flowers, fly out into the world to begin the cycle again. How these miniscule wasps, covered with pollen and their large ovipositor, travel the distances between correct species of isolated fig trees (up to 20 miles apart) remains a mystery. 