



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

Partnerships for Education and Wildlife Preservation

November 2005

Snapshots from FKSW Safari #2--- January 5-31, 2005

Masai Mara Game Preserve (Jan. 9-12)

"JAMBO", one of the camp staff calls softly from outside our tent. Jambo means "hello" in Swahili. "Jambo," we answer and get up and dress by lantern light as he fills the canvas sinks with hot water. It smells wonderfully of campfire smoke. We wash the sleep out of our eyes, and emerge from our tent in the dark. We help ourselves to coffee, tea and ginger biscuits in the dining tent and then gather with the others around the campfire, which has been burning all night. The cars are ready for our morning game drive and we're just waiting for Mike's signal to be off. As dawn begins to erase the stars from the sky, Koreto, our Maasai game spotter appears, wrapped in his red *shuka* against the morning chill, and as if it were his arrival for which we waited, Mike calls to us that it's time to leave. So begins a typical day on safari.

Kachuru Village (Jan 21-22)

After bumping along for an hour and a half on the dusty ribbon of road that heads west out of Isiolo, we arrived in the village of Kachuru, where we would spend the next two days working with the community to build a new school. A laughing throng of children surrounded the cars and ran alongside shouting "jambo!" and "how are you?" They pointed in the direction of the construction site we had chosen last October. Waiting for us under the large acacia tree that would shade the front of the new building were the members of the school committee and many other villagers, ready to participate in the coming excitement.



During the next 48 hours, we completed the foundation and all of the framing for the new nursery school. The children and the women helped to collect rocks for the foundation, and the men cleared the site, mixed the concrete and put up the framework. There is no electricity or running water in Kachuru, so all the work was done by hand with tools we had brought with us from Oregon. The children carried water in large jugs to the building site to mix the cement. We built and painted a blackboard and left materials for the completion of the school, which would be supervised by the village chief and the local contractor we had hired.

We also delivered school supplies, desks and benches, teacher salary and two student scholarships. After a party for the 80 children under the big acacia tree, the women, in their vibrantly colorful garments danced and sang for forty five wonderful minutes to the rhythm of a drum made from a plastic water jug.



The Tana River to Lamu (Jan 24-30)

During the next week, our safari took us through the wild Tana River country, an area that has just recently been opened for tourism. Home to a number of nomadic tribes, the Tana provided us with a glimpse of a very different way of life. We were amazed at the thousands and thousands of camels, cattle, goats, and sheep gathered at each water hole in this hot, arid country. Several times, we had to compete for rights to the road with large herds of camels, the wooden bells around their necks clunking a chorus as they ran clumsily in front of us. We saw red colobus monkeys at the Tana River Primate Reserve, one of only two places in the world where they live. We ended the journey at the coast, staying for two days at the beach where we swam in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and then traveled on to Lamu, the oldest Arab seaport in Africa. A Muslim town, Lamu was a fascinating place to spend the last few days before returning home.

Roosevelt Middle School Active and Caring Teens & “A Taste of Kenya”

Marty Smith’s Active and Caring Teens (ACT) classes at Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene are making a big difference for the community of Longicharo, Kenya. The ACT class gives students an opportunity to learn about local and global agencies that are responsive to the needs of others. Each year the students raise funds and then select several agencies to be recipients of their fundraising efforts. For two years, the students have selected FKSWS as their global project and have raised \$1600 for us! They have adopted the school at Longicharo, and have specifically asked that the funds be used for scholarships for 3 students from the village to attend eight years of primary school. They are also paying the salary for Grace Koinale, the nursery school teacher, and providing educational supplies for the school.

The students are not just fundraising, but also learning about the people and the culture of Longicharo. To share their experience and efforts with others, they held an evening event in the school gym on May 5. “A Taste of Kenya” was a huge success, drawing a crowd of approximately 200 family members and friends. When the guests arrived, the 70 students, wearing colorful *kangas*, traditional African sarongs from Kenya, invited them to enjoy the murals of African scenes they had painted and artifacts and photos from Kenya provided by FKSWS. The school choir sang several songs, one in Swahili and they also danced and drummed.



Loice Lemukut, 11 year old ACT scholarship recipient



Yaayo Lesautet,
9 year old ACT scholarship recipient

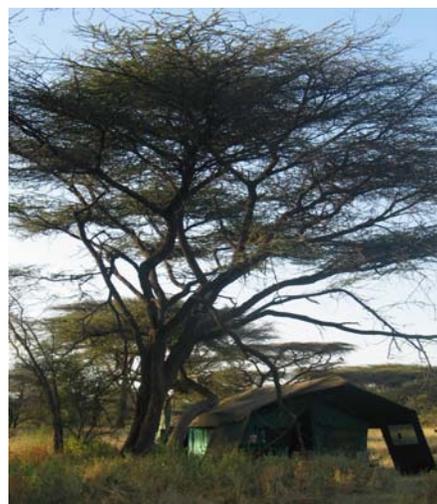
Several students worked with Mark Zolun, chef and co-owner of Iraila Mediterranean Rustica Restaurant across the street from the school, to prepare a lamb tagine for guests to enjoy. They also served chapatis made by Taste of India, Kenyan coffee and other snacks. The students explained to the audience their involvement in the project, and then everyone watched a 30 minute video about the 2004 FKSWS safari to Kenya, which included footage from Longicharo.

With some of the funds from the \$1000 the students raised at this event, they purchased a hand made school bell that the FKSWS Safari 2006 will present to the Longicharo school committee in January when they visit the village. The classes are currently planning “A Taste of Kenya 2006” to be held again in May.

We commend Marty and her students, not only for the significant contributions they have made to Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife, but also for their efforts on behalf of all the agencies they support. We look forward to working with them again in the coming year.

Memorable Moments from Safari

- ∂ Glowing lanterns at night
- ∂ Great food, especially the traditional African food
- ∂ The tea fields in Kericho
- ∂ Hearing the wind at night on the edge of the Great Rift Valley
- ∂ Sunrise at Lake Baringo
- ∂ Standing up in the car on night game drives with the wind blowing in my face
- ∂ Hearing cheetahs purr
- ∂ Riding the camels to breakfast at Sabuk
- ∂ The night kill in the Masai Mara with the pride of lions and the eland
- ∂ Looking out over the sea from my room at the top of the Wildebeeste Gallery in Lamu



FKSW Scholarship Recipients

Every year, the school committee in each of our 5 villages selects two students to receive a scholarship which covers uniforms, books, shoes, geometry set and miscellaneous school fees. Once selected, a student will receive funds yearly through the 8th grade. Currently, every child is sponsored by a donor. Here are 6 of our 22 current scholarship recipients.



Naipante Ntokoiwuan

Naipante is 10 and in second grade. She has 1 brother and 3 sisters and her favorite subject is English. She loves to play netball. Naipante is Maasai and lives in Aitong.



Nchuishia Koonyi

Nchuishia is 10 and is in second grade. She has 4 brothers and 4 sisters. Her favorite subject is English. She loves volleyball. Nchuishia is Maasai and lives in Aitong.



Mpaason Lebene

Mpaason is 8 and in first grade. She has 3 brothers and 1 sister. Her favorite subject is English and she loves jumprope and running. Mpaason is Njemps and lives in Longicharo.



Elijah Lerima

Elijah is 10 and is in second grade. He has 1 brother and 1 sister. His favorite subject is math and he loves football and running. Elijah is Njemps and lives in Longicharo



Ismael Ibrahim

Ismael is 5 and attends preschool. He has 3 brothers and sisters. He likes to play ball. Ismael is Meru and lives in Kachuru. His father's name is Ibrahim.



Challa Abdulai with her mother

Challa is 5 and attends preschool. She has 1 brother and 1 sister. Challa is Borana and lives in Kachuru. Her mother's name is Amina.

In just two and a half years, we've accomplished so much, thanks to the approximately two hundred individuals who have generously supported our work. The following institutions have contributed a total of \$3325: Levi Strauss Foundation, through its Social Benefits Program, donated matching funds for the hours of volunteer work spent by Katie Reichert on our project; CUNA Mutual Group Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin contributed funds through its Dollars for Doers program at the initiation of Nancy Resnick; the Active and Caring Teens classes at Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene held fundraisers the past two school years; and Socially Responsive Financial Advisers also contributed funds. Together, the individual and institutional contributions amount to over \$18,000 and include donations of items like clothing and educational materials as well as cash. We are extremely grateful to all of you! This support over the past two school years has enabled us to provide the following:

- ◆ educational materials and supplies each term for approximately 300 children
- ◆ 34 one-year scholarships for children to attend primary school
- ◆ partial monthly teacher salary for 8 nursery school teachers
- ◆ materials and labor for construction of a school at Longicharo Village
- ◆ materials and labor for construction of a school at Kachuru Village
- ◆ materials and labor for construction of toilets at Waso and Kachuru
- ◆ materials and labor for construction of a foundation for a school at Edonyo Narok
- ◆ materials for the foundation of a new classroom at Aitong
- ◆ medical aid for treatment of malaria and trachoma at Longicharo, Kachuru, and Waso
- ◆ 49 desks and benches
- ◆ emergency assistance (food, clothing, shelter) to the people of Longicharo during a temporary evacuation of their village because of raids by a neighboring tribe
- ◆ neem trees for a planting project at Waso
- ◆ soccer uniforms and balls for the children in all 5 villages
- ◆ materials and labor for an outdoor kitchen at Waso (the Kenyan government will provide food for the children for two meals a day if a community builds a kitchen)
- ◆ 47 handknit sweaters and so much more!!

If you'd like to help support our efforts, here's how... \$25 provides educational supplies for one school for one term or 5 bags of cement for flooring or one swing, soccer ball or volley ball or 60 neem trees for shade in schoolyards. \$40 provides a scholarship for one child for one year or desks and benches for 16 children or 5 malaria nets. \$60 provides a teacher's salary for one term or 12 tubes of ointment to treat eye infections (trachoma); \$100 buys corrugated tin for a roof on a one-room school or lumber for the walls or playground equipment for one school.

FKSW Safari #3 ---January 13 - 31, 2006

Kubwa sana in Swahili means "very big" and *kubwa sana* describes our next FKSWSafari. We are at full capacity with 15 participants. Our major projects on this trip: beginning construction on a school in Edonyo Narok; repairs on the school at Longicharo after problems with a neighboring tribe resulted in some minor damage; finishing touches on the school and a water project at Kachuru; fencing, finishing the new toilets and the tree project at Waso. In Nairobi, we'll visit the offices of the Green Belt Movement, and then spend time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and Shaba and Nakuru National Parks. We'll ride camels, swim and learn about Samburu culture at Il Ingwesi Lodge on the Laikipia Plateau, and we'll spend one night at the ARK, an historic tree lodge in the Aberdare Mountains built on the Yasabara waterhole which attracts a large variety of game.

Although we haven't set dates for next year, we'll likely have a safari in January 2007. We have a growing list already of interested people. There is also the possibility of a Summer 2006 Safari- let us know if you'd like to come along, or need more information. Some of the costs are discounted and much of the cost of safari is tax deductible for travelers.

Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. You may send contributions to the following address or for more information, contact us at:

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