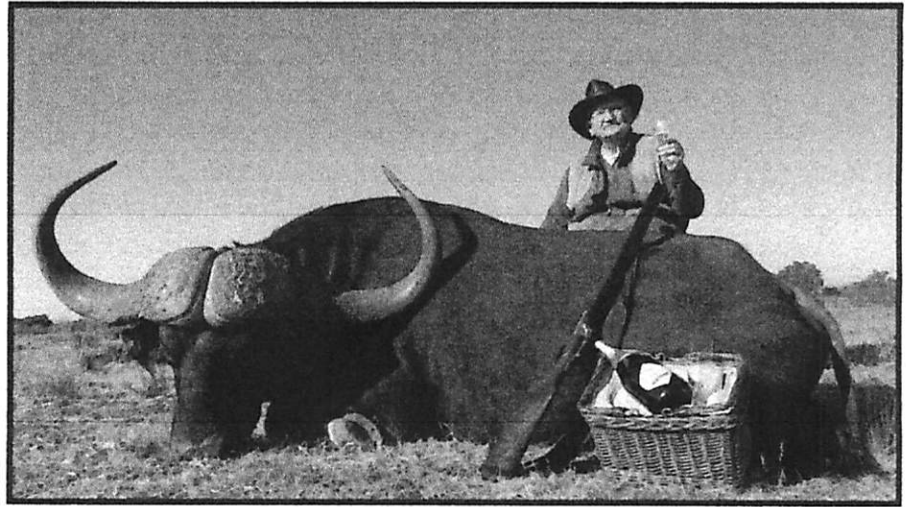


The second part of our 2019 trip to South Africa took us to Makhulu Safaris and Game Lodge (Makhulu means big!) about an hour's drive from Kimberley in the Free State.

We had originally planned to visit friends, but that fell through and we already had plane reservations! What to do? We didn't get a donated hunt, but we had met Heinrich and Angelique from Makhulu Safaris at the SCI chapter dinner in 2018 and decided to hunt with them.

Once again we spent the night at the City Hotel at O.R. Tambo airport in Johannesburg before flying to Kimberley. The Kimberley airport is small so it was easy for Henk and Elma Vorster, the owners of Makhulu, to find us. Henk was a great help in collecting our rifles and dealing with paperwork.

We were made to feel welcome at once. We were to be the only folks staying on the property, though a group did come in one day to hunt a buffalo. The food was delicious and plentiful. The entire Makhulu staff was great. Rika in the Makhulu office was a terrific help to us throughout our visit. The lodge is what I would expect an African safari lodge to look like. It was very comfortable and inviting. I loved the thatched roof and lots of windows. Most of the buildings on the property are brick and thatch. Our room was a separate bungalow (they call them chalets) located



Gunard Mahl celebrating his second Cape Buffalo in 2019

very close to an enclosure where a pride of lions resided. (One of several prides making up the 100 or so lions on the property now. At one time, Henk had over 500 lions. When the U.S. stopped the importation of lion trophies he lost a large part of his market.) The double fencing was approximately 10 yards from the back wall of our chalet. The lions roar at night, and it sounds like they are right under the bedroom window! I loved hearing them! When we arrived in our room the first evening, on our bed were two safari shirts with our names embroidered on them. We got embroidered hats at the end of the trip. Our chalet was quite large and had a kitchenette where we could make coffee or tea and keep cold drinks in the fridge. It also had a large shower and tub.

Henk and Elma's son, Heinrich, was our PH for the duration of our safari. He really knows the property and how to find the animals we were interested in. As Gunard had injured his knee at African Field Sports (a torn meniscus & ligament), it was difficult for him to get in and out of the truck and to

generally walk around. They hauled a step around to make it easier for him! Heinrich managed to drive the vehicle up quite close to the animals so Gunard was able to get the animals he wanted. Heinrich knew which animals were trophy worthy at a glance and where to find them.

The land at Makhulu was very different from that at AFS. It was flat and grassy for the most part, though there were rocky hills. There were lots of trees and scattered brush. No shortage of termite mounds! I found it very beautiful. Makhulu is the home of many different species of animals—some we had never heard of until this trip. There was lots of game to view as we drove around each of the five days we were there for hunting. It still awes me to see so many beautiful animals in their natural habitat.

We never knew there was a golden or a Kings wildebeest. Both are prettier than the more common blue or black. Gunard had already

taken a blue and a black wildebeest, but he decided to go for the complete four animal wildebeest grand slam at Makhulu. First was the Kings wildebeest. Then came the golden, the blue, and the black wildebeest, all on the same day. What beautiful animals. Gunard also completed his springbok slam with the copper and the white. The other animals that will be gracing our trophy wall are a white blesbuck, a Burchell's zebra, a white flanked impala, and a lesser kudu.

The real prize, though, was a 47 inch Cape buffalo. Gunard wanted an even bigger one than the one he got at AFS, so Henk produced one for him! The day of that hunt, we had quite an entourage. Henk drove the big vehicle and Gunard, Heinrich, and I were on top of the truck. There were also three others along for the ride. Even more when the team arrived to load the critter up to take it back to the skinning shed! They really celebrate a buffalo trophy. They brought a basket with a bottle of champagne and glasses for all to celebrate. Gunard used his double rifle and made the kill with one shot!

We learned that the ruff that stands up on a springbok's back when they are running flattens out almost at once when they die and will not stand up again. Also, we learned that for a short time immediately after they are shot, the animal's eyes are a beautiful turquoise blue. I have a wonderful picture of Gunard reflected in the blue eye of his buffalo.

Another exciting part of this trip was seeing the lions being fed. A



Lions Feeding



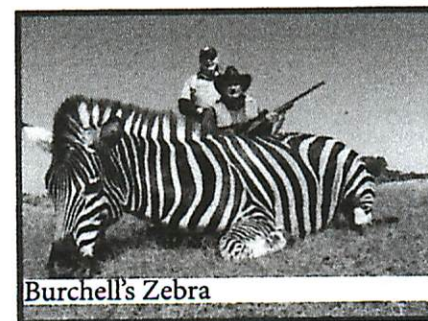
Golden Wildebeeste



Kings Wildebeeste



White Springbok



Burchell's Zebra

neighbor had a horse that died that he offered to Henk for the lions. They load the horse into the back of a pickup and drive it into the enclosure with the lions. The lions drag the animal out of the truck and tuck in! We watched this "up close and personal".

We ended our 2019 trip to S.A. with a road trip from Makhulu to Cape Town and back (2000 miles or more). On the way we saw a great deal of the country and the coastline. We were on the road for 9 days accompanied by Henk and Elma. We stayed in lovely, old lodges and hotels. What they must have been like in their heyday! We visited Canga Caves (5th largest of its type in the world) and an ostrich farm. We also drove through the town where Christian Barnard was born and saw a museum dedicated to him. This road trip took us through the Free State, and Eastern, Western, and Northern Cape Provinces. Great way to see the country.

Cape Town would definitely warrant another trip with more time there. We visited Table Mountain (6,000 feet) the first day there. We took the tram to the top, and what a view. The weather was clear and quite a comfortable temperature for winter. The second day, Table Mountain was covered by clouds. We took an open top bus tour around the city and the mountain. Sadly, it wasn't as warm as the day before, but the tour really took in a lot. We also had a great view of the city from the Cape Town Eye. We just have to go back to see the places we didn't have time to *get off* the bus for!

Before heading back to the Kimberly airport to start our journey home, we visited the Kimberly Open Pit Diamond Mine site. Too bad it hasn't operated in a good many years. It was very interesting, nevertheless. No samples, though.

All in all, our trip to Makhulu was a fabulous experience that we would recommend it to anyone. There was great hunting, great animal viewing,

and great people there. We would love to be able to go there again. How lucky we were to have met Heinrich and Angelique at the last SCI chapter dinner.

Makhulu Safaris will once again be donating to our Annual Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. You will be

able to meet Henrick and Angelique at the event and hear more about this great hunt and others!

Plan to attend on March 7, 2020 at the Foster City Crowne Plaza.



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Look for Robert and Pam at the 2020 Annual Greater Bay Area Fundraiser! Their donation will be in the Live Auction.