

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 1/2016

Dear BOTSFA members

2016 is a year of great excitement for Dumela and BOTSFA. Botswana will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Independence on September 30. At least 45 BOTSFA members will be travelling from Sweden to Botswana to be part of the celebrations. They will be joined by BOTSFA members living in Botswana. Among the participants from Sweden will be two to three who were born when Botswana attained independence. Dumela toasts to the birthdays!

The project led by five BOTSFA members to produce a book in commemoration of the Independence Anniversary is nearing completion. The book, entitled »Botswana – Sweden 50 years of Partnership, 1966–2016« goes to print in early June and will be launched both in Sweden and Botswana in September. The project is presumably the first ever collection of reflections, stories and photographs on the relationship between a donor and an aid recipient. The relationship that started as development assistance, evolved, with time, into business partnerships and cultural exchanges. BOTSFA became a strong social link among Swedes who worked and/or lived in Botswana dating back to the early 1970s. This was when Sida established an office

in Gaborone and sent experts from various fields to work in Botswana. Friendships also emerged between Swedes and Botswana, part of the reason why a contingent of 45+ BOTSFA members will be travelling to Botswana for the celebrations. The love for Botswana and Botswana has continued to grow over the years.

In this issue, you will be treated to notes made by Staffan Strand, a taxidermist who worked at the National Museum and Art Gallery in the 1970–80s and who travelled far and wide to develop the museum in Gaborone. In his diary, from 1974, he takes us through a trip to Tsodilo Hills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dumela also introduces a new column by Swedish Honorary Consul, Kent Nilsson, which updates us on news from Botswana.

BOTSFA'S AGM 2016, held in Stockholm on March 19, attracted 60 participants. Yes, the association has continued to grow from strength to strength – BOTSFA, a place where friends meet!

Julia Majaha-Järtby
BOTSFA, Chairperson



FROM
AGM
2016



PHOTO PerJärtby

Welcome to BOTSFA!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Individual: SEK 175
- Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15)
- Student: SEK 100
- Institution: SEK 500

Plusgiro 85 10 39-8, or Bankgiro 428-6472

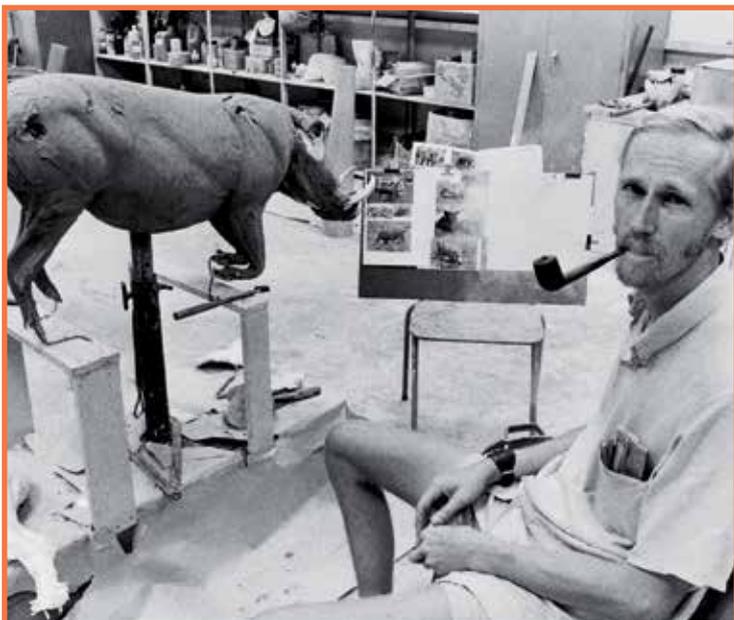
For an update of records, please send an e-mail to AndersHj@botsfa.nu if you have changed contact details or are paying as a new member.

visit us on www.botsfa.nu

FROM THE DIARY

of a Taxidermist at the National Museum and Art Gallery, Staffan Strand

TEXT Staffan Strand
PHOTO courtesy of Staffan Strand



I arrived in Gaborone in April 1974 to take up a position as taxidermist and to assist in the development of future exhibitions at the then National Museum and Art Gallery.

My family and I had lived in Nairobi, Kenya, since 1968 during which time I worked at Zimmerman Ltd, a company mainly preparing trophies for foreign hunters. I wanted to go back to museum life where the display of history and the present are of interest to the public. A museum has also an important role as educator.

Soon after my arrival in Gaborone, I engaged in the building of dioramas (dooms with background paintings and foregrounds with natural material and animals) showing the different habitats of Botswana that are amongst the best. There are also dioramas with people. We were about 20 people running the museum at the time.

Tues 29th Oct.

Left Maun 6:30 a.m. Arrived at Drotsky's caves 8:30 p.m. "Discovered" 1932 by Martines Drotsky, a Polish farmer.

En route we saw eland, gemsbok, wildebeest, brown hyena and some springhares. Collected gabar goshawk, bennet's woodpecker and 3 bush squirrels. We shot 12 guinea fowls and 3 partridges for food. Made supper in a 3-legged pot. Fowls plus squirrels and woodpecker.

Went into the cave 11:30 pm. Got out 12:30 after a mistake. Walked somehow in a circle and got out onto our own tracks. A leopard had followed us. Saw also porcupine tracks. Put up rodent traps. Got to be some interesting mice here. Lots of bats. Absolutely fantastic.

Wed 30th Oct.

Went into the same cave in the morning, 6:45. Took pictures. Nothing in the traps. The baits were eaten by cockroaches. Came out 9:30. Further in 11:00. Out 1:15. Fresh leopard tracks. Collected beetle shells and two bat skeletons. Two Bushmen in camp. They told us of shortcut. Left 2:45. Lost the track after 5 miles. I ran in front and

bush-wacked out to the main track. We gained two hours and at least 22 miles. Saw warthog, honey badger and bat-eared fox. On the main track after 94 miles at 10:30 p.m. Camped. Bird stew.

Thur 31st Oct.

Off 6:45 a.m. Drove solid until 2:40. Arrived at Tsodilo Hills. Put up camp and took it easy. Wait for Bodo to come by air. He didn't. A hell of a track 130 odd miles. Dinner guinea fowl. Collected one scorpion by the fire. Birgit's birthday. She and the kids are still in Sweden.

Fri 1st Nov.

Collected 5 scorpions in the morning 3 male and 2 female. Dug them out. (One puts a straw into the hole. Then dig following the straw). There are lots. 7:45. Looked for rock paintings. Photographed, measured and sketched. Lunch 3:15. Out again till dark. Found new paintings. I found two that Alec hadn't seen before. Supper guinea fowl. Bodo didn't come today either. Collected 1 scorpion, male. In camp 8:05 pm. Into a pot with the others. Males are fighting. One is about to die. The one from yesterday dead. One of the females also dead. Prob-

Staffan Strand worked and lived in Botswana for 7–8 years. He took up bronze sculpturing, which he continues to do from his Östhammar home in Sweden.



ably too hot as well. In the burros it is moist and cooler.

Getting tired of guinea fowl. I will look for Kudu tomorrow. There must be good bulls around these hills. We spent the whole day on female hill.

Sat 2nd Nov.

Bodo and Daryl Dandridge (professional hunter) arrived. Went up on male hill looking for klip-springers. So far not found in the area. Didn't find any. Checked paintings male hill.

Sun 3rd Nov.

Checked paintings female hill.

Mon 4th Nov.

Off to Shakawe fishing camp. Met Tim and June Liversedge. They run the camp and make safaris on the river.

Tues 5th Nov.

Went down the river. Collected 1 Malakite Kingfisher, discarded. 2 Giant Kingfishers, 1 Pied Kingfisher, 1 Fischeagle, 1 Long-crested hawk-eagle. Photographed Carmin-breasted Bee-eater colony. Back to Shakawe. Skinned the birds with Joe while the others socialized.

Wed 6th Nov.

Off to Maun. Stayed the night.

Thur 7th Nov.

Off to F-town and thro' to Gaborone. Collected two tortoises. Puncture outside Mahalapye. Arr. Gab. 11 pm.



Dumelang dear Botsfa members!

As some you have heard, we finally received good rains in mid-March, following an extremely hot and dry summer. El Niño hit us hard this last summer, resulting in no rain and extremely hot temperatures. On January 7th, Sanitas recorded an all-time high temperature of 47°C. We have also never had so many days of over 40°C. The effects of El Niño have been more than devastating. Then came heavy rains mid-March, too late for crop farming but good for Gaborone dam which had dropped below 2% by the time the rains came. The dam quickly filled to 19% and is now providing us with water security into the start of the next rainy season. Many of the dams up north are full but we are constrained by having only one pipeline bringing water into Gaborone dam. The new pipeline is only expected to be operational in 2020. We are all very happy and relieved, as the situation was looking very serious.

In March we also had a high level delegation from Sweden visiting Gaborone and Sanitas/Swedish Consulate. The delegation comprised Vice Chancellors from 13 Swedish universities, accompanied by representatives from several agencies and the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria. Leading the delegation was the Deputy Minister of Higher Education in Sweden, Dr Karin Röding, together with Dr Andreas Göthenberg, Executive Director of STINT. The objective of the visit was to initiate contacts for possible cooperation between the Swedish universities and their Botswana counterparts. I got the impression that the delegates were very happy with the visit and that we will be seeing some positive developments.

Greetings from a nice and, now, »not so hot« Gaborone.

*Kent Nilsson
Swedish Honorary Consul*





1st

Photo Competition 2015 Theme »FRIENDS«

- 1st prize Lillie Lock
 2nd prize Lillie Lock
 3rd prize Ulf Söderström



CONGRATULATIONS!



2nd

IT IS TIME FOR THE ANNUAL BOTSFA PHOTO COMPETITION

You are invited to submit 1–3 photos.
 The theme for the 2016 competition is »INDEPENDENCE«.

RULES:

- The picture(s) should have been taken by the member
- Prints, slides, scanned or digital images
- Closing date is 31 January 2017
- All entries may be printed in Dumela or shown on BOTSFA's website

Images may be sent electronically to per@jartby.com
 or by mail to: Per Järtby, Olof Skötkonungs väg 25, 193 32 Sigtuna, Sweden.

The pictures will be anonymously judged by a jury to be constituted.

GOOD LUCK!



3rd



Andrea Petitt, BOTSFA member, defended her PhD thesis entitled: **Women's cattle ownership in Botswana. Rebranding gender relations?** The defence was held on 15 April 2016 at SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) in Uppsala. The research focused on cattle breeding in the Ghanzi District and the complex processes in the intersection of gender, ethnicity, 'race' and class in relation to the potential of ownership for women's economic and social empowerment.

Dumela congratulates Dr Andrea Petitt and wishes her well in her future endeavours.



BOTSFA's longtime member Hedda Beckman passed away in Stockholm on 7 January 2016 at 73 years of age. Hedda came to Botswana with her family in 1975 and stayed until 1984,

during which time she worked for Sida and the Embassy of Sweden in Gaborone. She also extended her support to the Swedish School and other projects of interest to the welfare of the Swedish community and the country that became her second home, Botswana. Hedda is survived by her sons, Filip and Frans Nylin and their families.

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO BOTSWANA

Forty-seven BOTSFA members will be travelling from Sweden to be part of the multitudes that will be celebrating Botswana's 50th Anniversary of Independence. BOTSFA has 13 of its members living in Botswana, bringing the total of the association's presence during the celebrations to an awesome 60 persons! In addition to participation on Independence Day, September 30th, there are other activities scheduled for the group, including but not limited to two of BOTSFA's projects.

BOTSWANA 50 COMMEMORATION BOOK

The editors of »BOTSWANA – SWEDEN 50 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP 1966–2016« are in the process of completing the project, in readiness for the manuscript to go to print in early June. The book is a pictorial and narrative collection of experiences in building institutions and long-lasting relations between the two countries. It is a result of contributions by a diverse number of authors and interviewees, sharing stories about achievements and challenges in a development journey. A brain-child of BOTSFA, the project has received considerable support from the Embassy of Botswana in Stockholm, Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and authorities in Botswana, among others.