

Sanibel Woman Devoted To African Wildlife Sanctuary

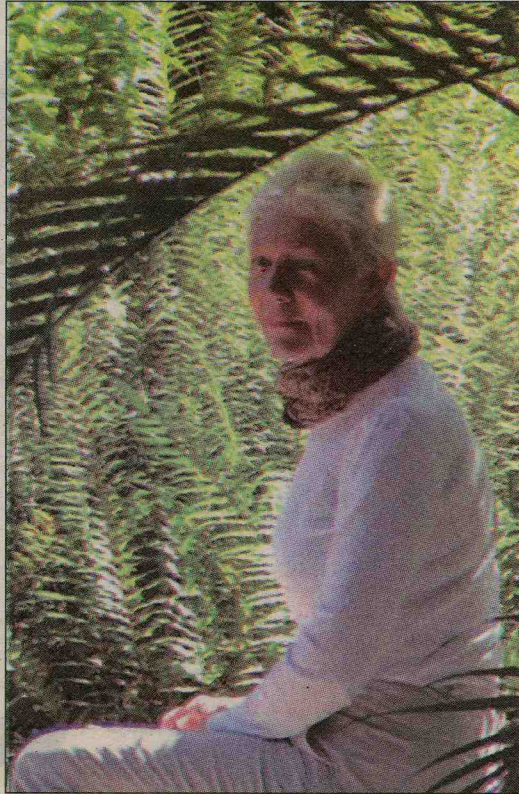
by Di Saggau

In the Kingdom of the Zulu, near Bayala, South Africa, there is a unique wildlife sanctuary consisting of 6,200 acres, where about 12 thousand animals of various species and sizes live in a serene, calm and safe environment. The woman behind this effort is Sanibel resident Fleur Wales-Baillie. The official name is the Khumbula Thina Mountain Sanctuary, an old cattle farm that Wales-Baillie purchased in 2000 through her foundation, Khumbula Thina Trust, which in the Zulu tongue means "Remember Us."

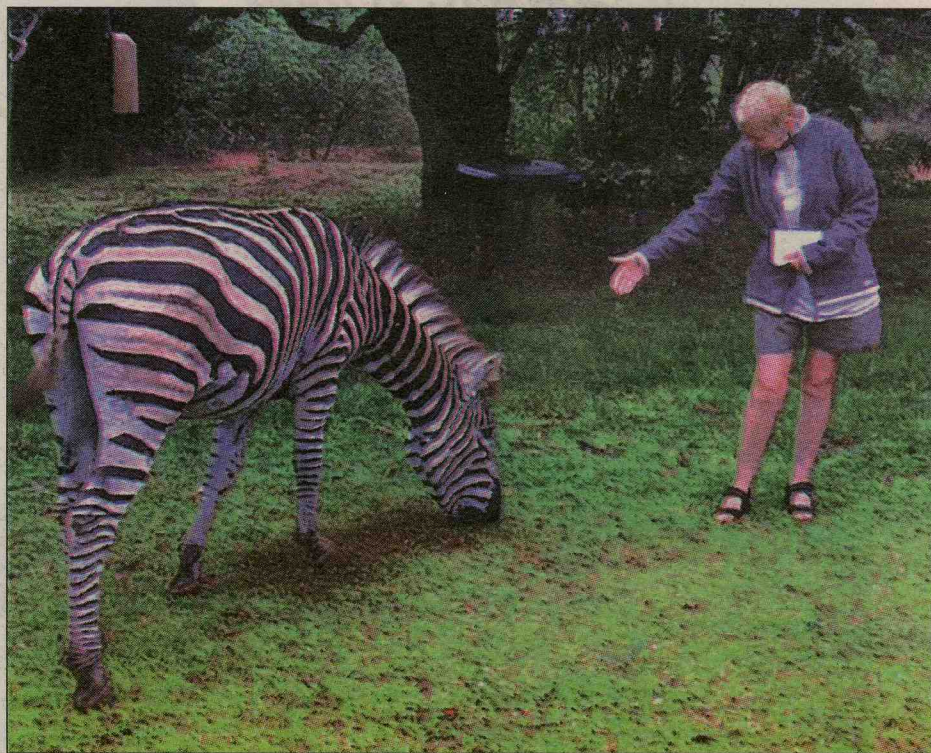
The foundation is funded by private individuals. Wales-Baillie has not begun fundraising drives because she's been too busy getting the sanctuary on its feet. She said, "I didn't feel I could ask for money from others if I didn't put my own heart and soul and finances into it first."

Once the property was purchased Wales-Baillie and her workers cleared the land of thorn scrub and other invasives so that natural vegetation could flourish.

continued on page 4B



Fleur Wales-Baillie



A striped four-legged friend



Khumbula Thina Trust

Pine Top Lodge

P.O. Box 309

Great Cacapon WV, 25422



Phone: (304) 947-7309 / Fax: (304) 947-5509 / twoleopard@aol.com / twoleopard@earthlink.net

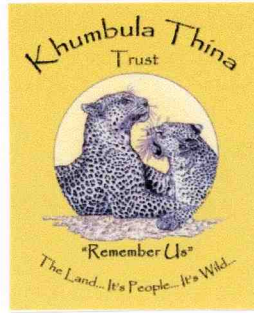
Sanibel Woman



Rare ground hornbills

With mountainous valleys and different levels of flat land, hills and rivers, the needs of all the wildlife are met. This includes giraffes, elephants, buffalo, impala, wildebeasts, and others. Wales-Baillie said there is usually one leopard on a farm, but she has 13 living on her land. "They will stand and look at you in the middle of the day. They have never heard a bullet, never been chased. We don't even allow helicopters over the property."

During a celebration on the release of President Nelson Mandela from prison, held at the South African Embassy in Washington DC, Wales-Baillie and her husband Richard Cook had occasion to chat briefly with then South African President FW de Klerk. Wales-Baillie outlined the future plans for her foundation in South Africa and de Klerk suggested that she return to implement her conservation ideas in the country of her birth. Wales-Baillie told me, "I had seen previous African countries decimate the wildlife. Financing had been removed from the game reserves by the government in favor of building houses and schools. I didn't want to see the wildlife neglected and felt my small input might encourage the government to support conservation in South Africa. Our sanctuary now reflects what Zululand was 100 to 150 years ago, all natural vegetation where animals live out their lives with dignity and peace."



The sanctuary means a great deal to the Zulu community. Wales-Baillie stated her thoughts clearly. "They are so proud to have what they feel is a community game reserve. They are involved in the wonderful rejuvenation of bringing the wilderness back and it has given them training and job opportunities.

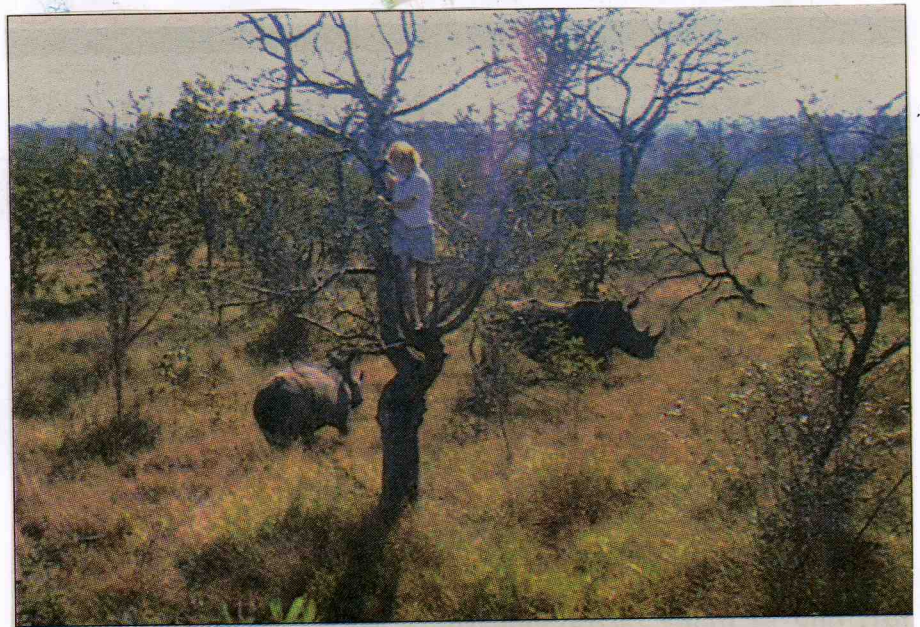
Only community people work there. I have four highly trained game guards, farm staff and two assistants. I'm happy to say, probably for the first time in history, we have a Zulu manager, Isaac Dlamini. He also serves as advisor to our local Chief Tabethe. For the first time in six years things are going like clockwork. Everyone is pulling together and everyone is happy."

She went on to say, "Our animals are not domestically tame, but they are un-stressed. They don't run when they see you. This is because we don't hunt or cull the herds. You always know it's a hunting farm if the animals run away. I could get hundreds of thousands of dollars if I allowed hunting, but that would be anathema to what we stand for."



Wales-Baillie with lion cub

In 2005 Wales-Baillie and her crew drilled into an artesian well at 108 meters. She said, "This was the greatest day of my life. No more waking up in the middle of the night absolutely sick with worry on how to provide water for all those animals during the seven-year drought. Happily we can provide water for the chief, his community and their livestock in times of need."



Keeping out of the way of two rhinos



Ubombo Mountain Range – In The Kingdom of The Zulu

She has been vigilant on the subject of preserving the habitat for gopher tortoises on the island. She also holds several aviation licenses and has flown many types of airplanes around the world. She became the first woman in the world ever to qualify for a Pilot/Engineer Ticket in a Boeing 747 at United Airlines Flight School in Denver in May 1977.

By the time you read this article, Wales-Baillie will be back on her sanctuary in the Kingdom of the Zulu, doing what she loves, caring for its wildlife and the community.

For information about the Khumbula Thina Mountain Sanctuary visit www.khumbula.org or email twoleopard@earthlink.net if you have questions for Wales-Baillie. ✨

The long term goal for the sanctuary is to bring back more wilderness areas and bring in the indigenous animals that have been shot out. Wales-Baillie said, "Our animals are so well cared for they are breeding profusely. I'm going to be bred out of house and home if this continues. If we get too many animals, I'll expand into other locations and move the animals with passive capture."

A Sanibel resident since 1995, Wales-Baillie has long been interested in conservation. In 1998, her foundation sponsored and paid for a trip to Africa for CROW's Dr. PJ Deitchel to introduce U.S. veterinary medicine advances to the care of wildlife in southern Africa.



5B
ISLAND SUN - MARCH 9, 2007

Elephants with baby Khumbula



Wales-Baillie surveying the site of a watering hole



This is what 144,000 liters per hour looks like while drilling for water



The watering hole in its finished form