



Eye Pro Leads African Outreach

Continues Work to Save Endangered Animals

By John P. Ribner

Eye Pro, Inc. and three other tanning industry companies recently helped endangered animals in Africa while helping many people there, too.

Brenda Fishbaugh, Eye Pro President, is known as a lover of exotic and endangered animals. For years, she's logged countless hours of her time – and plenty of her own money – helping various wildlife charities. This year, she and her husband Steve Fishbaugh, made their second trip to Kenya, Africa to help endangered rhinoceroses ... and many Kenyans, as well. Eye Pro's efforts were aided by generous donations from industry leaders Insurtec, Light Sources, Inc. and Wolff System Technology Corp.

"Back in 2008, our friends from Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, WA told us about the Lewa Conservancy, a renowned rhino sanctuary in central Kenya, and Steve and I visited it in February 2010," Brenda said. "While we were there, we checked on the status of rhino, zebra and elephant poaching, and

were both inspired and horrified by our findings. Since the rhino horn is highly valued in traditional Asian medicines, poachers can earn a lot of money for just one of the animal's horns. Poachers are also paid big money for obtaining 'bush-meat' – endangered animal meat – which is considered a delicacy in parts of Europe and Asia."

Brenda says the poaching situation is a sad and complicated one, considering the lives that some Kenyans lead. "Many

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of the people there wouldn't normally wish to shoot and kill a rhino or other endangered animal; but, for many, it's a choice between feeding their families or starving," Brenda said. "The money the hunters earn often provides for their families for months. It's very, very sad. The strategy of the Lewa Conservancy

is to provide Kenyans with alternative means of thriving, which discourages them from poaching, and it continues to be successful."

On their most recent trip to Kenya, Brenda and Steve supplied several schools with hundreds of pencils from Insurtec, light-up pens from Light Sources and flashlights from Light Sources and Wolff. Eye Pro also supplied stethoscopes, antiseptic wipes and bandages to the three medical clinics

in the area, as well as high-tech, LED flashlights to the guards and drivers of Lewa. "I want to send out a huge 'thank you' to Insurtec, Light Sources and Wolff for providing these much-needed donations," Brenda said. "They really came through!"

While on their trip, Brenda and Steve were honored to meet Anna Merz, an 80-year-old, London-born woman who began rescuing rhinos at the age of 50. They also visited Joy's Camp, which was founded by Joy Adamson, the naturalist and conservationist who raised "Elsa", the lion featured in the 1966 film, "Born Free." The trip concluded with a stop at the famous Il Ngwesi eco-lodge, which operates on solar power and was designed to blend into its surroundings. "All in all, it was an amazing experience and one we look forward to having again!" Brenda exclaimed.

Lewa Conservancy is a tax-deductible charity. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy cause can contact Brenda Fishbaugh at Brenda@EyePro.net. 



In March 2012, Brenda and Steve Fishbaugh spent 15 days in Kenya, where they re-visited renowned rhino sanctuary, Lewa Conservancy, as well as the famous Masai Mara, where they enjoyed game drives and observed many endangered animals in the wild. The couple also delivered supplies to several Kenyan schools.

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