

# Zambian Knightly News

Ndola to Bagweulu Week 5 Step It Up Make a Difference Zambian Knights

## Kasanka National Park

On our way to Bagweulu Wetlands we are stopping to experience Kasanka National Park. This park was established in 1942. Anyone who visits this park can't help but celebrate its diversity and admire the scenic beauty of the grass plains, swamps, and forests. The most common tree found here is the wild date palm. Poaching was a concern in the 1970's and 1980's but measures have been taken in the last decade to reduce the problem. The "Fibwe" is known to be Africa's, and possibly even the world's, best vantage point for observing the sitatunga antelope. Did you see any bushbuck, reedbuck, sable, duiker, warthogs, vervet monkeys, and baboons? The smaller carnivores like caracal, jackal, civet, genet, cape clawless otter and various mongooses are well represented in the park. Occasionally, lion, leopard, serval, spotted hyena, honey badgers and the African wild have also be seen. Many species typical of the Central African rainforests are found here, like the slender-snouted crocodile and the blue monkey.

One of the park's highlights is its elusive sitatunga antelope. The best time to observe them is at dawn or dusk as they come out to feed.



The Fibwe Hide has a viewing platform 60 ft. above the ground in a "Mululu" African Mahogany tree. It appears there is only one way up!



This is a view from the "Fibwe" overlooking the Kapabi Swamp.



The puku is the most common type of antelope found in the park.



If you climb up to the Fibwe Hide on a late November afternoon, you'll also witness one of Africa's strangest wildlife spectacles. Between about 6:15pm and 6:45pm, some **five million** straw-colored fruit bats will take to the air above you. They have a wingspan of around 39 inches and their diet consists of fruit. For an amazing 20 to 30 minutes the sky is filled as far as you can see with squadron upon squadron of bats, heading off into the twilight.





## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Getting out on foot is perhaps the best way to appreciate all aspects of a wilderness like Kasanka. Walks can be arranged from 1 hour to 5 days! Walking trails of several days are a specialty of Kasanka, as the terrain and vegetation make for easy walking.

The **Bangweulu Wetlands** ecosystem covers a large area, and we are traveling there at the end of the flood season. The seasonal flooding will dictate the wildlife in the swamp. Water levels reach their peak in March but remain high through April and May.



The Bangweulu Wetland is a great place to fish or go bird watching. One of the rare and peculiar looking birds found here is the Shoebill Stork, which resembles the extinct Dodo. The wetlands are one of the few breeding grounds of the shoebill, a large stork-related bird, classified as an endangered species. It is vulnerable because it nests on the ground and only has two offspring per year



### Alpha Xi Delta and Zambia Project are cosponsoring the Zambia Project Spaghetti Dinner.

**100% of all proceeds will go to Zambia Open Community Schools** which provides impoverished children in Zambia with an education that they wouldn't be able to receive otherwise.

Zambia Project Spaghetti Dinner is **Thursday, April 2 at 6pm** in the Hendrickson Dining Room in Bemis. There will be great food, entertainment, and a raffle. All are welcome! Tickets for SNC students are \$10. Tickets for community members, staff, and faculty are \$12. For more information or to reserve your ticket please contact: [avery.garcia@snc.edu](mailto:avery.garcia@snc.edu)

We will be selling tickets Mon - Thursday 4:30 - 7pm, Friday 4:30-5:30pm, and Monday in the Union in front of the entrance to the cafeteria.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### "BIG EVENT FOR LITTLE KIDS"

- Saturday, April 4
- Shifts are from 8:45 AM - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3:30 PM
- Volunteers are needed to dress up as a character, walk in a parade, and interact with children
- Contact Amy Savaglia at [amy.savaglia@snc.edu](mailto:amy.savaglia@snc.edu) for more information

#### "PARENT PROMISE April and May-FT. HOWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

- Monday, April 20 and Monday May 11th
- 5:00 to 7:00 pm
- Volunteers are needed to assist with serving dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 PM
- Volunteers are needed to create crafts and other activities with children from 6:00 to 7:00 PM
- Please contact Paula Breese at 920-432-8899 to sign up

### Congratulations

#### Team Flamingo and Steppin' Out Illiteracy are Weeks 4 and 5 drawing winners!

☺ Captains, enter your team's steps by the end of the day March 31, to be entered into the drawing for Week 6.

☺ Spring is here!! Hope you are getting outside to enjoy the warmer temperatures!

**Hang onto your hat!** We are in for the wild and rough trek during Week 6 traveling from the Bangweulu Wetlands to North Luangwa National Park. Walk On!