

April 2006

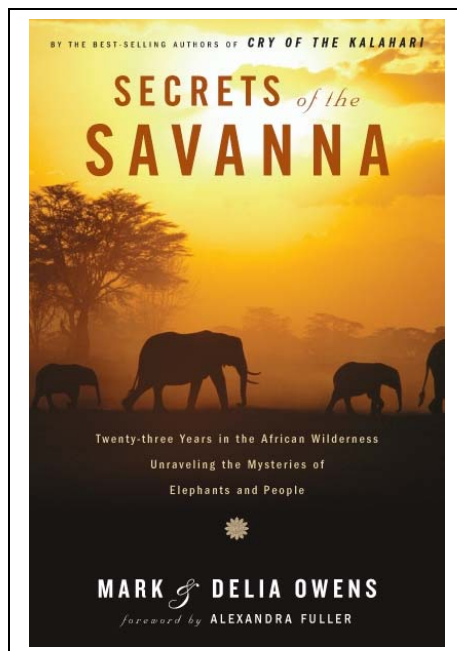
Dear Everybody,

We are so pleased to tell you that our new book, Secrets of the Savanna, will soon be on the bookshelves. The official publication date is May 24, 2006, but you may be able to get it sooner.



When we began writing this book, it was the story of how we ventured into the remote North Luangwa, fording wild rivers and bush bashing across uncharted, ravine-torn terrain to continue our lion study. We had to forgo the lion research when we found that commercial poachers were shooting 1,000 elephants each year, and virtually enslaving many villagers as shooters and porters. We set up a program to assist these desperate people so they would not have to shoot elephants to survive. After ten years, the villagers had sustainable jobs, education and health care and no elephants were being shot. Tourism was developing and the elephants were recovering. It is a happy success story.

But as we continued writing Secrets of the Savanna it became much more to us. Unexpectedly, the venture turned into a journey of self-discovery. Head-on we bumped into insights as to why men and women of our own species behave so differently. As we watched the elephants putting their societies back together, we explored the genetic basis for girl friends and the enhanced competition among males in both elephants and man. Since most of the adult elephants had been shot, the 'teenagers' who remained, led us to fascinating new discoveries of how a species under stress behaves. There were gangs of young aggressive males, 'single moms,' and 'teenage' mothers. As the story of the elephants untangled we learned more and more about ourselves, how similar we are to other creatures, and where our species may or may not be going.



The endearing female orphan *Gift*, who wandered into our camp at the young age of five, taught us more about elephant resiliency than any other. She spent years all alone watching small elephant families from a distance. But she, like the other orphans, had an ace up her trunk, and revealed some of the secrets of their survival to us. In the end, she was a young matriarch herself with a family of five - giving us all hope.

As we shut down the ivory trade, the commercial poachers shifted their sights from the elephants to us. To deal with this last dose of danger, we took a lesson that we learned from the elephants, and applied one of the secrets of the savanna. But wait, we shouldn't tell you too much!

You have been with us through the triumphs and disappointments. We sincerely hope that you enjoy Secrets of the Savanna.

**Secrets of the Savanna**, Mark and Delia Owens  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston, MA  
Publication Date: May 24, 2006  
ISBN 0-395-89310-0 & ISBN 978-0-395-893104

This year our project in Zambia is twenty years old. Hammer Simwinga and his colleagues have continued the work, and it thrives under their stewardship -expanding the project from the initial 14 villages to 52! Income for many villagers is 100 times that of income derived from poaching. Food assurance has doubled. Where there was deprivation there is prosperity.

It takes a lot of money to keep the village work going. Our books are the most effective way we have of reaching people about our work. You can help tremendously by buying **Secrets of the Savanna** and telling others about it. The sooner you go to a bookstore and ask them to order it, the better. The bookstores need to know that there will be interest in the book. In fact, just calling a number of retail book sellers in your area and expressing interest would be a wonderful 'in kind' donation to our conservation work.



*Hammer (center) with Chilvaba children at their new school*

We will be going on a nation-wide tour to promote our work. Below is the schedule as of March. We hope you can join us in one of the lecture cities. We would love to have the opportunity to shake your hand, put a face with the names we know so well, and to thank you in person for your wonderful support!

Many of you have opened your hearts and homes to us on this tour and we want you to know that we are greatly honored and touched by your generosity of spirit. You lift us up and make the work possible.

We have a few open dates if you would like to host a private book signing. It's easy. Just invite some friends and call a book store and they do the rest. Some events are still being arranged – so be sure to check our web site – [www.owens-foundation.org](http://www.owens-foundation.org) - for updates on the schedule. Our tour continues in the fall so if you know anyone who would like to sponsor a lecture, please contact Mary or Tammy with the details (*see below*).

Thank you once again for always being there for us. Speaking at some of these venues is as scary to us as facing a charging elephant. We look forward to looking up, and seeing your faces.

Cheers,  
Delia and Mark

**2006 National Tour Schedule**  
**for details see**

**<http://www.owens-foundation.org/docs/tourschedule.htm>**  
**Lecture Tour**



Photo by Mike Labuscagne

**A coyote calls, and then others, until their yips, yaps and yowls fairly nip at the edges of the marsh. And finally a wolf's long, mournful song rises from the larches at the base of the mountains and soars across the valley. It is alone. I pause to savor the echoes of its last call until they are lost among the peaks and then head for the house again. But, in the gathering darkness, deep behind my soul, someone, something whispers "Africa". --**

**Mark Owens,  
Secrets of the Savanna**



**"By nature, Nature gives." ---  
Delia Owens, Secrets of the Savanna**

**"Between the trees of the forest, amid the thorny undergrowth, under tangles of twisted twigs is a space that is more color than place. It is a grayness painted by drooping limbs and distant branches that blur together and fade into nothingness. It is not a shadow but a pause in the landscape, rarely noticed because our eyes touch the trees, not the emptiness on either side of them. And elephants are the color of this space." ---**

**Delia Owens, Secrets of the Savanna**





## HOW TO HELP

**SPONSOR A FALL LECTURE:** Delia and Mark are offering a professional lecture tour during **September & October 2006** for a base fee of \$7,000, plus travel expenses. If you know anyone (including contacts at private high schools, colleges and or universities, museums, zoological societies, etc.) who would be interested in sponsoring a lecture, or for more information, contact Tammy Johnson (678-648-1267) [padman2@adelphia.com](mailto:padman2@adelphia.com)

**GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT:** We continue to match conservation buyers and donors with critical parcels of grizzly habitat in the Northwest. The constant threats to the grizzlies and all wildlife in our beautiful wild places make it ever more important that we set aside at least a small portion of the land for these wild neighbors.

**MATCHING DONATIONS:** Some companies match employee and retiree donations to accredited 501(c)(3) non-profits such as the Owens Foundation. Matching donations multiply your giving and empower conservation.

**LEGACY PLANNING:** You can touch the future by including the Owens Foundation in your Estate Planning. Because of your caring, generosity and forethought, you can continue your advocacy for conservation far beyond your lifetime. Thanks to those who have already made this important pledge. **Contact Mary or Tammy for more information on Legacy Planning through:**

- **Will, Living Trust or other plan:** A simple bequest can name the OFWC as recipient of a fixed amount or a percentage of your estate just as you can designate specific family and friends.
- **Annuity or Life Insurance Policy:** Designated as payable to the OFWC.
- **Retirement Plans:** Designate OFWC as a beneficiary of all or a percent of your Retirement Plan.

**RECOMMEND A FRIEND:** If you know anyone who shares our love of people and wildlife, please introduce them to the Owens Foundation. We don't share our database - EVER.

- **To receive conservation updates and/or newsletters by email:** email [marydykes@mindspring.com](mailto:marydykes@mindspring.com)
- **New email or postal addresses.** Please advise us of any changes in your contact information. This saves dollars to be used for conservation, not paperwork and makes us smile. ☺
- **Donation by Credit Card** can be made at [www.owens-foundation.org](http://www.owens-foundation.org) or by calling Mary 770-270-0729. (3% goes to the Credit Card Company. You will be asked for the security code on your credit card. This is an added level of protection for you – assuring that your card number is not being used fraudulently.)
- **Foreign currency donations** must be made by wire transfer, US\$ money order or check or by credit card.
- **Online purchases** via OFWC web page link to [www.Barnes&Noble.com](http://www.Barnes&Noble.com) generate income for our work.
- **Recycle used Cell Phones:** See our web page link to recycle cell phones at no charge & make \$ for OFWC.

**DONATIONS FOR NORTH LUANGWA:** Thanks to all who have shipped school & medical supplies to North Luangwa. They are GREATLY needed and appreciated. Still needed are: **School Supplies:** Crayons, pens, pencils, erasers, chalk, wildlife books & magazines (used are fine). Paper is too heavy to ship. **Medical Supplies:** Dial or other antibiotic soap, sterile latex gloves, Betadine, antibiotic ointment/cream, gauze pads & rolls, first aid tape, Band-Aids, Ziploc bags. **Sewing Supplies:** Women's groups can use any fabric, thread or sewing notions. **Shipping:** Label medical as *Hygiene Supplies*, school and craft donations as *Education Supplies*. List on the USPS Customs Form as a *Gift* with a low value. Ship USPO surface/no insurance. **IMPORTANT:** Use sturdy boxes, w/ **2 strips of duct tape in each direction and overlay edges w/2-inch plastic tape**. Use USPO "M BAG" for books at \$1 per pound, 11 lbs minimum and 66 lbs max per box. Use USPS Internet site: <http://ircalc.usps.gov/> to calculate postage by weight. **SHIP TO: NLWCCDP, P.O. Box 450210, Mpika, Zambia**