



DR. KELLY GEORGE ON SAFARI IN AFRICA

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Bob Long introduced the guest speaker, **Dr. Kelly George**.

Background: Dr. George holds a BA, MA, and PhD, and spent 16 years as a professor at Ohio State University specializing in animal sciences and animal welfare.

Current Roles: She is the Executive Director of the Zoological Association of America, serves on the Animal Welfare Council, is the President of Worth Wild Africa Zoo Center, and co-founded Kuzo (a guided experience company that previously led 12 club members on a safari in Tanzania).

Keynote Presentation: "She Does Something with Animals"

Dr. Kelly George presented on the human-animal bond and global wildlife conservation initiatives.

The Human-Animal Relationship

The Reflection of Self: Dr. George opened with a quote from The Unexpected Universe: "One does not know oneself until one catches the reflection from an eye other than human." She discussed how animals offer an honest behavioral reflection of human compassion, patience, or negativity.

Nature Deficit Disorder: Citing researcher Richard Louv, she emphasized that modern human anxieties often stem from a disconnect from nature. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes engaging the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell) to build deep human empathy for wildlife.

Worth Wild Africa (Founded 2023)

Dr. George highlighted the work of her conservation fund, Worth Wild Africa, which provides critical field equipment to push ongoing research projects over the finish line rather than funding them from scratch. To prevent corruption and loss of funds, the organization never sends direct cash to Africa; they ship equipment directly or reimburse verified receipts.

Key Conservation Projects Highlighted

Rhinos (South Africa). Heavily poached for their horns (keratin), which sell for more than platinum or diamonds on the black market due to perceived medicinal values. **Horn Trimming:** Dr. George's team anesthetizes rhinos to trim their horns safely without damaging the growth plate. In one managed reserve, annual poaching dropped from 38 rhinos to zero in 2022 and 2023 following the implementation of this program. Trimmings are logged and vaulted by the South African government.

Pangolins. The most heavily trafficked animals in existence, poached globally for their unique scales. **Tagging & Tracking:** Worth Wild Africa funds a project that attaches tracking tags to the pangolins and utilizes specially trained tracker dogs to locate individual animals when tags fall off.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



GREETERS

July 14

Alan Thompson
Mike Turnbull

July 21

Robert Hunt
Scott Emch

July 28

Jim Manning
Kelly Marlow

REGISTRATION DESK

July 14

Rick Barth
Tom Westfall

July 21

Jim Winfree
Dave Shelby

July 28

Jim Nicklaus
John Cleland

CALENDAR

July 14 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Joe Hayek, President & CEO of
Worthington Industries –
“Update on Worthington
Industries”

Host: Don Ross

July 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Doug Godard, Founder &
President of Bonzy – Raising
Financially Confident Kids in a
Digital “Just Tap It” World

Host: Herb Gillen

July 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Dr. Byron Henry, “Healing Kids
Worldwide of Cleft Palates”

Host: John Krauss

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity
to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion
in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event
reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for
inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JULY 14TH

Scioto Country Club / ZOOM

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



DR. KELLY GEORGE

ON SAFARI IN AFRICA

Gorillas (Bwindi National Park, Uganda). Public health issues and illnesses crossing over between local human populations and wild gorilla populations. Health & Livelihoods: Partnered with local communities to establish alternative livelihoods. Raised major funds to supply a "GeneX" machine to monitor both human and gorilla health.

Lemurs (Madagascar / Florida) Extreme habitat loss and poverty in Madagascar. Locally, a Florida zoo tragically lost its lemur house and population to a fire. Infrastructure: In 2025, the fund engaged in massive fundraising. On the day of this meeting (July 7, 2026), ground was officially broken in Madagascar for a brand-new health center serving both lemurs and the community. Additionally, a mobile veterinary rehab unit was sponsored by the affected Florida zoo.

Q&A and Closing Remarks

The Great Migration: In response to a question about Tanzania, Dr. George described the massive Serengeti migration of herbivores following the rains for food, closely trailed by carnivores. She noted fascinating local behaviors, such as lions climbing trees for viewpoints or seeking shade underneath safari vehicles.

Anti-Poaching Danger: Dr. George addressed the violent reality of anti-poaching work, noting that local poachers are often desperate people weaponized by large, well-armed criminal cartels. Worth Wild Africa actively supplies boots and tracking gear to rangers who put their lives on the line.

Community Event: Dr. George invited members to a free community event on August 1st at Keystone in Lewis Center, featuring Columbus Zoo animals and music by the Irish band The Bastard Bearded Irishmen.

THE MEETING



Joe Valentino led the opening prayer, acknowledging the nation's freedom, honoring service members, and asking for guidance to be good stewards of the Earth's diversity and local communities.

There were no visiting guests.

The President highlighted the club's successful showing at the July 4th Parade (celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary). **John Krauss** drove his truck, **Glen Dugger** drove a convertible, and thanks to **Herb Gillen** for supplying the graphics. A special shout out to **Mary Krauss** who provided a standout performance, driving the truck down the parade route. The club will consider repeating the entry next May.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



AV Assistant Needed: The club is still looking for an audiovisual assistant.

Fiscal Year Contributions: Members were reminded that invoices went out at the end of June. Please be prompt in your payment..

Upcoming Board Meeting: The July board meeting is scheduled for the coming Monday.