

Africa comes to Hamburg: safari opening a great success

Over one thousand visitors traveled to the Big Bend/Hamburg area to experience Stuart Juneau's one-of-a-kind African safari at the newly opened Housing and Education Foundation (HEF) African Safari Camp on the Lake Juneau Conservation area. The 1,500 acre property, owned by Juneau, was developed as an educational opportunity for children.

The area features a three story building with a Zebra lounge and the private residence of Stuart Juneau. Nearby are canvas camps designed for children to spend time on the property. "Children will be allowed to stay here in these camps for three days to experience African wildlife first hand," tour guides explained.

Visitors to the grand opening ceremony were treated to a taste of genuine African entertainment with dancers, drummers, and musicians brought in from South Africa to perform. Two performers danced on

stilts and walked throughout the crowds taking pictures with visitors. Foods native to both Louisiana and Africa were also served along with boat rides, walking tours, and riding tours throughout the area. According to tour guides, there are currently over 300 different types of animals and birds on the property including a giraffe, zebras, camels, different species of deer and many more. Several members of the Juneau family served as hosts and friends volunteered to help guide the grand opening. Compliments from guests were overwhelming. "This is like the wildlife park in Disney World," said Diane Bordelon of Bordelonville who was touring the camp with her family.

Stuart and his wife, Julie, greeted guests as they arrived on buses in the middle of the complex. "I'll have fun tomorrow," Juneau said, "tonight, we have guests." "Our mission is not to provide

day camps and tours. We are set up and staffed for four-day weekend camps with organized groups and counselors already in place and knowing the 12 to 14 children we can accommodate," Juneau explained. "There are six planned weekends for 2006 and another 26 weekends next year." Interested groups that wish to apply for a camping weekend can submit an application at sjuneau69@aol.com or calling (504) 615-1110.



Neal Juneau of the HEF African Safari Camp gives a tour of the property during its grand opening on June 17.

Photos by Tiffany T. Dauzat



Like a scene from an Indiana Jones movie, visitors walk along a rope bridge from the main house at the HEF African Safari Camp out to a large dock on Lake Juneau near Hamburg.



Paula Batiste looks up in amazement at the South African stilt walker during the opening ceremony of the African Safari Camp near Hamburg.



Dancers from South Africa perform for crowds at the opening of the HEF African Safari Camp.



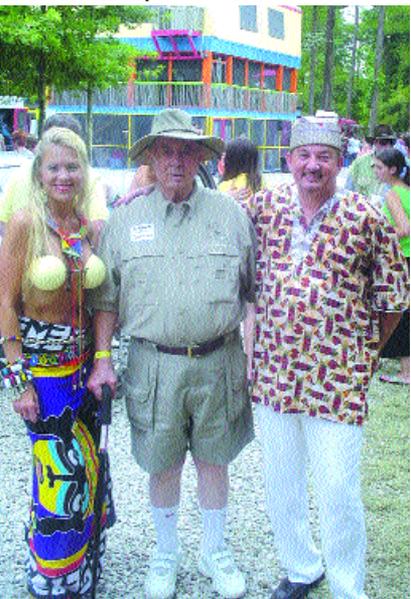
From left sisters Mariah, age 9, and Olivia Laborde age 11, and Whitney Coco age 11, all of Moreauville enjoy a ride on Lake Juneau during the grand opening of the HEF African Safari Camp.



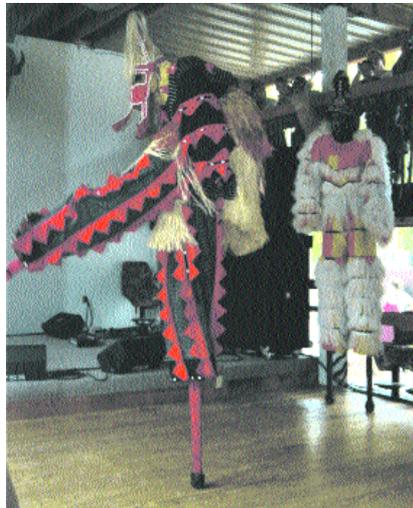
Guests wait on large trailers to begin their African safari at Lake Juneau.



Cody Moreau, age 4 of Moreauville, feeds a carrot to a camel through the fence at the HEF African Safari Camp grand opening on June 17.



Linus Juneau (center), greets visitors with his son Stuart and daughter-in-law Julie on their newly opened African Safari Camp on Lake Juneau.



Stilt dancers from South Africa perform for audiences in the "Zebra Lounge" at the African Safari Camp near Hamburg.