

# 'Friends' head to Tanzania, come back with amazing tales to tell

BY GARLAND POLLARD

**A** Friends of Boca Grande group is back from an 11-day expedition to Tanzania.

"What's amazing is that people who choose Boca Grande for their retirement home are interesting and a select group of people," said Friends of Boca Grande CEO Marta Howell. "And they all get along."

As with their other trips, the Friends base their travel plans on speakers.

"It usually has something to do with a program we have going on," said Howell.

The group has taken a number of journeys, but previously had only taken overseas trips to France. Trips in the U.S. have included an April 2023 trip to the golf course Stream-song, which is located on a Florida-reclaimed phosphate mine.

The trips to France have been led by a regular Friends speaker, Martin Walker; Walker speaks on global issues, and he writes mystery novels based on the area where he lives.

The Tanzania trip was inspired by speaker Adam Nkinde, who spoke to the Friends about Africa. The Friends thought that it would be "cool to plan a trip around that."

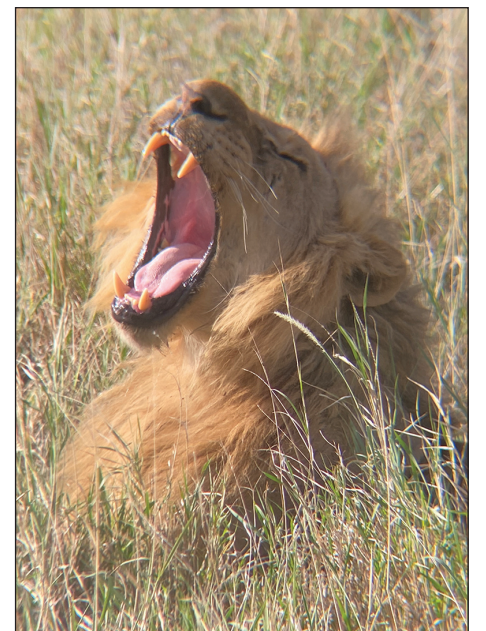


They then advertised the Africa trip in their annual guide, led by Nkinde and two other guides who work for him. The group visited the Arusha National Park, the Tanangire National Park, the Lake Masek Tented Lodge and the Serengeti.

"We saw all the animals that you would want to see," said Howell.



Back row: Guides Adam, Leo and Peter as well as Leila Nordmann, Marta Howell, John Stanley, Mike Steffan, Angela Steffan, Bruce Birgbauer, Guide Kelvin; Front Row: Robbie Stanley, Pam Heilman, Carol Stopa, Nancy White, Sally Birgbauer. Far below, Marta, Leila and Mike on the lookout for the illusive leopard. Surrounding photos show some of the animals they encountered, their balloon trip and their camp (top right). Photos submitted



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