

Water Buffalo Newsletter

publication of the AMERICAN WATER BUFFALO ASSOCIATION



PROFILE:

Tom Olson

American Water Buffalo Association founding member Tom Olson and family are the Turkey Creek Company, a business that started in 1984 as a cow-calf operation and a tree farm in Texarkana, Arkansas. According to Tom, they just felt they needed something else. After looking at quite a few different "opportunities" such as llamas, catfish, and

exotic birds, they found that none of these sparked their interest. Tom's father, Ralph J. Olson, is involved in the forest products industry, and after receiving an inquiry from Association member Tony Leonards about supplying fencing material for his water buffalo, things began to happen. The next thing they knew, the Olsons were on their way to Lake Charles, LA to look at some water

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Tom Olson and some fine Turkey Creek Company buffalos

Water Buffalo in the News

Water Buffalo Featured in Article

A History of Water Buffalo in America was a featured article in the fall issue of International Wildlife Rancher. The story of how water buffalo came to be in the United States describes the fascinating chain of events and the hard working people who made it happen. The article included a brief history of the American Water Buffalo Association as well. Editor Jeannette Wulff expressed her support and included information on contacts and membership for the Association.

Association Member Makes News in Florida

Member Robin Anderson appeared with her water buffalo in the "Weekend" section of the Ocala Star Banner late last summer. The article featured an excellent profile of Robin, and some good water buffalo press. Robin had an

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Association Annual Meeting to be held on June 11th

The fourth annual meeting of the American Water Buffalo Association will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 1991, at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. The meeting is scheduled to be held at 1:00 pm in Room 102 of the Animal Science Building, 459 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, Florida. A one hour business meeting will be preceded by a program of presentations and discussion, after which the meeting will adjourn to the Livestock Pavilion for a catered picnic featuring water buffalo. A formal meeting announcement and preregistration package will be sent to members as the time for the meeting approaches.

Water Buffalo Products Success Story

Doctor Wyland Cripe has notified us that Association member, Sr. Robert Haab Chavez, who visited from Santa Cruz, Bolivia last year, writes of a successful mozzarella cheese operation there. He is packing the hand-shaped cheeses in vacuum-sealed plastic bags and selling it to a pizzeria and several supermarkets. In addition, on December 8, 1990, the family opened their own restaurant, the Restaurant Caserti, which features pizzas, steaks and ice cream, all utilizing their own water buffalo products. We wish Sr. Haab and family every success in this endeavor and hope that they will keep us apprised their continuing efforts.

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to Sultan Muhamed I of Kelatna (1800-1835). The cover is made of buffalo horn apparently whittled into strips and woven. It is said to have taken three years to make.

The horns of the buffalo figure largely in many local religious and superstitious practices. They are generally credited with the ability to provide protection against the evil eye, malevolent spirits and evildoers, and may be mounted on house walls or gables for this purpose. They may be buried, following ritual sacrifice, at the site of a new house, temple, road, bridge, or—perhaps somewhat incongruously—airport or landing strip, with the same objective.

Where to buy and sell water buffalo horns...and skulls

This portion of the article is something of a departure from the usual references for products. We would like to feature two businesses which actively deal with water buffalo skulls and horns. The first is a unique store which has been in the business of selling a wide variety of animal bones, including complete skeletons and skulls, since 1985. The store is Maxilla and Mandible, Ltd., the Natural History and Science Emporium, located in New York.

Owner Henry Galiano, having served as curatorial assistant in the city's Museum of Natural History's Department of Paleontology for 10 years, began to realize the potential of a public interested in purchasing bones,

and in 1983 he went into the business of selling them. He now handles a wide range of species, from steer and bison skulls sent from ranches in the West to antelope skulls from Africa. "We've developed contacts with suppliers all over the world," says Mr. Galiano. These bones are the byproducts and waste materials of a number of animal-dependent industries such as slaughterhouses and game processing plants. A dedicated environmentalist, Mr. Galiano does not deal with any endangered species or any animal killed specifically for its skulls or horns. At present, Africa is the source of supply for water buffalo skulls for Maxilla and Mandible. Your inquiries are welcome or, better still, visit the shop.

Maxilla and Mandible is located at 453 Columbus Avenue, in New York, and is open Monday through Saturday from 11 until 7. Telephone: (212) 724-6173.

The second featured business is The American Headhunter, located in Dayton, Texas, which will buy a wide variety of animal skulls at a range of prices. A partial list of skulls wanted and prices offered is available upon request. We were told that \$75 to \$100 would be paid for water buffalo heads, depending on the size. For further information, contact The American Headhunter, PO Box 61, Dayton, Texas, 77535. Telephone: (409) 258-3102.

