

Upcoming Events for 2025

**March 8
General ACE
Meeting
(after Mega Update)**

**March 15 - June 15
HoneyBaked Ham
Spring Campaign**

**June 12
Bingo for Bonobos**

**Date TBD
Online Auction for
Apes**

**October 13
Gorilla Golf
Flat Creek Country Club**

**December 13
ZA Volunteer
Holiday Bazaar
After Mega Update**



**ACE
Donations
to Save
Great
Apes
Total
\$317,374
!!!**

ACE Answers Emergency Request

ACE received an urgent request from Orangutan Outreach. On November 27, 2024 at 1 AM, severe mudslides had torn through the Sumatra Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) Quarantine and Rehabilitation Center. It destroyed veterinary and quarantine housing and holding cages for rehabilitation. Orangutan Outreach (OO) put out the plea for help.

The ACE board (old and new members) discussed the situation. It was decided to delay our response until after the Holiday Bazaar. This way the financial picture was more complete knowing profits from the Holiday Bazaar, as well as the GA Gives and HBH campaigns.

Susan Smith advised the Board on upcoming expenses, and still

preserving stability for ACE, she suggested a donation of \$3,200 could be made to SOCP via OO. The Board agreed, and the situation was relayed to the members for a vote.

Overwhelmingly the members supported the recommendation to send \$3,200 to Orangutan Outreach to help SOCP. Two ACE members made personal donations to increase the ACE donation to \$3,700.

Members were encouraged to broadcast this urgent need through their social media as well making individual donations.

ACE is proud to help SOCP in this tragic unpredictable situation. This is the mission of ACE.



ACE Votes on Board Members

On November 15 members were asked to vote on new board members to serve a two-year term. On the ballot were Susan Callaway,

Karin Keller, Barbara Cebula, Shelley DeWeese, Jenny Reineck and Jane Barron. Voting was done by email, and there were 22 responses. The overwhelming vote was for all six people to become board members for 2025-2026 term. They will join Susan Smith who was elected last year for a two-year term expiring in 2025.

One interesting comment came from some of the out of town members voting. Since they haven't met some of the new members on the ballot, it was difficult for them to vote on people they don't know. To alleviate this problem next year, we will include some basic information about people such as when they became an ACE member and some of the ACE projects they have participated in. This should help when voting on a new person and not just voting on a name.

Congratulations to our new board members. We have a great group to lead ACE through the upcoming years.



Bang Up Bazaar!

By Susan Smith

As a part of the Zoo Atlanta volunteer MEGA, ACE set up five tables for the Holiday Bazaar. Items included ape-painted ornaments, additional Christmas ornaments, jewelry, wooden puzzles and seed sticks. We also held a raffle for two painted ostrich eggs.

This year's eggs were painted by Willie B Jr. for the gorillas and a collaboration of Madu, Remy, Keju, and Nangka painted for the orangutans. Winners were drawn at the conclusion of the bazaar with Karin Keller winning the orangutan-painted ostrich egg and Lynne LaVallee winning the gorilla-painted ostrich egg.

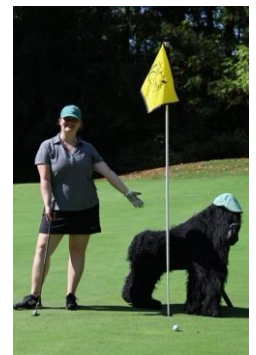
Overall our sales table was extremely successful. Thanks to all the shoppers who excitedly contributed to our total of \$1,126.64 in sales. We also want to thank all of the individuals who donated items to the sale. A really big thank you goes to our ape artists and their "assistants" who gave their time to support this fundraiser.



Gorilla Golf

By Susan Smith

This year ACE hosted its 11th Gorilla Golf tournament. Thirteen golfers teed off on Monday, September 30, at the Flat Creek Country Club in Peachtree City. This was a new course for the ACE event. The staff at Flat Creek did an excellent job in supporting our event, and the golfers enjoyed the new course.



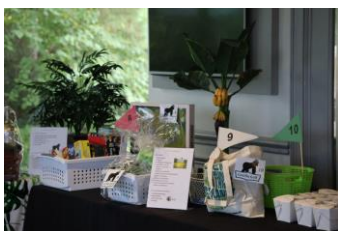
Jenny Reineck wins Closest to the Gorilla

As in the past, we awarded First, Second and Third places as well as "closest to the gorilla." Our own Jenny Reineck took home "closest to the gorilla" and Third Place overall. Many of the golfers are repeat players,

some having played in all 11 tournaments.

This year for the first time, participants could monitor their sponsorship donations on the ACE website. Jenny Reinick (ACE IT specialist!!) configured our website so that each golfer could see in real time where they stood on raising their \$500 sponsorship. In the past they had to call or email and wait for a response to see where they stood.

A big thanks to Shelley DeWeese for coordinating and setting up the raffle. This part of the event is always a big hit with the golfers. Check out the photos from the tournament on the ACE website and see the eye-catching set up of the raffle that Shelley did.



Part of the raffle items displayed

We already have a date for the 12th Gorilla Golf Tournament - Monday, October 13, 2025. We will again be playing at the Flat Creek Country Club. To sign up to play, call 404-477-4998 or email gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org.



GA Gives on Giving Tuesday Results

By Donna Mayer Todd

ACE participated in GA Gives again in 2024. The good news is we raised some money we were able to bundle with other funds to send to Orangutan Outreach for SOCP to help rebuild after their landslide disaster. I'm sure that donation will be very well employed at a time of particularly great need. Hooray!

There are ups and downs in fundraising, there are good years and less than good years. 2023 was a banner year for ACE donations on GA Gives Day. We performed the best of all the years we participated, raising \$2,428. This year we achieved a "less than" level. Thank you very much to the members who donated, and to anyone who shared the event on social media, helping ACE to raise \$1,578. If we didn't know we could do better, that would be a nice amount. The thing is, we

know we can do better; we did it last year and in previous years. So, let's remember the good we feel for being able to help Orangutan Outreach at this time and challenge ourselves to make GA Gives 2025 an even stronger event for ACE!

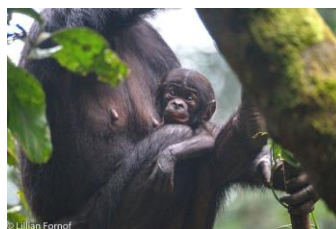


Photo by BCI
Baby Avocat

BCI Announces a New Baby Bonobo

Gene Todd shared the following email he received from BCI on Oct. 29, 2024.

Dear Gene,
Say hello to Avocat, the newest addition to the Kokolopori bonobos! Mom Aguri welcomed this bouncing baby boy in June. Both Mother and infant are thriving - and are receiving lots of attention from some of the other Ekalakala bonobos. Bonobo mothers are famously protective but that doesn't

stop curious juveniles from trying to sneak a peek or a cuddle. We are sure that Avocat will find lots of friends among his fellow bonobos.

Avocat's pool of potential playmates extends beyond the Ekalakala group. You may remember that researchers in the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve recently published their findings about complex group interactions between bonobos in the Yatee forest. Four different groups came together to socialize, share food, and look for love. That's up to **eighty individuals!** Harvard researcher Lillian Fomof remarked, "It's surreal. It's like being in a city of bonobos." There's one young female bonobo who seems to be particularly popular. We'll let you know if we hear any other little bonobos on the way.

There is some sad news. Another baby who was born around the same time as Avocat did not survive. His brief time serves as a reminder that bonobo life is precious and precarious. Bonobos only produce one offspring every 4-5 years, and bonobo mothers who experience a loss don't always bounce back quickly. That's why it's so important that we protect the bonobo population and the habitat that they need to survive.

Your generous support gives Avocat and all the bonobos in the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve a chance for a happy, healthy future.

Bonobo Conservation Initiative



Photo by BCI
Baby Avocat
and Mom Aguri



Thank you from BCI

(for donation from Bingo)

Thank you for your generous gift on 11/9/24 of \$1,530.00 to the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI). With your help, we are protecting the world's second largest rainforest and providing a safe haven for bonobos -- humankind's closest great ape relatives. Founded in June 1998, BCI has been

at the forefront of bonobo conservation for 25 years.

The Bonobo Peace Forest is growing -- thanks to you! This network of community-based reserves currently included two legally protected nature reserves spanning nine million acres -- and additional conservation sites in key areas of the bonobo habitat. We have made important steps toward our goal of gaining legal protection for another two million acres in the Bonobo Peace Forest, and your gift brings us that much closer! Each acre protected is a win for rainforest species, local communities, and the global climate.

To keep our programs going strong, we've been developing sustainable funding mechanisms, such as carbon credits. Your support for our programs created this opportunity to increase the impact and effectiveness of the Peace Forest.

In the field, we continue to foster collaboration and cooperation. We're partnering with The Nature Conservancy to officially protect the Lilungu forest. Throughout Sankuru and Kokolopori, we are working with Congolese NGO Action Massive Rurale (AMAR) to galvanize community engagement. Our ongoing collaboration

with researchers from Harvard University is yielding vital information about our sister species, helping us understand how better to protect them. Your thoughtful contribution makes all of this progress possible.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts. Working together, we can ensure a brighter future for bonobos and their rainforest home. We deeply value the trust you have placed in us and appreciate your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell Coxe
President



Results from Fall HoneyBaked Ham Sale

By Susan Smith

The annual Fall/Winter HoneyBaked Campaign ended on December 31. Although we did not make our goal of \$300, the campaign did bring in \$140 for the ACE general fund. Thank you to all who purchased gift cards this year.

Each year we run two campaigns, one in the

Spring and another in the Fall/Winter. For each gift

card ordered, ACE receives 20% of the purchase price. Actual plastic cards can be ordered or you can request the gift cards be sent electronically.

Our Spring 2025 campaign will run from March 15 through June 15. A flyer will be sent out in early March with more ordering information.



Slight Progress in World's Biodiversity

**Global loss of trees a
major focus of U.N.
group's report**

By Stephen Gratten,
Associated Press

Cali, Colombia - Global efforts to protect the world's plants and animals have made slight progress and some species remain in serious decline, according to two reports released Monday at a major United Nations biodiversity summit.

A report from the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) evaluated global progress since its

biodiversity report in 2020. Two years ago,

196 countries signed a historic treaty to protect biodiversity on 30% of the planet by 2030.



The biodiversity summit underway in Cali, Colombia is a follow-up to the 2022 accord in Montreal, which includes 23 measures to halt and reverse nature loss. One calls for putting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030. The UNEP report found countries have made some headway on pledges, but that expansion of the global network must accelerate over the next six years to meet the goal. The report says 17.6% of land and inland waters and 8.6% of the ocean and coastal areas globally are within documented protected and conserved areas.

"It is equally important that these areas are effective and that they do not negatively impact the people who live in and around them, who are often their most valuable custodians," UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen said.

"Today's landmark report shows some progress has been made in the past four years, but we are not moving nearly far or fast enough," she said.

The IUCN reported Monday that 38% of the world's trees are at risk of extinction.

The Swiss-headquartered organization says it's Red List of Threatened Species now includes 166,061 species - 46,337 of them threatened with extinction.

Trees now account for over one quarter of species on its endangered list, and the number of threatened trees is more than double the number of threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians combined, IUCN said.

Tree species are at risk of extinction in 192 countries, the organization said. The highest proportion of threatened trees is found on islands since they are particularly at high risk due to deforestation for urban development and agriculture, as well as invasive species, pests and diseases.

Global loss of trees is a major threat to thousands of other plants, fungi and animals, according to IUCN.

The above excerpts were taken from an article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, dated October 29, 2024.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
Eleanor Roosevelt

The first step toward getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are.
J.P. Morgan

If we were meant to talk more than listen, we would have two mouths and one ear.
Mark Twain



Did you know?



NBC - "The Americas" Premieres February 23, 7PM

Tom Hanks narrates this epic 10-part television event from the creative producers of "Planet Earth," exploring the extraordinary worlds and wildlife of North and South America. Scored by legendary composer Hans Zimmer, the series takes viewers on a breath-taking journey across the supercontinent, full of never-before-seen wonders and awe-inspiring moments experienced alongside the creatures that call it home.

The series can be seen on NBC and Peacock.

2025 ACE Board

Jane Barron
Susan Callaway
Barbara Cebula
Shelley DeWeese
Karin Keller
Jenny Reineck
Susan Smith

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