



2026 Calendar

Gorilla Golf

October 12
White Oak Country
Club, Newnan

GA Gives

December 1

Holiday Bazaar

December 12



Happy Birthday ACE !

Do you
remember the
beginning of
ACE?

For a few years friends (zoo primate keepers and zoo volunteers) had worked together on zoo events, such as APE-ril, Enrichment Day, Party for the Planet, etc.

Knowing that the status of great apes in the wild was continually declining, the group decided to come together to help save great apes. We wanted to help great apes as much as we could, not just at zoo events.

(A list of members from 2006 and 2007 are listed at the end of the newsletter)

When Ape Conservation Effort began there was great excitement. Laura Mayo liked the idea of calling the group "ACE." Our first pro-tem officers were appointed. President Tara Stoinski, Vice President Julie Gaines, Secretary Debbie Forde, and Treasurer Laura Mayo.

Our first election for officers was held on July 27, 2007. President Laura Mayo, Vice President Julie Gaines,

Secretary Debbie Forde, and Treasurer Lisa Westin.

Tara Stoinski agreed to be a board member but not an officer due to her position with DFGFI. Later in November, Tara was removed from the Board so ACE could do business with DFGFI without any perception of impropriety.

Our first official ACE fundraiser was Pages for Primates book sale in September 2006. We asked people to donate, and boy, did they! We got so many books, it was overwhelming. The book sale was held in a vacant store in a small shopping center. Tables and chairs had to be borrowed and rented. The event raised \$1,660. It was a lot of work, but we were on our way. Who will ever forget Mary-Waite Faulconer drumming up business on the sidewalk in the gorilla costume? Leftover books were stored at Laura Mayo's mother's house. **Boxes of books are heavy!!!** We all remember moving boxes and boxes of books several times.

Another fundraiser in 2006 was called **Art of Apes**. This consisted of a sales table at an event at Callanwolde to benefit the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. We primarily wanted to start getting our name and mission out there. With the costs of items to sell,

signs, and printed materials to distribute, ACE had a loss of \$95. Oops! We decided that was not a good fit for us and we needed more focus on our message. We did not sign up for this event again. We did research other fairs and festivals just in case they might be a better fit.

On November 13, 2006, Ape Conservation Effort, Inc. became a non-profit corporation in the State of Georgia. Thanks to Debbie Forde who did all of the research, forms, filings and basically seeing this task through to the end.

In 2006 ACE requested to partner with Zoo Atlanta to sell non-human primate art and a behind-the-scenes tour at a fundraising event. This started our continuing partnership with Zoo Atlanta. (Our first Memorandum of Understanding with the zoo was signed in 2012.)

As of October 21, 2007, ACE membership was 36 people. Our elected officers were President Laura Mayo, Vice President Julie Gaines, Secretary Erin Harris, Treasurer Lisa Westin, and Board member at-large Mary-Waite Faulconer.

Donations we made in 2007 were as follows:
\$1,000 DFGFI
\$1,000 Orangutan Conservancy

\$1,000 Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme
\$500 Takagama Sanctuary
\$500 Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
\$500 Lukuku.
Money was kept in reserve for the next year's expenses.

The original idea for a golfing fundraiser was discussed at a meeting in the old Ragland Science Room in back of Orangutan Holding at Zoo Atlanta. It might be called Gorilla Golf or Putting for Primates. (This event was not developed until Jodi Carrigan and Tara Stoinski teamed up to create **Gorilla Golf** in 2010.)

We tried another fundraiser – selling lunches after Mega Update on September 15. Lunch included a sandwich, chips, deviled egg and a drink. No desserts were included because AAZK sold them after Mega. Lunches had to be pre-ordered. We gave this a catchy title of **Grub for Great Apes**.

In 2007 another new fundraiser was created and called **Apes in the Arts**. We began working with an event planner, and Julie Gaines secured space at J. Tribble Antiques on Miami Circle for the event to be held on March 8, 2008. So much needed to be done! We all signed up to be on and

chair committees to make this an incredibly successful event. Ape paintings, framing, food, publicity, drinks, and organization. (Sorry, you'll have to wait until the next newsletter to hear more about this.)

We were a small but dedicated group with high ideals and commitment to helping save great apes then. We are still that group with the belief that our work to save great apes is helping!

Look for more historical tidbits in the upcoming newsletters.



IN MEMORIUM

Marsha “Sam” Goldstein

With sympathy we acknowledge the passing of Marsha “Sam” Goldstein.

Sam was a one-of-a-kind person. A petite, fun lady who was a Probation Officer for the State of Georgia. She and husband of 30 years Jules were docents at Zoo Atlanta, and Sam loved animal handling, and really all animals.

She became an ACE member in 2007. Although she wasn't able to get to the zoo in recent years, she still maintained her membership in ACE and would always include a little note when renewing it. She is survived by her two sons and three grandchildren. We are so glad we got to know her.



Gorilla Golf Wants Your Help

By Susan Smith

On October 12, 2026, ACE will hold its 15th annual Gorilla Golf Tournament, and we really need your help to make this event a success.

There are two areas where your assistance is critically needed. First, we need a member to step up and volunteer to coordinate and assemble the raffle gift baskets. Second, we need ACE members to donate items to fill the raffle gift baskets.

In the past Shelley DeWeese has done a great job in collecting items and putting together the raffle gift baskets for the tournament. However, Shelley has moved out of state and needs to pass this responsibility on to another ACE member. In this role you would collect donated items and group them together in baskets/boxes to be raffled off at the close of the tournament. We still have some supplies, i.e. clear wrapping paper,

ribbon, etc. to use for the baskets and some items already donated so you would not be starting from scratch.

Our other need is to have items donated to create the raffle baskets. This raffle is always a big hit with the golfers. They purchase an “arms-length” of tickets for \$20 bringing in approximately \$400 to \$600 added to the total donated to DFGFI.

Donating one or two items, or a whole basket if you like, or gift cards will really help us.

Below are listed types of baskets and suggested items you can use for reference:

Gift Cards – Home Depot, Lowes, Sports Authority, Amazon, Mastercard, Kroger, Publix

Games Basket (family/indoor/outdoor) – card games, board games, jigsaw puzzle, lawn games

Golf Basket – golf balls, golf towel, ball cleaning kit, club covers, men's/women's golf shirt, etc.

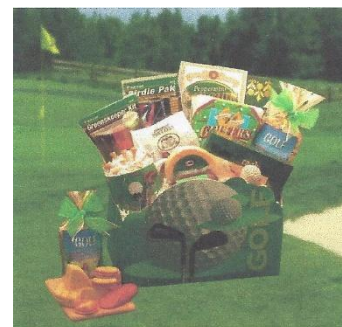
Wine Basket – bottle(s) of wine, wine cooler, wine tumblers, electric bottle opener, wine cooler stick, etc.

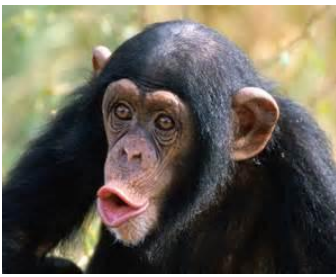
Car Basket – cordless car vacuum, washing mitt, detailing kit, microfiber towels, detailing brush, etc.

Outdoor Grilling Basket – grilling tools, grill cleaner, grilling gloves, grilling baskets, assorted spices/rubs

This is a chance for all ACE members to help make the Gorilla Golf Tournament a success.

Please contact Susan Smith (susansmith9008@comcast.net or 404-226-7738) if you have any questions about the coordinator role or to discuss donating items for the raffle baskets.





The Civil War Inside a Group of Chimpanzees

By Aylin Woodward

A rare and deadly “civil war” has broken out between two factions of chimpanzees in Africa, according to new research.

The dispute erupted in what was once a cohesive group of about 200 chimps whose ties stretched back two decades. It took just three years for them to turn on each other, according to a new study in the journal *Science*.

“We’ve known for a long time that chimpanzees will attack and kill their neighbors,” said primatologist John Mitani, Professor emeritus at the University of Michigan and a study co-author. “It turns out they will do this even when those neighbors are former friends and allies.”

For 20 years, the Ngogo chimps of Uganda’s Kibale National Park

“were living the good life by being together,” Mitani said. They helped one another, dominated and killed apes from neighboring group, expanded their territory and boosted their babies’ chances of survival.

But in 2015, the group started splitting into two clusters. Several male chimps that had bridged cliques within the larger group died from disease, weakening social ties. Around the same time, a new alpha male rose to dominance. Changes in the dominance hierarchy can fuel more aggression and tension, said Aaron Sandel, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Texas and study co-author. As aggression escalated, the factions drifted into separate areas of the park.

By 2018, the split was complete. The two groups had no remaining social or reproductive ties between them; the last chimp infant with parents from different groups was born in 2015. What was once the center of the group’s territory became a border, which chimps patrolled, the researcher found.

Then the hostilities began in earnest.

Members of the smaller of the two groups launched coordinated lethal attacks on the other, aiming to kill rival adult males. By 2021,

their raids had expanded to target younger apes, averaging several infant deaths a year since.

More than 24 apes have died so far as a result of the conflict, Mitani said. The true death toll is probably higher; given there are so many chimps in a large area, some deaths go unrecorded, according to the study.

Primatologist Jane Goodall observed what may have been a similar split and subsequent violence among chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1970s. But the findings have long been debated because most of the observations were in an area where humans regularly fed the chimps, altering group makeup, size and aggression, Mitani said.

With the Ngogo chimps, researchers aren’t certain what prompted the split, but said it’s possible the apes were victims of their own success. The group grew large, and even though resources were abundant, the chimps may have perceived increased competition for food and mates.

The once-smaller of the two chimp groups is now the larger one because its members have killed so many rivals, Sandel added. Last year, Mitani said, they observed two more lethal attacks on males and two on infants.

“It’s an ongoing conflict,” he said.

Wall Street Journal
April 11, 2026



A Gorilla Story

By Karin Keller

There is a new gorilla documentary on Netflix. A must see for gorilla lovers. It’s called *A Gorilla Story: Told by David Attenborough*. It takes place in the Virunga Mountains in Rwanda and follows the legendary Pablo group. However, the film is more than just about gorillas. It is a tribute to Dian Fossey’s pioneering conservation work she started 60 years ago and is still going strong to this day.

It also recognizes David Attenborough for his lifelong contribution to wildlife and environmental conservation. He is the perfect link to connect the past with the present in the documentary. The film opens with an

encounter David Attenborough had in 1978 with a three-year-old gorilla baby named Pablo while filming a segment for the Life on Earth series. A scene that is now considered one of the most iconic scenes captured in wildlife television history.

The Pablo group is one of the original groups that Dian Fossey studied and has been known as the largest and most successful group. At one point there were 65 members in the group, an amazing number considering that the average troop size is 10. It is also the longest studied gorilla group in history. Although Pablo died in 2008, the group still carries his name.

When Silverback Films, creator of *Chimp Empire* (an action-packed documentary about chimp life and war) was inquiring about the possibility of making a film about gorillas, they were a bit concerned that they wouldn't have enough material to fill a whole documentary. After all, gorillas have a rather peaceful existence in comparison with the chimpanzees. Other than eating and sleeping, it seems they do a whole lot of nothing most of the time. But when the film crew trekked up the steep mountains to capture gorilla behavior, a real life drama played out right in front of their

cameras that nobody expected. It was incredible luck that soon after their arrival a power shift in Pablo's group was in the making.

Not to give too much away but here is a brief summary of the main characters and the plot: Gicurasi, the 28-year-old strong and compassionate silverback, has successfully led the Pablo group for a number of years. Meanwhile, Ubwuzu, and 18-year-old silverback in his prime and full of ambition is challenging Gicurasi for the leadership position. Teta (13) is the dominant female and strongly aligned with Gicurasi but ultimately sides with Ubwuzu as he earns her trust and with her the rest of the troop follows the new leader. Gicurasi steps aside but remains in the troop and supports Ubwuzu as well. Then a new female is joining the group. Her name is Inyange (6) and as a newbie in the troop she has to find acceptance. Timing couldn't have been better because Ubwuzu, as the new leader, is now ready to have his own offspring. Inyange is bringing his first baby into the world which elevates her status in the troop. But tragedy strikes and the group faces uncertainty. Will this horrific incident end Ubwuzu's reign or will it make the family stronger? Then there is Imfura (14) who is coming of age at

the wrong moment in time and is struggling to find his role and purpose as an upcoming silverback. And finally, there is Ubi, the woolly, roly-poly three year old baby gorilla who brings a certain cuteness factor and a good part of comedy relief to the documentary.

The film crew was able to capture astonishing footage to tell an extraordinary story about gorilla life. What makes it even more amazing is the fact that, although the film was in the works for six years, they were only filming for a total of 250 days. To be precise, only 250 hours because strict regulations allow only one hour per day in the field with the gorillas. The result is spectacular. The shots are beautiful and the landscape is breathtaking. It is a documentary that invites the viewer to get up close and personal with the gorilla family.

Fifty years ago, Pablo connected David Attenborough with the mountain gorillas. This experience with baby Pablo has been the most important and valued wildlife encounter in his life. Hopefully, this film will connect more people with gorillas and conservation so that there is a future for these majestic animals, their ecosystem, and our planet.

If you like to find more information about gorillas and how the documentary was made, listen to Dax Shephard's interview with Tara Stoinski, President and CEO of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, on the Armchair Expert's episode *Tara Stoinski Returns* wherever you find your podcasts or look it up on YouTube.



Helping People.
Saving Gorillas.



Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough turns 100:

David Attenborough, the world's most famous wildlife presenter, celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday. The BBC hosted a party at the Royal Albert Hall. Over 70 years, his documentaries have brought the wonders of nature into homes worldwide. His work has educated people on evolution, animal behavior, and biodiversity. Attenborough also has raised awareness about climate change.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ACE!



Did you know?



Spirit of 69: Fatou, the world’s oldest gorilla living in captivity, celebrated her birthday with a basket of vegetables at the Berlin Zoo – where she has lived since 1959 – on Monday.

*Wall Street Journal
April 14, 2026*

You can’t raise consciousness if you start with someone without a conscience.

Stephanie Ruhle

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers.

Voltaire

Great people coming together to start ACE

ACE members in 2006

- Jane Barron
- Daniel Benboe
- Barbara Campbell
- Heather Campbell
- Mary-Waite Faulconer
- Debbie Forde
- Julie Gaines
- Erin Harris
- Ann Herrmann
- Charles Horton
- Laura Mayo
- Lorin Milk
- Andy Pachman
- Beth Pailthorpe
- Bev Rice
- Susan Smith
- Tara Stoinski
- Lisa Westin
- Debbie Wright
- Scott Wright

New ACE members in 2007

- Mary Jo Acree
- Darlene Bohanon
- Judy Capell
- Jodi Carrigan
- Rae Furcha
- Sam Goldstein
- Maria Granito
- Gladys Harvey
- Polly Heyward
- Tammy Hoffman
- Gay Jolley
- Leslie Martin
- Donna Mayer Todd
- Janet Myrick
- Nancy Schultz
- Barbara Sullivan
- Gene Todd
- Sue Wintemute



2025 ACE Board

- Jane Barron
- Susan Callaway
- Barbara Cebula
- Karin Keller
- Jenny Reineck
- Susan Smith

Primary contact:
info@apeconservationeffort.org

Gorilla Golf:
gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org



Orangutan Babies waiting for the July 4th fireworks!

