



2026 Calendar

Gorilla Golf

October 12

White Oak Country
Club, Newnan

HoneyBaked Ham Sale

October 15 –
December 31

GA Gives

December 1

Holiday Bazaar

December 12

Board Member Election Nov. 15

It's that time again – election of new board members for the 2027-2029 term. We are taking nominations until November 12, and voting by the membership will be November 15.

Current board members whose terms are ending are Jane Barron, Susan Callaway, Barbara Cebula, Karin Keller and Jenny Reineck. Several of them have expressed the desire to re-up for the new term. One board member whose term doesn't expire until 2028 is Susan Smith.

Don't you want to join them too? Most of the board communications

are done through emails, but we always discuss our plans and desires for ACE before making recommendations to the entire membership for voting.

If you want to know more about becoming a board member, please contact one of the current board members listed at the end of this newsletter. This is an important role because Ape Conservation Effort depends on the guidance of the board. We hope you will help ACE to continue to be the strong supporter of the great apes and become a board member. Thanks!



First Apes in the Arts Big Success

Fresh off fundraising events like Grub for Great Apes and Pages for Primates, our little group still had a driving desire to create more fundraisers so we could donate more money to save the great apes.

We were looking for something unique that might appeal to people outside of our zoo friends. Julie Gaines was selected to chair the Events committee. She came to the table with lots of ideas and a plan to implement them.

The name of the event would be Apes in the Arts. The October 21, 2007, meeting minutes stated: the basic idea was to sell ape-produced art using a silent auction format. Julie and the executive committee decided March 6, 2008, for our party. (*Do you realize this was less than 6 months to get everything planned?!*)

Julie found a wonderful business to host the first art party – J. Tribble Antiques located on Miami Circle. The owner of the antique shop (a friend of Julie) agreed to donate the use of his space. It will be a ticketed event, with

drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and a raffle. Event tickets would be purchased for \$30 in advance or \$40 at the event.

Some of the committees and their leadership were listed in the minutes from October 21, 2007:

Event coordinator –

Julie Gaines

Art coordinator – Laura

Mayo assisted by Mary-Waite Faulconer and Nancy Schultz

Finances – Lisa Westin

Party Planner – Jennifer

Langley working with Julie and officers

Writer/Designer –

Debbie Ford assisted by Judy Capell

Ticket Manager – vacant

Donor Manager – Bev

Rice assisted by Mary-Waite Faulconer

Special Projects

Manager – Susan Smith

Promotions Manager –

Leslie Martin

Speaker – vacant

Scott Wright designed and made paint brushes that the apes could safely use.



By the end of the year, we had selected a logo for the party (the gorilla wearing an artist's beret). The design was created by Patt, a co-worker of Lisa Westin.

Bev Rice found a professional framer Antonio Raimo Gallery, who would donate framing for 30 ape paintings.

Eclipse de Luna agreed to donate appetizers for 200 guests. We would pay \$20 each for 3 servers who would help serve and clean up. Also Eclipse de Luna would donate flatware, napkins and plates.

Several members said they would donate bottles and cases of wine and beer. Jodi Kissinger (Carrigan) would keep the wine at her house until the party.

Leslie contacted *Creative Loafing* and *AJC*, plus Donna Mayer (Todd) would work to set up a WSB-TV interview with Laura Mayo about the event. We would also get an article in *Seasons Magazine* and a mention on Channel 46 TV. Leslie found that many places she contacted would be glad to help advertise our event – for a fee. We could not afford that, so we tried to put up posters in restaurants and shops and at the zoo, plus we had to rely on our personal contacts.

A special prize would be raffled at the event. It would be a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo's ape area and a painting created by an ape. Raffle tickets would cost \$5 for 1 ticket and \$10 for 3

tickets. The winner would be drawn at the end of the party. We had notecards and tote bags with pictures of ape art for sale too.

To purchase the art painted by the gorillas and orangutans, each painting had a bid sheet with an opening bid of \$200 with \$25 minimum raises throughout the night until the end of the party.

By the end of December, we were printing invitations to invite friends, family and special contacts. Yes, we did it the “old fashioned” way of mailing invitations through the post office. The total number of invitations mailed was about 400.

We set a date of February 3 for an addressing and stuffing party. (It was stated in the minutes from January 8, 2008, that the stuffing party could not interfere with the Super Bowl!) At the same time we would give the paintings titles.

Nancy Schultz secured all of the paintings and brought them to the stuffing party. The participating members were divided into 6 groups and given 5 paintings to give titles to. What great fun and so much creativity trying to determine what the ape artists were expressing in each painting and giving it a catchy title! Each

painting had a Certificate of Authenticity plus a bio of the artist.

Gene and Donna took pictures of our “controlled chaos party” and at the event.

We borrowed clipboards and easels from Beastly Feast. The program for the event was developed: (1) recognize the major donors, (2) list the rules of the auction, (3) highlight a conservation message about what you can do for great ape survival, and (4) thank guests attending. Also, we had a continuously running PowerPoint slide show about great apes and their conservation. When the auction bell rang, we were set up to take payments and wrap paintings to go home with the winners.

We had 160 guests attend and 20 volunteers worked the party. We made \$14,000 before expenses.

We sent out an evaluation and got good feedback about what was successful and what could be done differently before our next Apes in the Arts to be held in 2009, such as sell ape art from other zoos. Keepers at the North Carolina Zoo offered ACE a chimpanzee painting in exchange for one of our ape paintings. We decided to have a Giving Tree with ornaments identifying things needed by researcher and non-profits

and a value needed to buy it.

We were happy with our new fundraiser and the results, but we knew we needed to improve on what we had done. We had the full support of the members of ACE, and most everyone played a significant role in this.

Now our next item on the agenda was to vote on which non-profit groups working with great apes would be the beneficiaries of our profits. We asked Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) and Orangutan Conservancy (OC) for proposals as to how they could each use a \$9,000 donation. (Additional money from the general fund increased the donated amount \$9,000 each for two non-profits, one working with gorillas and one with orangutans.)

DFGFI got back in touch with us first, thanks to Tara. \$2,500 would purchase 5 radios for communication between researchers and trackers. \$5,480 would pay for the salary and gear for one tracker for one year. \$1,020 would be used to offset the cost of fuel at Karisoke Research.

The other \$9,000 was sent to Orangutan Conservancy for a Land Survey in Ach-OU that Ian Singleton was doing. This project needed funding immediately, so

we decided to help. Although several people voted to give the donation to SOCP for orangutan reintroduction project, we decided this could wait until another fundraiser next year.

Simultaneously with the new Apes in the Arts fundraiser, we began to structure ACE more during this time. We applied to become a 501c3 non-profit with the State of Georgia. We set aside \$750 for the application fee, and we began to answer the items on the application. One thing asked if we were going to send funds to foreign groups. After discussions, it was decided that it was safer for us to deal with USA groups that worked with non-profits in Africa and Indonesia. We could send funds to the US easily verified group who could funnel it to the foreign non-profit. This would become part of our Mission Statement.



We decided our logo. Previously we had used 4 squares with ape pictures plus our name. We wanted something that would be easier to reproduce and put on letterhead and posters. Laura Mayo's sister, Cindy, recommended that we simply use our name

without pictures. The simplicity was just the look we needed. Thank you, Cindy Kinkade. She also helped us with our original website.

There were discussions and decisions to make about banking, savings, checks, taxes, and other legal issues. Thanks for help from Darlene Bohanon, a CPA, and Mary-Waite Faulconer, a lawyer, we worked through each surprise as it came up.

Of course, we were still in “fund-raising mode” and planning our next Pages for Primates and the 2009 Apes in the Arts. The 2008 Pages for Primates had a few new ideas incorporated – a kid's area for children to color and read children's books while parents shopped. A big hit was adding coffee. Great idea, Bev. We used a few rugs to hide and soften the concrete floor.



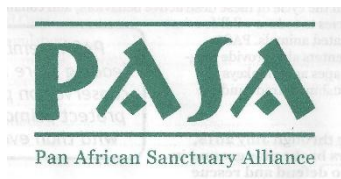
Another light bulb moment! A new suggestion from the keepers was to have clear glass ornaments painted by gorillas and orangutans we could sell at the 2008 Holiday Mega. Several were painted, and they were a hit at the holiday Mega – however, it was decided in the future to work with

plastic ornaments instead of glass ones for safety of the ape artists.

During these first few years, we had friends help who were not ACE members but just wanted to help. They were Mary and Daryl Hood, Tom Heitz, John Lemire, Billy Delridge, and Laura's sister Cindy. With great members and our friends, we felt we could do just about anything we tried.

The winners in the end were the great apes!

Look for more historical tidbits in the upcoming newsletters.



PASA's Census Report & Veterinary Workshop

By Kelly O'Meara
Executive Director

I'm proud to share with you PASA's newly published 2025 Census Report, beautifully

highlighting the multiple ways in which PASA-accredited sanctuaries across Africa are working to protect animals, ecosystems, and people. This report shines a light on some of the incredible impacts of the alliance last year, and the plethora of progress that seek to both safeguard the future of Africa's wildlife and advance the wellbeing of communities.



Some highlights of the report include:

- *More than 4,000 apes and monkeys were cared for at PASA sanctuaries last year.
- *40,000 school children were reached with crucial environmental education.
- *Over 100,000 trees were planted to help restore habitat.
- *400 animals were rescued from cruelty and danger.

These aren't just numbers – these are impacts. They are the tangible results of your support and partnership.

The important benefits of collaboration were also on show at PASA's 2026 Veterinary Workshop, which we recently held in Zambia. Held in partnership with PASA-accredited sanctuary. Chimfunshi Wildlife

Orphanage, this workshop brought together veterinarians from 15 primate sanctuaries across Africa and provided unapparelled capacity building to advance animal health and provide excellent primates.

Through practical training, and specialized sessions with a focus on the resources available at the centers, the workshop empowered veterinaries to manage animal health and provide excellent veterinary care, thereby advancing the welfare of thousands of great apes and monkeys. Furthermore, the workshop strengthened the capacity of African veterinary care for the future. We are grateful to the Arcus Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, and ARATIS Zoo for their generous support of this workshop.

I'm proud to share these impacts with you and reflect that they have only been possible through open and dedicated collaboration towards our shared goals of protecting Africa's apes and monkeys. As always, thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to know more about PASA's work or to explore future collaborations.



Tee Time Fast Approaching!

By Susan Smith

Our annual Gorilla Golf tournament is just around the corner. The event held on October 12 will be the 15th Gorilla Golf tournament raising funds for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Over the years, ACE has raised over \$143,000 through this fundraiser. With your help we are looking forward to another successful event.

It's not too late for ACE members to get involved. There are a couple of ways you can provide support. First members can help **sponsor one of the participating golfers**. Each golfer is asked to raise \$500 and through your sponsorship of any amount helps them reach their goal. Secondly, we are looking for **Hole Sponsors**. A donation of \$100, a sign with sponsor's name and logo if a business, is placed at one of the holes on the course.

To sponsor an individual golfer or sign up to be a Hole Sponsor, go to the ACE website www.apeconservationeffort.org and click on Events then Gorilla Golf.



GA Gives Will Be On Giving Tuesday, December 1

By Karin Keller

Georgia's biggest charitable giving event, GAgives, is happening again this year on Giving Tuesday, December 1. Early giving kicks off November 1 and gives us the chance to reflect on the true spirit of the giving season away from the consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Ape

Conservation Effort will again be part of it, not just as an opportunity for year-end donations, but it allows us to connect with our generous supporters and draw attention to our mission to save the great apes from extinction.

But why do we raise money here in Georgia for animals so far away? Why do we care? Why should you care?

Because we are all connected and depend on a healthy planet. Yet, our world is in peril. Rising temperatures, devastating floods, long lasting droughts, and catastrophic fires are affecting us all. Bonobos, chimpanzees and gorillas live in the Congo basin in Africa. The Congo is the second largest rainforest and acts basically as the lungs of the planet. Orangutans live in southeast Asia and are also rainforest dwellers. These rainforests are vital global ecosystems and with unparalleled biodiversity act as carbon sinks and regulate the earth's climate. The great ape species are important gardeners of these rainforests and we are here to help them before they, too, will go by the way of the dinosaurs.

At Ape Conservation Effort, we are only a small group of people passionate about the great apes but I'm proud of

what we can do when concerned people come together. Last year alone we gave \$4,000 to PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance) for lifesaving care and rehabilitation of chimpanzees. We sent \$1,200 to Lola ya Bonobo for emergency recovery efforts after a devastating flood. Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund received over \$6,000 for their work of protecting and monitoring the mountain gorillas in Rwanda. These are just a few examples of where our funds go.

Although it seems like small drops in a huge bucket of costs these conservation groups run up to operate on a daily basis, yet we are very pleased to be a tiny part of the big picture and raise these amounts in our small corner of the world. Every dollar raised has powerful impact on the conservation work these trusted organizations in Africa and southeast Asia do.

I hope we can count on you again this year to click on the donation button and to help us help them. We all play an important role to safeguard our interconnected planet.



Falling Temps = HoneyBaked Ham Time

By Susan Smith

It's our annual Fall HoneyBaked Ham gift card campaign. This year's sale will again start on October 15 and run through December 31. Remember that ACE receives 20% of the purchase price for every gift card purchased. You can get the cards electronically or request plastic cards (allow 10 days for delivery). It is easy to order your cards, use the link below to access the ACE HoneyBaked Ham website:

https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Ape_Conservation_Effort_Inc

Order you cards early so you can use them for all your fall and holiday events:
*tailgating/family gatherings
*Thanksgiving/Christmas gatherings
*Thank you gifts

A flyer with all the information is also

included in the newsletter. You can help ACE raise more funds for great ape conservation by sharing the flyer with friends, family and co-workers. If you are active on social media, posting the flyer there is another way to spread the work. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Susan Smith at 404-226-7738 or email susansmith9008@comcast.net



Trump Eliminates Habitat Protection for Vulnerable Wildlife

The Trump administration today finalized a rule that could open the door to widespread destruction of habitat for endangered wildlife. The rule reverses a 50-year understanding that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects endangered wildlife from habitat destruction. The rule repealed a regulatory definition of “harm” that included “habitat modification degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.” The Trump administration’s repeal of the definition clearly aims to open the floodgates to industrial actions that will destroy vital habitat – even though the repeal violates the statute itself.

“For the first time ever, a presidential administration now claims that species protected by the Endangered Species Act shouldn’t be safe from habitat modification that destroys where they live, raise their young or search for food. Let’s be

clear: there is no support for the Trump administration’s rule – no scientific support, no legal support, no public support. We will see the Trump administration in court.”

EarthJustice
July 10, 2026



Did you know?

Where there is great love,
there are always miracles.

Willa Cather

We do not inherit the
world from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our
children.

Native American proverb

Every man is guilty of the
good he did not do.

Voltaire



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



Just in time for Fall 2026 celebrations



**ACE is selling
HoneyBaked Ham gift cards.**

**Gift cards can be purchased in several denominations
and can be used at any HoneyBaked Ham store and online.**

They never expire and there is
no limit to the amount you can purchase.



An easy and
impressive
FEAST...

ON-LINE PROCESS

Gift cards can be purchased from October 15th thru December 31st
https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Ape_Conervation_Effort_Inc.



**ACE receives 20% of the purchase price.
You get your party food and
ACE helps save great apes in the wild. Everyone wins!**

*Ape Conservation Effort is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
with a mission to help save great apes in the wild.*