

When Did the Government Begin Protecting Wildlife ?

History has not always been on the side of conservation. The beginning of the twentieth century marked the beginning of the government involvement in the protection of wildlife.

A brief chronology of some key events for government support of wildlife follows.

How did it all begin?

In the 1800s America was spreading west. John James Audubon was busy observing and documenting birds for his *Birds of America* book, when he was awestruck by the sight and sound of a single migrating flock one day at noon. He wrote about that day in 1813 when a flock of passenger pigeons, numbering in the

millions, blocked out the sun and sounded like thunder.



Historical picture of flock of passenger pigeons and hunters

This bird species was considered one of the most common species in the U.S., numbering in the billions.

That many birds could consume an estimated six million bushels of grain a day. To protect crops, farmers began shooting the birds. This turned into a sport of hunting the birds, and with the huge numbers killed, the meat became cheap food for the poor. One document stated that seven million birds were hunted and killed in Michigan in 1878. This included attacking nests, killing young birds and burning sulfur near older roosting ones to disable them.

People began to notice there were fewer and fewer passenger pigeons. Before 1900 Congressman John F. Lacey of Iowa understood what was happening and started advocating for a law to preserve wild birds and game.

1900 The Lacey Act

This was the first federal law protecting wildlife. The Lacey Act established a precedent for trying to protect animals before it was too late to save them.

(FYI: Martha was the last passenger pigeon in existence, living at the Cincinnati Zoo until her death in 1914. Martha was donated to the Smithsonian Institute and she is scheduled to be displayed in an exhibit on the centennial of her death, 2014.)

1916 Migratory Bird Treaty

The United States and Great Britain, on behalf of Canada, established this treaty for the protection of migratory birds. Together with the Lacey Act, the work to

preserve wildlife was starting to take shape. By 1918 the treaty was extended to include Mexico, Japan and Russia.

1948 IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

This was the first global organization created for the protection of the environment.

1963 CITES

The IUCN met in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the rate the world's wild animals and plants were being threatened due to unregulated international trade. They adopted a resolution creating the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

1966 Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

The only federal law regulating the treatment of animals (including non-human primates) used in research and exhibition. It is the minimally accepted standard for animal treatment, care and housing, and included the register and license of animal dealers. AWA addresses possession and use of great apes within the U.S. However, possession of property (animals are considered property) falls to state jurisdiction. Enforcement of AWA is delegated to

U.S. Department of Agriculture and APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service).

1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act

1973 CITES

A meeting of 80 countries was held in Washington, D.C. to address the text of the new IUCN treaty. Today 179 countries implement CITES to protect over 30,000 species of animals and plants.

1973 Endangered Species Act (See article in this issue.)

1988 African Elephant Conservation Act

1992 Wild Bird Conservation Act

1994 Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act

1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

This is the world standard for a scientifically rigorous approach in determining the risks of extinction that can be applied to all species of plants and animals. Therefore, the analysis of status, trends and threats can point to efforts to maintain biodiversity conservation.

1997 Asian Elephant Conservation Act

2000 Great Ape Conservation Act

It is important to support efforts to save the great ape species in Africa and Asia. This act helps to fund the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in fighting poaching and illegal trafficking in great apes by engaging local communities to establish protected areas and to support initiatives to conserve the great ape species.

2000 Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act (CHIMP Act)

The federal government acknowledged that chimpanzees under the control of the government should be provided retirement to a sanctuary. The funding for establishing sanctuaries and their maintenance is undetermined. However, it is a beginning toward having great apes only housed in zoos and sanctuaries in the U.S.

2004 Marine Turtle Conservation Act

2009 "Save the Vanishing Species Stamp" program

This program creates additional money for the

Multinational Species Conservation Fund. By spring of 2011 the amount raised for all five Conservation Acts to share equally totaled \$1.3 million.

(Not included in the above list are the numerous federal amendments and numerous state legislation directed at saving wildlife and the humane treatment of captive wildlife.)

Why Save Species?

There have always been extinctions, so why get involved?

The rate of extinctions in the late 20th and early 21st centuries drastically increased to an estimated 100 -1,000 times the normal rate of extinction. The reasons can be directly traced to mankind's impact upon the natural environment in the form of hunting, fishing, agriculture, development, pollution, habitat encroachment, disease, and global climate change.



Historical clear cut photo

Congress put forth the answer to the why save

species question in the preamble to the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It recognized that endangered and threatened species of wildlife and plants "are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people." Also, Congress said the intent of the Act should be to conserve the ecosystems where the endangered and threatened species live.

Some of the many reasons to invest money and effort into actions to conserve species threatened by extinction include:

- Benefits of natural diversity
- Contributions to medicine
- Biodiversity and agriculture
- Environmental monitors
- Ecosystem services
- Intangible values

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees the listing and protection of all terrestrial animals and plants as well as freshwater fish. The National Marine Fisheries Service oversees marine fish and wildlife. Data is collected by local, state and national scientists on the health of a species.

To be added to the ESA list, the following criteria is evaluated.

- Has a large percentage of the species habitat been degraded or destroyed?
- Has the species been over-consumed by commercial, recreational, scientific or educational uses?
- Is the species threatened by disease or predation?
- Do current regulations or legislations inadequately protect the species?
- Are there other manmade factors that threaten the long-term survival of the species?

Answering "yes" to one or more of the above questions will add the species to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

What Is the Endangered Species Act?

In 1966 Congress passed the Endangered Species Preservation Act, which provided a way that native animal species could be listed as endangered and offered limited protection for them.

By 1969 the Act was amended to include protection to species in danger of worldwide extinction, prohibiting importation and sale in the United States.

Since these early acts proved insufficient protecting at-risk wildlife, they were replaced with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The new act included protection of plants, animals and invertebrates and their ecosystems. Three classifications were created: endangered, threatened, and critical habitat.

In addition the new Act implemented CITES protection in the United States.

Animals are protected from "take" and being traded or sold. The term 'take' is used to include harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Congress continues to add significant amendments to ESA and to authorize funding as needed.

"The ESA has become one of the most powerful environmental laws in U.S. history by making it illegal to harm or kill, endangered plants and animals, whether directly or by destroying their habitats." Also, it makes it illegal to purchase, sale or transport in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered species. Plus it regulates commerce in any species threatened with extinction.

"Since being signed into law, the Endangered Species Act has kept 99% of its endangered plants and animals from extinction, with the vast majority recovering at their originally predicted rates. These threatened species are being pulled back from the brink and are once again becoming part of the American wilderness."

Protection is very important. "Once a species is gone, they are gone forever and there is no going back. Losing even a single species can have disastrous impacts on the rest of the ecosystem, because the effects will be felt throughout the food chain."

Sources used for research of the above articles:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *The Nature Conservancy* magazine Feb./Mar. 2014, IUCN, Animal Welfare Act, *The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects* by Richard Kurin.

Status of Great Apes Today

source: icunredlist.org

Gorilla beringei

ssp.beringei

ssp. graueri

- Common name: Mountain gorilla (beringei), Eastern Lowland gorilla or Grauer's gorilla (graueri)

- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing

Gorilla gorilla

ssp. diehili
ssp. gorilla

- Common name: Western lowland gorilla (gorilla), Cross River gorilla (diehili)
- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Critically Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing

Pan paniscus

- Common name: Bonobo
- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing

Pan troglodytes

ssp. ellioti
ssp. schweinfurii
ssp. troglodytes
ssp. verus

- Common name: Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (ellioti), Central chimpanzee (troglodytes), West African chimpanzee (verus), Eastern chimpanzee (schweinfurthii)
- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing

Pongo abelii

- Common name: Sumatran orangutan
- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Critically Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing

Pongo pygmaeus

ssp. morio
ssp. pygmaeus
ssp. wurmbii

- Common name: Northeast Bornean orangutan (morio), Northwest Bornean orangutan (pygmaeus), Central Bornean orangutan (wurmbii)
- Red List assessment: 2008
- Status: Endangered
- Population trend: decreasing



Who Doesn't Love Honey Baked Hams?

ACE has a new fundraiser and it's just what everyone can use! A Honey Baked Ham gift card. Yes, the fundraising committee members are selling Honey Baked Ham gift cards in any denomination you want now through May 17, 2014.

The gift cards can be used at any Honey Baked Ham store and online. Even

though you will want to use them soon for Easter, Mother's Day, or a fantastic picnic, the gift cards do not have an expiration date! So you can purchase a gift card now and use it for Thanksgiving - next year!

Use it for ham, turkey, side dishes, desserts, mustards, breads, or whatever you need for a delicious event.

ACE will receive 20% from every gift card purchased, so plan to get several. The fundraising committee members selling gift cards are: Michele Dave, Mary-Waite Faulconer, Julie Gaines, Laura Mayo, Lisa Westin, Scott Wright, Kelsey Miller, Stacie Beckett, Peter Kohlhoff and Susan Smith. If you want someone to contact you about this, please email:

fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org

Please see the flier on the last page of this newsletter.

Get your Running Shoes Ready, It's Time for Run for the Redheads!



Trinity Presbyterian Church in Buckhead has graciously offered to host us again. The Second Annual Run for the Redheads will take place on Saturday, **September 13, 2014**, at 7:30 AM. Once again, we will have a timed 5K and a one-mile Great Ape Gallop fun run. Funds raised will benefit the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP).

To join the Run Committee or for more information : redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org



Next General Meeting will be Sunday May 18

Watch for details in late April.

Another Tee Time for Gorilla Golf



The Fourth Annual Gorilla Golf tournament will be held on **September 30, 2014** at Brookfield Country Club. Mark your calendar to join us to golf or to volunteer. Funds raised will benefit programs of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

To volunteer, sponsor or golf contact: gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org.



Jane Goodall and chimpanzee

ACE Voted to Support Jane Goodall Institute Program

At the General Meeting on February 8, 2014, ACE members voted to donate \$5,000 to the Jane Goodall Institute. The program ACE supports is the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center for rescued orphan chimpanzees. The Center is expanding to three islands to have more safe places to send rescued orphan chimpanzees that are brought to the sanctuary. Also, this gives them a more natural environment to practice skills needed to survive when returned to the wild.

For additional information: www.janegoodall.org.



Did you know?

"A Hole-in-One For Conservation: Hosting a Gorilla Golf Fundraising Tournament" article by Jodi Carrigan appeared in the *American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Animal Keepers' Form*. The February & March 2014 is a Special Issue Dedicated to Gorillas.

Jodi, a former board member of ACE and founder of the Gorilla Golf event, gives some background for Ape Conservation Effort and how the golf tournament was begun. After some tweeking, Gorilla Golf has become one of ACE's most successful annual fundraisers. In 2013 the tournament raised \$12,379 for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

Thanks, Jodi, for all of your work making this fundraiser a huge success - and thanks for giving ACE a little publicity.



photo by Gene Todd
2013 Gorilla Golf

2014 ACE Board

President - Julie Gaines
president@apeconservationeffort.org

Vice President - Laura Mayo

Secretary - Jane Barron

Treasurer - Susan Smith

Board members at large:
Stacie Beckett

Michele Dave

Janelle Nord



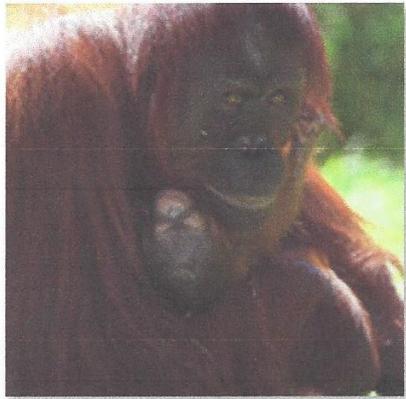
ACE contact addresses:

Primary contact:
info@apeconservationeffort.org

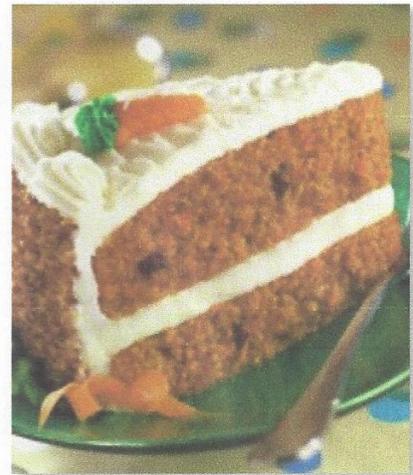
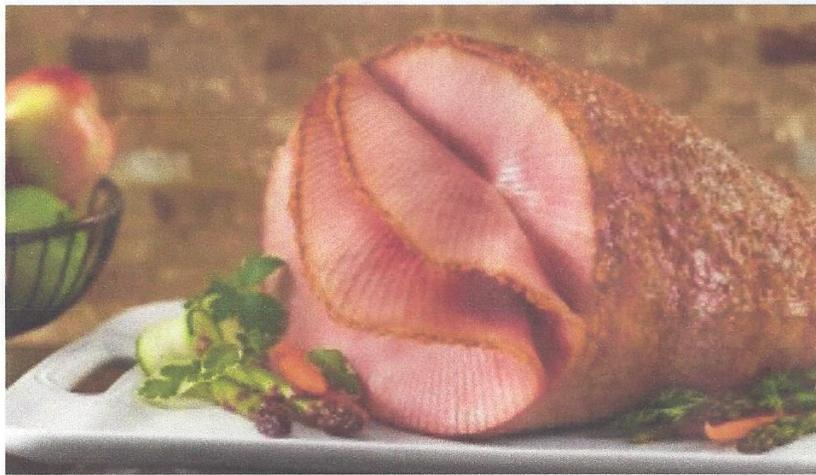
Run for the Redheads 5K:
redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org

Gorilla Golf:
gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org

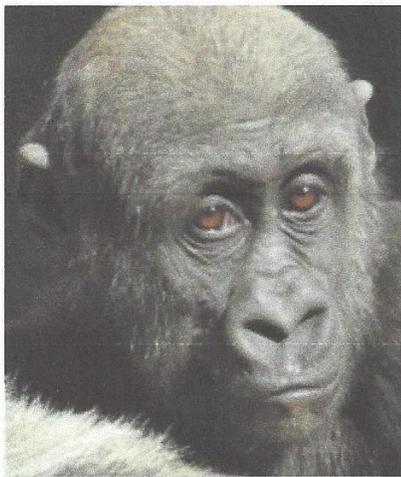
Fundraising events:
fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org



ape
**CONSERVATION
EFFORT**



Ape Conservation Effort Honey Baked Ham Sale



Help raise money for the Great Apes!
Purchase a HBH Gift Card from
March 8 - May 17, 2014

Gift Cards can be purchased in any denomination and can be used at any Honey Baked Ham store and online. They never expire and there are no extra fees to use it. ACE will receive 20% of the proceeds! Get ready for the holidays early this year!

fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org