

Chimpanzees - A Different Kind of Ape

Early in Jane Goodall's research of wild chimpanzees at Gombe National Park, she made some very interesting observations.

After much time spent sitting and watching and taking notes, Goodall was surprised to witness a chimpanzee take a blade of grass, lower it into a termite mound opening, and raise the blade out of the mound with termites on it. The chimp had learned that when a blade of grass disturbed the termites inside the mound, they would attack and bite the grass and hold on. This gave the chimps time to remove the grass and feast on the termites. Before this, it was thought that only humans could develop tools. This was a way to show a separation of humans from animals.

When Goodall wrote Dr. Louis Leakey about her discovery, his response was "Now we must redefine tool, redefine man or accept chimpanzees as humans."

Now we know that the other great apes have the intelligence to do this too, but it was quite a significant observation in 1960.

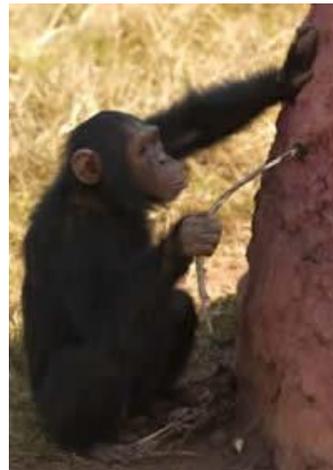


photo: janegoodall.org
Chimpanzee using tool

Goodall's next discovery was a bit more upsetting. This observation included mother and daughter chimpanzees attack, kill and eat infant chimpanzees in their own group by ripping babies out of their mother's arms. Not only was this

dark side of chimpanzees noticed within the group but also when they were observed attacking other groups.

Research revealed that chimps can hunt and eat small to medium-size mammals in the forest, such as bush pig and red colobus monkeys. Although meat is less than 2% of their overall diet, meat is a favorite food. Generally, their diet consists of fruit, seeds, nuts, flowers, leaves and insects, similar to the other great apes. However, the meat element in a chimpanzee diet came as a complete surprise.

Chimp facts

◀ Chimpanzees communicate in many ways: sounds, calls, facial expressions, touches, body language, kissing, embracing, pats on the back, tickling and touching hands.

◀ Goodall found that each chimp has his or her own distinct "pant-hoot" which helps in identifying

the individual when visual contact is difficult.

◀ Baby chimps will have very pale, brownish skin on their faces, ears, palms of their hands and soles of their feet. Twins are extremely rare. In fact during fifty years of research at Gombe, only three sets of twins have been born.



Baby chimpanzee

◀ Infants are in constant contact with its mother. By two years old, young chimps begin to move a little more independently and are completely independent by 6-9 years. However, bonds between mothers and their offspring will remain throughout their lives.

◀ If mom dies, siblings will adopt the orphan. Sometimes other unrelated chimpanzees will adopt orphaned infants.

◀ Chimpanzees do not like to swim, but they enjoy splashing around and playing in water.

◀ Males are slightly larger than females. Males weigh between 90-115 lbs. and stand up at 4 ft.

◀ While chimpanzees living in captivity may live over 60 yrs., wild chimps rarely live past 50 years old.

Status in the wild

The population of chimpanzees in the wild is declining like all great ape species. It is believed at the beginning of the twentieth century there were approximately one to two million chimpanzees. Today the estimate is between 172,000 - 300,000 in the wild. This population spans over 21 African countries, such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Reasons for the decline in populations are the same for all great apes: poaching, bushmeat, logging, mining, oil extraction, human encroachment, clear-cutting for agriculture, human diseases, and conflicts and wars.

Solutions and hope

It is vital to work with the local communities to appreciate not only their natural resources but the biodiversity of animals of the forest. To this end the Jane Goodall Institute was founded in 1977. Programs are designed to work with and benefit the people living in poverty and spread the word about the importance of conserving the forest and animals.

Another key program established is Roots and Shoots Global Youth Program. Goodall believes the hope for the future is in involving the youth to learn about existing problems in their communities and in the world, and then encourage them to come up with solutions and take action to solve problems. To quote Jane Goodall, "Young people, when informed and empowered, when they realize that what they do truly makes a difference, can indeed change the world. They are changing it already."

To learn more about chimpanzees, Jane Goodall and the Goodall Institute, go to www.janegoodall.org

Next General Meeting will be Saturday, August 23 at 6:30 pm

This meeting will include the election of three board members. If you are interested in running for the board, please see a current board member for more information. The three board members whose terms are ending are Susan Smith, Janelle Nord, and Jane Barron.

Run for the Redheads set for September 13!



Get ready for ACE's next big fundraising event! Run for the Redheads 2014 will be on Saturday, September 13, 2104, at 7:30 a.m. and will raise funds for the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP). Once again, the run will be at beautiful Trinity Presbyterian Church in Buckhead and will consist of a professionally timed 5K and a 1-mile Gorilla Gallop fun run for kids and adults of all ages.



Baby orangutan

The proceeds of this event will benefit the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme. The primary goal of SOCP is the conservation of the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan. To achieve its aims, SOCP has adopted a number of methods

including reintroduction programs, habitat protection, monitoring of wild populations, and public education. Both the Sumatran and Bornean orangutan are critically endangered; in fact, they are among the most endangered species in the world. Without intervention they could be extinct in the near future. SOCP is working tirelessly to prevent this. For more information on SOCP, go to their website: www.orangutan.com/projects/socp.

To make this event a success, we need everyone's help! If you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteering on the day of the race, please email us at redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org. If you want to join in the fun as a runner, look for us on active.com. Come on down and help save our favorite redheads!



Tee Time for Gorilla Golf



ACE is excited about the 4th Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament being held September 30, 2014, at Brookfield Country Club in Roswell, GA. Each year we gain more golfers and raise even more money for gorilla conservation. With over \$33,000 raised over the past three years, this event continues to be another successful ACE fundraiser that has made a direct difference in saving the lives of gorillas in Africa.

Each participant must raise a minimum of \$500 in sponsorships. Besides a great day of golf and raising money for a great cause, registration also includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and drinks. There is a raffle full of exciting items to win and awards for first, second and third places, longest drive and "Closest to the Gorilla!" All proceeds will go to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

Know a golfer interested in playing? Interested in

being a hole sponsor or sponsoring a golfer?



Photo: Gene Todd
A group tees off at the 2013 Gorilla Golf tournament.

Visit www.apeconservationeffort.org and click on the Gorilla Golf link. Or email gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org. Join us for fun and help support gorilla conservation!



ACE supports International Gorilla Workshop

The International Gorilla Workshop was held in Atlanta, June 9-12, 2014. Members of ACE were eager to be a part of the action. Some members were registered attendees, others staffed the ACE table in the vendor room, and others worked as zoo docents during Zoo Day and the Silent Auction.

As a vendor, ACE sold several items including Gorilla Sacks, note cards, t-shirts, painted ornaments, etc. We are excited to announce that \$508 in sales was made at this event.

Attendees came from the USA and nine foreign countries. During the workshop they networked, learned of the wild gorilla status, the SSP concerns, and the Great Ape Heart Project. ACE was delighted to be an active participant and to share our mission with others who care so much for gorillas.



Did you know?

Humans and chimpanzees share about 95-98% of the same DNA. Biologically, chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than to gorillas.

Chimpanzees will build a new nest every night. They never sleep in the same nest twice.

Jane Goodall, at age 80, is still very active. She is on the road about 300 days a year, giving lectures, TV interviews, meeting with donors, meeting with government officials, and speaking with students. She says she returns to Gombe twice a year "to recharge."



Jane Goodall with a friend

Tara Stoinski To Head Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

Ape Conservation Effort congratulates Dr. Tara Stoinski on becoming President and Chief Executive Officer of DFGFI. Clare Richardson will continue to serve as CEO until Tara takes over on October 1, 2014. Then Clare will become President Emerita and Director of Strategic Philanthropy.

Dr. Tara Stoinski, a founding member of Ape Conservation Effort (ACE), serves currently as Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer for DFGFI. She has studied gorillas for almost two decades and is the author of over 70 scientific publications and books. Her work has been featured in numerous press outlets, including National Geographic Magazine, CNN, and NPR. Stoinski's research interests cover a broad range of topics including social behavior, reproductive strategies, comparative cognition and conservation.



photo: Tara Stoinski
Dr. Tara Stoinski with mountain gorillas.

Dr. Stoinski holds adjunct positions at Emory University (Psychology and Environmental Studies) and the Georgia Institute of Technology (Psychology) and has taught undergraduate courses in research methods and animal behavior, including a study abroad course based in Kenya. Stoinski developed an on-exhibit cognitive science laboratory at Zoo Atlanta, which reaches an estimated 800,000 visitors annually, to teach the general public about the role of science and conservation in zoos.

Dr. Stoinski serves on the Executive Committee of the IUCN Primate Specialist Group's Section on Great Apes and the Education Committee of the International Primatological Society. She is the Chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Ape Taxon Advisory Group, the Vice Chair of AZA's Field Conservation Committee, and a management committee member of AZA's Gorilla Species Survival Plan.

In 2010, Stoinski launched the Ape TAG Conservation Initiative, aimed at increasing the role of zoos in ape conservation. The initiative has provided over half a million dollars for field projects in Africa and Asia. In 2013, Stoinski was nominated for the prestigious Indianapolis Prize for her conservation activities.



photo: Tara Stoinski
Ready to track gorillas in Rwanda, Tara is dressed for the mountains.

ACE congratulates Tara for all of her accomplishments and her new position with DFGFI. We are very proud to call her "one of our own!"



photo by DFGFI
Ihirwe, a Grauer's gorilla

Rescued Gorilla Orphan Returns Home By UN

Ihirwe, an endangered female Grauer's gorilla whose name means "luck," was airlifted home to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) on May 19, 2014, by United Nations peacekeepers. The transfer was coordinated by a coalition of conservation partners including the Rwanda Development Board, Congolese Wildlife Authority, DFGFI, Gorilla Doctors, Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center (GRACE), Great Apes Survival Partnership, and Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration.

A UN helicopter transported the 4-year-old gorilla to GRACE. The MI 17 transport helicopter flight was part of the UN's regularly scheduled air traffic

within the region as part of their Organization Stabilization Mission in DR Congo (MONUSCO) effort, and arranged to transport the gorilla through Great Apes Survival Partnership. The flight reduced what would have been a grueling 150-mile trip overland to less than two hours.

At GRACE, Ihirwe has joined 13 other rescued orphan gorillas in the world's only sanctuary dedicated to Grauer's gorillas. Ihirwe was confiscated from poachers in 2011 and had been living in a quarantine facility, where the Fossey Fund and Gorilla Doctors provided caregivers to stay with her 24 hours a day since her arrival, acting as surrogate parents.

The international collaboration to transport Ihirwe to her new home represents the strong commitment of both Rwanda and DR Congo to protecting their countries' great apes. At GRACE, Ihirwe will re-learn forest skills and be integrated into a gorilla social group so that one day she may be released back into the wild.

2014 ACE Board

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president@apeconservationeffort.org

Vice President - Laura Mayo

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Michele Dave

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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