

## What is the Great Ape Heart Project Up To?

by Marietta Dindo  
Danforth, Ph.D.

The Great Ape Heart Project (GAHP)'s mission is to help all care-givers of apes be able to better prevent and treat heart disease. Our main contributions to this effort have been the standardization of data collection for heart exams, centralized collection of these data for research purposes, and improving ability of zoos to track an ape's complete cardiac medical history over time especially in cases where an ape moves to new institutions.

In 2012, the GAHP received a second grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund the construction of an online database. We hired a medical software design firm, Prelude Dynamics based in Austin, Texas, to develop

the new database. By digitizing cardiac exams and uploading them to a secure, online, medical database system, we will be greatly streamlining the current exam submission process. Zoo professionals will be able to enter exam information directly into the database for their apes, and can separately ask their consulting sonographer or cardiologist to upload a copy of the cardiac ultrasound to the server. Reviewing GAHP cardiologists will submit their reviews online, immediately alerting the zoo professionals if any follow-up treatments are recommended. While each zoo will be able to access their own apes' medical records, GAHP researchers will be able to look at cardiac health trends across zoos, determining what variation exists (if any) between species, sexes, ages, among other variables.

The new database is now in its final stages of development and is set to begin internal GAHP

beta-testing this October 2014. In February 2015, the database will be rolled-out for use by a select group of zoos, and we expect the database to be fully operational to all zoos by October 2015. In the meantime, zoos are encouraged to continue to submit exams to the GAHP as they normally do. Another way zoos can help develop the new database is by sending us photos.



photo: Max Block

Benny orangutan at Zoo Atlanta is example of photo requested by GAHP.

We are looking for photo submissions to be sent to [gahpinfo@gmail.com](mailto:gahpinfo@gmail.com) with the ape's name, institution, date the photo was taken and photographer name. The best photo will be a recent 89+ full-body image. Most of the time, our cardiac advisors have

not met the apes whose cases they are reviewing. By including a photo in the database, it will provide the doctors with an idea of who the patient is beyond just numbers on their charts. To learn more about the GAHP, please visit our website at [www.greatapeheartproject.org](http://www.greatapeheartproject.org)!



Southern Leopard Frog

## Fun With Frogs - Night Hike, Aug. 2

by Michele Dave

Seven members of ACE met up on August 2 at Mill Creek Nature Center in Buford, GA. We met at the parking lot of the Bird Watchers store and when it started to get dark, we headed out on the hike. After walking down the stairs and starting along the path, we came upon our first find - a leopard frog! Our hike guide, Robert Hill, told us a little bit about their calls and what we might hear at this time of year. We did end up hearing and/or seeing several other species including green frogs, green tree frogs,

bullfrogs, and gray tree frogs.

Bugs were more prevalent on this particular hike. Wolf spiders as big as our hands were hanging out on the trees. Leaf hoppers and praying mantises were among the ones we saw frequently. Although we had the threat of rain, we lucked out and the temperatures were cool. The rain held off and it was a beautiful night. The hike was roughly two hours long, and our guide was very informative and eagle-eyed!

We hope to make these trips more of a frequent outing to get the ACE members together doing more fun activities outside meetings and fundraisers. These hikes occur monthly but are all on a volunteer basis and typically are at the discretion of the Nature Center and the guide. We hope to see more of you out there in the future.

**Next General Meeting will be Sunday, November 9 at 6:30 pm**

More details to come.

## Run for the Redheads held on September 13!



by Julie Gaines

The Second Annual Run for the Redheads took off on Saturday, September 13! Over one hundred runners successfully completed the challenging 5K course to help raise funds for the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme.

The warm and humid weather imitated the tropical rain forest environment of the critically endangered orangutans, but everyone had a great time afterwards having their faces painted, learning about animals from the Zoo Atlanta ZooMobile, and enjoying bananas provided by Run Appeal.

Travelino and Margaret Taylor!

Run for the Redheads would like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers: Family2Family, Cobb Pediatrics, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Gorilla Sacks, Zoo Atlanta, Run Appeal, Haven OB/GYN, Christina Gault, Douglas Huggins, and everyone who helped to make the day a success!



photo: Ryan Carrigan  
Cason Carrigan wearing an orangutan shirt proudly shows off his medal from the 1K.



photo: Ryan Carrigan  
Some of the DeKalb Police Department runners.

Congratulations to our overall winners Chris Thornberry and Dana Janke and our overall Masters winners Dean

## Gorilla Golf Is Back for 4th Year



The Fourth Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament was played on September 30, 2014. Due to the date of the event and the deadline of this newsletter, we will wait until the January issue to have the in-depth article about Gorilla Golf 2014. Stayed tuned for the whole story.



## DFGFI News from the Field

### Large mountain gorilla group not seen since April

Losing track of habituated gorillas means the gorillas are much more vulnerable to threats like poachers or outbreak of diseases. This is why Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund trackers monitor specific gorilla groups 365 days a year, without fail.

Despite the daily efforts, though, once in a while trackers are unable to find groups or individuals that have been followed regularly for years. This is the case recently with Kuryama's group, which has not been located since April 30, and with Gushimira's group, which has been seen only briefly since mid June.

While going this long without being monitored is worrisome for any group, particularly concerning is the disappearance of Kuryama's group, because it is one of the Fossey Fund's longest-monitored groups. Before the last sighting of this group, they had just interacted with Gushimira's group. The day after this interaction, Kuryama's group crossed the Congolese border of the park and disappeared into other side (where our Rwandan trackers cannot go). Since that day our trackers have patrolled the area along the border hoping to find some fresh traces, but the search has been unsuccessful.



Photo by DFGFI  
Kuryama's group in 2013

We suspect the group has shifted their home range to avoid other groups and future possible losses of

members to other groups. Just a couple months earlier, female Ukuri had transferred to Gushimira's group, and following that the group's trail was lost for several weeks. Fearing another interaction with Gushimira's group may be the reason Kuryama's group decided to move away.

Non-monitored areas can be very dangerous for the gorillas, as the presence of snares where immature gorillas can get caught go undiscovered. In addition to increased vulnerability of the lost group, Fossey Fund staff is also concerned about large gaps in the long-term data collection and life-history information of the group member. All the members of Kuryama's group have been followed since birth. The oldest gorilla in the group is silverback Kirahure, born in 1991, but the history of the group goes ever further back to formal dominant, Kuryama born in 1986, the first son of legendary silverback Titus.

Kuryama's group was formed by the split of group Beetsme, which occurred in 2007 when young silverback Kuryama challenged his father Titus for dominance. Kuryama was the leader of his group until his early death in 2011. Since then silverback Kirahure has taken leadership and has

been supported by second silverback Vuba and blackbacks Igihozo and Tetro. At the time of the disappearance, Kuryama's group was composed of 12 gorillas (one infant, two juveniles, three subadults, two blackbacks, two adult females and two silverbacks).



## Did you know?

We're selling Yankee Candles again this year!



Yes, ACE had such a successful fundraising project last year that we decided to do it again!

There are two ways you can participate: order online or order from an ACE member.

Online: Starting October 5, 2014, visit [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and enter our Group Number 990066937. Place your order, and it will be shipped directly to you. Remember to order online by December 1 to get your items by December 25, 2014

Contact an ACE member: Your order will be placed in bulk on October 18,

2014. When the items are shipped within two weeks, the ACE member you contacted will get back in touch with you to pick up your purchase.

Either way - you are helping ACE help the animals PLUS you get your items in time for the holidays!

*See the flier in this newsletter for details.*



## Did you know?



ACE will have a Holiday Sale Table at Mega Update on December 13, 2014. This will be a great opportunity to find unique holiday gifts, such as ape-painted ornaments, gorilla sacks, and much more. Start making your gift list and bring it to the ACE holiday sale.



## Did you know?



HoneyBaked Ham gift certificates are available for purchase just in time for Thanksgiving!

Contact Susan Smith or any board member to place your order for gift cards. You choose the denomination of the gift card. Susan will pick up the gift cards from HoneyBaked Ham and contact you within 10 days so you can get them from her.

ACE will receive a percentage of each purchase you make. Such an easy way of helping the great apes in the wild!

HoneyBaked Ham turkeys and hams contain no palm oil. ACE encourages people who are interested in saving great apes and their habitats to research products that they purchase and become responsible consumers.



## 2014-2015 ACE Board

President - Julie Gaines  
[president@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:president@apeconservationeffort.org)

Vice President - Laura Mayo

Treasurer - Susan Smith

Board members at large:  
Stacie Beckett

Michele Dave

Janelle Nord

Lynn Yakubinis



ACE contact addresses:

Primary contact:  
[info@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:info@apeconservationeffort.org)

Run for the Redheads 5K:  
[redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org)

Gorilla Golf:  
[gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org)

Fundraising events:  
[fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org)