

ACE Fundraising Has Success in 2014 and Big Plans for 2015

by Michele Dave

On November 22 the Fundraising Committee met to discuss the things accomplished this year and develop a calendar for 2015. More events, including some just for fun without fundraising, will include more night hikes as well as dine out nights.

2014 has been an incredible year for fundraising. Yankee Candle sales have brought in over \$483 so far, and the sales continue until January 14, 2015. Check out the website at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com, then enter our customer number 990066937. Your purchase will benefit ACE if you order this way.

HoneyBaked Ham gift cards have been very successful. The spring

sale made \$330, and as of the end of November, winter sales have raised \$121. Personally, I entertained a group of six using my gift card. Tons of food and all we had to do is heat it up and serve.

Next year, we hope to add more events throughout the year, and we would love feedback about the events. If there is something you would like to do as a fun ACE outing (non-fundraiser) or if there is an event you absolutely loved or didn't love so much, we want to know. You can always feel free to email your comments to fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org.

The calendar of events will give you an idea of what we have planned. Of course activities are subject to change since this is still in the planning stage.

Apes in the Arts may continue with a brand new look in 2015. Stay tuned for more info!

January and February will be free months to decompress from the holidays and Super Bowl Sunday!

March - We will be selling HoneyBaked Ham gift cards again in time for Easter. Easter is April 5, so consider a gift card and get your order into Susan Smith by March 25.

April - We will start selling Yankee Candles again, but this will be a different season with Spring/Summer scents. Our night hike guide has picked April for a night to hear spring critters at Mill Creek Nature Center.

May - TBD

June - Dine-out night.

July - TBD

August - Monday Night Brewing Company fundraising fun night out for members and friends.

September - Gorilla Golf and Run for the Redheads.

October - Dine-out night.

November - We hope to participate in Georgia Give Day. We will be selling wreaths for the holiday season. We may host a craft night to prepare items for the Holiday sale at Mega Update.

December - Holiday Sale.

2015 will be busy and fun and important to help save great apes. We are excited for everyone to participate, to share ideas, and to promote ACE. The holidays are over, so let's have a great 2015!

Goodbye Stacie

We were sad to learn that Stacie Beckett was leaving Atlanta. She was thrilled to get a job closer to her family's home in Indianapolis, but she was sad to leave her friends in ACE and her great apes at Zoo Atlanta. We wish her all of the luck and happiness in her new job.

Stacie was a Board Member for Ape Conservation Effort. Her term ends at the end of this year, but with her leaving early, we will need to elect another board member to complete her term.

If you would like your name put into nomination or if you would like to nominate someone for the Board, please contact any

current Board Member. The election will take place at the next General Meeting. No date has been set for the meeting at this time.



Dr. Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall Speaks at Zoo Atlanta

Monday, December 8, 2014, Jane Goodall visited Zoo Atlanta to give a special program to school children. Some of the members of ACE were lucky to attend this lecture, too.

Dr. Goodall is calm, soft-spoken and a wonderful story teller. Beginning the lecture, she stated that she is constantly asked when she is going to retire. Her answer is, "I can only retire when the world is saved."

She has had a love of animals dating back to when she was four years old and had the curiosity to sit quietly and watch and watch and watch a chicken until it laid an egg. Relating to this story, she told the school children to take advantage of every

opportunity to learn that comes - never give up - find a way.

Giving a brief history of her background, she talked about meeting Dr. Louis Leakey and being assigned to study chimpanzees in the wild. While doing this, she discovered that chimpanzees are very similar to humans. The human brain is larger, but there is only 1% difference in DNA of humans and chimpanzees. We have many of the same characteristics, both good and bad. Chimps won't gather for a lecture like this or use a microphone, so we know our intellectual abilities are different.

Humans are intellectually creative, but some of this is not positive and is why humans are destroying the planet. So much information bombarding school kids today has to do with polluted water, destroying forests, unhealthy atmosphere, endangered species, people hating people. Young people could become very depressed, angry, and hopeless. But Dr. Goodall believes that there is always something good that can be done to change things.

Her Roots & Shoots program was started to help students discuss problems and figure out solutions. A group can choose about three

problems to focus on. Then working each day individuals can see that they can make a difference. Roots & Shoots groups now operate in 138 countries with 150,000 active groups, even in mainland China. So these are the small seeds being planted to create little shoots of goodness that continue to grow and make a difference. Dr. Goodall said, "the harder you work on something, the better you feel."

Included in the lecture were two interesting and emotional films: one of her background and one of a chimp being released back into the wild on one of three protected islands in Congo that the Jane Goodall Institute has purchased.

Even though greed, corruption, and racism exists, we can change it. Back to the point that the human brain is amazing, she said, "if the human brain is smart enough and creative enough to put a man on the moon and bring him safely home, the human brain can figure out a way to solve the problems we currently face."

What a wonderful experience to hear Jane Goodall speak. *ACE is proud to have donated \$5,000 to the Jane Goodall Institute in 2014.*



photo by: Leslie Martin
ACE activity table at Rock Springs Elementary School STEM Night.

ACE Supports STEM Family Night

by Susan Smith

ACE is broadening its reach. On November 6, 2014, ACE members Leslie Martin and Susan Smith represented our organization at Rock Springs Elementary School's STEM Family Night. The event focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and provided experiences for students and their parents in these fields. Julie Mosley, Vice Principal at Rock Springs Elementary, had participated in the ACE Run for the Redheads 5K in September. She saw the ACE display table and thought it would be a great addition to their STEM Night event.

Over 70 students and their parents visited our room in two hours. Information about the great apes and their conservation, as well as hands on experiences

were provided. Participants could "groom a gorilla," check out the arm span of an orangutan, work on puzzles and compare the size of their handprint to that of a gorilla and orangutan. At the same time, they learned what a great ape is, where they live and why they are endangered. There were a lot of questions asked and the students and parents really enjoyed all of the activities.

Gorilla Golf Is Held for 4th Year



Thoughts of 2014 Gorilla Golf from Jodi Carrigan

By Jodi Carrigan

One of my labors of love is chairing the annual Gorilla Golf Tournament. This year marked the fourth year for this fundraiser, and every year it continues to grow in its success.



photo by: Gene Todd
Thank you to our wonderful 2014 Gorilla Golf golfers!

The 2014 event had 19 golfers and raised \$13,494 for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI). Tara Stoinski, president and CEO of DFGFI and a member of ACE, was present cheering on the golfers. Several golfers flew in from out of state to participate.



photo by: Jodi Carrigan
Three golfers and a gorilla! Evan Adler, Marc Pachman, Larry Wexler

One thing that stood out to me this year was the comparison from our first year. When we first started this tournament in 2000, there were only 780 mountain gorillas left in the world. To date, the number is 880 - proof that what we are doing is making a difference. We put signs on the course to remind the golfers of information about the

gorillas they were playing to save.

The list of winners this year is as follows:

- First Place* - Bretton McIlrath
- Second Place* - Ryan Carrigan
- Third Place* - Marc Pachman
- Closest to the Gorilla* - Ryan Carrigan
- Longest Drive* - Dave Singer

Congratulations to our winners, and we hope to see you next year.

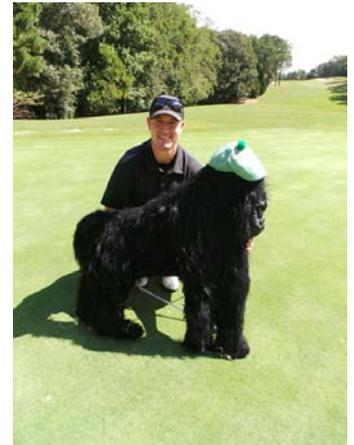


photo by: Jodi Carrigan
Ryan Carrigan won closest to the gorilla prize

Of course it takes a dedicated group of ACE members to put the tournament on. Many thanks goes out to the Gorilla Golf committee and everyone who donated auction prizes, worked the event, and supported golfers. We couldn't have done it without you! Also, our thanks goes to our wonderful sponsors and to the fabulous Brookfield Country Club. We could not have a

tournament without all of you!



photo by: Gene Todd
Hole Sponsors had signs on the course promoting their businesses.

We are pleased to announce that Gorilla Golf will return for a fifth year on September 29, 2015. We look forward to going back to Brookfield Country Club, and our fingers are crossed to repeat the wonderful weather we had this year. Maybe you or someone you know would like to join us next year. Don't golf? No problem. We welcome all hole sponsors and golfer sponsors.



Run for the Redheads 2014 was a success! by Julie Gaines

The Second Annual Run for the Redheads was a success! Our yearly 5K run was held on a steamy morning on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at

Trinity Presbyterian Church in Buckhead.



photo by: Gene Todd
And they're off!!!

The group of over 130 runners took off at 7:30 am and ran through a lovely, if slightly hilly, neighborhood.



photo by: Gene Todd
2014 Overall Winners

Our overall winner was out-of-town guest Chris Thornberry, who completed the run in 18:40. Congratulations as well to our overall female winner, Dana Janke (25:13) and our overall Masters winners, Dean Trevelino (20:55) and Margaret Taylor (25:37)!



photo by: Gene Todd
2014 One Mile Winner

After the 5K was completed, a group of

adults and kids competed in the 1-Mile Gorilla Gallop Fun Run. The first across the finish line was young Adrian Mackey. All of the runners had a great time, and everyone completed the course, even a group of adults who got lost on the Gorilla Gallop course!



photo by: Gene Todd
Runners show off their temporary orangutan tatoos.

The after-party included bananas supplied by Run Appeal, the Zoo Atlanta ZooMobile, a face painter, and even a magician. The winners of each age class then received their medals and the overall medalists were awarded paintings by some very talented orangutans.

Run for the Redheads raised over \$3,800 for 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 orangutans 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 at www.orangutan.com/projects/socp.



We would like to thank our wonderful 2014 sponsors - Trinity Presbyterian Church, Family2Family, Cobb Pediatrics, Gorilla Sacks, Tamaqua Foundation, Haven OB/GYN, Lauderdale Shirthouse, Inc., Run Appeal, and Zoo Atlanta. A round of applause also goes to all of the volunteers who made the race possible.



photo by: Gene Todd
Police Force runners

We are already preparing for Run for the Redheads 2015! Trinity Presbyterian has agreed to let us invade once again on Saturday, September 12, 2015. Once again, we will have a timed 5K and a 1-Mile Great Ape Gallop fun run. If you are interested in being a sponsor of helping out in any way, please email us at redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org. We hope to see everyone out running!



Mountain gorilla mom and baby in Rwanda

DFGFI News from the Field

Thank you to all who help us save gorillas.

(excerpts from December 12, 2014 DFGFI Gorilla Blog)

During this season of thanks, we would like to recognize all of our supporters from around the world who help us save gorillas. As a nonprofit organization, we are committed to the conservation and protection of gorillas and their habitats in Africa. And because we are a nonprofit, we can only fulfill our mission through the financial support we receive during the year. This support is a visible demonstration of the belief in the importance of our work. Not only are we incredibly grateful for the financial gifts we receive, we are also humbled because we understand there are many worthy causes in the world, and our supporters have chosen the protection of the gorillas for their gifts.

This year, we were able to monitor about 120 individual gorillas in 10 different groups at the

Karisoke Research Center, providing more than 20,000 hours of direct protection, and dismantling nearly 500 snares. In neighboring Bisate village, with the aid of Partners in Conservation, we constructed a new learning center with books and 25 computers. The Bisate Learning Center, which will open in 2015, will benefit 2,000 primary and secondary students and will also be available to approximately 20,000 community members. The Fossey Fund has also committed to spread its conservation efforts to Grauer's gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo with our two other permanent field sites in addition to Karisoke, at Nkuba-Biruwe and in Kahuzi-Biega National Park

We could not have achieved these successes during 2014 without the incredible support we receive. From our staff in Rwanda, Congo and the U.S., we thank you for your support and for saving gorillas.

ACE was proud to be able to donate \$13,494 to DFGFI during 2014.

2014-2015 ACE Board

President - Julie Gaines
president@apeconservationeffort.org

Vice President - Laura Mayo

Secretary - Janelle Nord

Treasurer - Susan Smith

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Fundraising events:
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Did you know?

In 2014 ACE continued to help groups saving great apes bringing our **grand total of donations since 2006 to \$115,183.**



Did you know?

The 2014 Holiday sales table at Mega Update made the second highest amount in sales in all the years ACE has participated in this event!