

"No Man Is An Island"

This is a phrase that's been around a long time. Some might remember it from English class in school. The original quote came from "Devotions" by John Donne in 1624. The quote is: *"No man is an Island, entire of it self (sic); every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."*

That idea was expanded and became a song that Joan Baez sang in 1968, which many of us may remember. *"No man is an island, No man stands alone, Each man's joy is joy to me, Each man's grief is my own.*

*We need one another,
 So I will defend,
 Each man as my brother,
 Each man as my friend.....*

*When I help my brother,
 Then I know that I
 Plant the seed of friendship
 That will never die."*

The message is simple - we need each other for many reasons. Another related quote would be "it takes a village..." The need for others and for working together is not a new one.

However, it is a major force in conservation.

Conservation groups wanting to save endangered animals in their own habitats realize that working with the local human population creates a mutual love for the animals and an understanding of the needs of the people. Everyone "buys into the idea" to save the animals by doing things that will also benefit the locals.

Many great ape groups are doing this. Sometimes it might be government policy and sometimes it is grass-roots, but working with locals is important. Ultimately, cooperative team work benefits people and animals. Examples of involvement take on many forms.

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI)

employs local men as rangers to protect gorillas and their habitats. But this is only part of DFGFI's community involvement. "Education is the key to empowering people to become stewards of their shared ecosystem with the gorillas." "In order to improve the local human condition, the fund partners

with local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and universities on health and education activities. For instance, the fund works with University of Rwanda students to increase the number of local scientists, many of whom take on leadership roles in the community, empowered to conserve their own natural resources."

The message of basic health, clean water, disease prevention plus a rural clinic contribute to spreading the word of the necessity of a healthy environment for humans and wildlife. Thousands of people in Rwanda and Congo have been helped through these programs, and this has resulted in close cooperation in efforts to save gorillas.

www.gorillafund.org



photo by DFGFI

Trackers are local people



photo by Gorilla Doctors

The team is ready to go

Gorilla Doctors aims to employ outstanding African veterinarians and mentor the next generation of wildlife health experts. To accomplish this, educational training programs are provided by staff members in close cooperation with African schools and universities. By investing in training, Gorilla Doctors ultimately envisions in-country veterinarians will be the primary providers of eastern gorilla veterinary care.

www.gorilladoctors.org

International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)

has a slogan "Education is all about people." The people involved in IGCP programs share borders of Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with the gorillas. Park staff comes from these three countries. The education programs aim to improve the livelihood of the people, encourage sustainable use of resources, and try to tackle local issues through community initiatives. The results change attitudes toward conservation and reduce threats facing the national

parks, forests and wildlife. www.igcp.org

Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) has a wide variety of community involved programs. One is the TACARE (Take Care) program. This community-centered conservation and development program has a goal to create sustainable livelihoods while promoting conservation. It succeeds because projects are driven and embraced by local communities.

JGI's work includes agriculture, health, education and micro-credit. Striving for rural communities to be economically and culturally self-sustaining must include protecting natural resources for long term prosperity. Education of girls and involvement of women is important. Micro-credit provides capital for small, environmentally sustainable business ventures, such as fuel efficient stoves, clean water systems, and oil hybridization project.



Palm oil trees

The oil hybridization project encourages farmers to replace their poor performing oil palm trees with a highly

productive hybrid strain developed by TACARE. Oil palm is one of the most important cash crops in the Kigoma region. TACARE has distributed 650,000 hybrid seedlings to local farmers in 19 villages. The result is that the new variety produces five times the amount of oil than the local variety does. Farmers can produce the same amount of oil from one acre than they did on 5 acres in the past. The benefit to the farmer goes further than yield. The farmer has enough money to send his children to secondary school, and his financial stability makes him a leader in the community. No surprise that this program has been recognized by the US Agency for International Development as a model worth emulating.

www.janegoodall.org

Orang Utan Republik Foundation (OURF)

awards college scholarships to students living in Sumatra. The areas of study include biology, forestry, zoology, mathematics and natural science, and veterinary science. The students conduct research on orangutans in Sumatra and Borneo while working on their degrees. After college they stay in Sumatra or Borneo working with people and orangutans.

www.orangutanrepublik.org

Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC) runs the sanctuary **Lola ya Bonobo**. Their slogan is "conservation through education." Although many people visit the sanctuary, their target audience is children.

One education program for the children is the Kindness Club. This club located in several different schools in Kinshasa is a way to help the children learn about the life of bonobos, risks to bonobos associated with bushmeat trade, and how they can protect bonobos and Congo's wildlife. Lectures have so much more weight when the children visit the sanctuary to see the bonobos obtained through confiscation of infants on the black market. They love the stories of returning the rehabilitated bonobos to Ekolo ya Bonobo, land of the bonobos, a protected area.

Other community projects include medical equipment for birthing clinics, medicine for village pharmacy, education materials for 12 schools, and uniforms for local soccer teams. www.friendsofbonobos.org



photo by Orang Utan Coffee
Ready for fall harvest

Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) and Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (YEL) Foundation for Sustainable Ecosystems

This partnership has many community programs including eco-tourism and eco-farming. Eco-tourism education is important to train local people to be tour guides, thus increasing the community understanding and knowledge of their ecosystem and the animals in it. Results of shared information lead to respect for the environment and a desire to protect their resources. Eco-farming has goals to produce healthy and safe agricultural products by minimizing pollution and contamination. Proper soil maintenance increases productivity for the long term and improves sustainable natural resources. One example of this can be found in Orang Utan Coffee. This is 100%

Arabica coffee grown in Sumatra by local coffee farmers. The local farmers receive a premium for production and a donation goes to SOCP. Premiums do not increase with over-production for personal gains. Instead everyone is compensated for their contributions. This is the first coffee that directly protects the critically endangered orangutans and supports the local farmers of Sumatra. www.yelweb.org www.orang-utan-coffee.com



photo by SOS
Restoring the forest one seedling at a time

Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS) has an interesting program operated by the Orangutan Information Centre which includes a team of local people and farmers in Sumatra. From eight organic tree nurseries and forestry centers, they have been able to plant more than a million indigenous tree seedlings. This effort is managed in close collaboration with the forest-dependent communities and local governments to ensure that the replanted sites will be safe from future

encroachment. These projects offer the local people a way of supporting their families while preserving and restoring the rainforest. www.orangutans-sos.org

The above listing demonstrates a few of the efforts for local people to buy into the idea of conservation in some way. It is obvious that conservation groups recognize the importance of community inclusion. There are plenty of incentives for locals to get involved. Working together to save great apes and their habitats must be a team effort. This is not a secret; it's a long accepted idea. To paraphrase from the title: No conservation effort can succeed in a vacuum.

Special thanks goes to Mary Alice Shinall for assisting in research for this article.

How You Can Help ACE Help the Great Apes

by Julie Gaines

Since its inception, ACE has donated over \$100,000 to organizations in Africa and Indonesia to help preserve gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, and bonobos in their natural habitats. We are immensely grateful to you - our members, volunteers, sponsors, and

patrons - for your involvement with ACE and our projects! However, we still need your help - great ape populations continue to decline across the world and there is much more work to be done. So how can you help?

Become a member of ACE! And if you are already a member, renew your membership! Your \$20 membership fee goes a long way. Since ACE is completely run by volunteers, our operating expenses are very low.

Attend one of our major fundraisers - there's something for everyone! You can bid for artwork done by ape and human artists while you enjoy food, wine, and aerialists at this year's Apes in the Arts on May 16. Or you can get a good workout by coming out to Run for the Redheads 5K race on September 12. Or if you prefer a slower pace, be one of our golfers at Gorilla Golf on September 29. Contact us at info@apeconservationeffort.org for more information.

If you'd like to help put on one of our events, we always need extra volunteers for Run for the Redheads 5K. We will need volunteers for registration, course guides, water stations, t-shirt distribution, you name it. If you'd like to help, please contact us at

redheadrun@apeconservationeffort.org.

It takes a lot of resources to put on one of our fundraising events. We try very hard to hold our costs as low as possible so that we can donate more towards saving great apes. In fact, we hate to pay for things if we can possibly get them donated! We can do an awful lot with a little bit of help. Every year, we need donations of food, wine, beer, bottled water for events. Bananas and a DJ for our 5K. Hole sponsors for Gorilla Golf. Artwork framing for Apes in the Arts. Something cool and different to make our events special. For example, this year, The Space Atlanta and their group of aerialists have donated their venue and talents to reinvent Apes in the Arts and bring it to a new height. What special talents do you have to contribute? Contact us at info@apeconservationeffort.org and let's talk!

And of course, we love our sponsors! We've been fortunate to have wonderful sponsors over the years without whom we could not have put on any of our events. If you'd just like to donate some cold hard cash, we will be very grateful. You can target your donation to a specific event or even a specific ape species - we will certainly honor that. If you'd just like to support

our overall mission, we will send your donation where we know it will help.

Again, thank you to all those who have supported us over the years, and we hope to add many new friends in 2015!

Spring Fundraising Projects

HoneyBaked Ham gift cards are always a hit, and they will not expire. So the next time you think of buying ham or taking it to a party, think about purchasing a gift card from ACE. Contact Susan Smith at susansmith9008@comcast.net to purchase any denomination of HoneyBaked Ham gift cards. You will be helping ACE raise money to save great apes and you will be the hit of the party bringing this delicious food.

Place your order for **Yankee Candles** online: www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and specify the ACE group number 990066937, and begin shopping. If you prefer to place your order with an ACE member, contact Michele Dave, Julie Gaines, or Susan Smith. Available now through May are the Spring/Summer scents. We plan to sell Yankee

Candles later in the year when the holiday scents are available.



Apes in the Arts Is Reinvented for 2015

by Julie Gaines

One of ACE's most successful past fundraising events, Apes in the Arts, will return on May 16, 2015, but with a twist. This year's event will bring ape and human artists together and then still rise to new heights with the creativity of aerialists from our new venue, The Space (www.thespaceatl.com).

Apes in the Arts will once again feature artwork done by the gorillas and orangutan at Zoo Atlanta. However, this year, we invited artists from around the country to choose a painting and interpret it through their own eyes in the media of their choice. All of the artwork will be presented in a silent auction for you to purchase.



Which is ape-painted and which is human artist Jason Lawyer's interpretation?

We will also have a gift table with t-shirts and notecards featuring ape artwork as well as many other smaller items. All proceeds from the night's event will go directly to great ape conservation projects in Africa.

But the night will not stop with the artwork! While you check on your silent auction bids, guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and performances by the elegant and graceful air artists of The Space. It should truly be a night to remember!



photo by www.thespaceatl.com



photo by www.thespaceatl.com

Tickets will be available for purchase soon on our website at www.apeconservationeffort.org. Admission is \$30 in advance (purchase by May 15) or \$40 on the day of the event. The evening will start at 6:30 pm with final bids at 8:30 pm. Come help us raise much needed money for ape conservation and experience a unique and rewarding evening!



ACE Night Hike Scheduled for Sunday, June 14

Our night hike guide has picked Sunday, June 14 to search for night critters at Mill Creek Nature Center. Sign up will be handled in May, so mark your calendar now.

The people attending the hike last year returned to tell us of critters they saw, a wonderful tour guide, and the fun of a night hunt. Don't you think you might want to go this time?



2015 Gorilla Golf Needs Golfers and Sponsors

by Jodi Carrigan

This year's Gorilla Golf will be held on September 29 at Brookfield Country Club. Know any golfers to play, want to golf yourself, how about sponsor a golfer, or donate a raffle item? If you are interested in helping out our 5th Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament, please contact gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org or visit our website www.apeconservationeffort.org to learn more about how you can help protect gorillas in the wild. Hope you can join us for a fun day of golf!



Did you know?

M.O.M. - Missing Orangutan Moms - will take place on Sunday May 10, 2015, Mother's Day. This program started by Orangutan Outreach pays tribute to the close relationship orangutan mothers and babies have. It is a time to talk about so

many baby orangutans growing up without moms due to mothers being killed protecting babies when clear-cutting forests for the planting oil palms. Zoo Atlanta is one of many zoos participating in this educational event.



photo by virungamovie.com
Devoted ranger with his friend

Virunga Documentary Shown by ACE

On February 21 and March 21, ACE sponsored the showing of *Virunga* at Zoo Atlanta. The documentary was nominated for an Academy Award.

The movie was a powerful statement especially when seen on the huge screen in the World Studio. It shows life for gorillas and humans in the Virunga Mountains, peaceful and simple. Then when war and political greed interfere, life for everyone and everything is turned upside down. The commitment of the rangers risking their lives to care for the gorillas was impressive. After all, they think of the gorillas as part of their families and couldn't desert them.

The documentary has beautiful animals, picturesque scenery, undying devotion, and unbelievable panic of war. If you have not seen it, please take the time to view it. You will appreciate the efforts of groups working with gorillas even more. For more information and to donate funds to support the Virunga National Park, go to www.virunga.org. The documentary is available for streaming on Netflix.

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president@apeconservationeffort.org

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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