



Halloween, Holidays and Palm Oil

It's usually this time of year when we focus more on products containing palm oil. Trying to be informed consumers is important in helping save orangutans and the other flora and fauna in the areas being decimated by forest clear-cutting.

We are aware of the palm oil crisis. We understand that boycotting palm oil will not make the companies creating palm plantations get out of the business. Plus we know that palm oil is in most things we use daily. So what are we to do?

First, let's review the situation. Palm oil comes for the oil palm grown in

plantations in tropical temperature and rich soil. The "easiest" way to plant the plantation is to clear-cut, burn the forest trees that aren't sold for lumber, and then plant oil palms in rows on the empty land. Yes, the burning is a major contributor to global warming. Yes, clear-cutting the forest takes away homes and food for the plants and animals there. Yes, one of these animals hugely effected by this is the orangutan.



With so many negatives, why would we want to support palm oil?

Palm oil is naturally free of trans fats, and it is a highly versatile product.

The economy of Indonesia and other oil palm producing countries is tied to this product. It

generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue. Plus more than six million jobs globally are tied to this product. A closer look will tell you that the problem is not with the product but with where and how it's grown and used.

Oil palm has a 4-10 times higher yield per hectare than other oilseed crops. This means it will produce more product on less land. To be able to encourage companies to end clear-cutting and simply reuse the planted land will make a big impact. Not all previously clear-cut land will need to be replanted for palm oil. More efficient farming and seed quality will allow some of the plantation land to go back to nature.

How do we express to the companies involved that we want them to do this?

There is a network of hundreds of organizations and businesses who are discussing this and setting standards. This group is the RSPO, the

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. This network is made up of plantation companies, processors, traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, financial institutions, environmental NGOs and social NGOs, and others. In other words any group desiring to support this industry in a responsible way can apply to become a member of RSPO.



At the present it takes a bit of research to find out who the RSPO members are. There is an RSPO logo that is available to put on product packaging, but not all RSPO members have done this. We should encourage them to do this to make it easier for the consumer to support RSPO members and their goals. Until then, we will continue to try and inform you about businesses you might want to support.

Remember, ultimately by supporting RSPO members you are helping save orangutan habitat and orangutans.

For your Halloween shopping, please support these RSPO businesses: *(This list is not complete*

but hopefully will give you some suggestions. You can research more on your own. www.rsपो.org/members)

Baby Ruth
Bazooka bubble gum
Blue Bird
Butterfinger
Capri Sun
Cheerios
Cheetos
Chex
Coca-Cola
Dasani
Dentyne
Dewey's Bakery
Moravian Cookies
Doritos
Dove candy
Dr. Pepper
Evian
Fiber One
Fiddle Faddle
Gatorade
Hagan-Däaz
Healthy Choice
Hebrew National
Hershey's
Jell-o
Jiffy Pop
Kind Healthy Grain bars
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Le Choy
Marie Calenders
Mi Casa
Minute Maid
Mountain Dew
Mr. Goodbar
Nature Valley
Nature's Own
Necco
Nerds
Nestle's
Newman's Own Organics
Orville Redenbacher
Planters
Peter Pan
Powerade
Reeses
Rosarita
Ruffles
Sabra

Skittles
Smucker's
Snickers
Starbuck's
Sugar Daddy
Sunbeam
Sweetarts
Swiss Miss
Tootie
Tropicana
Twining's Tea
Twix
Twizzlers
Wheaties
Wonka
Yoplait

Research for this article comes from the following sources:

www.rsपो.org

www.blog.conservation.org/2014/04/why-palm-oil-isn't-the-enemy

www.zooatlanta.org

www.cmzoo.org

2015 Gorilla Golf

The Fifth Annual Gorilla Golf tournament was held on September 29, 2015. Due to our publishing schedule, the winners and highlights from this year's tournament will be in the January 2016 issue of *Heard It Through The Ape Vine*.



Calling All ACE Members! *November 7* Is the Date

As we move towards the end of 2015, it's time to get ready for our last meeting of the year as well as the election for the Board of Directors. The ACE Board is comprised of seven members who are drawn from the general membership. This year we are voting to replace four sitting Board members. Stacie Beckett has moved to Indiana, and Julie Gaines, Laura Mayo, and Michele Dave have completed their two year terms. Susan Smith, Janelle Nord, and Lynn Yakubinis have one more year on their current terms.

We call on all ACE members to consider running for the Board of Directors and help support their organization! All ACE members are eligible to run regardless of their current voting status. If you are interested in

helping to shape the future of ACE, please notify Julie Gaines at kidjules@bellsouth.net.

Elections will be held at our last meeting of the year on **Saturday, November 7, 2015 in the Ford Conference Room**. Beginning at 5:30 pm, we will celebrate a successful year with a potluck dinner and then get down to business at 6 pm! More details will come shortly as well as RSVP contact information. Mark your calendars now!



Run for the Redheads 2015

by Julie Gaines

The Third Annual Run for the Redheads was a success! Our yearly 5K run was held on a cool and delightful morning on Saturday, September 12, 2015. The run was, once again, held on the beautiful grounds of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Buckhead.

The runners took off at 7:30 am and ran through a lovely, if slightly hilly, neighborhood. Our winners came in pairs this year! Our overall

winners were the husband and wife team of Joey Jarrell, who completed the run in 20:11 and Emily Horne with a time of 24:13. Our Masters winners, another speedy couple, were David Watkins (30:29) and Raeanne Watkins (32:23).

After the 5K was completed, a group of adults and kids competed in the 1 Mile Great Ape Gallop Fun Run. The first two across the finish line were sisters Rhys Wills (age 8) and Scarlett Wills (age 10). All the runners had a great time and everyone completed the course!



photo by Julie Gaines
Rhys and Scarlett Wills won the 1 Mile Great Ape Gallop Fun Run.

After the race, the runners enjoyed bananas while the winners of each age class were announced. The overall winners and Masters class winners then received their grand prizes - paintings by some very talented orangutans.



Orangutan mother and baby

All proceeds from Run for the Redheads will be divided between Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) and International Animal Rescue. Both the Sumatran and Bornean orangutans are critically endangered; in fact, they are among the most critically endangered species in the world. Without intervention, they could be extinct in the near future.

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. For more information, go to www.orangutan.com/projects/socp.

The Orangutan Rescue Project of International Animal Rescue is committed to rescuing and rehabilitating orangutans in Borneo and giving them a second chance to live safely in their natural environment. Please see their website at

www.internationalanimalrescue.org/orangutan-sanctuary.

We would like to thank our wonderful 2015 sponsors - Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cobb Pediatrics, Gorilla Sacks, West Stride, Lauderdale Shirthouse, Inc., and Zoo Atlanta. A round of applause also goes to all of the volunteers who made the race possible.

Who will be the leader?

DFGFI Gorilla Council story, July 2015



Photo by DFGFI
2015 photo of Cantsbee

Pablo's group of mountain gorillas is the longest-observed group among all those monitored by the Dian Fossey Gorilla fund, from its Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda. This group was formed in 1993 and once reached the largest size of any group monitored, at a high of 65 members. It is still the largest group monitored by the Fossey Fund, with 30 members at the end of June.

The group is named for the once-dominate

silverback Pablo, who was first observed (and named) by Dian Fossey. But Pablo, who died in 2008, lost his leadership position to Cantsbee in 1995, and Cantsbee, who turns 37 years old this year, has led the group ever since. But given Cantsbee's advanced age, things are starting to change.

Fossey Fund trackers and researchers watch this group closely, to see whether elderly Cantsbee can hold on to power, or whether this will shift to the second-ranking, younger and stronger silverback, his son Gicurasi. However, this process has not been at all as clear as other dominance shifts that have been observed.

It seems that the two silverbacks have developed a convenient and peaceful tolerance toward each other, which is an unusual dynamic but seems to be beneficial to the group members. Cantsbee is the favorite male of many of the group members and spends his days surrounded by the long-term female members and by his offspring. Gicurasi, on the other hand, works to ensure the protection of the group, though he also engages in the majority of sexual contacts. It makes sense that the younger females who are at a reproductive stage are closer to Gicurasi.

There is not enough evidence yet enough to convince Fossey Fund Staff that Cantsbee has lost dominance, but they are observing initial signs that he has been intimidated by Gicurasi, especially when third male Kureba (a clear supporter and nephew of Cantsbee) is not around.

Indeed the support of Kureba seems lately to have played an important role in this complex dynamic. Kureba is a young silverback, and at 16 years old is at an age when gorilla males normally decide whether to stay or to leave their natal group. So, it was not a surprise when he left the group in March 2015 to become solitary male. What was surprising was the fact that he rejoined the group after just a few weeks, and that this was carried out in a peaceful manner. Kureba has since been re-accepted by everyone in the group, especially by Cantsbee. Kureba has a strong bond with Cantsbee, reinforced by the family linkage.

Curiously, during Kureba's absence, Gicurasi seemed to show an unusual confidence toward Cantsbee. An episode occurred in March 2015 during which Gicurasi aggressed Cantsbee over a feeding spot. Gicurasi bit Cantsbee and Cantsbee responded by cowering, a

clear sign of submission. Fossey Fund staff were really surprised by this reaction, since it was the first time elder Cantsbee had ever been seen to be submissive.

Jean Paul Hirwa, the Fossey Fund's monitoring and protection officer at the Karisoke Research Center, was in Pablo's group on that day. "Even if we are still considering Cantsbee as the dominant of the group, we think this episode is an important upgrade of Gicurasi," he said. "We expect more to happen between them soon."

Who is doing what?

Nowadays it is difficult to assess whether it is Cantsbee or Gicurasi who truly leads the group in terms of its daily traveling directions. Fossey Fund staff assumes this unclear leadership is the cause of temporary group splits into the two equal-size parties that have been observed several times. In these cases Cantsbee is always with the younger silverbacks, blackbacks, females with infants and other youngsters. Gicurasi, on the other hand, is with other females, including the ones at reproductive stage and their weaned youngsters.

This tolerance between the two males and the peaceful leadership competition reminds

Fossey staff of the time when legendary silverback Titus was challenged by his son Kuryama (filmed in the PBS "Nature" documentary "Titus: The Gorilla King").

Cantsbee is not only the oldest male mountain gorilla still being monitored but also the one to keep the longest leadership in a group, at 20 years and now longer than the leadership of Titus, which lasted 15 years and ended with his death. The much larger size of this group is also making the situation different from the one faced by Titus.

As for now we can still say that the oldest gorilla male is leading the largest of the mountain gorilla groups. And, that he will continue to provide unique insight into the social behavior of gorillas, no matter what happens next.

Any important updates on Cantsbee and other members of Pablo's group can be found on gorillafund.org/blog.

Need HoneyBaked Ham Gift Cards for the upcoming holidays?

Once again ACE is selling HoneyBaked gift cards in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. You may purchase gift cards in any denomination, and they can be used at any HoneyBaked Ham store and online. Use it for ham, turkey, side dishes, desserts, mustards, breads, or whatever you need for a delicious event. Gift cards never expire, so why not stock up for yourself and for your gifts! *(Please see flier at the end of the newsletter.)*

To insure receipt of gift cards by Thanksgiving, please have your order into Susan Smith by Wednesday, November 18, 2015. You can pay by cash or check. Make checks payable to Ape Conservation Effort. Let Susan know if you want her to mail them to you or to bring them to you at the zoo.

To purchase gift cards in time for Christmas, please have your order into Susan by Wednesday, December 16, 2015. If you want her to bring your gift cards to the

Volunteer Holiday Mega at the zoo on December 12, please give her your order by December 10, 2015.

ACE receives 20% from every gift card purchased. This is an easy way for you to plan your holiday meals and gifts and help save great apes too.

Susan's email address is susansmith9008@comcast.net.

Apes in the Arts Helps Bonobos and Chimpanzees

by Janelle Nord

On May 16, 2015, ACE presented Apes in the Arts, a fundraiser to support bonobos and chimpanzees. This year brought some exciting new changes to the evening.

The event was held at The Space, a movement arts studio, located in Smyrna. Our guests were treated to a series of beautiful aerial performances presented by students and instructors. A DJ was on hand to keep things lively while guests enjoyed food, drinks and great conversation between performances.



photo by Robert Hill
Aerialist entertainer



Photo by Robert Hill
Orangutans Chantek and Dumadi's art interpreted by Christine Ward

There was a new twist on the art this time. Several "human" artists were given paintings created by Zoo Atlanta "ape" artists. The artists then presented their interpretations of the work done by the apes. The creations became "duets," works that were displayed and sold together in a silent auction. Among the artists who participated in the event were Karen Konoval (the actress who portrays Maurice the Orangutan in the current Planet of the Apes movie franchise), former Zoo Atlanta keeper Sarah Byrd, and Zoo Atlanta's School Programs Supervisor, Francine Gebus.



photo by Robert Hill
Jeanie Vickers interpretation of gorilla Charlie's painting



Photo by Robert Hill
Gorilla Macy B's painting interpreted in stained glass by Francine and Charles Gebus

ACE membership voted earlier this year to divide the event proceeds between two agencies that support our mission of protecting apes in their natural habitats: The Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Lola Ya Bonobo. Tacugama was established in 1995 with the mission of supporting confiscated, orphaned and abandoned chimpanzees. The sanctuary is located in Sierra Leone. The recent Ebola crisis in that area had a significant impact on tourism which resulted in decreased revenues for the sanctuary. Our donation will help them make up for some of their lost funding.



Chimpanzee

Lola Ya Bonobo was founded in 1994. It is a sanctuary located in the Congo, the only country where you will find bonobos in the wild. Its mission is to provide lifetime care to bonobos that have been orphaned through the wildlife trade. They hope that by educating the local population, the main consumers of bush meat, that they can increase appreciation for this rare animal and hopefully, affect a decrease in the bush meat trade. Each of these organizations received a donation for \$2,850.00 from ACE.



Bonobo

Many thanks to new ACE member, Lori Kirkland, whose creative spark helped reinvent this fundraiser. She brought forward the idea of the duets, secured the location and DJ for us, and she brought in artists who contributed their talents on canvas, paper and in the air. Thank you also to the volunteers who bought and sold tickets, donated food and helped on the day of the event. All of your hard work was appreciated greatly! For more information, see www.thespaceatl.com www.tacugama.com www.lolayabonobo.org



2014-2015 ACE Board

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Vice President - Laura Mayo

Secretary - Janelle Nord

Treasurer - Susan Smith

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ape
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Thanksgiving delivery and by 12/16 for
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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! To order, see an ACE member
or contact us at:

fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org