



2019 Calendar

July 20

ACE Board Meeting

Noon

Holder Board Room
Admin. Bldg.
Zoo Atlanta

All ACE members are welcome to attend.

August 24

ACE General Meeting

October 28

Gorilla Golf

The Oaks Golf Course
11240 Brown Bridge Rd.,
Covington, GA 30014

November 16

ACE General Meeting



Gorilla Golf Has a New Location

by Susan Smith

The most successful and long-running fundraiser for Ape Conservation Effort is back for its 9th year. Gorilla Golf will take place on Monday, October 28 at a new location - The Oaks Golf Course in Covington, Georgia. This new location will offer new challenges for the golfers and hopefully a little less traffic in commuting to and from the course.

The format is the same as in the past. Each participating golfer raises a minimum of \$500 through sponsorships. The tournament begins with a "shot gun start" and each team plays "best ball." Golfers compete for the top three teams, the longest drive, and the closest to the gorilla. A

continental breakfast and buffet lunch are served. The event ends with the always popular raffle with many great prizes.

Members of ACE can help with the event in several ways:

- * Sponsor one or more of the participating golfers
- * Recruit friends, relatives, co-workers to participate as golfers
- * Recruit and/or help us identify companies and organizations who will "sponsor a hole" for \$100 and have a display with their names & logo along the course

* Donate items for the raffle. Some ideas are gift cards, wine/liquor, sports items, electronics, etc. Contact Shelley DeWeese Raffle Chair for additional details. shelldeweese@gmail.com

This year's tournament will again raise funds for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Over the last eight tournaments, \$116,000

has been raised for DFGFI. So help us make this tournament another success that will support the conservation of gorillas in the wild.



Popsockets Winners Announced

Lori Kirkland

Just recently ACE became a Poptivist member on popsockets.com. A poptivist is where a 501(c)3 organization has a page on popsockets.com with selected popsocket artwork that can be purchased for use and 50% of the purchase price goes directly to the 501(c)3.

ACE hosted a digital art contest and voting for the 4 winners that would represent ACE on their poptivist page for the 2019 year!!! Many art pieces were submitted, ranging from fantastic photos to incredible and unique art pieces in different mediums.

The top 10 were selected and placed in a survey for e-voting, and we had over 1200 votes! Below are the top four winners, their pieces and blurbs that

they wrote for submitting their piece.

And we are excited to announce that our page is now live!!! The popsockets that support ACE are now up and available for purchase! Go buy one today and support saving the great apes! Here is the link directly to our page: <https://www.popsockets.com/pages/charity?id=137>. We are excited to be on an international platform and able to spread our mission with a greater reach. Can't wait to see our winners designs out in the world.

Top Winner: Cameron Armstrong with Anaka



photo by Cameron Armstrong
Anaka

After graduating from University of West Georgia with a B.A. in studio art, Cameron spends most of her time working as a vet tech in Florida. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her chill dog, Phil, and painting portraits.

Second Place: Farah Mithani with "Reflection"



photo by Farah Mithani
Reflection

This piece is called Reflection. It represents life and understanding perspectives. Look at all the similarities the human and great ape portray...It's absolutely beautiful. Reflect on your life. Reflect on your growth."

Third Place: Debra Iacono with Little Mo



photo by Debra Iacono
Little Mo

I have visited Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens numerous times a year since it opened in 1974. It's my happy place. Lately, one of my first stops is always Gorilla Base Camp to check on the family troop. There's nothing cuter than baby animals, especially gorillas. Here, Moyo, aka Little Mo, is busy being cute while mom Macy is busy with

the food toss. Little Mo is carrying on the family tradition of inspiring the local community to care for his species and for global conservation.

Fourth Place: Lynne LeVallee with The Majestic Alan



photo by Lynne LaVallee
Majestic Alan

I have always loved animals and photography. After a trip to Africa, I became a volunteer at Zoo Atlanta as a way to support the zoo, to be around animals, and to learn more about them. Over time, and with training, I became a docent. During that training I learned about our animals, the threats to their wild counter parts and conservation. Now I have the opportunity to pass that information on to our guests.

I often go to the zoo as a guest, with camera in tow, and I can tell you that orangutans are not only beautiful, they are very intelligent, powerful, fun to watch and a joy to photograph. They all have unique personalities, great facial expressions, and if you look closely at their eyes, you can see

reading about their interesting lives.



photo by Danielle Green
Danielle with her orchids

Danielle Green

It is hard to believe I said goodbye to Zoo Atlanta over six years ago to begin a new adventure at Naples Zoo in Naples, FL. I came to Naples Zoo for the opportunity to build the horticulture program and expand the plant collections. In nearly seven years, we have made improvements to many animal exhibits, constructed new habitats,



photo by Danielle Green
Lake Victoria at Naples Zoo

hosted traveling exhibits, built a new Vet Hospital and Commissary, and weathered a Category 3 hurricane in 2017. We have over 100 species of Palm and over 20 species of Ficus trees - some are the largest in Southwest Florida - and showcase rare and endangered plants of Florida in the Caribbean Garden and Pine Rockland garden.



photo by Danielle Green
Naples Zoo tiger exhibit

The Horticulture department participates in plant conservation projects in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve. I have been fortunate to have led a safari to Kenya and Tanzania as well as participate in orchid conservation in Cuba. We just celebrated 100 years as a garden and 50 years as a zoo with activities and tours focused on the garden and its history. The zoo is a gem of the community and I am blessed to be charged with its care.



photo by Danielle Green
Canyon's Edge at Naples Zoo

When not at the zoo, I spend my time coaching CrossFit classes, paddleboarding, learning to sail, watching the sunset, and visiting local

breweries. I was able to convince a local brewery to brew a beer in honor of our Florida Panther at the zoo, and \$2 of each beer goes to the zoo's conservation program! It's a great way to connect the community to conservation and enjoy a local brew!



photo by Danielle Green
Riptide brewery supporting zoo conservation program

While I love Naples and living by the Gulf of Mexico, I miss friends and zoo family in Atlanta. I have managed to keep in touch with many current and former staff members as well as volunteers through social media and ACE. I began supporting ACE out of a love for the animals and to support the staff and volunteers that worked so hard to put this organization together. My favorite event was "Bushmeat Bingo" - I volunteered to call the first few events and it was always a great time for a great cause. One day I hope to be able to come back and call again! ACE is a wonderful combination of people that care about conservation and understand the connection of animals to habitat.

their intelligence looking back at you! Sadly, these extraordinary creatures, along with the other 3 great ape species, are critically endangered and need our help!

Over the years my love, admiration and concern for animals has grown and I wanted to do more. I learned about the Ape Conservation Effort (ACE) from volunteers I work with. I like and support their mission to inform/educate people about the significant issues facing great apes and what they, as individuals, can do to help along with ACE's support of various great ape conservation groups around the world/ Please consider supporting ACE and the work they are doing to help the great apes.



ACE Members Are Interesting People

Our interesting members highlighted in this issue are Danielle Green and Erin Harris. They have both been ACE members since the beginning even though they no longer live in Atlanta. Enjoy

Each event is not just a fundraiser, it is a gathering of people that care and a great way to educate people about animals in the wild and the need for conservation. I can't think of a better way to connect the community with animals that need our help. I am proud to be an ACE member and will support this organization no matter where I end up...which might be in the Bahamas somewhere living on a sailboat!



photo by Danielle Green
Danielle enjoying the water

Erin Harris

Hi ACE members! It's an honor to be selected to write for the ACE newsletter.

How do I know about ACE? When I worked for Zoo Atlanta as the Volunteer Coordinator, our space was large and had pretty comfy seating. We were near the Primate area where the volunteers created enrichment for the apes. My teen's space was prime real estate! As my interest in apes grew, and due to the proximity

of the meetings, it was the perfect time to join the group and then become secretary of ACE.

My time with the group was exciting - from the Apes in the Arts events, to seeing the grass-roots movement of community organizing, to the expertise of the keepers and getting to know the apes in the zoo as well as learning about the issues facing them in the wild. It was fun, humbling, and hard work. We all wanted to make a difference and still do!



photo by Erin Harris
Erin and Jenna

At the time, I had a partner, Jenna, with whom I'd been with since high school. Since Georgia did not recognize same-sex marriage, we didn't feel the urge to get married. Jenna worked for the public school in a nearby county and it was frowned upon to be in a same-sex relationship.

I worked at the zoo for nearly 5 years, but Jenna had the opportunity to move to Germany working as a math trainer for the teachers who worked in the military school system. We had

no idea what we were getting into! Moving to Germany was intense and exciting. Learning the language a little, making friends with our German neighbors, traveling in Europe, and experience military life. I met people that I will always be friends with.



photo by Erin Harris
Erin and Jenna in Paris

Before moving to Germany, Jenna and I made the trek to Washington, D.C. to get married. Even though the federal government still did not recognize our marriage, we hoped one day it would. When families move to another country with the military, the family members that are not employees of the government all get a special passport to stay in the country. Upon moving to Germany, I was considered a tourist and had to find a job working at a barrister on one of the bases to stay there.



photo by Erin Harris
Erin, Jenna and Lydia at German pumpkin festival

The most exciting thing about Germany is that we decided to have kids! Lydia, 7, and Cora, 5, are both happy and healthy kiddos and the light of our lives. I was able to get a part-time science teaching job at one of the high schools on base but the very first day I was to have students in my classroom was the day Jenna went into labor with Lydia. So, we had a baby and I started a teaching job at the exact same time. In hindsight that wasn't the smartest thing but I was trying to figure out my place in the world and while waking up at 2:30 am every day to prepare the coffee shop wasn't ideal, it was easier than teaching with a new baby!



photo by Erin Harris
Out for a walk with two babies

Fast forward 2 years and Cora arrived! Having two babies that close in age is tough! I ended up staying home with them and working with the German government to stay without penalty.

Jenna found a similar job at Fort Stewart, Georgia in 2015, which was

MUCH closer to family. Circumstances were not in our favor and her job, along with dozens of others, was dissolved. She was able to find the exact same job in Okinawa, Japan within the year and we were off again! This time around I was federally recognized as her spouse which made the journey that much less stressful. Moving to Japan with 2 children was much easier than moving to Germany solo. We've been in Okinawa for 3 years and still love it!



photo by Erin Harris
Family visit to Botanical Garden in Japan

It's been years since I visited Zoo Atlanta, but I'm still passionate about animals and conservation. Okinawa has so many amazing things to see and do however, animal welfare is quite different in Asia than what I experienced in the US. Its quite difficult visiting the zoo here in Okinawa. We have traveled much since living here and whenever presented with the opportunity to visit destinations that include animals, we immerse ourselves in research to make sure the animals are

treated humanely. We've visited a very small elephant sanctuary, Elephant Nature Park, in Thailand that doesn't allow human interactions with elephants whether it be riding elephants or bathing elephants. One day we will actively donate to them. We avoid anything with tigers. However, we did go to one of the last old-growth national parks in Bali, Indonesia that has a group of monkeys you can observe bouncing all around you. Its aptly named Monkey Forest. And, if you've never seen a Banyan tree in all it's old-growth glory, you should try to some day. They are just beautiful trees!



As our kids have grown and gone to school, and with time on my hands, I became a consultant with Lemongrass Spa. It's a skincare company that specializes in using natural and safe ingredients. In starting that business, I've become even more focused on natural living. I share with my customers about the dangers of unsustainable palm oil and why living a life as toxin-free as possible is better for their health and well-being.



photo by Erin Harris
Our family loves living in Okinawa

I love being a part of ACE and am amazed at how like Margaret Mead says, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only things that ever has."



photo by PASA
Gregg Tully

Thank You!

PASA received a check from Ape Conservation Effort for \$4,000 to save and protect bonobos at Lola ya Bonobo. I can't thank you enough for your valuable support. I know you invest a lot of time and hard work into your fundraising efforts, and we're so grateful that you choose to support our alliance's work to

conserve apes and their habitat. Thank you again for your generosity. Together I hope we can protect apes from extinction.

Gregg Tully, PASA



A Ghost Story

By Gene Todd

What I am about to tell you is true, the absolute truth. If you didn't believe in ghosts before, you will now!

My first wife and I had an attic apartment above a jewelry store in Bordentown, not far from Ft. Dix, New Jersey. The proprietor of the store lived in the adjoining residence and was an accomplished banjo player. The jewelry store was located next to city hall with a drive between the two buildings and parking behind the store.

We began to have to look for things in places other than where we thought we had put them. Neither of us thought much about this. My wife was going

to school and I was off to work.

It was during one night that my wife woke me up saying there is someone standing in the doorway to our bedroom. Bleary eyed, I strained to see in the darkened room, but I saw nothing and told her that it was just a dream. She said she had just gotten back into bed from going to the bathroom and she was wide awake. I asked her what she saw. She described a young boy, between 8-10 years old, dressed in a style of the 1700s. Her description of a person wearing brown pants with stocking and a loose fitting dirty white shirt seemed pretty detailed, but I convinced her that she must have dozed off for a moment and it was really a dream.

In furnishing our apartment, we purchased a small desk with a shelf and drawers, plus a captain's chair from an unfinished furniture store. (That was the "in thing" at the time. We "antiqued" the desk blue from a finishing kit. The chair was painted black. Looked pretty good.)

When I got up one morning to go to get ready for work, and I realized that the chair was sitting on top of the desk. My mind swirled, and the only answer I could arrive at was that sometime during the night my wife had gotten up, dropped

something and had to move the chair. Sounded logical to me, so I put the chair back on the floor, dressed, kissed my wife and left for work. Later that evening we talked about the chair, but she said she didn't remember doing that, but we dismissed it as strange.

We joined some friends at a club, dancing, drinking and generally having a good time. It was a Friday evening with no work the next day, so I was looking forward to sleeping in after an evening with friends.

A very loud bang came from the kitchen area waking both of us up. The words "What in the hell was that" was on both of our lips. A very nice set of steak knives in a wooden presentation box, a wedding present, was kept on top of the refrigerator. I figured maybe it had fallen off the refrigerator. But when I got to the kitchen, I didn't see a toppled wooden box of steak knives.....All six knives were stuck in the floor in a row, perfectly spaced with the box lined up behind them and the lid closed! After cleaning up this site, I returned to bed, but sleep would not visit me again that night.

My wife told me later that she had spoken with the wife of the couple who had the apartment before us. During their conversation, she asked

my wife if we had seen the little boy yet. My wife said a chill went through her body, and their conversation went on about the boy. Their description of what he was wearing and where he was standing matched perfectly. She said several odd unexplained things had happened while they lived there. She questioned my wife if we had heard the banjo music playing. My wife said yes and thought it was our landlord. She said next time it happens, look out of the window to see if there are any cars parked to see if it's the landlord.

We heard a banjo playing one Sunday afternoon, tunes we did not recognize. Remembering what she had told my wife, we peered out the window into the parking lot. No cars. No one was at home. Later I asked the landlord if he had been home, he told me no. He was out on their boat until 9 PM. Who or what was playing the banjo????

Around this time we had purchased two Scottish terriers. All seemed well, except my wife and I had grown apart and she had moved to California. Glad I had the two dogs for company.

At sometime I purchased a large wicker chair with a tall back and cushion seat. I put a sheep skin throw on the back --so

comfortable. Each time I sat in it, the chair would creak and squeak.

One day upon returning home from work, a neighbor called and asked if she could come by and bring a bottle of wine. What kind of neighbor would I be to refuse her offer? She lived only one storefront away, so it was only a moment until there was a knock at my door.

After opening the wine and pouring a couple of glasses, we moved to the living room where the stereo was. The world seemed at peace - a lovely lady, a bottle of wine and Bruce Springsteen music. Conversation included some of the strange things in the apartment including the squeaky noise the chair makes. About that time the chair made the noise but we saw there was nothing near the chair. She told me that she had to sit in the chair, and she immediately got up and did just that. Her facial expression transformed from delight to utter fear. She said, 'It's cold, very cold and I had to get up but I can't. Help me get up.' When I helped her out of the chair, she said she had to go home. We remained friends, but I would have to go visit her. She never came back to my apartment.

At certain times when I wanted to contain the dogs in the bedroom, I had a baby gate that would lean against the door jams. The dogs stayed in the bedroom and all was fine. One night after work, I was in the shower and I heard a loud bang that gave me quite a start. Believing the gate fell, I thought no problem, just put the gate back up. I set it back up and took two steps away and it fell again. This time I took extra care to make sure it was secure, but taking two steps away, it fell again. Once again I took extra time to secure it. While standing back to admire my work, I saw the gate pivot from the base and rotate backward with a tremendous force as if being slammed by an unseen hand. A chill engulfed me and the hairs on my arms stood up. Then I noticed the two dogs cowering in the corner as far away as they could be from the gate.

That was the last straw. I was not going to be taunted any more. I had had enough. In a very loud voice, I yelled, "Alright, I've had enough or your &\$#@. You either stop it if you want to stay or get the hell out." We must have reached some type of truce as nothing more ever happened until I moved out about a year

later. No chairs creaking, no bumps or bangs, no scared dogs, nothing. The peace and quiet were welcome after six years of living there not knowing what would happen next. I can only hope whatever it was, pardon the pun "Gave up the ghost and left" not to bother the next resident, but who knows. The problem was no longer mine.

So my story ends here. Whether you choose to believe it or not is your prerogative. But it is all true. To me, there are things that go bump in the night or whenever they want to be noticed. I am a believer, because I have been there.



Updates on our adopted orangutans

Last year ACE was able to adopt several orangutans through donations to Orangutan Outreach. Here are some of updates on several of "our" orangutans.



photo by Orangutan Outreach Georgia

We adopted Gracia and her 3 kids: Georgia and Gretel (girls) and Gara (boy). We are thrilled to learn that Georgia is pregnant! They live in the Sabangau Forest, one of the largest populations of orangutans on earth. Stay tuned...



photo by Orangutan Outreach Topan and Alejandra

Topan had come a long way from when she was "found" in 2017. She is still in Borneo Orangutan Society (BOS) Baby School and hangs out with her friend Alejandra.



photo by Orangutan Outreach Krismon

After his mother was killed and he was kept as a pet, he was rescued in 2016 and lives at Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme

(SOCP). As you can tell, this big cheekpadder is ready to be released soon.



photo by Orangutan Outreach Jumbo

This little guy is doing great! A man hunting with dogs said he "found" the baby alone, which is hard to believe since we know mother orangutans don't go off and leave their babies. Luckily, he decided to turn in the baby, who is now living at BOS Baby School. Remember our first picture of this baby?



photo by Orangutan Outreach Jumbo in 2018

We are thrilled with Jumbo's progress.

Thanks to all of the wonderful caregivers working with these fabulous orangutans.

Orangutan Outreach has announced that Orangutan School will be shown this summer on the Smithsonian Channel. Stayed tuned for more information.



ACE Donates to Bonobo Conservation

Paint the Ape fundraiser on April 20 was a great success and a lot of fun. ACE made \$600 from the event to go to bonobo conservation. There was an ACE General Meeting on June 29 and it was decided that the funds would go to Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) for the adoption of bonobos giving us updates on their progress at rehabilitation. Further discussion and vote decided that an additional \$400 would come from general funds to make our total donation to BCI \$1,000. We will look forward to learning more about our adoptive bonobos and the good work that BCI is doing.



Did you know?

Greenland is melting four times faster than previously thought, and Antarctica is losing six times as much ice annually as it did 40 years ago.

Sierra Magazine,
May/June 2019

By alternating the types and distributions of phytoplankton, global warming is changing the colors of the ocean, making blues bluer and greens greener.

Sierra Magazine,
May/June 2019



2019 ACE Board

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Joshua Baker
Barbara Cebula
Shelley DeWeese
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Primary contact:
info@apeconservationeffort.org

Digital art project contact:
president@apeconservationeffort.org

Fundraising events:
fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org

APE CONSERVATION EFFORT

9th Annual

GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2019

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:15 A.M. • SHOT GUN START AT 10:00 A.M.

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For more information and registration visit www.apeconservationeffort.org
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