



**HoneyBaked  
 Ham  
 Fall Success/  
 Spring Kickoff**

Susan Smith

A big thank you to everyone who purchased HoneyBaked Ham gift cards during our Fall campaign last year. Through purchases, of which ACE receives 20%, we raised \$240 for the General Fund. In a year when we were not able to do any face-to-face fundraising, every dollar coming in was a blessing. So thanks again and now into Spring.

This Spring is looking a little more hopeful and there are many events, celebrations where a HoneyBaked Ham gift card can come in handy. Easter, Mother's/Father's

Day and graduations will all be occurring during our campaign timeframe. The Spring campaign will run from April 1 through June 30. (Flyer attached.) Gift cards, electronic or plastic, can be ordered online at <https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACEspring2021>.

Help us spread the word about this fundraising opportunity to support ACE and our mission to save the great apes. If you have any questions, contact Susan Smith at 404-226-7738 or email [susansmith9008@comcast.net](mailto:susansmith9008@comcast.net)



**2021 Calendar  
 of Events**

**April 1 - June 30  
 HoneyBaked Ham  
 Spring Fundraiser**

*See article and flyer  
 for details.*

**October 18  
 Gorilla Golf  
 Oaks Golf Course  
 Covington, GA**

*In Memoriam*

*With sincere sympathy to  
 Shelley DeWeese on the  
 death of her parents in  
 February*



# Two New Infants for DFGFI Gorilla Groups

DFGFI February E-News

Two new infants have been discovered in groups monitored by Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.



photo by DFGFI  
Ikaze with her new baby

Ikaze, a 19-year-old female from Musilikale's group, gave birth to her fourth infant. The new member of the group brings the total number of gorillas in Musilikale's group to 22! Mom and baby are doing well, and we look forward to seeing Ikaze raise an infant again.



photo by DFGFI  
Umuiyanama and her first baby

Umuiyanama, an 8-year-old female in Pablo's group gave birth to her very first infant. We are so excited to see this new mom care for her baby!

Umuiyanama's new addition brings Pablo's group to a total of 26 gorillas.



## ACE Members Are Interesting People

Our interesting member highlighted in this issue is Jodi Carrigan, who has been active in ACE since 2006.

### Jodi Carrigan

It's odd to say, because it makes me feel old, but I'm one of the founding members of Ape Conservation Effort. In 2006 several zoo staff and volunteers got together because we knew we needed to do more to help protect apes. ACE was a perfect opportunity to join our passion and love and turn it into something good. I've had the privilege of working at Zoo Atlanta for 18 years.



photo by Jodi Carrigan  
Jodi at training panel

My main area of concentration has been gorillas, but I do love all the primates at the Zoo. It's here that I care for one of the largest ape populations in North America.

I have traveled throughout Africa and have led groups to trek gorillas six times.



photo by Jodi Carrigan  
Jodi in Africa with gorillas

My love of gorillas led me to meet Dr. Tara Stoinski, who is currently president and CEO of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. DFGFI is the only ape conservation organization whose number are increasing. They do so much to help protect gorillas along with the people in the surrounding communities.



photo by Gene Todd  
Jodi and Tara checking on golfers at Gorilla Golf

Tara's husband, Andy Pachman, and I came up with the idea to start a golf tournament to raise money to save gorillas and the amazing ACE team started Gorilla Golf

from there. Sadly we had to skip the 2020 tournament, but we plan to be back in 2021. In the nine years we've hosted Gorilla Golf, we've raised over \$144,000 for gorilla Conservation. That's pretty amazing given that we're an all volunteer group doing this in our spare time.



photo by Jodi Carrigan  
Jodi loves Zoo Atlanta gorillas

Now more than ever it's important to help protect these endangered animals. Endangered means there's still time --- extinction is forever. Thank you for helping to protect primates and if you're interested in helping out with Gorilla Golf or even donating an item for the golfer's raffle, please let me know.





## Teeing Off Again!!! Gorilla Golf Is Back\*\*

Susan Smith

Yes, we are back!!! The 10th annual Gorilla Golf Tournament will take place **Monday, October 18th at the Oaks Golf Course in Covington, Georgia** (flyer attached). As in the past years, the tournament will donate all profits to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Over the course of the tournament, ACE has raised almost \$144,000 for DFGFI. This event has always been a big hit with the golfers. They enjoy a continental breakfast and buffet lunch, but the really high points are the unique awards and the amazing raffle.

Having been restricted this past year, we're sure that you and/or your family and friends would love to join us for a day out playing golf - and helping ACE save the great apes. No need to have a partner, we'll pair

up all players. Each player is asked to raise \$500 for their entry and they will be provided a link for their supporters to donate funds to help raise the entry fee.

Another area where ACE members can provide support for Gorilla Golf is to donate raffle items. As mentioned earlier, this part of the event is always a lot of fun for the golfers. They purchase an "arm length" of raffle tickets for \$20, so finding the golfer with the longest arm comes in useful. Items such as golf accessories, wine/liquor, bar accessories, sporting goods, sports clothing for men and women, and gift cards can all be donated.

Finally we are always looking for sponsors for the tournament. For \$100 a company and/or individual can "sponsor a hole" on the course. A sign with their name and logo is placed at one of the eighteen holds.

If you have any questions or need any information about Gorilla Golf, call 404-422-4998 or email [gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org).

*\*\*Note: All safety and health precautions will be taken based on the restriction/guidelines that are in effect at the time.*



## Ashley Judd Gives Recovery Update on Leg Injury After Rainforest Fall



photo by Ashley Judd  
Judd being carried through rainforest after accident

Actress Ashley Judd is grateful to the Congolese people who helped her in her time of need.

Judd shared intimate photos and details from the horrific 55-hour ordeal during which she struggled to find treatment for a leg injury while on a research trip. She first spoke about the incident hoping to call attention to the plight of the impoverished nation's need for better access to health care.

"Without my Congolese brothers and sisters, my internal bleeding would have likely killed me, and I would have lost my leg. I wake up weeping in gratitude, deeply moved by each person who contributed something life giving and spirit salving during my grueling 55-hour odyssey. Here are some of their stories.

Dieumerci stretched out his leg and put it under my grossly misshapen left leg to try to keep it still. It was broken in four places and had nerve damage. Dieumerci ("Thanks be to God") remained seated without fidgeting or flinching for 5 hours on the rainforest floor. He was with me in my primal pain. He was my witness. Papa Jean: it took 5 hours, but eventually he found me wretched and wild on the ground, and calmly assessed my broken leg. He told me what he had to do. I bit on a stick. I held onto Maud. And Papa Jean, with certainty began to manipulate and adjust my broken bones back into something like a position I could be transported in, while I screamed and writhed."

She also thanked the "six men who carefully moved me into the hammock with as little jostling as possible, who then walked for 3 hours over rough terrain carrying me out," the two men who ultimately drove her to safety and the workmen who comforted her.

"Didier drove the motorbike. I sat facing backwards, his back was my backrest. When I would begin to slump, to pass out, he would call to me to re-set my position and to lean on him," she wrote. Maradona rode on the back of the motorbike. I faced him. He held my broken leg under the heel and I held the shattered top part together with my two hands. Together we did this for 6 hours on an irregular, rutted and pocked dirt road that has gullies for rain run off during the rainy season.

Judd told journalist Nick Kristof that she was in the Congo with her partner, who has a research camp in the area, focused on efforts to protect the endangered Bonobos. She said they visit the Congo often about twice a year, usually for one month to six weeks at a time. The accident occurred pre-dawn one morning while she and some researchers were making their way through the rainforest in the dark.

"I want to give my deepest and most vulnerable thanks to Sunninghill Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa, for making split second decisions upon my arrival. I arrived to them from DRC in terrible shape and my leg had no pulse. I desperately needed a blood transfusion. Their

sisters (nurses) are exemplary, technically top notch, and they cared for the trauma in my body as well as my soul with equal proficiency.

Dr. Greef was super at stabilizing my leg with the external fixator until the massive soft tissue damage and swelling went down so that I could have the Big Operation. What he did was significant and I am forever in his debt. It must be noted I was being cared for during the Covid B.1.351 strain that is plaguing RSA. Sunninghill is world class and a wonder. Thank you to my trauma surgeon, anesthesiologist, head of nursing, hospital management - everyone!"



## Spotlighting Non-Profit Groups ACE Supports

We are highlighting Bonobo Conservation Initiative in this newsletter. ACE first started supporting this non-profit in 2010, and since then they have

included ACE on their website as a Partner.

The relationship between Friends of Bonobos and Lola ya Bonobo can be a bit confusing, so let's start with a quick explanation. Friends of Bonobos was founded by Claudine André, founder of Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC) which means Friends of Bonobos in Congo. We are the US-based nonprofit that supports the work of ABC, which included Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary and Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve, and all the other supporting areas.

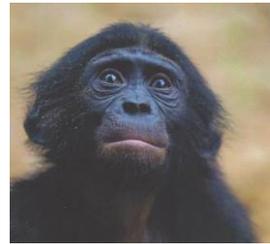


photo by Friends of Bonobos

Friends of Bonobos raises funds for ABC and raises awareness about bonobos in the US and internationally. The on-the-ground work in DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), is managed and run in the DR Congo, originally led by Claudine André, and now led by her daughter, Fanny Minesi, both of whom grew up in the DR Congo and have spent most of their lives there. They are the powerhouses behind the mission and work. (Looking toward the future, Claudine passed the reins of ABC to her

daughter in 2014. However, Claudine will never stop working towards a future where bonobo populations flourish once again in the forests of the Congo - free of the dangers of habitat destruction, poaching, and illegal pet trading, living beside humans in peace and harmony.)



photo by Friends of Bonobos  
Claudine and Fanny

Rescuing bonobos in rural Congo is no small feat. Keeping baby bonobos from the brink of death requires a love affair with your job. Moving heaven and earth to release bonobos back into the wild requires a level of devotion and passion that most of us will never experience.

"Bonobos are amazingly similar to human children. They're the same. They just lack language," said Yvonne Vela, one of our most experienced surrogate mothers.

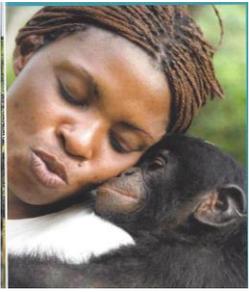


photo by Friends of Bonobos  
Yvonne Vela with pal

There are 66 endangered bonobos living at Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary with a safe home and all the love, care and support they need to thrive.

Some areas of support for the bonobos of Lola ya Bonobo include:

- \* Food and nourishment
- \*Medical care and treatment, including emergency needs
- \*Surrogate mothers (for orphaned babies) and bonobo wellness providers for all
- \*Regular upkeep and repairs of enclosures and building, like the infirmary, sleeping quarters, nutrition center, and nursery
- \*And much, much more

Sanctuary upkeep and education awareness include:

- \*Educational materials & education activities
- \*Educators and tour operators
- \*Utilities, communications, and equipment
- \*Hygiene, grounds and site maintenance
- \*Travel and vehicle expenditures
- \*Security

\*And much, much more



photo by Friends of Bonobos  
Semendwa

At Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve, ABC releases bonobos that have been nursed back to health at Lola ya Bonobo back into their natural habitat, the Congo rainforest. This process is also called reintroduction or rewilding.



photo by Friends of Bonobos  
Rewilding at Tokata Island

The rewilding process involves years of selection and preparation at Lola ya Bonobo, and then includes two release phases. The first phase involves releasing bonobos to Totaka Island, where they live in quarantine until they are deemed healthy and ready. The second phase of release is when the bonobos are moved from Totaka to Ekolo ya Bonobo, their rainforest forever home. In 1918 a group of 14 bonobos were a part of the world's second-ever bonobo release. The group was initially released onto

Totaka Island for a period of quarantine before their final release into Ekolo ya bonobo. During this time a baby was born, aptly named Totaka. This is a great sign that the release group is doing very well! Initially planned for the summer of 2019, the release had to be postponed due to Ebola outbreaks in the region. For now, the bonobos remain at Totaka Island where ABC's team continues to monitor them.



photo by Friends of Bonobos

ABC continues to monitor the health, well-being, and safety of the bonobos at Ekolo ya Bonobo through eco-guards, bonobo trackers, and our private-public partnership and management of the protected area.

- Partnerships with the local communities around Ekolo ya Bonobo includes managing the reserve and provides
- \*Job/economic security
  - \*Nutrition education
  - \*Agricultural development
  - \*Supplies for schools
  - \*Maternity services
  - \*Dental clinics
  - \*And much, much more.



photo by Friends of Bonobos

As of 2019 Ekolo ya Bonobo was expanded from approximately 20,000 acres to 120,000 acres of protected rainforest. To better understand the carrying capacity of the newly expanded community forest reserve, ABC conducted a phenology study. The scientific teams consisted of both ABC staff as well as community members, as per ABC's commitment to engage local communities in all project activities. The teams collected data to monitor plant growth and fruiting patterns of trees found in the reserve, as well as weather patterns - data that will inform future bonobos releases.



photo by Friends of Bonobos

Access to electricity has proven to be one of the biggest challenges for Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve. The Basakusu administrative and logistics support office has electricity, but the research station is completely off the grid. ABC was able to procure

and install solar panels to provide power to the scientific team's office but maintenance is a constant task.

ABC also procured two outboard motors and a dugout canoe for use at the release site.



photo by Friends of Bonobos

Bonobos were finally recognized as a separate species in the 1930s, more than 150 years after people had already come to know chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans. Today, the knowledge gap remains: bonobos are the least known of the great apes. ABC is working to change that.

When you give to Friends of Bonobos, you can be confident that your donation is making a difference. Friends of Bonobos is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to Friends of Bonobos are tax-deductible to the full extent of the U.S. law.

For more information, see [www.friendsofbonobos.org](http://www.friendsofbonobos.org) or [www.bonobos.org](http://www.bonobos.org)

Taken from *2019 Annual Report, 25th Anniversary*  
Friends of Bonobos and  
on behalf of Les Amis des  
Bonobos du Congo



## San Diego Gorillas Test Positive for COVID

Gorillas sick: Eight gorillas at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park have tested positive for the coronavirus, becoming what federal officials said Monday were the first known apes in the nation to be infected. Zoo officials said they believed the gorillas were infected by an asymptomatic staff member who had been following safety recommendations, including wearing personal protective equipment when near animals.

*Atlanta Journal  
Constitution  
Jan. 13, 2021*

*(Follow-Up Story)*

## Guests Can Once Again Visit Gorilla Troop

Visiting the western lowland gorilla troop at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park is a tradition for many at the world-famous wildlife sanctuary--and starting today (Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021) guests will once again have the opportunity to connect with these primates and learn ways they can help to save the important species.

Guest access to see the gorillas had been limited over the last month after several troop members were diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This morning, guests had the opportunity to see the eight-member troop eating, drinking and interacting with one another--having fully recovered, thanks to the incredible work of wildlife care professionals the veterinary team and collaborations with a wide array of colleagues and partners who ensured that the highest standard of care was given to the affected gorillas.

We're so grateful for the outpouring concern and

support we've received while the troop safely recovered," said Lisa Person, executive director of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. "We're thrilled to share the joy that the beloved troop brings to our community and to our guests."

"There's such a warm camaraderie felt with our colleagues as we continue to share knowledge," said Peterson. "We're incredibly thankful for the collaboration across various areas of expertise to ensure the best health for our troop and a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things."

While the sharing of information and what was learned from this experience has already begun among wildlife-care professionals at over 200 zoos worldwide, San Diego Zoo Global is committed to providing resources from occurrences at its sanctuaries in San Diego to conservation organizations around the world. Documentation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in gorillas at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park may help provide important information regarding scientific understanding of the virus and its effects on great apes.

*San Diego Zoo website  
February 2021*



## Investor 'apes' rally to help gorillas, nonprofit

**WallStreetBets, famous for GameStop trade boosts Fossey fund**

by Matt Kempner

Reddit's guerrillas have come to the aid of gorillas, and that has been a very good surprise for a small nonprofit based in Atlanta.

Since March 13, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, dedicated to protecting gorillas, has received a groundswell of donations from the unlikely source: investors on a Reddit forum, WallStreetBets, better known in national news for boosting the stock price of GameStop.

They donated more than \$400,000 to the Georgia nonprofit.

"We were surprised, thrilled and appreciative when we first heard that the WallStreetBets community was investing in our work," Tara Stoinski, the organization's chief executive and chief scientific officer, wrote in an email to *The Atlanta*

*Journal-Constitution*. "This is a huge deal to our organization."

WallStreetBets became a central forum for investors taking on hedge funds that had bet against video game retailer GameStop and other companies by shorting their stock. The Reddit movement helped put GameStop's share price on a roller coaster, with stunning peaks and sharp falls.

Investors banding together on the site sometimes refer to themselves as apes, apparently a reference to the line "Apes together strong," from the movie "Rise of the Planet of the Apes."

Recently, a member of WallStreetBets highlighted one of the Fossey nonprofit's fundraising efforts, the symbolic adopting of a gorilla. Others joined in.

In less than 48 hours, the Fossey organization received more than 2,000 new adoptions, whereas in a typical weekend it might normally get 20. The giving continued, though it has since slowed.

The nonprofit focuses on conservation and study of gorillas in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is named after Dian Fossey, a research who wrote the book "Gorillas in the

Mist," She was later murdered in her cabin in Rwanda. Her story was made into a movie starring Sigourney Weaver.

The organization had \$6.7 million in revenue in 2019. It has been raising funds for construction of a research and education campus set to open this year in Rwanda.

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 28, 2021*



## Did you know?

Forty percent of the Amazon rainforest may become savanna over the next few decades because fires and droughts have limited the ecosystem's ability to produce its own rain.

Great egrets in the Everglades lose interest in sex because of mercury poisoning from the fish they eat.

Colorado voters approved reintroducing wolves to the state.

*Above items from Sierra Magazine January/February 2021*



## 2021 ACE Board

President - Lori Kirkland  
Vice President - Donna Mayer Todd  
Secretary - Jane Barron  
Treasurer - Susan Smith

Board Members At Large:  
Barbara Cebula  
Leslie Martin  
Gene Todd

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

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

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



**Just in time for Spring 2021 celebrations**



**ACE is selling  
HoneyBaked Ham gift cards.**

**Gift cards can be purchased in any denomination  
and can be used at any HoneyBaked Ham store and online.**

They never expire and there is  
no limit to the amount you can purchase.



**ON-LINE PROCESS**

Gift cards can be purchased from April 1st thru June 30th  
<https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACEspring2021>



**ACE receives 20% of the purchase. You get your party food and  
ACE helps save great apes in the wild. Everyone wins!**

*Ape Conservation Effort is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization  
with a mission to help save great apes in the wild.*

# APE CONSERVATION EFFORT

10th Annual

# GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 2021**

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

## THE OAKS GOLF COURSE

11240 Brown Bridge Rd. • Covington, GA 30014

[www.golfoaks.com](http://www.golfoaks.com)

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including:  
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and  
**Buffet Lunch!**  
All Beverages Included

Proceeds from the tournament will support *The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International*  
For more information and registration visit [www.apeconservationeffort.org](http://www.apeconservationeffort.org)  
Call 404-427-4998 or e-mail [gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org)

