



## Upcoming Events

**HoneyBaked  
Ham Spring  
Gift Card Sale**  
March 15 - June 15  
Flyer attached.

**ACE Meeting**  
May – date and time to  
be announced

**Second Annual  
Run for Bonobos**  
Watch for details.

**Gorilla Golf**  
October  
Watch for details.

**Apes In The Arts**  
Summer 2024

## ACE Welcomes New Members

ACE is happy to announce that we have six new members: Celeste Bottorff, Marcia Brownstein, Susan Callaway, Karin Keller, David Rogers, and Stephanie Saunders. We are excited for new friends and the enthusiastic ideas they will bring. Please join us in welcoming them to ACE and be sure to say hi when you run into them at the zoo!



## Happy Earth Day!

"Invest in Our Planet" is the theme of the 2023 Earth Day. The theme focuses on engaging governments, institutions, businesses and more than 1 billion citizens who participate annually in Earth Day to do their part - everyone accounted for and everyone accountable.

How did we get to this point? Let's look at how Earth Day April 1970 began and some of the successes accomplished. Then we'll know why we are at this point.

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, published eight years prior, had put a spotlight on the environmental and human harms caused by largely unregulated pesticides

like DDT. By 1968 a massive oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California had dumped millions of gallons of crude oil into the Pacific, polluting miles of ocean and killing thousands of birds. That same year, Cleveland's Cuyahoga River - formally one of America's most polluted rivers - famously caught fire when sparks from a passing train ignited oily debris floating on the river's surface.

Flash back to the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. The dangers of air and water pollution were front and center. Vehicle and industrial emissions were running rampant in many American cities that were choked by smog. But by 1970 people started demanding changes to protect our water, air and natural treasures and things began to happen.

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and the addition of the **Clean Air Act** and the **Clean Water Act** have been key in changing the situation since 1970 to the successes we enjoy today. Some examples are:

(1) We no longer have rivers catch on fire since **rivers and wetlands** are protected and shielded from development.



Bald Eagle

(2) **Banning DDT** and other toxic substances have saved the Bald Eagle from the brink of extinction, also the American alligator, peregrine falcon, Canada goose and humpback whales. (The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken 96 species off the endangered species list, 65 of them because they have recovered.)



(3) **Air pollution** has been dramatically reduced and made cleaner and healthier. Breathing clean air has led to fewer health conditions such as cancer and asthma and saved millions of lives and trillions of dollars in health care costs. And it's not just air outside.



Defining toxic effects of smoking and restricting indoor smoking have had huge public health effects.

(4) Scientists discovered the **depletion of the ozone layer** was caused by chemicals used in aerosol sprays and refrigeration. The hole in the ozone layer was causing increases in skin cancer, cataracts and changes to the

ecosystems around the globe. Urgency to make this a global battle led to the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 which banned the chemicals world-wide. Every nation in the world adopted the treaty and 99% of these chemicals have been phased out. Now the United Nations Environment Programme projects that the ozone "will heal completely by the 2030s."



(5) **Solar and wind technology** was in its infancy in 1970. We realized that this could be a clean way to begin weaning the world off coal, oil and natural gas that are causing global warming, research and development increased. From 2010 to 2020 the price of residential solar power dropped 64% and the price of large-scale utility solar power generation dropped 82%, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab. As this technology develops, further reduction in greenhouse gas emission will follow. Obviously changes in the climate are becoming harsher, more unpredictable and expensive to deal with every year that goes by and the spilling dirty energy into the atmosphere continues.



(6) **Millions of wild acres have been permanently protected.** This includes some of the most pristine wildernesses and critical habitats - now protected for generations to come.

Many of these successes have become ordinary and expected in today's world. But there is plenty of work left to do in order to ensure a clean, healthy future and livable climate.

"In 2023 we must come together again in partnership for the planet - for equal responsibility for taking action against the climate crisis and lighting the spark to accelerate change towards a green, prosperous, and equitable future. We must join together in our fight for the green revolution, and for the health of future generations. The time is now to Invest in Our Planet," said Kathleen Rogers, President of EARTHDAY.ORG. We must collectively push away from the dirty fossil fuel economy and old technologies of centuries past - and redirect attention to creating a 21st century economy that restores the health of our planet, protects our

species, and provides opportunities for all.

On August 16, 2022, the United States made the largest climate investment in its history via the Inflation Reduction Act, which contained \$369 billion in funding for renewable energy projects, electric vehicle expansion, and climate justice.



Carbon emissions are expected to drop by about 40% compared to 2003 levels as a result, while simultaneously creating over 9 million new clean energy and environmental jobs. The Inflation Reduction Act will even pay for itself by generating an estimated \$300 billion surplus, all without having any effect on most Americans' taxes. **An investment in our planet is an investment in our people - the future of our health, wealth, and the prosperity of all citizens depends on our commitment to put in the effort now and reap the rewards later.**

### Happy Earth Day!

Taken from articles: *From Earth Day 1970 to 2022: A story of progress* by Frontier Group; Emma Searson and Rob Sargent

*Environmental experts celebrate success stories for Earth Day 2022*, Associated Press, April 21, 2022

*Climate Action Is Now the Best Pathway to a Strong Economy*, by Evan Raskin. EARTHDAY.ORG

EARTHDAY.ORG Announces Theme for Earth Day 2023: "Invest in Our Planet," October 20, 2022



Bonobo

## ACE Donates to Two Bonobo Groups

With the closing financial statement of 2022 and the emphasis on bonobos last year, the ACE Board voted to support two groups working with bonobos in Africa. A donation of \$2,000 was sent to BCI (Bonobo Conservation Initiative) and a donation of \$1,000 was sent to PASA (Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance).

We are grateful to the year-end fundraisers, donations and membership renewals that

allowed us to support these wonderful groups.



## Indonesia Tames Rainforest Destruction

By Jon Emont

A decade ago, Indonesia was destroying its tropical rainforest at a faster rate than almost any other country.

Virgin forest five times the area of Los Angeles was vanishing every year in one of the earth's most biologically diverse places, in large part to make way for plantations producing palm oil for consumer goods such as lipstick, pizza dough and shampoo.

Now, forest destruction in Indonesia is at its lowest pace in two decades. The rate of forest loss fell by more than half in Indonesia from 2015 through 2021, while it worsened in Brazil and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, homes to two other vast rainforests. It is a turnaround with lessons for policy makers, businesses and environmentalists around the world who are concerned about the effects of rainforest loss.

Indonesia's success owes to a three-pronged and overlapping approach. Strict directives prohibiting wholesale forest clearance flowed from the top rungs of government starting about five years ago. Multinational consumer-product companies pledged to avoid palm oil that involved forest destruction, blacklisted forest-slashing plantations and traced their activities with satellites. And environmental nonprofits exposed murky supply chains that long made it hard to know whether palm oil came from a company that was clearing forest.



Before meets after clear cut forest in Borneo

Indonesian palm oil companies were opposed at first. They pursued lawsuits against government actions, lobbied politicians and masked their dealings with opaque corporate structures. In the end, it became clear to many they had to either overhaul their businesses or risk losing them.

"What you see here is the systems starting to work," said Paul Polman, who from 2009 to 2019 was the chief executive of British consumer-good

giant Unilever PLC, a major user of palm oil.

### Protecting the peat

The Indonesian government was especially serious about peatlands – swampy forest with underground reservoirs of carbon-rich and highly flammable peat. Authorities not only sought to end peatland deforestation but enforced regulations that required companies to raise peatland water levels to within 16 inches of the surface, partly to reduce the severity of any fires.

Environmentalists caution that for Indonesia’s break-through to endure, its government must keep up the momentum. Some worry that a recent investor-friendly law could hurt conservation and that future administrations may overlook forest protection.

Others noted that deforestation, while sharply reduced, remains significant, in part because some farmers and plantations are able to skirt environmental commitments by selling palm oil and other commodities domestically or to less scrupulous international traders. The extraction of other commodities such as nickel and coal also contributes to forest loss.

“Market demand forces a company to fall into line with a common approach

to sustainability,” said Eric Wakker, a Dutch environmental consultant.

*Wall Street Journal,*  
February 28, 2023.



## Virtual Race

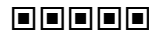
Our first Virtual Run for Bonobos was a big success. Now we are planning to hold our Second Annual Run. Please stay tuned for more details.



## ACE To Get New Website

Shhhh! It’s going to be great! Jenny Reineck has secured for ACE a spot in a website design project called “48in48: Women’s

Build Event. We won’t go into details now, but if all goes well, ACE should have a new web concept and design in April. Of course there are many details to address, and Jenny will provide more information as the project progresses. Thank you, Jenny. Stay tuned.....



## ACE Spring Social - Orchids and Lunch

On March 18 a group of ACE members and friends met at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. It was the middle of the Orchid Daze show and the Trolls Exhibit. We had a brisk walk to the Fuqua Conservatory and Orchid Center where the tropical orchids are on display. So many shapes, sizes and colors of orchids! Then we had another walk around the lower gardens to find the Trolls. The 5 Trolls were created by an artist from Denmark and all have connections to nature.

Leaving the garden, we traveled to Ponce de Leon to meet more ACE members and friends for lunch at Mary Mac’s Tea Room. Our round table

in the corner was perfect for conversation. The food was good and we enjoyed being with our friends. Doggie bags were plenty as we left the restaurant. Since covid had made in person gatherings impossible, it was finally a great time to get together and enjoy friends, ACE, good food, trolls and orchids.



Photo by J Barron  
Beautiful orchids



Photo by Shelley DeWeese  
Orchids at ABG



Photo by J Barron  
Donna and Gene as the mist came on in the greenhouse



Photo by J Barron  
Vivienne among the orchids



Photo by J Barron  
Shelley with a friend in the Garden



Photo by J Barron  
ACE members with the first Troll of Recycling



Photo by J Barron  
Troll and ACE with our "Ears to the Ground"



Photo by J Barron  
Ready for great lunch and conversation at Mary Mac's



## HoneyBaked Ham Gift Card Spring Sale

By Susan Smith

The annual Spring HoneyBaked Ham gift card sale has begun and will run through June 15. It's a chance to purchase HBH gift cards for all those spring gatherings and help ACE raise funds. ACE receives 20% of the purchase price for each card. You order online (flyer attached) and can receive either electronic cards or plastic cards.

Place your order at: [https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACE\\_Spring\\_2023](https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACE_Spring_2023). If you need further information, contact Susan Smith at [susansmith9008@comcast.net](mailto:susansmith9008@comcast.net).



## AmazonSmile Ends Charity Program

AmazonSmile ended on February 20, 2023. This announcement was a surprise to ACE who has benefited from this charity program in the past. Through AmazonSmile ACE received .05% of eligible sales when you designated ACE to receive the charitable donation. **Thank you to everyone who purchased items on AmazonSmile with ACE as your charity.** As the saying goes, every little bit helps.

Amazon said that the program was spread too thin to accomplish what they had tried to do.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with the transition, Amazon will provide the charities with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what was earned in 2022. That is a considerate way to end the program.

As a company, Amazon will continue supporting a wide range of other programs that help thousands of charities and communities across the U.S. Some examples are

Housing Equity Funding, Amazon Future Engineers, Community Delivery Programs, Amazon Disaster Relief, and Community Giving.

The Seattle-based company also has been cutting costs across its sprawling operations. It is laying off more than 16,000 employees, mostly in the retail and recruiting areas.

Amazon was a major beneficiary of the Covid-19 pandemic as many Americans turned to online shopping to avoid going to supermarkets and other stores.

To keep up with demand, Amazon doubled its logistics network and added hundreds of thousands of employees.

Demand started to wane last year as customers returned to shopping in stores, prompting Amazon to review its costs and pare back on units that were unprofitable.

Amazon now finds itself among other tech companies that grew rapidly earlier in the pandemic and struggled to adjust as trends normalized.

Shares of Amazon have fallen almost 40% over the past 12 months, under-performing the Nasdaq, which has fallen about 24%.

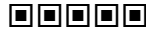
Collectively, employers in the slumping tech sector cut more than 150,000 jobs in 2022, based on estimates from Layoff.fyi, a website that tracks the events as they surface in media reports and company releases.

The pace of layoffs has slowed much in 2023, as software company Microsoft Corp. said it plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

*Taken from email ACE received from AmazonSmile and Wall Street Journal article by Will Feuer, January 20, 2023.*



Photo by Orangutan Outreach  
Orangutans watching you



## Did you know?



So much has been given to me; I have no time to ponder over that which has been denied.

Helen Keller

When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.

Vietnamese Proverb



## 2023 ACE Board

Jane Barron  
Barbara Cebula  
Jenny Reineck  
Susan Smith  
Donna Mayer Todd  
Gene Todd

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**Just in time for Spring 2023 celebrations**



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

**Gift cards can be purchased in several denominations  
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 March 15<sup>th</sup> thru June 15<sup>th</sup>

[https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACE\\_Spring\\_2023](https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ACE_Spring_2023)



**ACE receives 20% of the purchase price.  
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.*