



Election of New Board Members

In November an election for board members was done by email due to COVID. The four people on the ballot won unanimously from the 25 people voting. Combining with the two people already on the board, your 2022 Board members are
Jane Barron
Barbara Cebula
Leslie Martin
Donna Mayer Todd
Susan Smith
Gene Todd

We are excited with the experience and positive attitudes of these six people to lead us into 2022. If you have any questions or concerns or new ideas for fundraisers,

please do not hesitate to contact a board member. We all want to save great apes, and working as a team we will be able to make a difference.



Gorilla Golf 2021 Another Successful Tournament

by Susan Smith

The 10th annual Gorilla Golf Tournament took place on Monday, October 18m 2021 at the Oaks Golf Course in Covington, Georgia. It was a beautiful fall day as 15 golfers teed off to raise funds for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Though the

number of golfers was down slightly this year, the tournament raised **\$11,800**. That donation brings the total raised and donated to DFGFI from this event to over **\$155,000**.

The event has always been a big hit with the golfers. Many of them have played in each of the 10 years ACE has hosted the tournament. They are truly supportive of ACE and the work that DFGFI is doing in the field. In addition, those that walk away with one of the four prizes, enjoy showing off their "ape created" awards plaques.

Winners are



photo by Jodi Carrigan
Chris Dehmer with his gorilla-painted award
First Place
and **Longest Drive**

Second Place
Ken Munger



photo by Jodi Carrigan

**Closest to the Gorilla
and Third Place
Mark Melone**



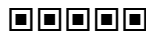
photo by Jodi Carrigan

**Mark Melone
with two awards**

The raffle is always an exciting end to the event, and this year was no exception. Shelley DeWeese did a fantastic job of procuring items and setting up the raffle. The raffle made \$480 with the golfers buying an arm's length of raffle tickets for \$20 each. So the trick for each participant was to find the golfer with the longest arms!!!

Planning for the 2022 Gorilla Golf Tournament has already started. The event will be played on a new course since the Oaks Golf Course has been sold and will be turned into a development. We will be announcing details later in 2022 but you can start recruiting friends to play and/or acquiring raffle items. For this year we want to say thanks to all who sponsored golfers, donated raffle items,

volunteered at the tournament - without your support ACE would not be able to have such a successful event.



Grauer's gorilla

Thanks for Donating Items to the Gorilla Golf Raffle

by Shelley DeWeese

The success of the Gorilla Golf raffle is a direct result of your generous donations. Every year, the golfers look forward to discovering what will be in the raffle. The golfers purchase arm-length numbers of raffle tickets depending on the amount of raffle items which pique their interest. Thank you, Susan, Adie, Lisa, Jane, Viv and Jodi for all you do year after year? You've made a world of difference.

If anyone needs a letter acknowledging their donation for tax purposes, please let Jane know.



#GivingTuesday

by Donna Mayer Todd

GA Gives on Giving Tuesday was part of a world-wide event of generosity with gifts given to non-profits of every focus. ACE was a part of that too, meaning that **WE, each of us who participated, were a part of that!** "Oh, and it was a grand day," taking on the persona of my Irish great, great grandmother for a moment. On that day, **ACE gathered donations totaling \$1,625 which we will forward on to the Bonobo Conservation Initiative.** Then the board approved enlarging that amount to \$2,500, and don't you know that will prove extremely helpful to the work of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative!



Bonobo

We achieved just slightly less than in 2020 when we raised \$1,700 on that Giving Tuesday. Though I would have preferred we increase the total each year, this amount will make a difference in the world of great ape conservation, and we can celebrate that fact!

Looking at the larger picture and results of Giving Tuesday, a report I read was titled **"Generosity Lit Up the World."** It went on to say, "GivingTuesday is joyful even at the darkest of times, and yesterday was about millions of people celebrating their ability to meaningfully impact their communities and the world," says Asha Curran, co-founder and CEO of GivingTuesday." Focusing on the United States, it was reported that people contributed \$2.7 billion to U.S. nonprofits and community organizations in the 24 hours on #GivingTuesday 2021 - a 9% increase from 2020. Thirty-five million adults in the U.S. participated in many ways; volunteering on the day increased by 11% and gifts of goods (clothes, food, supplies, etc.) saw an 8% increase compared to 2020. Just look at what community can do when it comes together! Perhaps some of the feel-good from that day will translate into more people volunteering where their passions lie. That would be a very good thing for all of us.

Thank you to each of you for your commitment to ACE and to the survival of the four great apes. Hopefully, 2022 will allow us more opportunities to work together - in the same

place! - to help achieve that. In the meantime, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and very happy holiday season!



Dr. Tara Stoinski

Reflections on a unique year

Q&A with Fossey CEO Dr. Tara Stoinski

What were some of the biggest highlights of the year?

TS: Grauer's gorillas, found only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are one of the world's most endangered apes, so the official recognition of three new community-managed forests, in areas where we work that previously had no formal protection, was a huge win and a highlight of our year.

This community-based model is practical, cost-effective and successful in protecting the gorillas and saving these important forests, which are one of our best natural defenses against climate change.

Were there any big surprises or unexpected events during the year?

TS: The largest and oldest mountain gorilla group we've ever monitored, Pablo's group, surprised us by splitting into two groups this spring. Group changes are not unusual, but we had grown used to the relative stability of this group, which was founded in 1993. Much of that was due to the incredible long-term leadership of silverback Cantsbee, who died in 2017.

What other unique events occurred during the year?

TS: We celebrated when a new analysis of the Grauer's gorilla population put their estimated number at 6,800, much higher than the previous estimate of 3,800 made in 2015. Even though this new research does not represent an actual increase in the population, it's good to know we have more Grauer's gorillas than we thought. This study, conducted by our colleagues at the Wildlife Conservation Society, also showed that gorillas

living on community-protected lands, like those where we work, are faring better than those in Congo's national parks.

We had numerous scientific papers published in prestigious journals this year, showcasing our research. Which one is your favorite?

TS: One of my favorite studies of the year was one we like to call "Gorillas don't bluff when they chest beat." The gorilla chest beat is such an emblematic sound and yet until this study, we didn't really know what information the gorillas were conveying when they make these impressive displays. A diverse team of researchers spent hours in the field making recordings, measuring gorillas using a remote camera technique called "photogrammetry," and collecting behavioral data in search of answers. To see what we learned, please check out the details at gorillafund.org/chestbeat.

What do you hope for most in 2022?

TS: I hope that everyone takes some kind of action to help protect our planet, and that they make an effort to live by the basic values that underlie our work. I believe that when we save gorillas, we also save the planet. And when we work together, we are truly #ApesTogetherStrong.

The above excerpts were taken from The Dian Fossey Gorilla Journal, November 2021.



Moving on From PASA



Gregg Tully

This isn't an easy email to write. I will leave PASA in the coming months. I feel like I've achieved what I intended to do - when I joined PASA in 2015, there was no other staff and very little revenue. We now have a budget of over \$1M and a reputation worldwide as a rising leader in wildlife protection, conducting diverse programs to address major threats to African Wildlife. Importantly, we have an invaluable team of eight highly capable staff who, supported by dozens of skilled volunteers and PASA's Board of Directors, can fill my

roles and continue to expand PASA's impact.

I am very grateful to you for helping to make this possible. I hope we'll stay in contact.

I want to be clear that this isn't a sign of any problems in PASA. There's every reason to believe the Alliance will continue to be strong through this transition and afterwards. I'm working with the Board of Directors to hire a new CEO, and I'll be actively involved until they're fully up to speed. PASA and primate protection will always have a big place in my heart and I'm sure I'll stay connected to the Alliance.

A strength of mine is guiding organizations through difficult transitions and putting them on paths for growth. I believe I've done this with PASA, and I'm ready to make a meaningful impact with other organizations.

An organization named Save the Dogs, which is focused on managing Romania's stray dog overpopulation, offered me a one-year position managing all their projects in that country and solving some interesting challenges. I've also arranged consulting projects, including helping The Tanzanian Elephant Foundation make a strategic plan and

rebuilding an association of animal protection organizations in Nepal.

I want to thank you for your support and collaboration. I can't tell you how much it means to me. PASA's future is bright and I'm confident that whoever slips into this role will work with excellent staff and a supportive Board, and will have the resources to address the many challenges that PASA and its members contend with to defend African primates. I'm looking forward to introducing you to them after they're hired.

All my best,

Gregg Tully
CEO
Pan African Sanctuary Alliance.

Our new contact with PASA will be Jenny Botting.



Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall still has hope for humans

As the bad news - the pandemic, climate change, racial injustice - feels overwhelming, it can be surprising to hear from an optimist. Jane Goodall may be best known for the work studying the chimpanzees of Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, but her efforts to promote conservation through the Jane Goodall Institute also have focused on people, mainly through antipoverty and youth education programs.

Her latest contributions toward helping humans avoid self-destruction is *"The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times."* In her book, written with Douglas Abrams, Goodall outlines the four things that give her hope: human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the "indomitable" human spirit.

Q: Why did you decide to write a book about hope?

A: You know, it's really grim with climate change, loss of biodiversity, the pandemic, the autocratic regimes taking over in many parts of the world. And many people are losing hope. But if everybody loses hope, we've had it because, you know, without hope, we give up, become apathetic and do nothing. But the key thing is that my definition of hope isn't just sitting and saying, "Ok, I'm sure things will work out." It's like a very dark tunnel full of obstacles, but right at the end, there's that little light gleaming. And in order to get to the little light, you're just going to have to fight to get there. It wouldn't just happen unless you make the effort.

Q: With so much bad going on, how can people stay hopeful?

A: We're always told, "Think globally, but act locally." But if you think globally, you're sort of filled with doom and gloom. You don't have the energy to act. But think about where you are. Is there something you care about? Yeah. I care about the litter in the streets. Ok, get together with your friends and start clearing up the litter and you'll find that other people once the litter is



clear, they stop littering. You'll see that you made a difference, and you'll feel more hope. That's contagious.

Every person matters. Every person has a role to play in this crazy life. Every person makes an impact on the planet every day, and we get to choose what sort of impact we make.

Q: Why are you still hopeful about human intellect?

A: It's very peculiar that this most intellectual creature is destroying its only home. But finally, because we face a crisis, scientists are coming up with more and more and more innovative ways to tackle climate change, like renewable energy. Ordinary people are beginning to think with their brains about how they can leave a lighter ecological footprint, what they can do each day. So that's my reason for thinking that human intellect is one thing that's hopeful if we use it right.

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c.2021 The New York Times*



Spotlighting Non-Profit Groups ACE Supports

We are highlighting the Friends of Bonobos. Through the years that we have supported this group, we have referenced them as Lola ya Bonobo, Les Amis de Bonobos, Claudine's bonobos, and now Friends of Bonobos. This should clear up the many names throughout the years..

Friends of Bonobos



photo by Friends of Bonobo
Bonobo at Lola ya Bonobo

Friends of Bonobos was founded by Claudine Andre, the founder of Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (ABC). Friends of Bonobos supports the work of ABC, which includes Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary, Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve, and so much more. Friends works to raise awareness in the United States and

internationally about bonobos and their plight and ABC's critical work to save and protect them.

What is the problem?

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.

Since the beginning, ABC has worked to change that. Already, more than half a million people in the Congo have participated in ABC's education and awareness programs. Now, Friends of Bonobos is working with ABC to harness the power of digital and social media to raise awareness of bonobos and their plight globally.

In 2018, Friends reached about 540,000 people via online awareness initiatives. In 2019 that grew to over 11 million. In 2020, more people than ever tuned in to learn about bonobos - *50 million people!*

Lola ya Bonobo This is the only bonobo sanctuary in the world!

Seventy-five endangered bonobos live at Lola ya Bonobo with a safe home and all the love, care, and support they need to

survive and thrive. This includes 11 baby bonobos who were rescued last year.

Funds go for:

- *Food and nourishment
- *Medical treatment, including emergency care
- *Surrogate mothers (for orphaned babies)
- *Bonobo wellness checkups for all
- *Regular upkeep and repairs of enclosures and buildings, like the infirmary, bonobo sleeping quarters, nutrition center and nursery

In addition to the above needs, running the sanctuary efficiently and effectively includes these programs:

- *Personal Protective Equipment and disinfectant to keep the staff and bonobos healthy
- *Utilities, communications, and equipment
- *Hygiene, grounds and site maintenance
- *Travel and vehicle expenditures
- *Security
- *Educational materials and activities (pre-COVID)
- *Educators and tour leaders (pre-COVID)



photo by Friends of Bonobos
Surrogate Moms

Surrogate Moms

Bonobos arrive at the sanctuary traumatized by the death of their family and in dire need of comfort. Each baby is given a surrogate human mom who helps them heal from their ordeal, both physically and emotionally. The babies form a close bond with their moms and learn to trust and love again.

Currently there are eight surrogate moms in the nursery, led by nursery director Yvonne Vela.



photo by Friends of Bonobos
Bonobo at Ekolo ya Bonobo

Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve

Bonobos who have been nursed back to health at Lolo ya Bonobo sanctuary are released back into their natural habitat, the Congo rainforest.



photo by Friends of Bonobos
Bonobo at Ekolo ya Bonobo

In 2019 Ekolo ya Bonobo grew from 20,000 to 120,000 acres and secured province-level protection (similar to a state park). The next phase, which began in 2020 is to create the management plan for the reserve in collaboration with local communities and government authorities.

Meanwhile, with poaching rates on the rise in the height of the pandemic, wildlife reserves like Ekolo ya Bonobo were more vulnerable than ever. However, COVID restrictions prevented Ekolo ya Bonobo from recruiting and training eco-guards from local communities and the current team was not large enough to patrol the newly expanded reserve on their own. So the Congolese government implemented interim protective measures and deployed six eco-guards to assist the Ekolo team.

Ekolo ya Bonobo's peat

Ekolo ya Bonobo is part of the famous mega-peatland region of the Congo rainforest. According to calculations based on a University of Leeds study, 41.5% of the reserve is covered by peatlands.

Peat is partially decomposed plant material that accumulated

over time under wet, oxygen-deprived conditions. These highly valuable soils are capable of storing enormous amounts of carbon and thus combating climate change.



photo by Friends of Bonobos
Staff at Lola ya Bonobo

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lola ya Bonobo decided to cease all visitor activities on March 13, 2020. A few days later, the sanctuary entered full quarantine.

For five months, nearly two dozen staff members lived on site full time to care for the bonobos. When orphaned bonobos were found, only the lead veterinarian, Dr. Jonas, left the sanctuary to help with their rescue and transport to Lola. The shutdown, quarantine, and extra sanitation measures were essential to prevent transmission of the virus to bonobos, which could have had devastating effects.

Masks and regular disinfection were required at all times. All food deliveries were exchanged at the sanctuary perimeter and immediately sanitized before being distributed

to the kitchen and bonobo nutrition center.

COVID-19 not only posed an immediate threat to the health of the staff and bonobos, but it also led to several temporary setbacks. The bonobo release planned for 2020 - after being previously delayed once for the bureaucratic reasons and once due to an Ebola outbreak - had to again be postponed, and the bonobos had to remain in quarantine at Totaka Island. This meant at Totaka, additional pay for the staff and other costs associated with keeping the bonobos in quarantine longer than anticipated had to be provided.

Social distancing and restricted travel forced the suspension of education and awareness programs at Lola and in the provinces. This time allowed us to update educational materials on bonobos, poaching, and the need for biodiversity conservation.

Bonobo and COVID facts:

Bonobos are susceptible to the same respiratory illnesses as humans, so yes, bonobos can contract COVID.

A number of US zoos have given an

experimental COVID-19 vaccine to apes, including bonobos, with no serious effects.

Lola ya Bonobo rescued more baby bonobos in 2020 than in the previous six years combined. We believe this increase was partly due to the pandemic (less patrolling meant more poaching) and partly because education programs are working: more people are reporting captive bonobos to the authorities.

There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in bonobos.

According to government data, the vaccination rate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is approximately .1% or one-tenth of 1 percent.

New website: for more information about bonobos and the work being done, see www.friendsofbonobos.org.

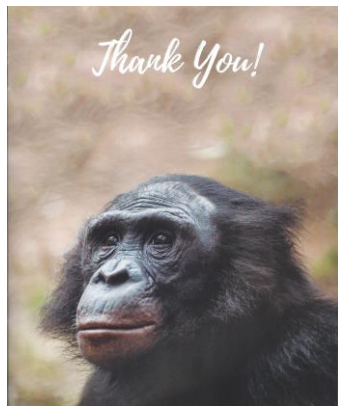
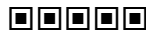


photo by Friends of Bonobos
Thanks for Supporting during COVID and always

The above material was taken from the 2020 Annual Report of Friends of Bonobos.



Did you know?

Greenhouse gases hit near record: Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a record high last year and increased at a faster rate than the annual average for the last decade despite a temporary reduction during pandemic lockdowns, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report published Monday. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* October 26, 2021

Your legacy is every life you have touched.
Maya Angelou



2022 ACE Board

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