

Lori Kirkland

The Latest Gossip

Shelley DeWeese

2021 Calendar of Events

August 2021
Apes In the Arts
(See article for details.)

October 18
Gorilla Golf
Oaks Golf Course
Covington, GA

"Apes in the Arts" is back!!!! Virtually for 2021!!! In the latter half of August, ACE will be hosting a Facebook Live Auction Event. (Dates to be confirmed soon.)

There will be numerous video and photos from the artists (both human and ape), from ACE president Lori, and lots of information about our beneficiary: Orangutan Outreach!!! So, be sure to like and follow ACE on Facebook and Instagram to see all this wonderful information. Tell your friends, and tell your neighbors. Apes in the Arts is BACK!!!



Hey! This is Shelley DeWeese. Yes, I am back in town taking care of my parents' estate, but that's not the latest gossip. Come here, come a little closer. Interested in a secret? I have GOT to share this news with you! Do you know what makes the **Gorilla Golf Raffle** a success? YOU! You are the reason for its success. Every single contribution/donation has an impact! When you are out and about, surfing the web or watching a television shopping network channel such as QVC or JTV (Jewelry TV), please start gathering those items which speak to you. Reaching out to local

businesses you patronize are great resources in addition to the online possibilities. I cannot believe the event is just around the corner!

October 18! Wow! This year is flying!!

Here are some items which are needed:

- *Cigars, cigar accessories
- *Liquor, liquor accessories
- *Palm oil sustainable products such as M&M's, Hershey's, Dove soaps, etc...
- *Unique golfer aids - ways to improve golf game, increase comfort out on the golf course or novelty/comedic
- *Grill, grill supplies
- *Electronics
- *African themed cookbooks with grocery store gift cards
- *Male/female athleisure clothing
- *Mission cooling hats, towels
- *Sporting equipment
- *Books
- *Sunglasses, hats



After 15 months plus of being stuck at home, golfers will be ecstatic about doing stuff away from home. These items might even start a few bidding wars (arm length ticket purchases) among

the golfers. Check out these experience ideas to provide inspiration for raffle item contribution:

- *Time with a golf coach connected to the [PGA](#) (Professional Golfers Association)
- *A way to bury the hatchet after a round on the golf course. [Bury the Hatchet](#)
- *Time to hang out with fellow golf buddies at [Top Golf Atlanta](#)
- *A way to sooth those aching muscles through [Massage Envy](#)
- *South African food delight at [10 Degrees South](#)
- *Or maybe dinner at [Kingsway Restaurant](#)
- *Some fast times at [Porsche Driving Experience Atlanta](#)
- *Or maybe go skydiving through [Skydive Atlanta](#)
- *Cooking classes through [Cozy Meal](#)
- *A night at [Sweetwater Taproom & Kitchen](#)
- *A little Painting with a Twist fun at [Painting with a Twist](#)
- *An art class or two or three would be fun from [Spruill Arts](#)

Please drop off items at my place located at 496 Connemara Crossing, Lawrenceville, GA 30044 or contact me to schedule a meeting point. The best way to contact me is email:shelleydeweese@gmail.com or phone (404) 216-5779.

I am a firm believer in the saying *teamwork makes the dream work!* YOU

are a valuable part of the team which makes the dream work. Thank you for all you do for the preservation of the Great Apes!



Travel with the Fossey Fund!

Tara Stoinski

After studying gorillas for more than 25 years, I am still amazed when I see them face to face in their forest home. **That's why I want to share this experience with you!**

Join me in **August 7-15, 2021**, and together we'll travel to the magnificent Masai Mara in Kenya, where we'll have the chance to see lions, elephants, giraffes and hope to also see one of the most amazing wildlife spectacles - the annual wildebeest migration!

This will be followed by a visit to Rwanda, home to the endangered mountain gorillas Dian loved so much. Mountain gorillas inhabit some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, and this trip boasts the opportunity to visit these gentle giants, interact with Fossey Fund staff, and tour the Fossey Fund offices.



A trip like this is truly the opportunity of a lifetime, and it would be my honor to share my life's work with you in the misty mountains that Dian herself called home. I understand that this has been a tough year for many of us, and some of you may have reservations regarding travel as many countries around the world continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I can assure you that we will be taking all necessary precautions to ensure your safety and that of our staff and the gorillas. If you have any specific questions regarding COVID-19 restrictions, travel requirements or general trip information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@gorillafund.org.

Sincerely,

P.S. Can't make it this time? There are also dates available in 2022 through our travel partner, Terra Incognita. Please contact info@gorillafund.org for more details.

ACE Members Are Interesting People

Our interesting member highlighted in this issue is Lisa Zawacki, who has been active in ACE since 2012.



photo by Zawacki
Lisa models her Gorilla Sack on Santa Barbara beach

Lisa Zawacki

I'm Lisa, the founder of Gorilla Sacks based in Atlanta and I am an absolute gorilla nut! I have been an ACE member for over 8 years and have been blown away by their passion and commitment.

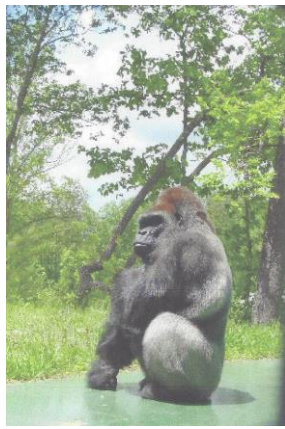


photo by Zawacki
Lisa met Joe at Gorilla Haven

My love for gorillas started in 2008 on a sleepless night. I clicked on the TV and ended up watching a documentary about a gorilla on the National Geographic network called *A Conversation with Koko* (1999). For those of you who may not be familiar with Koko, she was the western lowland gorilla who mastered sign language and gave us a glimpse into the astounding mind and heart of these incredible creatures. I was flabbergasted by her intelligence, depth of emotion, comprehension and kind heart. I was completely enthralled in her care and education. She learned more than 1,000 words in sign language and came to understand over 2,000 words spoken to her in English. There's even a funny story about her and Mr. Rogers of whom she was an avid fan. Upon meeting him in person, she hugged him and did what she had seen him do on TV so often...she took off his shoes! Koko was

also a bit mischievous and famously blamed her pet kitten when asked who ripped the sink off of the wall! Unfortunately, Koko died of natural causes at the age of 46 at the preserve where she lived. Koko surely touched the lives of millions, including me, forever changing my view of inter-species connections and even my pain in life.

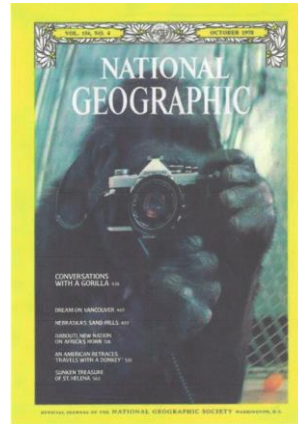


photo by Ronald Cohn
National Geographic Koko cover October 1978

After learning about Koko and doing more research, I learned that gorillas are slowly but surely losing their environment and moving closer to extinction and that there was an urgent need for assistance. I started a company that upcycles old billboards into various bags and accessories and named it Gorilla Sacks, hoping to contribute in any small way to this effort.



photo by Zawacki
A sampling of Gorilla Sacks

Together with various companies across the US, we have partnered to upcycle their used vinyl. All bags are handcrafted in Georgia, sewn by individual artisans and each is a unique piece of art. The gorilla connection was simple. The bags are not only as tough as gorillas, but we hope we're helping by donating 10% of our profits to various organizations, such as ACE, and continue to actively participate in the global movement to protect gorillas, their natural habitats and promote gorilla conservation education.



photo by Zawacki
Gorilla Sack for your bike!

We've created a connection between old billboards, gorillas and a unique sustainable product!



photo by Zawacki
Lisa (right) visited
Gorilla Haven vet clinic

Although this last year has been tough on us all, I believe that the year ahead will bring positive change for our environment. During quarantine, the world witnessed the amazing positive impact it had on our environment, from wildlife creeping into city streets to the dramatic drop in air pollution levels. Nature hit the reset button. We can not deny that lessening our footprint will benefit all. In the coming year as things return to normal, I hope to grow Gorilla Sacks, travel (maybe even to Musanze, Rwanda!) and continue to contribute to the global efforts to help our beloved gorillas.

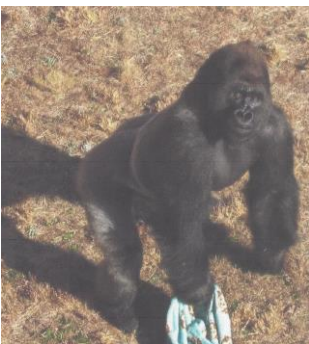
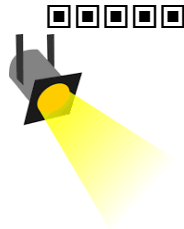


photo by Zawacki
Oliver sees Lisa at Gorilla Haven

To learn more about Koko, check out <https://www.koko.org/>

ACE will sell Gorilla Sacks at the volunteer holiday party. To see the assortment of Gorilla Sack products, see www.gorillasacks.com.



Spotlighting Non-Profit Groups ACE Supports

We are highlighting Gorilla Doctors in this newsletter. The Gorilla Doctors began as the realization of a dream of American gorilla researcher Dian Fossey, who dedicated her life to studying and protecting mountain gorillas in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.



Timeline of creation and development

Early 1980s: By the mid-1980s, Dr. Fossey's research indicated that the mountain gorilla population was rapidly declining, with **fewer** than 300 known mountain gorillas remaining in the world. Gorillas were being killed outright by poachers, suffering from life-threatening injuries caused by snares, and succumbing to illnesses Fossey suspected were being transmitted by

humans. At that time, there was no health program in place to treat sick and injured gorillas.

1984: In 1984 Fossey met wildlife enthusiast Ruth Morris Keesling, whose father was Dr. Mark Morris, founder of the Morris Animal Foundation (MAF), an organization that funds animal health research around the world. "There are 248 gorillas in the world, and they're going to die," Fossey told Keesling. "Would you help me save them by sending a veterinarian for them?"

1985: Keesling promised to help Fossey by **establishing the Volcanoes Veterinary Clinic in Rwanda through MAF**. She hired Dr. James Foster to be the resident veterinarian - the first Gorilla Doctor.

1986: Sadly, on December 26, 1985, a few weeks before Dr. Foster was scheduled to arrive in Rwanda, unknown assailants murdered Fossey in her cabin. Fortunately, MAF vowed to honor Fossey's wishes, and in **early 1986, Dr. Foster set about building the clinic**.

1994: Thanks to Dr. Foster's leadership, the project built a veterinary program that would ultimately help turn around the decline of the

mountain gorilla species. During the 1994 Rwanda genocide and the years of armed conflict that followed, Dr. Foster tirelessly advocated for the protection of the mountain gorillas caught in the crossfire.

1997: Dr. Foster served as program director of what would become the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP) until his death in Rwanda in 1997.

Following Dr. Foster's death, Dr. Mike Cranfield became executive director of the MGVP. Under Dr. Cranfield, the program expanded to include health programs for the mountain and Grauer's gorillas living in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), orphaned gorillas, and for the people working in and living near gorillas habitat.

2006: In 2006 the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project became its own 501(c)3 organization, separate from MAF. Three years later (2009), MGVP partnered with the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. Together, the two institutions formed Gorilla Doctors, which is now under the co-directorship of Cranfield and Dr. Kirsten Gilardi at US Davis.

2014: Gorilla Doctors now employs more than a dozen veterinarians and health experts in all three countries where mountain gorillas live.

Where they work

Gorilla Doctors operates in Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC. While Grauer's gorillas are found only in the DRC, mountain gorillas live in two protected areas within the region: Virunga Volcanoes Massif and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

GD veterinarians monitor each and every habituated mountain gorilla living in these parks on a routine basis. The Congolese veterinarians also monitor the health of habituated Grauer's of Eastern Lowland gorillas living in Kahuzi-Biega National Park and in the Mt. Tshiabirmu area of Virunga National Park, DRC.

Regional headquarters are located in Musanze, Rwanda, about a 30-minute drive from Volcanoes National Park. There are field facilities in Kisoro and in Buhoma, just outside Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and a field facility at the Senkwekwe Center at the Virunga National Park headquarters in Rumangabo, DRC, and offices and laboratories in Kigali, Rwanda,

Kampala, Uganda and Goma, DRC.

Executive Director and Chief Veterinary Officer is Dr. Kirsten Gilardi, who is based in the US but travels to Africa frequently throughout the year. Dr. Gilardi works out of administrative base at Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center (WHC) at UC Davis.

UC Davis and MGVP Partnership

Dian Fossey attended UC Davis as an undergraduate student before going on to establish the Karisoke Research Center. She mentored primatologists who became Gorilla Doctors and chief veterinary pathologist for MGVP. In 2009 MGVP teamed up with the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and formed Gorilla Doctors. The Center aims to address the issues using a "One Health" approach, which recognizes that the health of domestic animals, wildlife, and people are inextricably linked with each other and the environment.

Wildlife Veterinary Medicine in Africa

Almost the entire Gorilla Doctors staff is comprised of African veterinarians, technicians, and administrators. Gorilla Doctors mentors the next generation of wildlife health experts in

the region by sponsoring educational training programs in close cooperation with African schools and universities and support its staff in professional continuing education. By investing in training, Gorilla Doctors is aiming for a point in the future when in-country veterinarians and professional staff are the primary and sole providers of life-saving health services for eastern gorillas.

Gorilla Doctors collaborates with the non-profit organization Conservation Heritage-Turambe to promote education on improving wildlife and community health in primary schools bordering Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park. Veterinarians perform demonstrations showing how and why mountain gorillas are treated for sickness and injury to students enrolled in CHT' extracurricular conservation and health education program. Using masks, stethoscopes, a compressed air gun, and empty darts, the veterinarians and children simulate gorilla health interventions. During discussions, students learn that becoming a Gorilla Doctor is a possible career path.

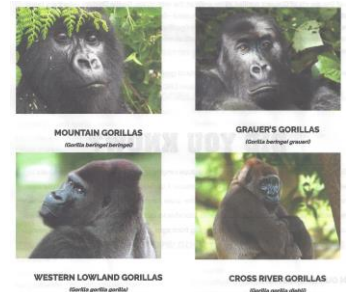


photo by Gorilla Doctors

Mountain and Grauer's gorillas

Gorilla Patients

Gorillas only exist in the wild of Africa, where four different gorilla subspecies can be found: Mountain Gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), Grauer's Gorillas (*Gorilla beringei graueri*), Western Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), and Cross River Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*).



photo by Gorilla Doctors
Doctor and orphan gorilla

All of the 26 mountain and Grauer's gorilla orphans that have been treated by the Gorilla Doctors over the years were orphaned by human attacks on gorillas in the DRC. The political volatility in the region affects the security of the parks and makes it possible for poachers and armed groups to operate inside the forest. Because of their perceived value as exotic pets, young gorillas may be captured

by poachers hoping to sell them on the black market. In order to take a baby gorilla alive, poachers usually kill the animal's mother and any other gorilla trying to protect it.



photo by Gorilla Doctors
Baby gorilla with bottle

When a gorilla is confiscated, the orphan is brought to an interim care facility where it can be evaluated by the Gorilla Doctors. Confiscated gorillas are often suffering from dehydration, malnutrition, mental distress, and wounds related to their capture and captivity. The veterinary teams have successfully treated orphans with trauma ranging from bullet wounds and rope burns to gangrenous limbs. As a result of stress and coming into contact with human germs, new orphans sometimes also develop respiratory disease, which can progress to pneumonia. Depending on the severity of their illness, orphans may be treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, and intravenous fluids.



photo by Gorilla Doctors
Caregiver and orphan

Dedicated human caretakers look after the orphans 24 hours a day to help them to regain their strength and recover from their mental trauma. When appropriate, orphans move from interim care facilities to sanctuaries. Whether or not these orphans will be returned to the wild will be a decision made by the wildlife authorities, and based on careful consideration of their chances for survival.

One Health Medicine

Research studies show that gorillas can become ill and even die as a result of coming into contact with germs transmitted by people and other animals. The relationship is dynamic, given the movements of people and animals in and out of the national parks, creating countless opportunities for disease exchange. Conservation workers and tourists spend time with habituated gorilla groups on a daily basis. Gorillas can also venture outside the national parks, coming into contact with local people and their domestic animals. Gorilla Doctors cannot ensure the long-term health of mountain gorillas without

addressing human and domestic animals health.



photo by Gorilla Doctors
Injured Gorilla

Gorilla Doctors first began developing human and domestic animal health projects in the late 1990s. Gorilla Doctors constantly looks for ways to strengthen its ongoing One Health-oriented programs and develop new approaches for conserving gorillas through new initiatives including:

Facilitating annual health screenings, follow up care, and health education for people who work in the national parks;

Providing rabies vaccines for dogs and cats living near gorilla habitat and educating their owners about best pet care practices;

Conducting pathological examinations of tissues collected during post mortem exams of deceased gorillas and other wildlife with which gorillas share the forest to determine the cause of death;

Surveying live wildlife for pathogens that could be risky for people and gorillas ;

Conducting research to investigate the links between the health of

gorillas, humans and other animals;
Making recommendations to government and local authorities about best practices for managing a healthy gorilla population based on research finding;
Providing African professionals and students working in the area of veterinary science and wildlife conservation with opportunities for training and research; and
Connecting veterinary, medical, public health, and PhD students from UC Davis and other universities with volunteer and research opportunities in Africa with Gorilla Doctors and its partner organizations.

For more information, see www.gorilladoctors.org.



photo by Gorilla Doctors
Gorilla on public road with motorcycle



Jumbo Graduates

Richard Zimmerman of Orangutan Outreach has informed us that Jumbo, one of the orangutans ACE adopted, has graduated from BOS Nyaru Metang Forest School. Jumbo has moved on to the final stage of his rehabilitation in Orangutan Jungle School. He is living semi-wild on a pre-release island. We are so proud of him!

When ACE adopted Jumbo in July 2019, his bio stated that a man hunting with his dog "found" the baby alone. This is hard to believe since we know that mother orangutans will not go off and leave their babies. Luckily, the man decided to turn in the baby.

Enjoy these photos of Jumbo changing through the years.



photo by Orangutan Outreach
Baby Jumbo from 2013



photo by Orangutan Outreach
Playful Toddler Jumbo
from 2019



photo by Orangutan Outreach
Proud Graduate Jumbo

Congratulations to our boy for the progress he is making. Don't you think it's time to adopt again???

See: www.redapes.org



Did you know?

Chimp dies at 63: The oldest male chimpanzee living in an accredited North American zoo died Saturday (6/5/21) at the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens. He was 63. The chimpanzee, named Cobby, had been a hand-reared performing chimpanzee before he was brought to the San Francisco zoo in the 1960s.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution
June 8, 2021

Ashley Judd Update

The news is good. Ashley is recovering and doing physical therapy at home. In February before daybreak she was checking on bonobos in the DRC when she tripped over a fallen tree, shattering her leg. Her leg was broken in four places and the peroneal nerve was injured. This is the nerve that provides sensation to the front and side of the leg and to the top of the foot. It controls the leg muscles that help lift the ankle and toes. Recovery of this nerve will take at least a year. "The knee is coming along and the fractures healing. I concentrate hard at moving my very still foot," Judd wrote, adding that she appreciates her

sister giving her "medical-grade massages which remind my brain that I do have a right foot." She was to begin walking with a brace and cane in June.

USA Today
June 26, 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

Fundraising events:
fundraising@apeconservationeffort.org

Gorilla Golf:
gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org

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

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Proceeds from the tournament will support The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International
For more information and registration visit www.apeconservationeffort.org
Call 404-427-4998 or e-mail gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org

