

## What A Year ACE Has Planned !

We are going to be busy bees with all of the events planned. *Get your calendars out to mark these very special activities.*



### **April** (aka APE-ril)

ACE will have a table at Zoo Atlanta's **Party for the Planet on Sunday, April 21, 2013.**

Although we will not be selling items, we plan on having a lot of information available for people stopping by eager to learn about great apes in the wild. If you want to help staff the table, please let Jane Barron know.



### **May**

One of the highlights of this month is Zoo Atlanta's **Beastly Feast.** Each year ACE donates a basket of goodies to the silent auction at the Feast. We include information about great apes and ACE for the winner of the basket. This is another way to show ACE is supporting this important zoo event plus getting our message out.

### **July**



**Apes In The Arts returns on Thursday, July 11, 2013.** This very popular event will be hosted for the fifth straight year by J. Tribble Antiques. The Zoo Atlanta great apes are working hard on their

artwork that will be sold at the end of the evening. Michele Dave and her committee have some surprises - so stay tuned.

### **September**



**Run for the Redheads, A 5K Run to Save Orangutans** will bring together runners and animal lovers for this first race event ACE has developed. It will take place on **Saturday, September 14, 2013,** beginning and ending at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Howell Mill Road. Patti Frazier and her committee would appreciate your help in contacting sponsor prospects and encouraging runners to register.

## October



How time flies – can you believe it’s time for our **Third Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament**. Brookfield Country Club has invited us back for this very popular event. This year it will be held on **Tuesday, October 8, 2013**. Jodi Carrigan and her committee would appreciate your help getting sponsors and collecting items for the goodie bags each golfer takes home.

## December



Since the ape-painted ornaments are SO popular, we plan to have a larger supply to sell than in the past. The **Holiday Sale table** will be at the zoo on **Saturday, December 14, 2013**. We will have many other items including the ever-popular Gorilla Sacks and hope to close out the year with a big sale.

Busy might be an understatement, huh? Of course, not listed above are other activities that Michele Dave and her committee might schedule. Be assured that we will let you know of those activities in time for you and your friends to attend.

For additional information about any of these activities, please refer to [www.apeconservationeffort.org/events](http://www.apeconservationeffort.org/events) or contact board members using the emails given at the end of the newsletter.

As always, ACE appreciates your support in so many ways. This is going to be a fun and “Great Ape Year.”



## Aceh Situation Grows More Desperate

Indonesia’s Ministry of Forestry is close to accepting a proposal to open 1.2 million hectares of forest in Aceh for mining, logging, and palm oil production, reports the *Aceh Post*. Aceh has the most forest cover of any province in Sumatra, which lost 36 percent of its forests in the past 20 years.

“Despite the ongoing legal action against palm oil companies brought by NGOs (non-government organizations), the Ministry of the Environment and the National Police, it is now being proposed that Tripa lose its currently protected status altogether, and for this unique peat swamp ecosystem and all its biodiversity and potentially hugely valuable carbon stock to be handed over to the palm oil companies for final, total obliteration,” said Ian Singleton of the

Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program. “And now its not just Tripa and orangutans either. The new spatial plan does not even acknowledge the existence of the world renowned Leuser Ecosystem protected area or the fact that the forests they intend to ‘unprotect’ are the last main hope for the long-term survival of iconic Sumatran endemic species such as the sumatran tiger, elephant and rhinoceros. The future of each of these species, and countless others, will be placed in immediate jeopardy if the plans are allowed to proceed.”

“The community understands very well from previous devastating flash floods in the area, most notably in 2006, that clearing the forests upstream has a direct impact on the river flow and their own safety downstream,” added environmental journalist Rudy Putra. “The people of Aceh are no fools, we know that when these unstable areas are cut, it directly leads to increasing natural disasters.”

Source: [www.news.mongabay.com](http://www.news.mongabay.com)

To find out more and sign petition, go to [www.sumatranorangutan.org](http://www.sumatranorangutan.org). Save the Tripa Peat Swamp petition is under the Campaign tab.



## Interesting Reading:

In The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International Gorilla Journal, Winter 2013, there is an interesting article: *New Gorilla Challenge – Looking for solutions to gorillas roaming outside park.*

The article addresses the seasonal problem of gorilla troupes leaving the protected area in Volcanoes National Park to eat bamboo shoots from May to June and from October to November. One part of the problem is once they go after the bamboo, they are enticed to go further outside to get eucalyptus.

DFGFI trackers have ways to herd them back, but when the trackers go home at night, the gorillas return. Extra staff can be hired, but it is expensive and a logistical challenge.

The concern is by venturing into the agricultural fields, the gorillas come into contact with human and animal disease. Also eucalyptus is an

important crop to the livelihood of local communities.

Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have had this problem in the past. DFGFI is learning from their experiences methods that could work in Rwanda.

To read the entire article, please contact Jane Barron for a copy of the Gorilla Journal.



## Did you know?

If you were avoiding Dunkin' Donuts or Baskin Robbins ice cream due to their use of palm oil, things are looking up!



Dunkin' Brands, maker of Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins foods, has announced it will only use sustainable palm oil in their products! While this does not stop their use of palm oil, at least they are going to abide by the rules of the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil).

ACE salutes Dunkin' Brands for making a great choice to save orangutans and forest!

Source: [www.businessinsider.com/dunkin-donuts-ny-comptroller-palm-oil-2013-3](http://www.businessinsider.com/dunkin-donuts-ny-comptroller-palm-oil-2013-3)



photo: DFGFI newsletter

Did you know that the only forests on earth where the mountain gorillas live are the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the Virunga Volcanoes?

The latest population survey shows an increase in mountain gorillas, which currently totals 880 from the two areas combined.

Source: *DFGFI Gorilla Journal, Spring 2013*

## 2012-2013 ACE Board

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