



**Upcoming
ACE Events**

July 15
General Meeting 12:15
TechLab

August 15
Bingo for Bonobos
Ford Conference Room

September 26
Gorilla Golf
Brookfield Country Club

October 7
Run for the Redheads
in Grant Park

November 16
Georgia Gives Day

November 18
General Meeting and
election of new board
members

**What's Happening
with the Palm Oil
Crisis?**

*"We do not inherit the earth
from our ancestors. We
borrow it from our
children."*

Native American proverb

A little background

Palm oil is one of the world's most produced and consumed vegetable oils. Most palm oil is produced in Asia, Africa and South America. Indonesia (Borneo) and Malaysia (Sumatra) are two countries that together account for 85 - 90% of the total global palm oil production. Indonesia is currently the largest producer and exporter of palm oil worldwide.



Palm oil fruit

Palm oil and its derivatives can be found in a variety of products, such as cosmetics, cookies, soaps, cereals, potato chips, baby formula, margarine, chocolate

products, ice creams, hair products, and candy.



Palm oil tree

The African oil palm tree can produce fruit for more than 30 years and provide much-needed employment for the local population. Problems arise when the land is clear-cut and the old stumps are burned prior to planting. This practice destroys the native habitat for the orangutan and many other native species of wildlife, plus it releases harmful gases into the atmosphere.

Local people are effected when the big corporations take over their land, use child labor, and destroy life as they knew it. The big corporations may not care about the health of the workers or pay the workers a fair wage.

**Status of orangutans
and impact on other
wildlife and local people**

Clear-cutting, forest fires and hunting are all reasons the orangutan population is

decreasing at a rapid rate. Many orangutans have died directly due to the fires. Those lucky enough to escape the fires can end up on palm oil plantations and in villages trying to find food. Starving, tired and sick orangutans are easy prey for those humans wanting to sell them for bushmeat or the pet trade.



Indonesian fires from clear-cutting forest

World Wildlife Fund estimates orangutan populations to be 54,000 in Borneo and 6,600 in Sumatra. These are horrible numbers, but it's not the whole story. Borneo and Sumatra are the home to Sumatran tigers, Asian sun bears, Asian elephants, Sumatran rhinos, and many other animals. These animals, as well as other fauna and flora, are classified as threatened, endangered and critically endangered species.

Conversion of orangutan habitat to palm oil plantations represents the single greatest threat to the survival of the orangutan, states Orangutan Outreach.



Orangutan in clear-cut area

Responsible Palm Oil

Is there such a thing as responsible palm oil? Many

say there is not but an effort has been made to hold corporations accountable for their farming and harvesting methods. The primary group overseeing this is the Roundtable For Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Members discourage clear-cutting, encourage reuse of land, and stand for fair wages and safe working conditions for the local people employed. Every year more companies learn that by joining the RSPO, it shows that they want to do the right thing. RSPO membership is accepted by individuals trying to be responsible consumers and guides them in shopping.

RSPO is not without its problems, especially when trying to enforce standards, but it is a good start and a recognized positive status. Consumers have weight encouraging companies to do the right thing and become RSPO members.

The number of RSPO members worldwide increased 29% since 2015 plus 45% membership increase in US.



Girl Scout Cookies and Palm Oil

(The following information is taken from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo website: cmzoo.org/palmoil.)

1. Each Girl Scout council contracts with the baker of their choice: ABC Bakers whose parent company is Weston Foods or Little

Brownie Bakers under Kellogg.

2. The national organization, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Kellogg, and Weston Foods are all members of the RSPO.

3. Weston became a member of the RSPO in May 2015 and has not yet submitted an Annual Communication of Progress report (ACOP) to the RSPO. Previously, Weston's U.S. Subsidiary Interbake, who oversees ABC Bakers, had missed the last two reporting periods.

4. In Interbake's last ACOP from 2014 only 30% of the palm oil being used was contributing to sustainable palm oil.

5. Kellogg has submitted the last two reports and 100% of their palm oil is contributing to the production of sustainable palm oil.

After reaching out to Interbake, CMZ was informed that Weston would be taking over any sustainability reporting. We hope to see Weston begin filing their required ACOP and for both companies to use more physical CSPO (certified sustainable palm oil) that is deforestation-free in the future.

Due to the finding above, and the other four categories of the Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping Guide rating system, Little Brownie Bakers cookies have been given an "excellent" rating and ABC Bakers "needs improvement."

Positive things happening

The **Kraft Heinz Company** will release their first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report this year. Included is an expansion of the company's commitment to social responsibility.

\$200 million will be invested in "Growing a Better World." Its new policies include a formal commitment for the company to procure palm oil products in an ethical, transparent and sustainable manner, and only purchase palm oil and derivatives 100% certified by the RSPO.

Mewah Group is a Malaysian edible oils firm selling palm oil in Europe, where companies have more stringent sustainability standards and sustainable palm oil quotas to meet. In addition to these required standards, the company's own board members and investors began pressuring the company to use sustainable palm oil especially after the fires of 2015 that choked large parts of Southeast Asia with smoke from burning forest fires.

"Don't you think it's pointless for a company to burn itself out to make huge profits with no regard for the future?" said Danny Chua, senior executive. Another way to say it - "If you want milk in future, don't slaughter the cow today."

Ferrero, the maker of much-loved household brands Nutella and Ferrero

Rocher, has emerged as a leader and champion of sustainable palm oil, even as other Italian food manufacturers avoid palm oil altogether. Ferrero uses palm oil to give its hazelnut-chocolate spread Nutella a smooth texture and extend its shelf life.

Ferrero is a pioneer in the use of sustainable palm oil and is one of a handful of companies in the world to use 100% RSPO-certified segregated palm oil. It is one of three companies on World Wildlife Federations' Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard 2016 to use only segregated palm oil and has been recognized by Greenpeace as "on track," in helping to end deforestation.

Ikea, a household name for affordable furniture, may be less known for its efforts at sourcing sustainable palm oil. According to the company's sustainability report for 2016, Ikea uses 96% of RSPO-certified segregated sustainable palm oil. The three areas of its business using palm oil are candle-making, food production, and food preparation, with candles using 90%.

"Hopefully one day sustainable palm oil becomes the norm, then we don't even have to talk about it because all the oil you buy will be sustainable," said Lee Hui Mien, head of sustainability, Ikea Southeast Asia.

When asked how Ikea communicates palm oil policy, Lee said that Ikea's emphasis is on secondary communication such as in-

store messaging, rather than relying on primary labeling or the use of logos on packaging, which is "not the most cost-effective way." Furthermore, palm oil tends to form a small percentage of the ingredients that go into food.

Conclusion

Positive actions are happening, but we can all do more. Spread the word about the palm oil crisis. As responsible consumers, the www.cmzoo.org/palmoilapp is helpful. We must be vigilant in keeping abreast of the situation. If we fail, it will be the end of orangutans and many other animals and plants in the clear-cut areas. We can save orangutans!

Information for this article was compiled from the following sources:

www.palmoilworld.org
www.worldwatch.org
www.oaklandzoo.org
www.zooatlanta.org
www.cmzoo.org
www.rspo.org
www.redapes.org
www.sustainablepalmoil.org
www.indonesia-investments.com

"Who's using sustainable palm oil?" by Hannah Koh, Eco-Business, June 27, 2017



BINGO for Bonobos B-4 They Are Gone

by Susan Smith

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday night, August 15, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30 pm** to join us for a night of fun and fundraising. It's ACE's second Bingo for Bonobos and will be held in the Ford Conference Room at Zoo Atlanta.

We'll be playing 10 cards of bingo with three games per card, and all this fun will only cost you \$10. Shawn Whitman, Zoo Atlanta's Sr. Director of Membership and Guest Experiences, will again bring his wit and humor as our caller for the evening. We'll have some great prizes, including animal art.

There will also be pizza, drinks and desserts for sale. All of the profits from this event will be going to a bonobo conservation organization. (ACE membership will be voting on the specific organization soon.)

When the ACE membership has voted on a designated organization, a flyer will be sent out that you can use to advertise our event. In addition, we are looking for donations of prizes. Look for a separate email to ACE members with more information about donating prizes for this event.

So "Free" up your evening and come help us save this endangered great ape.

Gorillas Galore: Uganda and Rwanda 2017

by Donna Mayer Todd

Gene and I went to Uganda and Rwanda in June. We went specifically to see gorillas in their world for one hour at a time, once a day. Gene and I went along with fellow ACE members: Jodi Carrigan, Adie Miller, Lisa Dempsey, Eleanor Nault. plus seven other travelers who became friends. We did some other amazing things too, because, after all, we were in Uganda and Rwanda! Many of you have traveled with Jodi in past years. Gene and I celebrated your trips and said, "Not this year, but one year we will go too." This was our year.

Jodi has made a version of this trip seven times and has a wonderful relationship with a safari group that works out of Rwanda, Primate Safaris, Ltd. They took excellent care of our group from pre-planning to pick-up to airport return, sharing their knowledge and wisdom, their smiles and laughter, and themselves along the way. We all came to care for our Driver Guides, Alex Kagaba, Sam Nayebare and Mike Bugondo, and since we needed three vehicles for our large group, we were able to spend time with each of them. We're thinking of you, guys, as you are out taking exceptional care of another group of tourists now.

So we went to see, learn more about and glory in momentarily sharing the natural living space

of mountain gorillas - from a safe distance of eight meters at all times. Eight meters is the official rule, you see, both for our health and the gorillas, as we are each susceptible to any disease the other may carry. As we found though, that eight meters becomes fluid. In groups of six with an armed Guide and armed Trackers, armed for the event of frightening into submission a gorilla-gone-wild or meeting a group of poachers, we would set out to find a particular gorilla family. Neither need for arms ever occurred and rifles remained firmly hanging from shoulders. Going with us also were our amazing Porters, young local men and women who carried our backpacks and had a steadying or pulling or pushing hand ready whenever it was needed or not. And with upward climbs at high altitude, it was often needed. They seemed dedicated to keeping us safe and moving forward. Thanks be for the porters!

So we climbed to spend time in the presence of mountain gorillas: three treks in three days - two in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the final trek in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park. The climbs vary in length and in difficulty, they can require from an hour or two up to eight hours. The groups that Gene and I were in also included Lisa, Adie and Nancy Fambrough. We were privileged to find our assigned gorilla families fairly quickly and in three different types of terrain. The Rushegura family was the first one we visited. It's a large family led by the young dominant silverback, Kabukojo, who inherited his position at the age of 13, when his father died. It sounded like a peaceful inheritance and it made him the youngest

dominant silverback. He is now 17.

Our final approach of crawling/climbing through thick brush and vines, led us to our family. Our guide and trackers were imitating the gorilla' soft cough-like, comforting sounds to announce our presence. There were three babies, as yet unnamed, with their mothers, and juveniles, sub-adults and adults. And we were there! They went about their business of foraging and seemed to pay little attention to us.

The exception was Kabunga, a curious 6-year old. We heard Nancy exclaim in surprise and found Kabunga standing next to her leg while pulling on her fanny pack strap. As we stood still and amazed, he moved next to Lisa, touching her leg and looking up at us. His final stop was Adie and her fanny pack strap, which was hanging at the back of her waist. Little Kabunga was strong as a young gorilla and started pulling Adie backwards. Our guide stopped it and we all laughed and congratulated the three for their interactions as Kabunga disappeared into the brush. Celebratory cries of "Kabunga" and repeated memories of what had occurred were shared as we began to move away from the family. Thank you, Kabukojo, for sharing your family with us for a brief time. We pray that you and the trackers will keep them safe.



Photo by Donna Mayer Todd

Our second trek was to find the Habinyanja family, whose leader is the silverback, Makara. His family includes one blackback, females, and a number of juveniles and infants. Today's climb took us first up a steep path of loose topsoil, through fields of beans, cassava, sweet potatoes, "Irish" potatoes and millet, before reaching the density of the forest. We found the gorillas resting in a couple of affiliated piles with heads, arms or legs intertwined, either around Makara or the blackback.

Shortly after reaching them, Makara led us all out into the sunshine, into a huge "salad bowl" of greenery where they fanned out and began to eat their salad. We found ourselves surrounded by seemingly relaxed, foraging gorillas. Mothers were nursing their infants while they ate. Makara was stripping leaves off stalks at the point up ahead and the blackback had hung back to take the rear guard. Females and juveniles moved freely around us, at varying ranges, in and out of foliage, and we were exhilarated. Many photos of each of us with mountain gorilla in the near background were snapped. Please keep your family safe, Makara, with the help of your trackers, so those little ones can grow up in this natural place.



Photo by Donna Mayer Todd

We changed locations, walking across the border into Rwanda, with an expected bureaucratic delay in getting everyone's passports processed. It was back into the vans and on to Musanze, the entrance to Volcanoes National Park. An inspiring stop at the Karisoke Research Center allowed us time to visit the exhibits about their work and the gorillas, and a recreated work space from Dian Fossey's cabin, using her actual furnishings. Yvonne gave us the tour, and Gene and I noticed the ACE logo on their sponsor sign, along with Zoo Atlanta. That was a good moment of knowing we have helped, and you were all there with us!



Photo by Donna Mayer Todd
Donna and Gene at Karisoke Research Center

Trek three took us into a bamboo forest. We followed our guide along a path that had many others crossing it or branching off. Once again, it's a good thing they know the forest! I didn't know it yet but this would be my day for a

personal gorilla interaction! Our trek today was to the Muhoza group. The young, large silverback was the first one we saw. He was sleeping on his back, arm resting on his forehead. The trackers announced us but he did not blink. To his left were a couple of juveniles playing chase around a tree. Crashing back and forth through the bamboo and seeming unaware of us, we moved about for good and better views. The silverback opened his eyes, moved a leg and closed his eyes again.

A mother was feeding her baby in a small thicket to our left and we kept space between us as we took it all in. The male juvenile, called mischievous and a troublemaker by the guide, climbed the bamboo play-tree and moved through the canopy to another treetop. He swung the tree so it leaned out over us and on the second swing over, he dropped down with a crash right in front of a couple of us, looked at them and disappeared into the thicket. He brushed Gene's leg as he passed by. About now the silverback sat up, took a minute to wake up and slowly moved into the vegetation also.

We followed, as directed by our guide and tracker, and saw all of the family members engaged in eating, nursing, resting, playing with each other and eating ants and getting bitten in return. One mother was not comfortable with us so close to her infant and relayed that with the louder coughs. We backed up a bit as the tracker continued to make the calming sounds. As we followed this family's movement, we somehow got ahead of the silverback and he appeared at the back of our line, moving more quickly than

us. We had to all step aside in a hurry and give him the trail! He settled in a small open spot and the nervous female and her baby with him. Picture time! He moved to sit beneath a tree and the baby followed for some daddy playtime. And it was June 18, Father's Day, so we dubbed him a Good Dad.

I noticed a juvenile female, behind me and to my right, moving forward. I was in front of a couple of bamboo trees, so I felt secure in my spot. As she turned to pass in front of me, I stepped back into the tree trunks. The juvenile sped up, putting her hand out and ever so gently pushing me back a little further, where I was kept on my feet by the bamboo. Such strength and gentleness combined! I still wonder did she need that space for comfort, did she want to touch out of curiosity, or was she camera shy? My video begins with her moving toward me and ends as though I am being shaken in an earthquake. Yahoo! Our hour plus a few minutes extra ended and we walked back out with visions of the gorillas still in our heads. Thank you, wholeheartedly, Dian Fossey and park trackers and rangers for watching over these magnificent animals. Thank you for the total community approach, involving leaders, hiring members, providing education and healthcare to improve the lives of the people and the animals of the area. Every four years a census of the gorillas is taken and one is in progress now. Our trackers were optimistic that it will show an increase in numbers, based upon their knowledge of the growth in the families they've seen. I know that all of us in ACE are hoping that is so!



Photo by Donna Mayer Todd



Run for the Redheads Returns October 7

by Leslie Martin

We have a date
October 7, 2013,
we have the time
8:00 am,
we have the place
Grant Park,
now we need **YOU.**

Runners Fit has set up a website for registration for the race, <https://runsignup.com/runforredheads> and now we need to start getting runners and walkers. This is a 5k and an easy course. Please come out with family and friends to make this a successful event.

In addition to the actual race, we have added a "Phantom Runner." This is a virtual runner, who can register at the link above, pay the entry fee, get a t-shirt without actually being at the race. It's a good way for us to get people

interested in ACE from other parts of the country and world who cannot physically come to the race.

A large part of the success for this event relies on obtaining sponsors for the race. This is how we make the most money, and this is how YOU can get involved. The Sponsor package is attached and ready for you to download.

We have various levels of sponsorships that should fit most. Contact your friends, family, employer, restaurants you visit, establishments where you regularly do business, anyone can be a sponsor.

In addition, attached is a runner's package that you can use to register to run. Share it with your friends! Post or hand out flyers anywhere you think we would get interest for the race.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Leslie Martin at lmzoogirl@yahoo.com.



Mountain gorilla

Mountain Gorilla Population Increases

The latest survey of the mountain gorilla population show the population to be at 1,000. This is quadruple the number known to exist 30 years ago.

Congratulations can go to the Virunga Foundation, which was created in 2005 through cooperation of the governments and conservationists wanting to overhaul the failing park management.

The success comes from: (1)creating jobs, (2)building schools, (3)bringing in more business, (4)a \$22 million hydroelectric project that will provide electricity and 1200 local jobs over the next three years. Also, the salaries of park rangers have increased to \$200 a month, which is eight times the average salary in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This has gone a long way to ensure loyalty among the workers. As a result, there has been a decline in poaching in the park with only one gorilla killed since 2007.

There are three countries that the Virunga park

touches: DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. These countries value the tourism dollars from gorillas, and maybe in time it will bring about peace in this area.

source:
www.africageographic.co



Did you know?



Photo by P.A.S.A

According to Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), Ebola is the likely cause of 1/3 of gorilla and chimpanzee deaths since the 1990s/ Many of the Ebola outbreaks which have occurred periodically since the 1970s were caused by people handling bushmeat. An estimated 15,000 lbs. of illegal wildlife meat is smuggled into the USA and sold throughout the country. One third of the meat is from endangered and threatened species.

Is this how a pandemic spreads?

2017 ACE Board

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Vice President - Lori
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Secretary - Jane Barron

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APE CONSERVATION EFFORT

7th Annual

GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2017

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

BROOKFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

100 Willow Run • Roswell, GA 30075

www.brookfieldcountryclub.com

BEST BALL TOURNAMENT

Each Participant must raise a minimum of
\$500.00 in sponsorships.

UNIQUE AWARDS

Top Three Groups, Longest Drive
& Closest to the Gorilla Contest

Enjoy a day of
All Inclusive Golf
including:
Continental Breakfast
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
Call 404-427-4998 or e-mail gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org





RUN *for the* REDHEADS

A 5K RUN TO SAVE ORANGUTANS

WALK · RUN · BRACHIATE

Where: Grant Park
300 Cherokee Ave, SE
Atlanta GA 30315

When: Saturday, October 7, 2017
7:00am – 11:00am

What: Run for the Redheads

Walk, Run, Brachiate - a 5K run to save orangutans!

1 Mile Great Ape Gallop

Phantom Runner - Virtual

Support the Redheads!

Dress as your favorite redhead! Paint your hair red!
Dress as an orangutan! Wear red! Help save orangutans!

Register at: <https://runsignup.com/runforredheads>

Benefitting: Orangutan Outreach
www.redapes.org

