



**Upcoming Events
 for 2024**

**Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
 HoneyBaked Ham
 Gift Cards for Sale**
 Flyer attached.

**Dates TBD
 Poppin' Popcorn
 Order Online**

**December 3
 Georgia Gives
 Giving Tuesday**

**December 14
 Zoo Atlanta Holiday
 Bazaar**
 After Mega Update

**ACE
 Donations
 to Save
 Great
 Apes
 Total
 \$304,472
 !!!**

Would you like to be
 an ACE Board
 Member? Think
 about it. We'll be
 voting for new Board
 Members on
 November 15. Let a
 current Board
 Member know by
November 1 if you
 are interested.



**ACE General
 Meeting Held
 Sept. 14**

Because the minutes were sent out to everyone after the meeting, we will not repeat it here. We had a good meeting with a lot of discussion and suggestions.

One important item discussed was voting on board members. Donna and Gene have decided not to seek re-election, and we thank them for all of their past work as board members.

Returning board members are Susan Smith, Jenny Reineck, Barbara Cebula, Shelley DeWeese and Jane Barron. Susan Callaway will be on the November ballot to become a board member. If you would like to be on the ballot too, please let a current board member know by November 1.

A new item from the meeting is selling popcorn for the holidays. If you like popcorn, we have a new fundraiser for

you. Details will be sent out soon.

HoneyBaked Ham gifts cards are available for purchase now. Giving Tuesday will be December 3, so please tell your family and friends to support ACE. The Holiday Bazaar will be after Mega on December 14, and we will have a lot of beautifully ape-painted ornaments and other holiday things for sale. We will raffle off two ostrich eggs - one painted by gorillas and the other by orangutans.

We have decided to start 2025 with a new online auction, similar to the Bowling for Rhinos auction that the zoo keepers did in September. Another fun fundraiser will be the return of Bingo for Bonobos. More details will be revealed during early 2025.

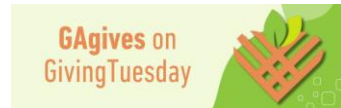


Gorilla Golf

Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament was held at Flat Creek Country Club in Peachtree City on September 30. Profits will benefit the Dian

Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

Due to publishing date of the newsletter, results of the success of the event will be reported in the January newsletter.



GA Gives On Giving Tuesday December 3, 2024

By Donna Mayer Todd

"Better together." I borrowed this from NPR last year and I still think it's perfect for ACE. Why? Because Better together describes ACE in action, working to help save the great apes and their habitat.

Better together. That is how we can maximize the **GA GIVES ON #GIVING TUESDAY** opportunity in 2024.

Save the Date of December 3, 2024

for our 7th participation in GA Gives and make your plan for sharing *your* passion for the mission of ACE!

GA Gives on #Giving Tuesday is a day devoted to bringing awareness and support to Georgia non-profits. It allows ACE and other non-profits to

shine and to share our mission and our activities. And it works!

2023 GA Gives on the GA Gives.org platform raised 3.06 million dollars from over 13, 800 donors, and the spirit of Georgia's giving shone brightly. Ape Conservation Effort received \$2428 from 14 donors. Imagine what we could do in 2024 if we received donations from 25 donors!

How do we do it in ACE? It's easy and Better Together when we each send a few messages on social media to share how important the mission of ACE is to conservation, to climate change, and to us personally. When our friends, family and greater online community see it, they may be moved to help the great apes too. You can Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, email, text message, or any other social media platform you use. All formats spread the word.

If we do this together, we can make it Better Together!

We'll send more next month.



Cooler Weather, Holiday Gatherings and HoneyBaked Ham

By Susan Smith

As the weather is changing and you are planning for all the upcoming holiday or family gatherings, it's time to purchase your HoneyBaked Ham gift cards. This year's fall/winter campaign will run from October 1 through December 31. The gift cards are not only great for your personal use but also make great gifts. They are an easy way to say thank-you to teachers, postal workers and other service providers.

Each time a card is purchased, ACE will receive 20% of the purchase price to help in saving the great apes. You can share the attached flyer with family, friends and co-workers to spread the word and help in this annual fundraising event. Cards can be purchased electronically or you can order plastic cards (allow approximately 10 days for delivery). Simply go to the website and place your order:

https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE_Fall_Sale.

If you have any questions, contact Susan Smith at 404-226-7738 or email susansmith9008@comcast.net.



Secret Lives of Orangutans Is Now Available on Netflix!

This beautifully filmed and expertly produced documentary is suitable for all ages...and you will LOVE it! Narrated by the fabulous David Attenborough, viewers get an in-depth look into the lives of orangutans living in the Suaq Forest in Sumatra. This special group of orangutans is carefully watched by researchers from Suaq Balimbing, a Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) biodiversity monitoring station. Secret Lives of Orangutans provides a look at how life could be for all orangutans when they are left alone in a

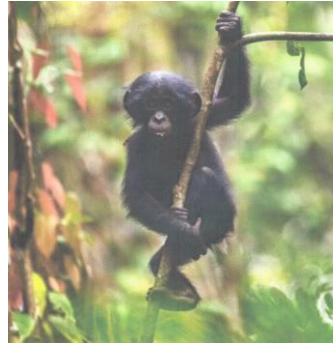
protected area. They can be social, have lots of babies, and grow old gracefully.

SOCP's biodiversity monitoring station, Suaq Balimbing, is located in the Kluet swamps in the province of Aceh, Indonesia. It is the only site in Sumatra where biologists are monitoring orangutans in a peat swamp forest setting. It is famous as the first ever research site to find orangutans regularly and routinely making and using tools in the wild. This is due to the extremely high densities and unusable sociable orangutans found there.

Suaq has long been the site of a major ongoing research program studying the orangutans and these unique peat swamp forests, with many new discoveries having resulted from this work. Researchers recently observed Rakus, an adult flanged male, healing his own wound using plant leaves known to have pain-relieving and healing properties. (*This was an article in the July 2024 Heard It Through The Ape Vine.*)

Long term monitoring and studies of habitat are integral to understanding orangutan behavioral ecology and conservation needs.

Taken from
Orangutan Outreach
www.redapes.com



Young bonobo

Bingo for Bonobos

By Barbara Cebula

When I think of conservation oriented and generous people, I think of ACE members.

Bingo for Bonobos was held August 23, 2024 at Zoo Atlanta. ACE members donated checks, gifts cards, and cash. Others provided their time to set up and coordinate this fundraiser. All bingo prizes were donated.

The event made a profit of \$528. By membership vote, \$1,000 from ACE general fund was added. Bonobo Conservation Initiative will receive a check for \$1,528 from ACE. Ultimately this event was held to help save endangered bonobos living in the wild in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thank you all for your generous participation in making this a fun event. We plan to have a 2025 Bingo for Bonobos.

We'll let you know when more details are firm.



Cary Burgess witnesses Gov. Kemp signing HB827

New Legislation Passed Helps Wild Animals in Human Care

We have all witnessed harassment of animals at the zoo, whether it was hitting windows, yelling at animals or throwing things into an enclosure. We can usually handle these by talking with the guest to make them aware that their behavior is not acceptable and could harm the animal. Bad behavior could result in a valuable endangered species frightened, charging a barrier or even unable to breed. Extreme bad behavior could result in a guest or an animal actually being physically harmed. If the guest persists, we call Security to let them handle it.

Now with social media coming up with "challenges" and other such bad behavior that many more people become aware of and may

try to copy, it was becoming obvious to the zoo that legal rules governing animal harassment needed to be stricter. Cary Burgess, Senior Vice President, DEI, Government and Community Affairs of Zoo Atlanta, took on this project, and he shared with us the outcome.

In February HB 1164, the "Wild Animal Criminal Trespass Bill," was introduced by Tanya Miller of the Georgia State House of Representatives. Zoo Atlanta was instrumental not only in helping to devise the language specified in the bill, but also in gathering support for the bill among organizations housing wild animals throughout the state. (Yes, Cary visited every place housing wild animals in the state to get them all onboard for this bill.)

Zoo Atlanta is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), which represents the zoological industry standard in North America and, indeed, the gold standard in professional animal care and well-being. Not all facilities housing wild animal species seek or have the ability to attain this level of accreditation. While Zoo Atlanta encourages public visitation of only AZA-accredited organizations, Zoo Atlanta believes that all wild animal species,

regardless of where they are housed, deserve appropriate care to include an environment which promotes safety.

As an organization accredited by the AZA, Zoo Atlanta has policies and protocols in place year-round to address a variety of scenarios, including addressing guest behaviors which are not acceptable to the safety of visitors and animals. The safety of both visitors and animals are number-one priorities at Zoo Atlanta. Guest behaviors such as the breaching of barriers, taunting of animals, or other unsafe activities will result in guests being escorted out of the Zoo and may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

On April 30, the bill, now identified as HB 827, became Georgia state law, at the official signing by Governor Kemp at the Lowndes County Civic Center in Valdosta.

HB 827 will provide for new criminal penalties for illegally entering the enclosure of a wild animal in human care; harassing a wild animal in human care; or experiencing an attack resulting in injury or death of a wild animal if the attack is the result of any unlawful entry or behavior.

Thank you, Cary Burgess, for sharing your information and experience with ACE. We congratulate you on the outstanding outcome with your project.

The following are excerpts from this bill.

H.B. 827
Section 2.

(1) 'Harass' means to engage in any act which demonstrates a disregard for the well-being of a wild animal, or which creates the likelihood of injury to or disrupts normal behavior patterns of the wild animal, such as feeding, watering, resting, and breeding.

(2) 'Wild animal' means any land or sea animal currently or historically found in the wild, other than a domestic animal or livestock, including an animal kept, exhibited, or housed at any facility operating with the purpose of public visitation, conservation, education, or science, including but not limited to a zoological institution as defined in paragraph (87) or Code Section 48-8-3, and any animal kept, exhibited, or housed in aquariums, safaris, or animal sanctuaries.

(b)(1) A person commits the offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal in the *first degree* if such person enters a cage, enclosure, or other

area where a wild animal is housed or otherwise contained, into which the person knows he or she has no legal authority, license, or permission to enter, and harasses the wild animal and such wild animal suffers an injury or death.

(c)(1) A person convicted of the offense of *criminal trespass* involving a wild animal in the first degree shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years.

(2) A person convicted of the offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal in the *second degree* shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by imprisonment for not more than 12 months.

(d) In addition to any other fine, penalty, or restitution which may be imposed by law, such person would be liable for the cost of any damage to, and loss or, property connected to the criminal trespass, including, but not limited to, the injury or death of the wild animal.





Claudine André speak at bonobo opening

The Claudine André Bonobo Indoor Habitat opens at Columbus Zoo

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has opened the Claudine Andre Bonobo Indoor Habitat - a complete \$4 million renovation of the zoo's indoor environment for bonobos. The zoo named the space in honor of the founder of Friends of Bonobos and Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo in recognition of her remarkable contributions to bonobo conservation.

"My heart is full seeing this incredible habitat for the bonobos," André said at the dedication event on August 27th. "By working together with communities, all of us can continue to make a significant difference for this incredible species. I thank the Columbus Zoo for being an integral part of our work to save bonobos in the wild."

The renovated space complements the bonobos' outdoor environment and includes features specifically designed to meet bonobos' physical and social needs. They have 26 feet of vertical spacer with natural lighting where they can climb and swing, access to multiple rooms that support their fission-fusion lifestyle, and a 3-foot-deep mulch biofloor that offers extra comfort and support for the bonobos.

Bonobos live in a fission-fusion society, which means the size of the Zoo's bonobo group (14 individuals) in a given area changes throughout the day. sometimes many of the bonobos choose to be together in one place (fusion), and other times, they split into small groups (fission) - all of which contribute to thriving bonobo family dynamics,

This state-of-the-art habitat is now home to the zoo's bonobo family, including baby Bob, born last November.



Aerial view of new bonobo habitat

Bonobos, known for their cooperative female-led social structures, are among the rarest great apes in the world, with

only 5,000 to 50,000 estimates to remain in the wild. Native to the equatorial forests of the DRC, these endangered primates are facing severe threats, from habitat destruction to bushmeat hunting. The Columbus Zoo is one of only a few organizations in North America to house bonobos and is actively involved in global conservation projects aimed at protecting this species in their native range.

Excerpts taken from Friends of Bonobos website and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium website – August 26, 2024



Did you know?

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Old African proverb

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction.

Rachel Carson

Memory is the mother of all wisdom.

Aeschylus
in *Prometheus Bound*



2024 ACE Board

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

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Gorilla Golf:
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Just in time for Holiday 2024 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 Oct 1st thru Dec 31st
https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE_Fall_Sale



**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.*