



"Wildlife is an echo of our own beginnings"... 1981

*William Holden*



# Fall 2013



**Dear Friends:**

**I have just returned from Kenya and I want to share with you a touching story, therefore I will keep my letter short and invite you to turn the page.**

**Warmest  
Regards,**

**Stefanie Powers  
President**



# An Unlikely Chocolat

It must have been six or seven years ago, while attending the pre-Christmas country fair in Nanyuki, that I met a lovely Belgian woman, Graziella Cotman, who was selling the most delicious handmade chocolates I've ever tasted.

Graziella was grateful to speak in French with me as it was the language she felt most comfortable in, and soon she invited me to visit her at her cottage outside of town where she said I could "meet Chocolat".... I wasn't quite sure I had understood her correctly but she repeated her invitation and so, having tasted my fair share of chocolate but never having formally met chocolate, I accepted her invitation. When her door opened, I was surprised but delighted to meet Graziella's adorable rescued chimpanzee whose name is Chocolat (using the French pronunciation).

In the early 19th century, when the African continent was being partitioned into colonies by the European powers, King Leopold II took possession of one of the largest chunks of private property in the world and called it The Belgian Congo. The Congo was a vast inhospitable jungle of exotic riches that attracted then as now not only soldiers of fortune, but all manner of exploitation. The Congo became independent in the 1960's along with most of the continent of Africa, but it has never entirely escaped from being a battlefield for those individuals who seek to enrich themselves through the pirating of gold, minerals, wildlife and human trafficking. Principle prey, among the most endangered species of wildlife are our closest relatives, the great apes. Adult chimpanzees are widely sought as bush meat for human consumption, whose babies are then sold to the pet trade. Needless to say, eating a chimpanzee is akin to human cannibalism, considering that our DNA is a mere 95-98 percent the same.

In 1978, Graziella Cotman was living with her family in Kinshasa, The Congo. As a result of what was the beginnings of a civil war, Graziella gave refuge to a Belgium couple who owned a baby chimpanzee. When the Belgium couple returned to Europe the young chimpanzee called Noelle remained living in the garden of Graziella's house. When Noelle was five years old, Graziella took her to live with other chimpanzees in a national park called La Nsele. In 1981 Graziella met with Dr. Jane Goodall in Kinshasa. The country was in turmoil and Jane requested Graziella's help in saving some young and moveable chimpanzees to Brazzaville where they would be safe. Sadly some of the larger chimps had to remain, including Noelle, because they could not be moved without being anesthetized. It was then that Graziella began her work at a new sanctuary called the Tchimpounga and was hired by the Jane Goodall Institute



to manage it.

In July of 2001 a tiny baby chimp, probably only a month old, weighing between 1-2 kilograms arrived at the sanctuary. The baby was weak, traumatized and seriously injured when her mother had been shot by poachers while holding her baby to her chest to protect it. Poachers, men who hunt chimpanzees for meat to sell as a delicacy, have a diabolical practice of removing buckshot from their cartridges, filing the lead balls into sharp points, and reloading them into the shotgun shells in order to cause a far more lethal and damaging effect. In this case, the poachers had killed not only the mother chimp, but buckshot had passed through the mother's body into the baby.

Through the efforts of the Jane Goodall Institute, a vet was sent from Paris to perform delicate surgery on this baby chimp, whose wounds on the back of her head had abscessed. All during her treatment, the baby showed such a willingness to be treated and such a will to live that she touched every one of the sanctuary staff.





But clearly Graziella became determined to do as much as she could to help the baby survive. The most accessible of the "bullets" were removed, but there appeared to be deeper wounds that needed more sophisticated equipment to locate, if in fact they were operable at all.

The absolute sweetness of this adorable baby plus the decidedly brown cast to her face led to her being called *Chocolat*. Chocolat's story attracted help from several exceptional people whose efforts resulted in flying Chocolat by private charter to the capital city of Gabon, Libreville, to have a brain scan. The results showed that part of the brain had been destroyed and that there was shrapnel still lodged in her head, the nape of her neck and the bottom of her back, all inoperable. These "bullets" have caused permanent paralysis on the right side of her body and the loss of vision in her right eye. Still, Chocolat's resiliency, coupled with her amazing response to the affection and care she has received has given Chocolat a gentle kindness that is deeply touching.

For the first three years of her life, Graziella made sure that Chocolat's development was carefully monitored. Being disabled, Chocolat could not be released in the company of healthy chimps her age because they might pick on her, so her socialization took place with the newly-arrived orphans she comforted. There was always the concern that Chocolat might injure herself unknowingly on her paralyzed side due to the sensitivity of her skin and her lack of feeling.

In the subsequent years, Graziella paid great attention to increasing the strength and stability of Chocolat's right side, even enlisting the help of pediatric doctors in Europe who donated specially-made shoes for her handicapped foot which helped to re-align its conformation.

Increasingly Graziella became determined to find a suitable future home for Chocolat that would allow this deserving creature to live in an appropriate environment considering her special needs.

When the board of JGI retired Graziella after many years of service, she remained living in the Congo at her own expense in order to continue as a volunteer working with Chocolat.

Graziella began a tireless effort to gain permission to leave The Congo and move with her to Kenya where it was hoped she might join a sanctuary there. Finally, the Congolese government, along with C.I.T.E.S., identified Chocolat as a handicapped chimpanzee, placed in the legal possession of Graziella and gave them to leave for Kenya.

Chocolat is now 12 years old. She did not join the sanctuary in Kenya, although she socialized with many baby orphans she comforted there. Instead, due to the inability of the sanctuary to accommodate Chocolat's special needs, Graziella rented a property with a large overgrown garden where Chocolat is housed.



Chocolat climbs and plays all day in her garden, in the company of a human nanny, and has her own little cottage where she sleeps at night. She is also habituated to human visitors from time to time.

Graziella's constant concern is for Chocolat's future; a chimpanzee can live for 60 years and, in the meantime, Graziella's finances are limited as she lives on her retirement pension.

There is one place that would be an ideal home for Chocolat. It is called The Great Ape Sanctuary, located in central Florida. Through my friendship with the former director of the Zoo Atlanta, Dr. Terry Maple, a dialogue has begun with The Great Ape Sanctuary on Chocolat's behalf, but it is a long and complicated process to get permission to transport internationally a chimpanzee, even one with special needs. In the meantime Chocolat requires, food, care and maintenance.

## **We announce today the creation of The Chocolat Fund.**

One donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, but is a man I love very much, kicked off the fund-raising with a generous donation. For all of you who might wish to join him and me, please send your donations to us with a note directing the funds to Chocolat, or you may visit our website to make your donation. We will send you updates on our progress after my Christmas trip to Kenya with more photos of our mascot. Thank you! You may make your donation online at our website: [www.whwf.org](http://www.whwf.org).



# News From Kenya

## Dedication of Two Fuel Efficient Kitchens and Dining Facilities

**T**om Carroll cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the Mary and Patrick Carroll Memorial Kitchen at Guara Primary School.

This essential facility combines good conservation methods with a healthy environment for cooking and dining. The new building is adjacent to the Julie D. Powers Memorial Library and forms a fitting tribute to the parents of Mr. Carroll and Ms. Powers.



Mlima Kenya Secondary School is the happy recipient of the second kitchen/dining facility constructed by the posthumous generosity of Mr. Louis Vaccari. The kitchen is the same design as that of Guara Primary School. Here, Stefanie Powers is seen with school administrators.

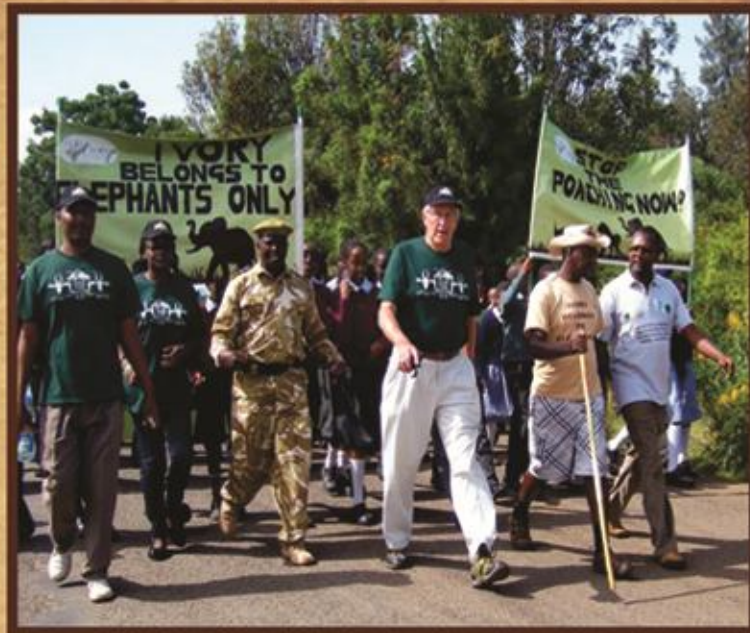




## Education Center Joins Walk to STOP POACHING NOW!

The WHWF joined in the "STOP POACHING NOW! Walk" on June 13. Our administrator, David McConnell, and our senior lecturers, all sporting WHWF t-shirts, joined Jim Nyamu, plus his many supporters who assembled in Nanyuki to accompany him as he continued on to Nairobi hoping to save elephants by this demonstration. Quite unexpectedly, when he saw the t-shirts, Nyamu told all around him that he was inspired to work for the conservation of elephants and rhinos because of his visits to the WHWF Education Center as a child and young adult. His walk began in the Maasai Mara Reserve, and gained momentum all along the way, culminating with Kenya's First Lady Margaret Gakuo Kenyatta joining the march in its final leg. Mrs. Kenyatta has taken a personal interest in the crisis facing Kenya's elephants and spearheaded the national campaign Hands Off Our Elephants. She announced her commitment while visiting the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust where Daphne and Angela Sheldrick save and rehabilitate orphaned elephants.

Mrs. Kenyatta is the first public figure to publicly demonstrate support of regal elephants. As Mrs. Kenyatta continues her support of elephants and rhino conservation, no Kenyan will be able to deny knowing that poaching is illegal and a grave threat to their national economy.



## Former NBA Star Joins Anti-Poaching Effort

Yao Ming, the 7-foot former NBA basketball star, has become an active conservationist after his visit to Kenya. As an Ambassador for WildAid, he is now committed to informing the Chinese people of the illegality of the trades in rhino and elephant products, something many Chinese are unaware of, since most believe the products they buy are obtained in legal and humane ways. This is also why they have not accepted any responsibility for the mass killings of our world heritage species which accommodate their market.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Yao called the sight of slain elephants "a harrowing experience I never want to repeat, but something that everyone even thinking of buying ivory should see. No one who sees the results first hand, as I did, would buy ivory or rhino horn."

"I believe when people in China know what's happening, they will do the right thing and say no to these products."

Yao's previous WildAid campaign about shark fin, documented extensively by Chinese media, is credited with a 50-70% reduction in consumption of shark fin in China in 2012, according to fin traders, media and Hong Kong import statistics, in addition to contributing to a decision by the Chinese government to remove shark fin soup from all state banquets over the next three years.

Let's hope his efforts on behalf of the jumbos see similar results, and quickly!

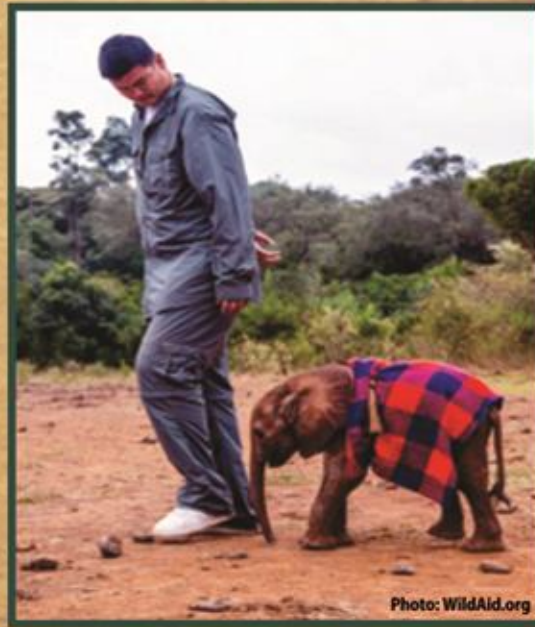


Photo: WildAid.org



## More News From Kenya

The Education Center staff has been very busy since our last update. In addition to conducting regular instruction through the rural outreach program, they engaged in tree planting ceremonies to celebrate Earth Day, participated in the Stop Poaching Now! walk and educated thousands of students and adults who had booked visits.

Among the thousands of students and adults who have recently visited the Education Center, there were two groups from the Aberdare Mountain Bongo Program. The first group brought representatives from five schools in the Eburu forest area and the second group came from six schools in the Aberdare region. Having received lectures on the importance of conserving the East African bongo, these groups were thrilled to actually see these nearly-extinct animals when they visited the Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.

A group of thirteen directors of the Kids Alive Ministries, visited the Education Center and were extremely impressed by our wetland installations. They intend to build a similar one at their facilities.

The rural outreach instruction has again proven its value to students with the results of the national examinations showing an impressive degree of improvement by students reached by the program. While this is a clear validation of our efforts, our rural teachers are frustrated by economic realities of higher education.

The Education Center welcomed two university student interns, Judith Anyango and Ann Wambui from Edgerton and Kenyatta Universities respectively, spent two months in service to the Education Center. Judith is working on a degree in natural resources management and Ann in environmental education. They worked on a solar dryer for seeds and vegetables and resurrected the plastic bottle greenhouse project and were a big help.



## Renowned Artist Donates Baby Bongo Statues

Terry Mathews began his illustrious career as one of the world's most celebrated sculptors of wildlife with years in the East African bush as a professional hunter. When an unfortunate hunting accident caused the loss of an eye, he turned to his next great love, that of drawing and sculpting the animals and birds he spent his life studying. His studies of these animals which he has reproduced in bronze are celebrated by collectors all over the world for their expression and perfect reproduction. His longtime friendship with William Holden has led to a most remarkable and generous act of benevolence. Terry has donated *nine* of a series of 50 bronze sculptures of a baby bongo for us to use as a fund raising opportunity. These Baby Bongos will be offered on our website. The photographs do not do justice to the beauty of the piece as it must also be touched to appreciate. The auction will open on Friday, Nov. 29 on our website at [www.whwf.org/auction.html](http://www.whwf.org/auction.html)





# New Species Discovered On Ocean Floor Off Scotland

**A**ccording to the U.K.'s *Guardian* newspaper, a cold seep in the ocean floor, near the tiny islet Rockall off the west coast of Scotland, was discovered last year by scientists from the government agency Marine Scotland. The first of its kind discovered near UK waters, and only the third in that area of the Atlantic, the methane release from the seep sustains a rich ecosystem of unique life, some new to science and some possibly millions of years old.

Cold seeps, first discovered in the early 1980s are cracks in the earth's crust that slowly release methane trapped beneath the crust into the ocean. Hydrothermal vents, which spew liquids and gases warmed by their proximity to magma, increase the ocean temperature surrounding the vent, sometimes with explosive results (geysers). But through cold seeps, methane and fluids are expelled slowly at roughly the same temperature as the ocean.

Both support unique deep water ecosystems which prove there can be life without sunlight through a process called chemosynthesis, in which organisms use chemicals to create food sugars.

Previous expeditions by scientists to map the ocean floor around Rockall were stymied by rough seas and foul weather. Rockall is routinely battered by heavy surf. But when Marine Scotland's research ship *Scotia* began trawling at a site about four miles from Rockall, they were surprised to find two species of clams, full of polychaete, or bristle worms, all previously unknown to science. The clams feed on bacteria that process the methane. They also found overly large cod and haddock, suggesting a rich, abundant food environment in Rockall's waters.

They also netted a frilled shark head. Exhibiting several primitive features, the frilled shark has often been termed a "living fossil". It reaches a length of 6.5 ft and has a dark brown, eel-like body. Its common name comes from the frilly or fringed appearance of its six pairs of gills, with the first pair meeting across the throat.



Frilled shark  
Photo: Citron via Wikipedia

Seldom observed, the frilled shark may capture prey by bending its body and lunging forward like a snake. The long, extremely flexible jaws enable it to swallow prey whole, while its many rows of small, needle-like teeth make it difficult for the prey to escape.

Marine Scotland scientist and fish biologist Francis Neat, who supervised the research, said the site was comparable to the complex habitats that build up around often exceptionally hot mineral-rich hydrothermal vents.

To protect the site, which is in international waters, from the destructive fishing practice of bottom trawling, the International Convention on the Exploration of the Seas, an intergovernmental agency which polices fish stocks in the North Atlantic, has recommended a total fishing ban for the site. It also recommended that the boundaries for three already-protected areas be expanded to protect rare cold-water coral, sea sponge colonies and sea fans which are being damaged by bottom-trawling.

Donate online at  
[www.whwf.org](http://www.whwf.org)

## SUPPORT WHWF WITH A DONATION

**I want to carry on with the work of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation.**

**Enclosed is my contribution of:** ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check this box if your donation is for the**

☐ **Julie D. Powers Memorial Library** ☐ **Chocolat Fund**



Please make checks payable to the  
William Holden Wildlife Foundation

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_



# WHWF Merchandise



## TOTES \$10

100% cotton canvas, 15" x 16", long 24" strap, natural with hunter green imprint.

Also available: black-maned lion, Masai ostrich, and chimpanzee.



## PLUSH TOYS \$27



Elephant & monkey are 11" tall standing, 7" sitting.

## CHIMPANZEE \$115

From a collection made exclusively for the WHWF by Novelino, the artisans have given these handcrafted sculptures their careful attention by reproducing each minute detail of these beautiful and exotic creatures. Each limited edition piece has been discreetly signed under the base by WHWF president, Stefanie Powers. Please visit [www.whwf.org/novelino.html](http://www.whwf.org/novelino.html) for the pieces that are currently available.

## HOLIDAY CARDS \$12

(boxed set of 10)

All-occasion cards now sold individually online at [www.whwf.org/greetingcards.html](http://www.whwf.org/greetingcards.html).



Inside verse: Have a wildly wonderful holiday!

## COFFEE MUGS \$14



11 oz. beige ceramic mug with dark green imprint.



## BANDANAS \$12

## T-SHIRTS \$20

All of our t-shirts are imprinted with soy-based inks. Our off-white logo t-shirts are made of Fortrel EcoSpun, produced from recycled plastic bottle caps. Our dark green and black t-shirts are 100% cotton.



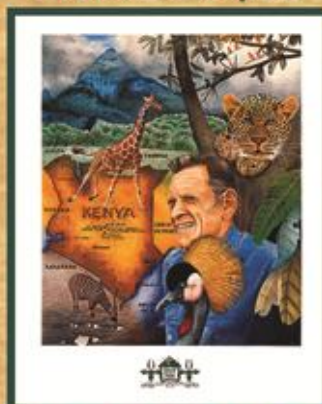
Please specify color and size

White Imprint on Dark Green



## SAFARI CAPS \$20

Adjustable, 100% cotton, unconstructed cap with velcro closure and embroidered WHWF patch. Your choice of Navy, White or Khaki.



## POSTER \$15

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

All items are available at our online store at [www.whwf.org](http://www.whwf.org). If you would like any items gift wrapped and sent as holiday gifts, along with a card that indicates it is from you, please supply the full names and mailing addresses of recipients, as well as who the gifts are from. Call our office with any questions.

Name

Address

City

State  Zip

Phone

Email

Please send check or money order to  
William Holden Wildlife Foundation  
Post Office Box 16637, Beverly Hills, CA 90209



ITEM	PRICE	QTY	S/H	TOTAL
WHWF Plush Toys <input type="checkbox"/> ELEPHANT <input type="checkbox"/> MONKEY	SHIPPING: \$6 U.S. \$7 CAN / \$9 INTL	\$27		\$6
WHWF Mug	SHIPPING: \$4 U.S. \$6 CAN / \$8 INTL	\$14		\$4
WHWF Bandana	SHIPPING: \$2 U.S. \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL	\$12		\$2
CHIMPANZEE by Novelino		\$115		\$20
WHWF Poster		\$15		\$3
WHWF Tote Bag	SHIPPING: \$3 U.S. \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$10		\$3
Christmas Cards (boxed set)	SHIPPING: \$3 U.S. \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$12		\$3
WHWF Logo T-Shirts (please indicate size/color selection)	SHIPPING: \$2 U.S. \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL	\$20		\$2
Recycled Bottle Cap T-shirt (Off-White Only) Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				
100% COTTON Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK		\$20		\$2
Safari Caps Color: <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> KHAKI		\$20		\$3
ORDER TOTAL				