

Bray's Journey to The Gambia



In December, Dustin and I flew to The Gambia, a small sliver of a country in West Africa. Prior to this trip, I could not reliably point to it on a map.

Alongside representatives from the animal rights organization Friends of Animals, for whom Dustin works, we were there to meet with Janis Carter, who founded the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project, an island sanctuary established in 1979 in River Gambia National Park. The island is now home to some 140 chimpanzees who live in relative freedom.

For the duration of the trip, we slept in tents on a shaded terrace overlooking the River Gambia. As an eco-camp, the tents were comfortable but basic with a handbasin, outside shower and composting toilet, and the only electricity at the camp, generated by a few solar panels, is reserved for preparing meals. To our surprise, we had cell reception nearly everywhere we went. But if you needed to use the outdoor toilet in the middle of the night, you took your flashlight with you to avoid cobras and other venomous snakes.

If you were as bored in 10th grade biology class as I was, you may have forgotten a few facts helpful for a trip like this: Chimpanzees are apes, not monkeys. They are larger and taller than monkeys and, unlike monkeys, do
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The Gambia

not have tails. Chimpanzees are omnivores. They know how to make and use tools, including fishing poles, hammers and spears. They also teach their children how to use tools.

Chimpanzees are classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. They are running out of places to live as forests are destroyed for farming, roads and housing. Threats also come

from the international pet trade, laboratories that want them for research, and hunters who want them for food.

On the belief that chimpanzees should be free to live on their own terms — and that our planet's last remaining wild places should be kept wild — Janis Carter has fought against poachers, government bureaucrats and international real estate developers for nearly 50 years of her life. She may be small in stature, but she's certainly making a huge difference.

For those interested in learning more

about Janis and the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project, I recommend the HBO documentary *Lucy the Human Chimp*, about a chimpanzee who was raised as a human child by a psychotherapist at the University of Oklahoma. When it became apparent that their experiment was a total disaster, a young graduate student named Janis Carter found a new home for Lucy in Gambia, helping her to assimilate to life in the wild. Watch the documentary or read more about this project at friendsofanimals.org/chimpanzee-refugee-project.



Photos courtesy Nicole Rivard, Editor-in-Chief, Friends of Animals

bottom line

Is Your Donor-Advised Fund Doing Both Parts of Its Job?

Donor-advised funds (DAFs) make tax write-offs easy. Simply transfer cash or appreciated securities into your fund by Dec. 31, and you'll enjoy the tax benefits next April. This is great for donors, as it lets them target specific tax goals while taking their time to thoughtfully choose charities to support. Meanwhile, the donated dollars have a chance to grow, resulting in even more financial support for the recipients.

However, the second part of the process — getting the cash to charities — often falls behind. According to the National Philanthropic Trust's 2024 Donor-Advised Fund Report, \$252 billion was sitting in DAF coffers at the end of 2023. With the markets' rapid growth in 2024, the balance is likely even higher now. These significant resources could have a meaningful impact, but only if account owners release the funds.

Now is a great time to deploy your DAF dollars. Use them to support hurricane relief

in Western North Carolina and Florida, or wildfire relief in California. These recoveries will be long-term, requiring millions of dollars and a lot of effort. Or, as government funding for important programs gets cut, fill the gap

“There’s great need in the world. Now is the time to put your donor advised fund to work rather than letting the money sit there.”

by funding organizations that can make a difference. Frontloading support for them could pay dividends for generations to come. There's always a great need out there, and it's not always clear how to help. One option is to put your DAF to work, now.

Adams Family

Updates from the Firm's Folks

Khrista's daughter, Barret, will finish her second year at University of North Carolina Wilmington this spring and is now looking for an internship that matches her studies in environmental science and sustainability. She's looking forward to her junior year, when she'll focus on core classes in her major and minor. If you know of any internship opportunities, please let us know!

Meanwhile, Chad's daughter, Maya, is exploring her own environmental and sustainability projects in second grade. She's taken to backyard chicken farming. After showing interest in her grandmother's pet chickens last year, Maya will build a coop for four birds this spring (with help from her dad, of course!). Although the cost of eggs is going up, it's unlikely that this project will offset its expenses. Who gives a cluck?!



Special Event: Safe Passage

Join us April 29 for an evening of education and discussion about the regional effort to bring wildlife crossings to our mountain highways.

Our speaker, Jeff Hunter, senior program manager for National Parks Conservation Association, is a driving force behind **Safe Passage**, a coalition working to reduce wildlife mortality along the I-40 Pigeon River corridor and beyond.

Hunter will update progress since Safe Passage formed, and outline future plans for improving wildlife crossings in the region.

The event will be held at Citizen Vinyl, 14 O. Henry Ave. Asheville, on **Tuesday, April 29 at 5:30pm** with cocktails and snacks. RSVP to Khrista at 828-251-9700.



**The I-40 Pigeon River Gorge
Wildlife Crossing Project**

Bray's New Zip

Bray and his husband, Dustin, have moved to New York to be closer to Dustin's work. They're pleased to report that their dogs, Turtle and Pepe, are making new friends every day in Central Park. Chad and Khrista have been very supportive during this transition. Our Asheville-based clients who like to meet in the office will see Bray on the TV screen. Otherwise, our day-to-day work continues as usual. Bray and Chad still own the business and building at 545 Merrimon Avenue, and Bray returns to Asheville regularly (and plans to attend our upcoming event on April 29. Hope to see you there!)

We Go Into the Woods

Joel Adams and Associates are proud sponsors of Asheville Community Theatre's *Into the Woods*, running April 11 through May 4.

One of Stephen Sondheim's most popular works, *Into the Woods* follows a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the king's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would produce milk.

When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the hex. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them with disastrous results.

Cry as the witch sings "Stay with Me." Laugh as the two princes sing "Agony." Get your tickets now at ashevilletheatre.org/

Bray Creech, MBA, CPA, CFP®
Chad Storck, MAcc, CPA
Khrista Wood, CLTC®


**JOEL ADAMS
AND ASSOCIATES**


REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR

545 Merrimon Avenue | Asheville, NC 28804
828-251-9700 | 828-251-9920 Fax | JoelAdamsAsheville.com

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