

WHAT IS THE GOOD LIFE? By: Linda Brent

Visitors to Chimp Haven are often impressed with the beautiful environment, the immaculate building and grounds, and the caring staff. But the comments that mean the most to me are about the chimpanzees. Viewing the residents of Chimp Haven, even for a brief time, visitors often used the words “peaceful”, “content”, “healthy” and “happy” to describe the chimpanzees. While each chimpanzee social group has its share of drama and excitement, there is an obvious feeling of comfort and wellbeing among the chimpanzees.

Friends The Good Life for a chimpanzee surely includes, above all, social companionship. Chimpanzees are highly social, with lifetime bonds, political alliances and even manipulative social interactions. We have been happily surprised at how well the chimpanzees retired from medical research have adapted to living in larger, complex groups at Chimp Haven – greatly increasing the quality and quantity of social interactions and partners.

Forests The Good Life also must include lots of interesting space! Chimpanzees need room to roam, to be alone, or to congregate in large groups. All of the residents at Chimp Haven have indoor and outdoor spaces, and multiple areas to choose from during the day or night. Some individuals, like Gay, choose to be alone much more than other sociable chimpanzees, like Teresa.

Fresh Foods The Good Life means purposeful activity, which for chimpanzees is usually centered on finding, processing and eating food. At Chimp Haven, the chimpanzees get multiple meals a day with fresh vegetables and fruit, special treats and fortifying diet. The chimpanzees in the forested habitats eat a wide variety of the naturally available leaves, bark, fruit and sap.

If you are a chimpanzee, the Good Life is Chimp Haven. Please visit the sanctuary at Chimpanzee Discovery Days and meet some of the special individuals who call Chimp Haven Home. And learn why chimpanzees deserve our care and finally, a bit of the Good Life.

CHIMP HAVEN DISCOVERY DAYS



A young girl sees if she measures up at our chimpanzee mirror. Average height for an adult male chimpanzee is 4 feet tall.

If you haven't been to a Discovery Days at Chimp Haven recently it might just be the perfect opportunity to rediscover the Good Life. If you are a chimpanzee the Good Life includes friends, forest, medical care, food, and purposeful activity. You can see first hand all of this and more at our monthly Discovery Day open house. Chimp Haven welcomed over 1,800 visitors in 2008 thus far through this event.

Visitors learn about the Good Life as they participate in “termite fishing”, visit with our Veterinary Technician about the chimpanzees’ medical care, and explore interesting facts about chimpanzees. Visitors even get to “taste” the Good Life as they learn about the

foods the chimpanzees receive each day.

Our newest addition to the education program at Discovery Days is our Conservation Tent. Researchers have been observing chimpanzees for decades. Now you have the opportunity to learn more about how they do this as well as ways you can help in the conservation effort.

Discover the Good Life with us by attending Chimp Haven Discovery Days.

2009 Chimpanzee Discovery Day Schedule

March 21	9 a.m. to Noon	Sept 19	9 a.m. to Noon
April 18	9 a.m. to Noon	Oct 17	9 a.m. to Noon
May 16	9 a.m. to Noon	Nov 21	9 a.m. to Noon
June 20	9 a.m. to Noon		



A young explorer in enthralled by the veterinary care booth at Discovery Days.



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As you read this newsletter, you will see the phenomenal support Chimp Haven receives from loyal donors and volunteers. It is truly humbling. However, we need your help again in finishing our conference room, which is in woeful shape!

Due to Katrina and the resultant rise in the cost of materials, we were unable to finish it. We need donations, supplies and volunteers to complete the conference room and for offices.

So grab your hammer and your checkbook and soon we will have an awesome conference room to further the mission of Chimp Haven!

Please, contact **Rhonda Branch** @ rbranch@chiphaven.org or 318-925-9575.

Chimp Haven is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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Discover the Good Life!



VERANA

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Branching out to the **Chimpanzees**

What is the **Good Life?**

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HAS CHIMP HAVEN RAISED ALL THE FUNDING NECESSARY TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION?

Despite significant cost overages (partially due to the increased costs after hurricanes hit the region), Chimp Haven has completed most of the construction and chimpanzees are living in all the buildings. We still have several outside enclosures to complete, but we need to raise more funds! With completion of all chimpanzee housing areas, we can provide a home to as many as 50 more chimpanzees currently living in research facilities.

Supporters of CHIMP HAVEN Making a Difference from All Walks of Life



Mary Futch, a local art teacher, shows visitors how to make art out of items you find in the woods



Kim Warren from Walter B. Jacobs teaches visitors about wildlife in Northwest Louisiana



Peggy Cuniff, Executive Director of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, made a special visit to see the chimpanzees.



Intern Andrew Stephenson helps cut browse for the chimpanzees

Southwood East Lab students teach visitors about endangered species from equatorial Africa, including chimpanzees



Interns Brittany Atkinson and Amanda Love greet visitors during our Hawaiian Lua themed Discovery Day in July



Cub Scouts from Pack 9 in Shreveport assist in passing out brochures to visitors



Employees from Best Buy help to make tube foragers for the chimpanzees



Mrs. Donna Keeling views a plaque in honor of her late husband Michale Keeling on a recent visit to the sanctuary



Joe and Judi Schenke, devoted sponsors of Mason, pass out stuffed animals to the chimpanzees during a recent visit



Dave Sommerville shows guests how to make enrichment during Chimpanzee Discovery Days



JIMOH

POLITICAL POSTURING AT CHIMP HAVEN

By: Amy Fultz



JEFF

Chimpanzees living the good life at Chimp Haven have many opportunities to make new friends and learn to live up to their potential as highly functioning members of a very complex society. At Chimp Haven, chimpanzees have the opportunity to live in large groups of up to seventeen individuals.

The large groups have many males and many females living in them which provides for a bit of drama and a variety of relationships.

This summer many of the larger groups have undergone changes for many different reasons. As we all watch the political debates on television, the chimpanzees engage in their own form of politics, with some of the males trying to make the move up the social ladder. It's interesting to watch as Cody, Keeli, and Emmitt, three younger males, vie for the top spot in their group that also consists of males in their late 40's that don't seem to want

the job any longer; Billy Ray, Steve, and Harry are retired and living the good life. Meanwhile in one of the habitat groups, Trevor has decided that he might be a good fit to lead his group. But Trevor has seven other males in his group that he needs to convince. Kasey, who is the current leader and Jeff, his second in command, are the first that Trevor will need to prove that he can step up to the challenge. It's not only the other males that need convincing; many of our groups are made up of older, tough, strong females – like Verana, Peggy, Karin and Sheena in Trevor's group – that will also hold the key to Trevor's eventual success or failure. Living the good life takes different forms for different chimpanzees, just as it does for people; for some it may mean being the leader and for others it may mean the ability to relax in the sun. At Chimp Haven, each chimpanzee chooses what the "good life" means to them.



KEELI

BRANCHING OUT TO THE CHIMPANZEES

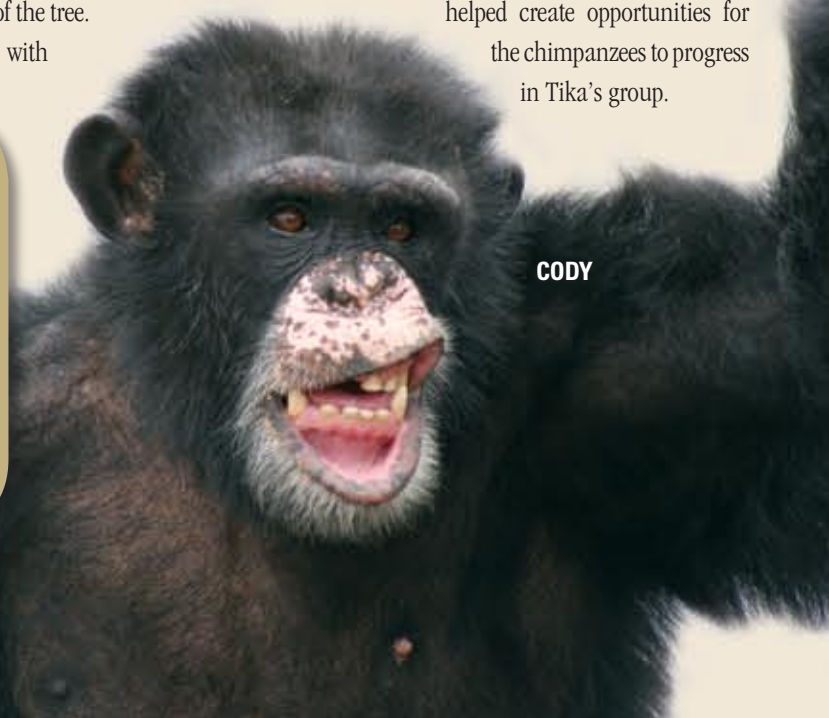
By: Kathleen Candito

What an exciting day Monday was! The Enclosure Enhancement Team organized a project to provide additional climbing opportunities in the outdoor play yard of Tika's group. Although it was a busy day, members from several departments came together with a desire to enhance the space. Darren, Cliff, Paul and Mark of the Maintenance Department were critical to completion of our mission. Once the chimpanzees were secured inside and the double doors were opened, the ten staff members worked together, lifted a huge tree, and positioned it within the enclosure. Cliff climbed atop the enclosure and dropped down a cable which was secured to the top of the tree. The tree was lifted by a combination of Darren pulling the cable with the tractor and the rest of us positioning the monstrous tree within the enclosure. In addition, we strung fire hose between the chimp's double tiered structure and the cupola. After we were finished and the enclosure was secured, the chimpanzees' doors

were opened and they came outside anxious to see their new environment. Exploding with excitement, Tika climbed up the play yards walls and went to the top tier of the structure. She examined the fire hose intently, but carestaff member Joseph reports that no one has seen her climbing yet. The rest of the chimpanzees investigated the new tree and were very curious. The day after the tree was placed, Tika was found sitting on one of the branches. Josie and Arctica are fascinated by the tree but have yet to sit upon it. It was probably the first time they have touched a tree! Thanks to all who helped create opportunities for the chimpanzees to progress in Tika's group.



PEGGY



CODY