

wouldn't allow it. The Gorilla cage is by far the largest in the whole zoo. It is concrete based and has a thick iron barred surround. There is then a gap of a few feet to the public viewing window. It is the only 'enriched' exhibit in the zoo. It has ropes, a suspended tractor tyre and a loose tyre. It is well lit with natural light and (I think) has a wire skylight allowing the sun directly in towards the back. It is not the most brilliant of cages but neither is it the worst. It is those heavy steel bars that give the whole thing that bad old menagerie look (which, sadly most of this place slots into).

If I was to accept that this unfortunate animal was to remain here, alone for the rest of its natural life then its existence and environment could be much improved. I would replace the glass with armourplated and remove the bars. This would increase space and radically improve appearance. I would build a pool in one corner, deep litter the exhibit and introduce another species. Okay the armour plating would

cost but the rest would not. A simple three times daily seven day enrichment programme to top things off. Perhaps Tesco would fund it. They have money coming out of their ears.

So, verdict? I don't like the 'postage stamp' type of collection, I don't like the small cages, the lack of enrichment and so much more BUT it does have a bash at educating people and there is evidence that somewhere here there is someone who knows a little and cares. So to me, tacky as it is, it has a bit more going for it than some of the collections I have visited recently that have had zillions of dollars spent on them.

Walked back along the river. People bathing, washing clothes. Ferry boats whizzing about. Fancy houses. Simple cafes, posh cafés. All life is here.

Meetings of interest to zoo people from ZooNews Digest

Environmental Enrichment

6 - 8 June 2006

Dr. Robert Young

How to develop an enrichment program.

Managing environmental enrichment.

Conducting enrichment/behaviour studies.

Public education about environmental enrichment activities.

For more information please go to

www.animalconcepts.org

III International Conference on Research in Zoos

8th and 9th of June 2006 in Poznan (POLAND)

Address for correspondence

"ZOO Conference"

Ogród Zoologiczny w Poznaniu

Ul. Browarna 25, 61-063 Poznan#324; (Poland)

Tel. (+48 61) 870 95 02

Fax (+48 61) 877 35 33

2006 International Gorilla Workshop

23 - 26 June 2006

Paignton Zoo, Devon, England

Paignton Zoo will be hosting the next International Gorilla Workshop (23 - 26 June 2006). We would like to invite gorilla workers from all disciplines to register. The deadline for submission of abstracts for presentation and for early registration is 31st December 2005.

Further information available from our website

<http://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/gorillas/gorillaworkshop.htm>

21st Congress of the International Primatological Society

26 - 30 June 2006

Imperial Resort Beach Hotel

Entebbe, Uganda

I Congreso Manejo Nutricional en Zoológicos

5, 6 & 7 July 2006

At Zoológico Nacional La Aurora

For more information visit our website

www.aurorazoo.org.gt

Or send an email to geraldine_nidasio@yahoo.com

Tels: (00 502) 2742 – 3913 Fax: (00 502) 2471 5286

8th Annual Symposium on Zoo Research

Colchester Zoo

24th – 25th July 2006

For further information contact:

Fay Clark, Research Officer, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0SL.

Tel: 01206 331292 ext 248, Fax: 01206 331392

More details can also be found on the BIAZA website

www.biaza.org.uk under 'Events'.

CBSG Annual Meeting

24th - 27th August 2006

hosted by Leipzig Zoo, Germany

<http://www.zoo-leipzig.de/>

61st Annual Conference of WAZA

27th - 31st August 2006

Leipzig Zoo, Germany

<http://www.zoo-leipzig.de/>

First European Congress of Conservation Biology

23rd - 27th August 2006

Please visit the website (<http://www.eccb2006.org>) for details, and register for new information.

IV World Congress on Mountain Ungulates - Munnar, Kerala

12th-15th September 2006

For more details of the conference, please log on to the conference web-site <http://www.wmcu2006.org>

AZA Annual Conference

25th - 30th September 2006

Hosted by Busch Gardens, Florida Aquarium, & Lowry Park Zoo Tampa, FL <http://www.aza.org/ConfWork/AboutAnnualConf/#fut>

18th IZE Biennial Conference. International Zoo Educators Association

25th - 30th September 2006

Hosted by the National Zoo of South Africa, Pretoria, S Africa
<http://www.izea.net>

VI. International Parrot Convention

27th - 30th September 2006

Loro Parque, Tenerife <http://www.loroparque-fundacion.org/>

The 18th IZE Conference 2006

9th - 14th October 2006

Hosted by The National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa.

For more information, please visit <http://www.izea.net>

The 23rd EAZA Annual Conference

3rd - 7th October 2006

Hosted by Zoo Aquarium Madrid, Spain.

International Society for Anthrozoology ISAZ 2006

Barcelona, Spain

5th - 6th October 2006

The importance of attitudes, values, and economics to the welfare and conservation of animals

Learn more by visiting the website at:

<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/isaz.htm>

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation

26th -31st January 2007

Houston, Texas

Hosted by the Houston Zoo

Registration now available online at <http://www.houstonzoo.org/ZACC>

For more information you may contact

zacc@houstonzoo.org or phone

713-533-6745

The International Conference on Environmental Enrichment (ICEE 2007)

5th -10th August 2007

Hosted by Schönbrunn Zoo, Vienna.

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC)

The Houston Zoo's Naturally Wild Conservation Program will host the now famous Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) Conference. This will be held in Houston, Texas from January 26-31, 2007.

On-line Conference Registration

Conference registrations continue to trickle in, as we would expect them to this far in advance of the event. It is very easy to register online at <http://www.houstonzoo.org/ZACC> and we encourage you to do so in the not-too-distant future, if you haven't already.

Special Meetings

Several groups have decided to hold their annual or mid-year meetings in conjunction with the 2007, ZACC Conference. They include the following :

AZA Bat Taxonomic Advisory Group, AZA Field Conservation Committee, Association of Zoological Horticulturists.

