

The 4th SHAPE-UK-Ireland Regional Environmental Enrichment Conference (REEC4)

EMPOWER – Enrichment Must Promote Opportunities, Wellbeing, Exercise and Recreation

13th to the 16th of May 2012

Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, Kent



Organiser:

Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks

Guest Speakers:

Professor Steven Schapiro – The University of Texas

Plus more TBC

Conference workshops will include sessions by The Shape of Enrichments **Valerie Hare** and **Karen Worley**.

The 2012 REEC follows straight on from the EAZA Plant Working Group Conference and will bring together animal keepers and managers from a wide range of backgrounds. This conference will take place over 3 whole days at Port Lympne from Monday to Wednesday including an enrichment tour, and an evening safari. Sunday will offer an optional enrichment tour of Howletts during the day, and an ice breaker event in the evening. In addition to international guest speakers we will be running skills workshops throughout the conference including rope splicing, willow weaving research techniques and fire hose weaving.

Howletts and Port Lympne look forward to welcoming delegates to our parks, which currently hold 94 species of mammal, including the largest captive population of Western lowland gorillas in the world, the largest collection of black rhino outside of Africa and the largest African elephant herd in the UK. In addition, The Aspinall Foundation are also heavily involved in *in situ* conservation, running 2 gorilla reintroduction programmes located in the Congo and Gabon and primate conservation and rehabilitation projects in both Java and Madagascar.

Pre-Conference Workshop:

On the 12th and 13th of May Port Lympne will be hosting an EAZA Academy accredited training course entitled: *Fodder Production and Management*.

For more details please see the EAZA Academy pages on the website www.eaza.net or contact Myfanwy Griffith, Training Officer, EAZA Academy at Myfanwy.Griffith@eaza.net

Call for Conference Abstracts:

We welcome proffered papers on any area of enrichment, particularly those involving the practical side of designing and building enrichment. We wish to cover as wide a taxonomic range as possible. Special symposiums will include fish and plant based enrichment and we would particularly encourage submissions on birds, reptiles, hoofstock and other, often unrepresented species. Abstract submission forms for poster and oral presentations are available from the Shape website.

Registration fee: £150

This includes attendance to all 3 conference days, skills workshops and tours of both facilities. Refreshment breaks and lunches and the icebreaker barbeque on Sunday are also included. We are able to accept payment either by credit or debit card, or by post with a personal cheque.

In order to keep this conference as affordable as possible we have secured special hotel rates for 3 and 4 night stays, particularly for those willing to share, but we expect these rooms to fill quickly so booking early is advised to avoid disappointment. Room and car sharing forums will be hosted on SHAPE UK and Ireland's Facebook page for those looking to keep costs down: <http://on.fb.me/reecPL2011>.

For further information please visit the website: <http://bit.ly/shapeukireland> or contact Christine on: ccw@aspinallfoundation.org.