



Presents the
Science Lecture Series

**“Human-Primate Communication:
My Life with KOKO”**

by

JIM WHEELER - Scientist/ Inventor



Saturday, July 21, 2007

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

San Luis Obispo Library Community Room

Come and enjoy a wonderful evening with Koko the world's most communicative primate. Jim Wheeler, who has served on the Board of the Gorilla Foundation since 1982, will present his life and times with this remarkable gorilla. Jim has spent thousands of hours working with Koko over the past 20 years. Koko has a sign language vocabulary of over 2000 words and is able to formulate sentences.

The Gorilla Language Project, or Project Koko, is the longest continuous inter-species communications project of its kind in the world, and it serves as a unique and irreplaceable resource for the international conservation community. The project has shown that an animal can possess qualities that were previously considered exclusively human, such as thought processes, imagination and feelings.

“Koko -- the famous simian resident of the Primate Research Institute, who has worked for some years with a psychologist and developed a sophisticated sign language vocabulary -- is truthful, affectionate, intelligent, and trustworthy; her integrity calibrates at 250. Thus, one is safer with Koko, a gorilla, than with 85% of the humans on the planet.” (“Power vs. Force”, David Hawkins - pg. 280)

Studying gorilla intelligence and behavior will lead to a greater understanding of the species' physical and psychological needs. Only through knowledge can humans take the necessary steps to improve the treatment of captive gorillas and protect free-living gorillas from extinction.

Jim Wheeler lives in Oceano and consults as audiovisual forensic expert. He is world renowned for his work with instant replay and in-flight video. He received an EMMY for the invention of auto-tracking (Instant Replay), the NY Film Anthology Award, and the AMIA Career Achievement Award. He holds a degree from U.C. Berkeley.

Refreshments will be served.

Donations to support local community programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are appreciated. Our dream is to achieve the development of the San Luis Obispo Discovery Center.

The Discovery Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology Education is a public benefit 501(c)(3) non-profit educational foundation.

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