

Outdoors

Noted environmentalist brings message of peace, hope

BY KIT ALMY
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Forty years ago, an adventurous young Englishwoman with no formal scientific training went to Africa to study a group of chimpanzees in a remote forest by a lake in Tanzania. She became the first person to observe chimpanzees making and using tools (they trimmed sticks to fish termites out of their nests), which changed the definition of what makes humans unique.

She is now one of the most prominent environmentalists in

the world, traveling almost constantly to spread her message that every individual can make a difference in solving the problems that threaten many species, ecosystems and even humans around the world.

Dr. Jane Goodall, who will speak tonight in Kalamazoo about her reasons for hope for the future of our planet, is a living example of the ability of an individual to make a difference in the world through determination and persistence.

At the start of her career, she had only her curiosity and love of

NATURE'S WAY

nature – and a lot of patience. These traits enabled her to spend years observing chimps in the wild and to make revolutionary discoveries about animals as well as humans.

Over the years, she developed not only a great reputation as a scientist, but also a deeper spiritual connection with nature, which she describes in her book and video, Reason for Hope. One day in the forest of Gombe, she had a mystical experience during which she felt for the first time

that she was a part of nature, not just an observer from the outside, and she has never seen it the same way since. Now, when questioned about how she handles the constant stress of traveling and lecturing with such calm, she responds that she carries with her the peace of the forest.

Her philosophy is grounded in this belief that there is something sacred in nature and that there is a purpose to human lives. She believes that humans can choose to change their behavior from frequently violent and destructive practices to activities which promote peace and respect for

all living things.

Dr. Goodall's crusade started out with a focus on saving chimpanzees from habitat destruction and other threats, but soon she realized that their welfare was tied up with human welfare, and in fact that of the whole planet.

She realized that many destructive but common practices of food production, medical testing and other human endeavors were in use because of human need, and she began to urge those involved to find other ways of accomplishing their work that are less harmful to people, animals and the world around them.

Goodall places much of her hopes for the future in children, whom she teaches to do whatever they can, plant trees in their communities, clean up litter, recycle anything to make their environment cleaner and healthier. Yesterday in Kalamazoo she met with students at Edison Environ-

mental Science Academy who are already working to improve their environment.

We are fortunate to be able to welcome Goodall to our community and to hear her message of hope, as well as to see her example of individual empowerment. I hope that everyone who encounters her will find new ways to experience nature and will be inspired to do their own part to make a difference.

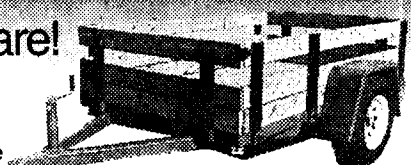
This is a year of anniversaries: It's the 40th anniversary of Goodall's research as well as the Kalamazoo Nature Center's. Next week will be the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, so in observance of that, let us take inspiration from people like Goodall and seek to carry with us all the peace of the forest.

KIT ALMY is community relations coordinator at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

READY TO GO ANYWHERE YOU ARE...

...quality built to last! We dare you to compare!

- 2,000 lb. GVW or 3,500 lb. GVW Utility Trailer
- 1,000 lb. Tongue Jack
- All Wiring is Enclosed
- Steel Stakes For Removable Side Panels
- 8, 10, And 12' Lengths, You Choose The Size That Fits Your Needs.
- Custom Colors Available



Often imitated, but never equaled in design

April 28 & 29

