The SHAPE of Enrichment and Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch present a 3-Day Enrichment Workshop for animal caretakers working with captive species
April 16 - 18, 2020

This workshop is for animal caretakers, front line supervisors and others working with captive species.

SHAPE instructors will guide participants through a process that will allow them to develop more holistic and goal-oriented enrichment programs for their captive species. Please note you must be 18 or over to attend this course.

Lecture topics include animal welfare and an enrichment overview including framework, safety and evaluation. The practical components will include behavioral problem solving, rope splicing workshops, and the application of principles covered in presentations when we split participants into groups to design, build and test enrichment with sanctuary animals.

The location for the workshop is at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, the world-renowned animal sanctuary located on more than 1,400 acres in Murchison, Texas founded in 1979 by author and animal advocate Cleveland Amory. The sanctuary is home to over 800 animals comprised of over 40 species, many of whom were rescued from situations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

SHAPE instructor Mark Kingston Jones has been involved in animal welfare since 2004. He is a SHAPE workshop coordinator and the co-founder of Team Building with BITE. Previously he worked at Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, as Head of Education and Research. He has instructed on 25 SHAPE keeper workshops, and 38 others, in the USA, UK, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, India and Africa. He is the SHAPE-UK & Ireland Events Co-ordinator, an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent, an AZA Enrichment Instructor, and an Enrichment Advisor for the BIAZA Behavioural Management and Training Working Group. He has presented 60 talks and workshops on topics relating to enrichment and welfare at conferences internationally.

Co-instructor Margaret Whittaker began her career at the Houston Zoo as an animal keeper, and later supervisor. For the past 25 years, she’s been a behavioral consultant working with zoos, biomedical facilities, and sanctuaries in North, Central and South America, Europe, SE Asia, Asia, and India. She works with individual facilities to develop their behavioral management programs, has developed and taught workshops all over the world, and works with design firms on enclosure design to maximize care and welfare. Currently she is part time behavioral management coordinator at the Oakland Zoo in California, and President of Creative Animal Behavioral Solutions, a behavioral consulting company. She has published numerous papers and book chapters on the benefits of behavioral management, served on professional boards, and currently serves on NAPSA’s Council of Professionals and on the advisory board for Elephant Haven.

This workshop registration fee of $275 includes workshop materials and notebook, enrichment-making supplies, tea/coffee breaks, lunch each day, an ice breaker and final dinner banquet. Information on travel and discounted hotel rates are available on request.

Please note: Registration information coming soon.

For further information, please contact: Traci Hanson at thanson@fundforanimals.org, or Margaret Whittaker at indu22@earthlink.net.