

The CSUF Department of Anthropology and the Environmental Studies Program

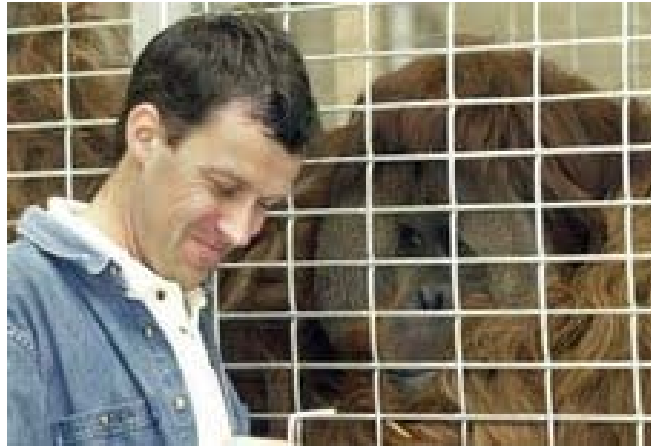
Presents

Rob Shumaker

**Animal Tool Behavior: The Use and Manufacture of Tools by Animals**

On

Monday May 2, 2011 in McCarthy Hall Room 682 at 4:00 pm



**Rob Shumaker**, PhD., is the vice-president of Life Sciences at the Indianapolis Zoo and a member of the Orangutan Conservancy's board of directors. He has spent over two decades studying the behavior and cognitive abilities of orangutans, and created the ground-breaking Orangutan Language Project at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. in 1995. That program was the first to use computers to communicate with orangutans in captivity. Shumaker also created the orangutan care program at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, and was instrumental in leveraging the last trained orangutans out of Hollywood. Shumaker has been active in the conservation of wild orangutans in Borneo and Sumatra, and has helped organize conferences to map the location and number of orangutans left in the rainforests. Among his publications are the books, *Animal Tool Behavior: The Use and Manufacture of Tools by Animals* (Johns Hopkins Press), *Orangutans* (Voyageur Press), and numerous articles for magazines and journals.

*Animal Tool Behavior: The Use and Manufacture of Tools by Animals*

Reports of tool use and manufacture by animals have existed for centuries. The earliest may have been fiction designed purely to capture the imagination, while others revealed mental abilities that were assumed to be exclusively human. These observations have evolved into a vibrant and engaging scientific discipline that influences our understanding of ecology, behavior, cognition, and evolution. In its own right, non-human tool use and manufacture is a fascinating and engaging topic for exploration. Animals, from insects to primates, employ different types of tools to solve problems.

The newly published revision of *Animal Tool Behavior* reveals the current state of the field. This comprehensive synthesis of the studies produced through 2010 provides an updated and exact definition of tool use, identifies new modes of use that have emerged in the literature, examines all forms of tool manufacture, and addresses common myths about animal tool use. With a special emphasis on the abilities of orangutans, this presentation will discuss those aspects of tool use found commonly among great apes, as well as those that appear to be uniquely human.