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BEST WILDLIFE FILMS ANNOUNCED

MISSOULA--

The best films about wildlife from around the world in 1983 have been announced by the 7th annual International Wildlife Film Festival at the University of Montana.

"Among the Wild Chimpanzees," a National Geographic television program about the 22-year career of chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall, was awarded best-of-festival and best commercial/television film by a panel of film makers, biologists and humanists.

"Kakapo--The Night Parrot," a video presentation about a nearly extinct flightless parrot that lives in burrows in New Zealand, won best-of-festival runner-up.

These films and other award winners will be presented to the public in two parts Thursday through Sunday, April 12-15, and a \$2 donation will be requested. Except for Sunday, showings will begin at 7 p.m. each night in the UM Underground Lecture Hall.

Sunday's schedule is for winning videotapes from 9 a.m. to noon in UM Science Complex Room 131 and selected festival winners from 9 a.m. to noon in UM Forestry Building Room 305.

Part I films, to be shown on Friday, April 13, are "Wildlife, Wetlands and You," honorable mention award; "Lights, Action, Africa," special award for career achievement; "Call of the Loon;" merit award' "The Hooded Seal," best scientific film; "The Garden of Eden," merit award; "River of Light," merit award; "Everything in Its Place," best amateur film.

(over)

best wildlife--add one

Part II films, to be shown Thursday, April 12, and Saturday, April 14, are "The Platte--River of Life," merit award; "Among the Wild Chimpanzees," best of festival; "Mzima--Portrait of a Spring," special award; "Paradise Lost," merit award; "Cry of the Muriqui (monkeys)," merit award,

If a 16-millimeter film copy of "Kakapo" arrives from New Zealand, it will be shown in place of "Mzima"; otherwise it will be shown with other videos on Sunday.

Sunday videotapes are "Resurrection at Truk Lagoon," merit award; "Antarctic Summer," honorable mention; and "Ribbon of Life: Great Barrier Reef," honorable mention.

The films run from 11 to 60 minutes, with the average lasting about 35 minutes.

A series of free workshops and panels, with speakers from across the United States, Canada and England, will be presented beginning at 9 a.m. April 14-15. Workshops are on film making, film and wildlife values and underwater biology and film making. Panels are about wildlife films of the world and anthropomorphism, or assigning human traits to animals in films.

Speakers include western Montana Congressmen Pat Williams, Stanford University professor Peter Steinhart, British Broadcasting Company producer Jeffery Boswell, Canadian Broadcasting Company producer James Murray, UM zoologist Phil Motta, actor William DeVane, World Wildlife Fund administrator Megan Wood, Montana film maker Annick Smith and others.

A wildlife art and photography display in the UM University Center third floor Montana Rooms will be open to the public April 14-15.

A free matinee of wildlife films for children will be from 1 to 4 p.m. April 14 in UM University Center third-floor rooms.

For more information about the festival, call the UM Wildlife Biology Program office at (406) 243-5272.