

Spring/Summer 2007

*The mission of the
Catalina Island Conservancy
is to be a responsible steward
of its lands through a balance
of conservation, education
and recreation.*



Catalina Island fox
(*Urocyon littoralis catalinae*)

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Conservancy Times

35 Years of the Catalina Island Conservancy

By Bob Rhein



February 1975 – Philip K. Wrigley and his wife, Helen (both seated), pose with Conservancy friends and family after signing over 42,135 acres to the Catalina Island Conservancy valued at nearly \$16 million. Pictured are (from left): Misdee Wrigley, Dorothy (Deedie) Wrigley Hancock, Frank Ernest, James Townsend, unidentified, unidentified, Shirley Davy, Doug Propst, Hollis Moyse, Fred Fraiser, unidentified, Malcom Renton.

From cattle ranch to an aspiring model for balancing habitat protection and restoration with human use and enjoyment, the Conservancy looks to the future.

The Conservancy recognizes the tremendous support of individual donors, foundations and other grantors too numerous to mention here who have made its important work possible over the years. We also wish to acknowledge all those staff, volunteers and others—also far too numerous to mention here—who have served and partnered with the Conservancy to accomplish its many milestones.

From the first time humans set foot on Santa Catalina Island approximately 7,000 years ago, the Island has always been a place valued for its natural resources. Ancient and more recent native inhabitants were hunters and gatherers, exploiting many types of marine and terrestrial resources. When the first Europeans arrived in 1542, to the mid-twentieth century, Catalina's unique location and resources continued to be exploited, by traders and smugglers, otter hunters and fishermen, sheepherders and cattle ranchers, miners, and tourism developers.

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From the President

It's a Boy... and a Girl

Just as *Conservancy Times* was going to press, a small miracle occurred on Catalina Island. For the first time in half a century—since eagles disappeared from Catalina Island—two bald eagle eggs hatched in the wild without human assistance. It's not news to our members and supporters that DDT contamination in the waters around Catalina had for years thwarted the ability of eagles nesting on the Island to successfully hatch their own eggs.

Many of you also know that 27 years ago, Dave Garcelon came to Catalina—devoid of eagles at that time—to begin a restoration program. That effort became the Institute for Wildlife Studies, and grew into the successful program responsible for the recent hatching. We couldn't imagine a better 35th-anniversary gift for the Conservancy.

The two eggs were laid in late February in a cliffside nest along the southwestern coastline of Catalina. According to Dr. Peter Sharpe, Wildlife Biologist with IWS who is director of eagle restoration and monitoring projects in the Channel Islands, the first newly hatched eaglet was observed early on the morning of Saturday, March 31, and the second on the morning of April 1. The female eagle is 8 years old and is the youngest breeding female on Catalina Island. She was hatched at the San Francisco Zoo, then raised and released on Catalina in 1999. The male is 21 years old and was removed from a wild nest in British Columbia and released on the Island in 1986.

Why now? Dave explained that a young female who wasn't particularly interested in eating marine mammals and sea gulls was likely the magic ingredient in this hatching. "We've always said that if bald eagles on Catalina were to eat primarily fish, they would be able to breed. The



problem has come from the consistent intake of heavily contaminated tissues like those of marine mammal carrion and sea gulls."

While this female eagle is probably not contaminant-free, Dave explained, she apparently was free enough to have hatched these two eggs.

The irony of these eggs hatching shortly after the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program (MSRP) asserted that chicks weren't likely to be hatched on Catalina and redirected the lion's share of settlement funding to other restoration efforts (\$250,000 a year to IWS reduced to \$30,000), was not lost on us. We are hopeful that in light of this success, funding levels for eagle restoration on Catalina may be reconsidered by the MSRP trustees.

On behalf of the Conservancy, I would like to express my gratitude to Dave Garcelon for his persistent restoration efforts spanning nearly three decades; and to Peter Sharpe, who has done much of the on-the-ground work on Catalina. I would also like to thank the vigilant staff of the Conservancy, our donors and Board members, whose efforts to protect and restore Catalina's wildlands have safeguarded the eagles' precious natural habitat—without which they would perish. Thanks to these efforts, countless visitors to Catalina Island have already enjoyed the wondrous sight of an eagle flying overhead, as will visitors in the years and decades to come.

Ann M. Muscat

P.S. – Two additional eggs have hatched!
Visit www.catalinaconservancy.org
for the full story.

35 Years of the Catalina Island Conservancy (continued from page 1)



Middle Ranch as it appeared in the 1920s. This area is now the site of the Thompson Reservoir. Prior to building the reservoir, William Wrigley had the barn moved to the present site of the Conservancy's Facilities and Conservation Departments. The barn burned in 1990 resulting in the loss of several vehicles and tools.

When William Wrigley, Jr., the chewing gum magnate, purchased the Santa Catalina Island Company (SCICo) in 1919 from the Banning Family he knew that he had something special. Under the leadership of several generations of Wrigley family members, a strong conservation ethic began to emerge and accompany the philosophy that Catalina should be enjoyed by all, young and old, rich and poor.

This conservation mindset had its culmination in 1972, when Philip K. Wrigley along with members of the Offield family incorporated the Catalina Island Conservancy as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of Catalina Island's wildlands in perpetuity. Malcolm Renton, then SCICo Vice President, was named president of the Conservancy. That same year, the Conservancy was given 600 acres near Black Jack Mountain. Its responsibility

was to preserve the land while keeping it available for the enjoyment of the public.

In February 1975 Phillip K. Wrigley and Dorothy Wrigley Offield signed over 42,135 acres to the Catalina Island Conservancy valued at nearly \$16 million. A. Douglas Propst—a transplant from Colorado who came to Catalina in 1953—was named the Conservancy's second president. For 22 years, Propst had been heading Catalina Rock & Ranch, a subdivision of SCICo. CR&R was responsible for overseeing the rock quarries that provided raw materials used in road repair and other projects on the Island, and for growing the hay and alfalfa that helped sustain herds of cattle at Middle Ranch.

Staff of CR&R also tended to the growing herd of non-native bison (fourteen were brought to Catalina in 1924 to film the silent motion picture *The Vanishing*

American and were left after the filming). During the 1960s, the herd had grown to as many as 600 head.

Propst spent the next several decades evolving the expertise and resources of the Conservancy to be able to meet its ambitious mission.

"All that has been done so far, however, is the prelude to what can and will happen," Propst stated in the first Conservancy newsletter. "It is urgent but far from too late to save the priceless biotic communities of Santa Catalina Island for posterity," he wrote.

In those first formative years of the Conservancy, progress happened very slowly. The very concept of "ecological restoration" was fairly new. The idea of the wildlands surrounding Avalon and

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NEWS FROM THE CONSERVANCY

Death on the West End

Number 72816 had disappeared. She had been missing for just over a year somewhere in the wildlands of Catalina's West End. Number 72816 was a female Catalina Island fox – one of the few survivors of the Canine Distemper virus that killed all but 100 out of 1,300, bringing the Island fox population to the brink of extinction.

Because she was diagnosed with an ear tumor, a condition that is almost always fatal, she was fitted for a radio transmitter around her neck. Conservancy biologists can pick up transmitter signals using hand-carried antennae, from a vehicle, or with an antenna mounted on the wing of a small plane. The collar transmitter sends out a special signal (called a mortality signal) if a fox remains immobile for more than 12 hours.



Many of Catalina's endangered Island foxes wear reflected radio collars like the one on this fox photographed along the Airport Road. The radio collars allow Conservancy biologists to track the animals from the air. The radio transmitter also sends a distinctive signal if the fox is immobile for more than 12 hours.

PHOTO BY CARLOS DE LA ROSA

While in the air on January 12, 2006, Conservancy Wildlife Biologists Calvin Duncan and Julie King could not locate Number 72816's frequency on their receiver. After landing, Duncan and King searched on foot the area where the fox was last located but with no results. After some time, the case was closed on the little creature.

On February 5, 2007, while investigating other mortality signals in an open field in Two Harbors, the two biologists found a radio transmitter that had been forcefully destroyed. Further investigation resulted in the find of fur, bones and a shattered skull of a fox. They found something else—the "pit tag"—a grain-sized microchip placed under the foxes' skin. A scan of the pit tag identified the fox—Number 72816.

The skull was sent to Dr. Winston Vickers, a wildlife veterinarian who frequently works on Catalina, who took X rays. Bullet fragments were found peppering the inside of her skull. Number 72816—a Federally Endangered and protected animal—had been shot.

The mystery of its disappearance was solved, but many disturbing questions remain.

Young Eagles Take Flight

Earlier this year, 13 students from the Avalon Schools received the thrill of a lifetime when they were whisked away into the wild blue yonder to get a new perspective of their Island home.

It was all part of a project by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), an international organization with more than 170,000 members. The EAA developed the Young Eagles program as a way to welcome young people into the world of aviation.

On January 20th, the EAA and the Catalina Island Conservancy offered a baker's dozen of students a ride. But, it wasn't as easy as climbing into a plane. The students attended ground school discovering topics like "yaw, pitch, roll," along with the many parts of an airplane that allow it to stay aloft.

The students also learned the importance of how aircraft are used in conservation. The plane they were to fly in that day, owned by Conservancy Volunteer Pilot Mike Sheehan, is the one used by Conservancy biologists to monitor the Catalina Island fox from the air.

During their follow-up discussion, the students gave some useful feedback so that future Young Eagles programs can be even more beneficial to participants. This small group of students will become ambassadors for the future of the Young Eagles program on Catalina.

Thanks to representatives from the local chapter of EAA, Wes Blasjo, Loretta Lively, Austin Jones and Friend Deming who helped put the program together.

If you would like to help the Conservancy fund its ongoing programs to help protect and restore Catalina Island's wildlife and wildlands, or to join the Conservancy, please call (310) 510-2595 ext. 114. For email Updates and News about fox recovery and other important conservation efforts taking place on Catalina Island, sign up for *Conservancy Update ONLINE* at our website, www.catalinaconservancy.org.



Avalon school youth, representatives of the Experimental Aircraft Association, and Volunteer Pilot Mike Sheehan (second from left in back) prepare to take to the “wild blue yonder” above the Island.

PHOTO BY CARLOS DE LA ROSA

Your Ticket to the Wild... JEEP® ECO-TOUR *Exploring the Island Since 1983!*

Discover the island paradise of Santa Catalina in an open-air vehicle. Your **Catalina Island Conservancy Naturalist Guide** will escort you through rugged landscapes and to breathtaking coves along the **route you choose**. Experience Southern California as few ever will, and learn why scientists and naturalists alike consider Santa Catalina Island to be an ecological treasure.

Tours for up to six people:

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To schedule a tour, call: (310) 510-2595, ext. 114, or visit the Catalina Island Conservancy office at 125 Clarissa in Avalon.

You can become a member today and get discounts on Jeep® Eco-Tours and free admission all year long to the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden for you and your family! See page 11 for details.



Relax, Renew... Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden

Stroll through the Garden's lush **37 acres** and magnificent memorial, built in 1933, with its **spectacular view of Avalon Bay**. Drink in sweet scents and enjoy the colorful blooms of myriad plants, including **island natives** and some that grow only on Catalina—including the rare Catalina mahogany.

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 7 days a week, year-round

Admission

- *Individual*—Adult, \$5, Children under 12 free
- *Seniors (55 years and up)*—\$3
- *Group*—Call to schedule tours: (310) 510-0954
- *Adventurer Members*—Free

The Garden is located 1 3/4 miles from the shore on Avalon Canyon Road.

Laura Stein Pioneered Conservancy's Volunteer Program

Laura Stein grew up in the San Fernando Valley with her parents Pat and Milt and her three sisters, Mary, Diane and Alice. Her father, made sure his family would come to Catalina every year for week-long vacations in a rented cottage.

Laura had a degree from UCLA in anthropology, and worked at Cal State Long Beach. Her schedule permitted her to spend long weekends on the Island with her young son, Matt. In early 1992 Laura accepted a position as the Conservancy's first Coordinator of Volunteer and Membership Services—a department she built from the ground up.

She worked closely with local and mainland volunteers, and coordinated with the Conservancy's support groups in organizing a wide variety of special events and activities.

"Laura loved her volunteers and spent a lot of time working after hours to make sure the department was running smoothly," remembers her sister, Mary. "Today, many Conservancy volunteers who vividly remember Laura continue to be inspired by her enthusiasm and energy."



Laura Stein with her son, Matt, and husband, Steve.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY STEIN



Dedicated on June 12, 1994 to the memory of Laura Stein. The provision of this campground was her vision and legacy for those who volunteer to help preserve this land in its natural state.

PHOTO BY BOB RHEIN

She shaped the Volunteer Department into a vital part of the Conservancy and set the foundation for her successors to build on. Laura lost her life in a tragic vehicle accident on the Island on May 27, 1993. The Laura Stein Volunteer Camp on a peaceful bluff looking out over an expansive sea is a lasting tribute to her memory.

A 1993 issue of the *Conservancy Times* eulogized her with these words:

Laura loved Catalina Island and believed in the goals and commitments of the Catalina Island Conservancy. She helped instill this love in others. Laura was a devoted mother; a loyal and dedicated employee – loved by those who knew her – she was our friend.

As a postscript for this story, Laura's son Matt graduated from Chapman University in 2005 and works in Orange County with a financial planning firm. He is engaged to be married in July 2007.

Since 1990, some 2,140 Conservancy volunteers have contributed 210,000 hours—the equivalent of 26,000 days of work—or six full-time employees putting in 16 years of service.

The Catalina Island Conservancy could not accomplish its mission without the many volunteers who generously give of their time and talents. To help support the Conservancy volunteer programs, or to become a volunteer yourself, please call (310) 510-2528 ext. 109, or visit our website at www.catalinaconservancy.org.

Conservancy Welcomes New Board Member

George Pla, President and CEO of Cordoba Corporation, is the Conservancy's newest Board Member.

He founded Cordoba Corporation in 1983 as an urban planning firm. It is now one of the top civil engineering and construction management firms in the nation. Cordoba is currently ranked by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the Top Ten Service Providers in California and one of the Top 50 High-Tech companies in the country.

George is a member of the Board of Regents of Loyola Marymount University, and is a Presidential Associate at the University of Southern California and co-founder of the university's Mexican-American Alumni Association. He also is the Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee for Western States for the American Heart Association, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Science Center Foundation.

He holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from California State University at Los Angeles and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

His wife, Gail and their two grown children love hiking on Catalina and have visited the Island many times over the years.



George Pla

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORDOBA CORPORATION

AmeriCorps Returns to Catalina



Matthew Sutton (center) with AmeriCorps*NCCC volunteers at the 2007 Avalon Underwater Harbor Cleanup

PHOTO BY ALLYSON AUGER

In the summer of 2005, the Conservancy lost one of the mainstays of its volunteer conservation efforts as AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) was diverted to the Gulf States devastated by Hurricane Katrina. AmeriCorps*NCCC continues to work in that region today. However, this year, two teams were able to join with the Conservancy to renew what has been a wonderful partnership.

AmeriCorps*NCCC is a full-time volunteer program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. After a year of service, each volunteer receives an education award of \$4,725 to pay for tuition or to pay back student loans.

Since 2001, AmeriCorps*NCCC volunteer teams working with Conservancy staff have built fence enclosures, constructed pitfall traps for sampling small mammals and reptiles, worked on construction projects, cleared miles of brush, and removed tons of invasive plants. One group even planted more than 30,000 acorns as part of a study on Catalina's oak woodlands.

"If you want to put a dollar figure on the support AmeriCorps*NCCC gives to the Conservancy, their work hours this year alone are worth almost \$41,000 according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics," said Matthew Sutton, the Conservancy's Volunteer Coordinator. "The real value of these volunteers that diligently contribute their time far exceeds what we can quantify."

Conservancy's Education Program Faces New Challenges

By Bob Rhein

From the first Visitors' Guide to promoting alternative fuels, education programs have kept in step with the times.

The Conservancy's Education Program has evolved over time as the result of the hard work and generosity of scores of staff, volunteers, individual donors, foundations and other grantors too numerous to mention here. On behalf of the Conservancy, we salute all of these individuals for bringing us to this point.

The first decade of the Conservancy was one of education—basically for the Conservancy staff. During the 1970s, the last vestiges of ranching activities were removed from Middle Ranch. Now it was a matter of learning to share the natural beauty of the Island with the public.

In 1982, the organization published a "Visitors' Guide" and in 1983, the Conservancy offered tours that gave visitors a primer on the Island's interior as a treasured natural area.

On June 1, 1983, the Offield Family Foundation granted the Conservancy \$50,000 toward the construction of a new Natural History Center at the Airport in the Sky. The location seemed ideal. Just the year before, more than 136,000 visitors made the Airport their destination during their visit to Catalina.

By 1986, just across El Rancho Escondido Road from the Airport, a nature trail to a 2,000-year-old Tongva soapstone quarry was constructed so that the public could get an up-close archeological look at the Island's Native American history.



Nancy Grossman, who designed and supervised production of the Conservancy's 40-foot tile map of Catalina, directs Rick Beirold, who set the tile in the map located at the Nature Center at the Airport in the Sky. The map, a six-year project, was completed in 1989. Veteran boater Doug Bombard was content expert for the project. He walked around the entire perimeter of the map during planning stages suggesting, "You need a rock over there," or "This cove over here is deeper."



Jeep® Eco-Tours, dating back to 1983, provide visitors to the Interior with a "seat-of-the-pants" interpretive experience. Here, driver Fred Freeman makes the descent into the Valley of the Moon.

PHOTO BY BOB RHEIN

The Conservancy's Education Department was formed in 1984, and throughout the 1980s a naturalist served as both a conservation and education interpreter. It wasn't until 1989 that a full-time educator was hired to oversee the department.

The first Jeep® Eco-Tours were introduced in 1994 in response to the public's growing interest in ecology and as a reflection of the Conservancy's expanding emphasis on education.

Over the next decade, the Conservancy worked closely with the Avalon School, supplying curriculum and field trips for resident students. In 2004, the Rose Ellen Gardner Internship Fund was established for local students to learn about careers in conservation land management.

Reaching Out to a Broader "Island" Community

Also in 2004, educational efforts were boosted with a \$1.5-million grant from The Annenberg Foundation's Blue Planet Initiative. The grant allowed the Conservancy's education programs to add outreach to the broad public—including those on the mainland — through the addition of a Communications Department. Consequently, nearly seven million people worldwide learned about the Conservancy's highly successful Catalina Island Fox Recovery Program and the relocation of 100 of the Island's bison to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

During that year the first formal Conservation Council convened to discuss ecological and recreational management issues for the Island's windward beaches. Recommendations resulting from the Windward Beaches Working Group composed of residents, Conservancy staff, and Board Members were submitted to the Board of Directors and are currently being implemented. Another Conservancy Council on pets and wildlife on the Island is next on the agenda.

The *Isla Earth* radio series debuted in 2006 and continues to be enjoyed by five million people each week, "because," as each show recalls, "Earth is an Island."

In April 2006, the Conservancy's second Nature Center, this one at Avalon Canyon, was opened. The facility occupies the site of the former Interpretive Center, built by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation. The Conservancy partnered with the County in the creation of the new Nature Center. Since its reopening it has welcomed more than 16,000 visitors.

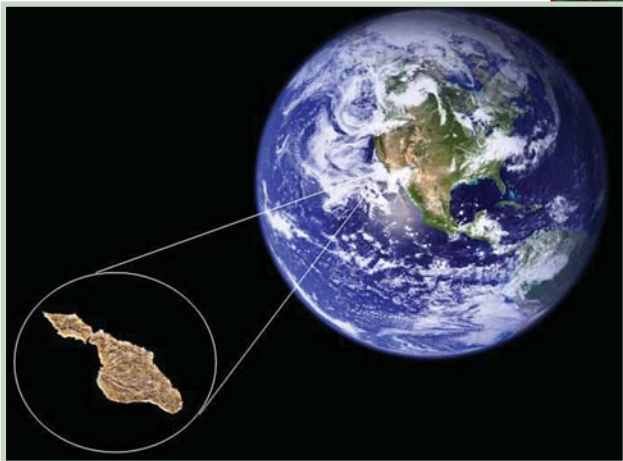
During 2007 pocket field guides to Catalina's birds, wildlife and plants are being produced. A comprehensive Naturalist Training program is also under way to train staff and volunteers who interface with the public. And an Interpretive Master Plan for Catalina's natural and cultural resources, produced in conjunction with other Island stakeholders, will be completed.

Future Think

What will the Conservancy's educational programs look like in the next 35 years? Eco-literacy is the answer. The world is becoming a smaller place where even local issues of conservation and sustainability take on global implications.

That's why in late 2006, the Conservancy began a comprehensive evaluation of its environmental education and interpretation programs. As a result, content over the next several years will target issues most important to protecting and restoring Catalina's wildlands, including sustainability, the control and eradication of invasive plants and in parallel, the protection of rare and endangered species; and the threats posed to wildlife by humans and pets.

"Ultimately, the goal of the Conservancy is to help develop an eco-literate and sustainable community," said Dr. Carlos de la Rosa, Chief Conservation and Education Officer. "This is key to protecting and restoring the Island for this generation and in sustaining Catalina's wildlands for generations yet to come." 



The Isla Earth radio series, a production of the Catalina Island Conservancy, explores environmental issues of local, national, and global importance. It debuted in January 2006 and is enjoyed by five million people each week.



Promoting ecoliteracy and the practice of sustainability are among the challenges facing the Conservancy's Education and Conservation Departments in the years to come. Here, Denise Knapp, Senior Plant Ecologist discusses the importance of Catalina's native plants to the Island's ecosystem with Earth Day visitors.

PHOTO BY BOB RHEIN

Protecting the Earth, Air and Water: Conservancy Supporters Get Involved



Divers enter the water at the 26th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup.

PHOTO BY BOB RHEIN

26th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup

On February 24th, 521 SCUBA divers from all across the Southland took part in the 26th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup, sponsored by the Catalina Conservancy Divers, one of the four support groups of the Catalina Island Conservancy.

An estimated 7,700 pounds of trash including antiques, oddities and other surprises were hauled out of the harbor, about 10 percent more than last year.

All proceeds support the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber used to aid victims of diving accidents, involving decompression sickness (the “bends”) and air embolism; and Conservancy programs to protect and educate about Catalina’s ocean resources.

Free Screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*

On February 13th, the Conservancy hosted a free screening in Avalon of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the Academy Award-winning documentary by former Vice President Al Gore. The screening attracted more than 400 residents, and many stayed for a lively discussion afterward.

In the film, Gore makes a case for “agreement among the world’s experts” that unnatural climate change is occurring on a global scale and is being caused by human activity. Ann Muscat, Conservancy President and CEO, said that while global climate change is not an issue the Conservancy specializes in, hosting forums for discussion of some of today’s most broadly discussed environmental issues is a role that the Conservancy can fill on Catalina.



Movigoers browse Conservancy ecological information tables before viewing *An Inconvenient Truth*.

PHOTO BY BOB RHEIN

Ann also thanked the Santa Catalina Island Company for donating the Casino’s movie theater and theater staff for the evening, and all the vendors who contributed to the sustainable gift bags for the first 50 people in attendance.

Leadership Circle New Members

Contribute a minimum of \$2,500 annually, or at least \$5,000 for a special event such as the Conservancy Ball, and join the ranks of the Leadership Circle. Members have opportunities to meet with nationally renowned scientists, learn firsthand about Catalina conservation projects, attend special events, and discuss Conservancy leadership issues with Conservancy Board and Executive Staff Officers.

New Leadership Circle Members: September 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007

John and Donna Crean	Mike and Antonia Massie
Dorn and Victoria Dean	Joe Pinsonneault
Phil and Susan Hagenah	Pat Pratt
Steve and Virginia Layton	Richard Seaver
Bob and Mary Longpre	Basil and Judith Witt

For information on joining Leadership Circle, please call Jackie McDougall at (562) 437-8555 ext. 228, or Chuck Wright at ext. 225.

Welcome New Conservancy Members

As a part of the Conservancy family, our members know their ongoing support is a vital factor in helping to restore and protect the magnificent wildlands and beautiful shorelines of Catalina. Members also reap many benefits at each level of membership.

Not a member? Please visit the membership page at www.catalinaconservancy.org, or call the office at (310) 510-2595 ext. 114.

New Members: September 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007

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Claire Goddard and Ted Lavino	John and Katie Poxson	Mark and Gabriela Ziolkowski

Thanks to Our Donors

September 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007

For a complete list of Conservancy donors of \$100 or more, please visit www.catalinaconservancy.org/donations/donorRecognition.cfm.

The Conservancy thanks all of its supporters who make it possible to continue to keep Catalina wild, many of whom are listed in this issue of *Conservancy Times*. Due to space limitations, donors of \$500 and above appear here:

\$100,000 and Above

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Ada Blanche W. Schreiner Living Trust
The Capital Group Companies
The Donald Slavik Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

James and Joyce Brown
The K.T. and E.L. Norris Foundation
Paxson H. and Susan Offield
Simple Green - Bruce and Judi FaBrizio
The Boone Foundation
Jack Silverman and Clara Aparicio
John and Nancy Celick
Beecher Carlson Risk and Insurance Services
Blanny Hagenah
ABC Barge & Equipment, Inc.
Beyster Family Foundation Fund
C.M. and Edna Peyton Cotton Foundation
Catalina Classic Cruises, Inc.
John and Donna Crean
Tom and Jane Fetter
Nick and Leslie Frazee
Carl and Francyne Lambert
James and Helen Rosburg

\$5,000 - \$9,999

James and Misdee Miller
Doug and Judy Levi
Basil and Judith Witt
Dorn and Victoria Dean
Joe and Chalya Castagna
Steve and Pat Chazen
John and Julie Dixon
Don and Kathi Koll
Patrick and Mari McAlister
Jim and Sally McClure
Roy Rose
Sycuan Casino
Trader Joe's
Pete Woolson

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Boyd Cargill
Jordahl Construction
Roger and Sarah Chrisman
Pat Pratt
Cal Parsons
Buoys & Gulls, Inc.
Terry Brown
Steven and Deborah Ginder
Will and Tricia Hagenah
Michael and Gloria Sullivan
John and Christie Glanville
Bob and Mary Longpre
Arthur and Ruth DeFever
Terry and Paulette Chapman
Howard and Jane Wright
Olin and Ann Barrett
Beaumont Marine Consulting
Phil and Susan Hagenah
Todd and Kathy Hallenbeck
Stephen and Ann Hinchliffe
Steve and Virginia Layton
Ruth Lewis
Willis and Judith Longyear
Mike and Antonia Massie
Tony and Claire Michaels
Joe Pinsonneault
Steve and Ronna Schreiner
Jim and Carmelette Simonds
Standard Homeopathic Company
Mrs. Richard Steele
Ross and Kristi Turner
Greg and Sharon Wohl

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Randy and K.C. Boelsems
Arlyne Ingold
Catalina Island Yacht Club
Mark and Anne Wallace
Jim and Debbie Tondelli
Charlie Negus
Noble and Peggy Frye
Brian and Gwynn Thomas
Mike Kilbride
Bill and Cheryl Melville
Pat and Janet O'Leary
Jim and Janet Eddy
Douglas K. Smith Marine Insurance
Jim and Britt-Marie Flynn
Don and Ann Gumpertz
Myron and Andrea Lyon
Craig and Jackie Meyer
Jeff and Betty Sue Sherman
Ron and Barbara Doust
Dean and Laurie Hill
Mike and Linda Rivkin
Wetspot Rentals
Philo Smith and Diane Jordan-Smith
John and Barbara Anglin
Leslie Baer
Balboa Boat Rentals
Bill and Judy Banning
Jeanne Beesley and Andrew Tao
Steven and Alice Blair
Lee and Kathy Brown
Tobin Campbell
Marian Cormie
David Cort and Carol Armitage
Jack and Kingsley Croul
Carlos de la Rosa and Claudia Nocke-de la Rosa
George and Debra Dembow
Mel Dinkel
Roy and Patty Disney
Nancy Dubois
Ron and Maira Dulin
Frank and Joan Dwinnell
Jean Evans
John and Vikki Franck
James Freedman
G.T. and Shannon Frost
Eric and Sene Gray
H.S. Yacht Sales
Dick and Lula Hatfield
Charles and Patty Hathaway
Steve and Stephanie Hathaway

Thomas and Dalena Hathaway
 Charles and Katharine Hope
 E. Woodrow and Coley Hunt
 Morrie and Carol Kirk
 J.K. and Robin Leason
 Jay and Penny Lusche
 Peter and Jackie McDougall
 William and Beverlee McNally
 Riley and Annette Mixson
 William and Kathleen Mudd
 Richard and Lisa Mulvania
 Douglas and Anna Myles
 James Negele
 Richard and Geri Peckham
 Sigi Pepper
 George and Gail Pla
 Frank and Joann Randall
 David and Kathleen Renton
 Ryan Family Charitable Foundation
 Art and Kathy Salerno
 Steve and Laura Sharpe
 Sandra Smelik and Larry Manzer
 Richard and Harriet Squire
 Philip and Andra Stein
 Dan and Claire Stuart
 Bud Suiter
 The Seaver Institute
 Robert and Janet Thompson
 Tom and Wendy Trujillo
 Tamara Unvert
 Bob Voit
 John and Judy Watt
 John and Ginger Weston
 Tod and Linda White

\$500 - \$999

Goldie Otters Trust
 Rick and Wendy Harp
 Kona Kai Marina
 Jerome and Joyce Mack
 Scuba.com
 Nancy Ringman
 Las Caballeras
 Bill and Carolyn Doherty
 Balboa Yacht Club
 Blue Water Cruising Club
 Del Rey Yacht Club
 Dave and Rose Ellen Gardner
 Greg and Donna Hood
 Steven and Suzanne Peterman
 Chuck Liddell

William and Shelby Conti
 Richard and Patricia Amtower
 Art, Caps N' Designs
 Russell and JoAnn Behrens
 Gregg and Madson Buchbinder
 James and Mary Buckingham
 Edmond Chang
 James and Diane Connelly
 John Curci
 Jean Devirian
 Wilson and Eleanor Edwards
 Bob and Judy Fisher
 Winston and Carlita Fuller
 John Ganahl
 Whitney and Sue Ganz
 Kurt and Dara Golden
 Shel and Ellen Greenhill
 William and Nancy Hammond
 Larry and Carole Harris
 Mark and Susan Hillgren
 Robert and Brigitte Jennison
 Pamela Johnson and Keith Dornbush
 The Kleiner Cohen Foundation
 Peter and Edith LaDow
 Thomas and Karen Linden
 Tonci Martinic
 Donna Matson
 James and Ellen Moxham
 Otten Foundation
 Steve Pillman and Tori Taki
 Barbara Poledouris
 Jonathan Reilly
 Susan Henze Rogers
 Pete Savage
 Edward and Helen Shanbrom
 Richard Smith and Patricia Frobes
 Mike Trujillo
 Lewis and Pat Whitney
 Karen Winnett
 Stewart and Emily Wright
 Ronald Zacky



On March 23, 1994, the Conservancy purchased the Garden House Inn (formerly the Meade House) at 125 Clarissa Avenue in Avalon. According to the Conservancy Times: "In addition to providing much-needed office space that will finally allow the departments located in Avalon to all be together, this actions sends a clear signal to everyone that our organization—as a cultural and scientific institution—is a highly valued one, and that despite challenging economic times, it is firm in the commitment to Catalina Island and its future." The next time you are in Avalon, please stop in, say hello, get your hiking or biking permits, and browse our newly remodeled Explore Store.

35 Years of the Catalina Island Conservancy (continued from page 3)

Two Harbors remaining undeveloped was still a novelty.

Catalina native and President Emeritus of the Conservancy Rose Ellen Gardner recalls that this was a time when access to the Island's interior was expanded. "This was always the intention of the Wrigley Family. The Conservancy made it possible for this plan to go forth."

However, as soon as it got started, the Conservancy lost its champion. On April 12, 1977, Philip K. Wrigley passed away. His wife, Helen, died two months later. These were sad times for the Conservancy, as the Wrigleys were more than friends and benefactors; they conceived the organization, guided its formation and nurtured its development.



Like the Island, the Conservancy changed and evolved. Native plants were favored over non-natives; the effects of feral animals were assessed with scientific studies. The pressures of feral animals on the wildlands the Conservancy had vowed to

protect were recognized and dealt with for the long-term good of the Island and future generations who would enjoy it.

In 1980, the Conservancy welcomed David Garcelon, founder of the Institute for Wildlife Studies, to access Conservancy-stewarded lands as his group reintroduced bald eagles following their disappearance due to high levels of DDT in the San Pedro Channel.

To create a window into the Island's natural history, enriching the experience of the Interior, the Conservancy built a Nature Center at the Airport in the Sky. A native plant nursery was built in Middle Ranch to supplement Island natives then grown at the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Gardens.

Groups that included the Catalina Marineros (boaters), Catalina Caballeros (equestrians), Catalina Flyers (pilots) and the Conservancy Divers, were formed later to support the Conservancy's work protecting and restoring Catalina's wildlands.

The Marineros were instrumental in sponsoring the monument signs and markers at the Summit and on the West End indicating when visitors enter Conservancy property. Ironwood groves were adopted by the San Diego and Long Beach yacht clubs and by prominent citizens such as Frank Blair, the George Boone family, the James H. Ackerman family, the Elliott family in addition to Nestle, USA, Inc. In 1990 the Avalon Lion's Club built the beautiful gazebo at the Summit. Two years later, they started on a six-year plan to develop the Haypress area, and in 1992 Avalon residents and long-time Conservancy supporters Roy Rose and his family adopted the Summit Vista area for restoration into a native plant garden.

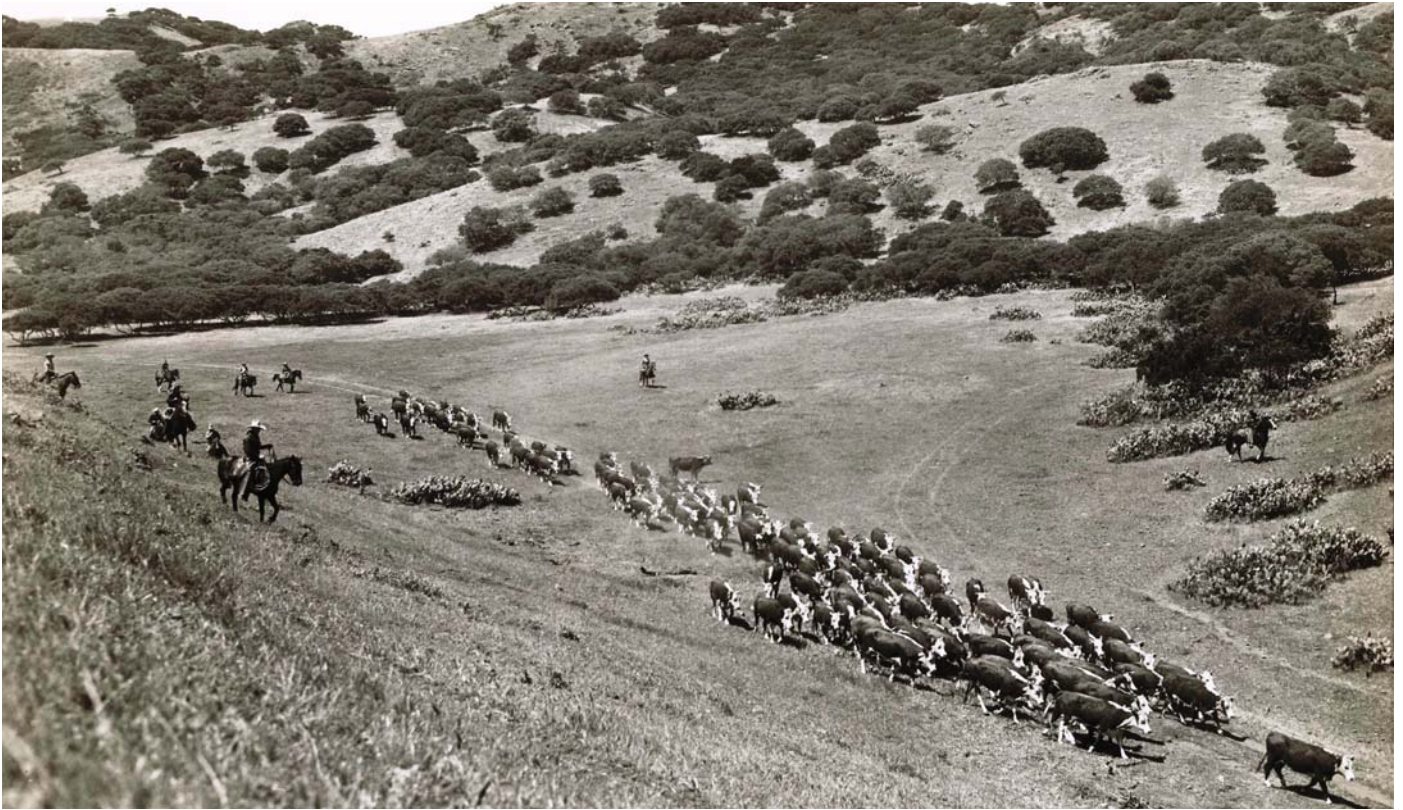


The Conservancy picked up steam in the 1990s. The Conservancy's volunteer program was put into gear in 1993 by Laura Stein. A short time later, Laura lost her life in a tragic vehicle accident. The Laura Stein Volunteer Camp that hosts hundreds of volunteers each year is an enduring monument to her work.



On March 20, 1989, 50 members of the San Diego Yacht Club planted more than 30 trees including the rare Catalina mahogany, the Catalina cherry, the Island oak, and Catalina ironwood. Pictured in the foreground are Bob Sharp, Chair of the SDYC Marineros Steering Committee (left) and Doug Propst, Conservancy President.

PHOTO BY DAVE NEWMAN



Prior to 1972, the Island was used to raise cattle. Cattle drives like this one, with cowboys on horseback in full Western regalia, were common occurrences.

The Offield Family Foundation provided the Conservancy the largest cash contribution to date—\$1 million—to establish the Conservancy's Catalina Island Ecological Restoration Program by beginning a program to remove feral animals from the Island.

Doug Propst announced that his retirement would become official in the fall of 1994. Replacing him was Chuck Olsen.

In 1994, the Conservancy moved from its compact office quarters on Metropole to the refurbished three-story building at 125 Clarissa that it occupies today. Also in 1994, James H. Ackerman funded a 6,100-square-foot addition to the Native Plant Nursery in Middle Ranch. In that year, the Conservancy's unique Jeep® Eco-Tours were initiated in response to the public's growing interest in ecology and the Conservancy's emphasis on adding richness to a Catalina visit through interpretation.

The worst storm to hit the Island in 50 years pummeled its lands for more than a week in 1995. The storm, dumping 20 inches of rain and with winds up to 80 miles per hour, destroyed or seriously damaged roadways in Middle Ranch and along the Airport Road. Damage estimates were in excess of \$750,000. Conservancy members, the Marineros and other friends of the Island made generous cash donations for storm recovery that were matched by the Offield Family Foundation.



Rose Ellen Gardner took over the Conservancy reins in 1996, the same year the Wrigley Memorial Garden Foundation merged with the Conservancy.

That same year, technology came to the Conservancy in the form of a global positioning system. For the first time, 240 miles of roads and trails were accurately mapped. The GPS also made it possible to

determine accurate heights of hills and mountains. Today, the Conservancy's Geographical Information System (GIS) database holds multiple layers of information on the locations of rare and endangered species and invasive plants as well as soil and archaeological surveys, just to name a few.

Tragedy struck in 1999 when a virulent strain of canine distemper all but wiped out the population of Catalina Island fox. Only about 100 of the Island's estimated 1,300 foxes survived. The Conservancy and its partner, the Institute for Wildlife Studies, designed a captive breeding program that by 2004 had restored the fox population to more than 400. Today, more than 500 fox roam the Island under constant monitoring by Conservancy wildlife biologists.

In 2003, Dr. Ann M. Muscat became President and CEO after Rose Ellen Gardner

continued on page 16

A Resource for All (continued from page 15)



In 1990, using lumber purchased by the Conservancy, members of the Avalon Lions Club built the gazebo structure on the summit of Stage Road. Pictured from left are: Hugh McIntosh, Paul McIlroy, Jack Goslin and Rick Harp. Bill Engel and Mike Griffin, not shown, also helped.

PHOTO BY DOUG PROPST

retired with 29 years of service to the Conservancy. Muscat described the Conservancy as at a critical juncture. "With more than 30 years of outstanding work in conservation, restoration and education to its credit, the Catalina Island Conservancy is at that juncture. We are looking ahead to discover how we may share the results of our work with national and global communities," she wrote in the Spring 2004 issue of the *Conservancy Times*.

Today, the Conservancy continues to protect and restore the Island's rare habitats to a healthy, functioning ecosystem. The removal of invasive plants and some of the Island's non-native animals allowed the remarkable recovery of the Island's beautiful native plant communities, now some of the rarest in

Southern California and the world. These include chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodlands. This recovery also heralded the "rediscovery" of Catalina Grass, thought for nearly a century to be extinct.



In addition to saving the Island fox from the brink of extinction, the Conservancy continues to protect and restore the habitat that supports the Island's recovering population of American bald eagles. The Conservancy congratulates the Institute for Wildlife Studies for hatching bald eaglets in 2007 without the aid of artificial incubation.

There are now two Nature Centers on the Island; at the Airport and the new Nature Center at Avalon Canyon to enhance

understanding of Catalina's unique natural resources. The succulent plant collection at the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden has recently been revitalized.

Conservancy school programs have touched countless young people both on and off the Island, and reached millions of visitors with improved Catalina maps and guides.

The *Isla Earth* Radio Series, launched in 2006, is now heard on more than 40 radio stations, bringing conservation messages and Catalina to millions of listeners nationwide.

The Conservancy has also provided leadership and support to the Island community and Avalon's 2020 Vision

of becoming "a model ecological town," incorporating ecological, economical and sustainable practices into its day-to-day operation.

And, because of the Conservancy's successful financial management, a full 100 percent of contributions, donations and gifts go to funding Conservancy programs in conservation, education and recreation. Few non-profit organizations are able to achieve this.

What will the next 35 years hold?

"We are in the process of collaborating with stakeholders to craft that vision now," Muscat said. "With the help of our dedicated members and other supporters, volunteers and staff, the future looks very promising." 

Calendar

For more information on any Calendar item, including locations and times, visit www.catalinaconservancy.org, or contact the Conservancy's Education office at (310) 510-0954.

Evening Nature Programs

Second Wednesday of each month (through August)

Free Community Program

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Nature Center at Avalon Canyon

1202 Avalon Canyon Road

The mysteries of nature come alive at our monthly evening nature programs. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the stories behind the science, and what makes conservation on this Island an adventure!

12th Annual Catalina Island Conservancy Ball

Saturday April 14, 2007

Casino Ballroom, Avalon

For more information on the 2007 Conservancy Ball hosted by the San Diego Yacht Club, visit www.catalinaconservancy.org.



Catalina Island Conservancy Earth Day Celebration and Eco Fair Free Community Program

Saturday, April 21, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wrigley Memorial & Botanical Garden

Join the Conservancy in celebrating Earth Day at the beautiful Wrigley Memorial & Botanical Garden. Entry into the Garden is free on Earth Day. An Eco Fair will feature demonstrations, interactive displays, informational tables and potluck fare.



The HIKE: Taking the Road Less Traveled

May, 5, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Steep/Difficult

\$30.00 Members \$35.00 Non Members

This hike will provide opportunities to witness some of the most remote areas of the West End of the Island. Come prepared for a long day of travel. Bring plenty of water. Reservations must be made by April 27. Route will be confirmed at registration.

Volunteer Vacations

May 14 to May 19, 2007 • May 28 to June 2, 2007

June 11 to June 16, 2007 • June 25 to June 30, 2007

Join us for a week of volunteering on a variety of conservation projects. Enjoy your stay at our volunteer camp situated within breathtaking environs. Give us a little sweat of the brow and we'll reward you with three-course meals prepared by a consortium of local restaurants and volunteers.

For recorded information, call (310) 510-2595 ext.122

Second Annual Catalina Hoedown

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, 2007

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Avalon Canyon

Wild West fun for the whole family.

Featuring the popular "Harvey Wallbanger," the world's most educated buffalo, along with expert gun spinners, roping artists, and cowboy stunt shows. Western-themed games for kids will abound, as will be plenty of food and beverages.



For recorded information, call (310) 510-2595 ext.122.

The HIKE: Riparian Rhapsody

June 2, 2007

Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

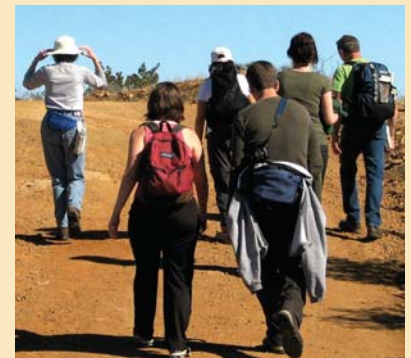
Difficult

\$30.00 Members

\$35.00 Non Members

Route: Loop Road-Ben Weston-Barracks-Loop Road. Come and discover the beauty of a recovering riparian corridor and experience this lush streamside trail to one of the most secluded beaches on Catalina.

Reservations must be made by May 25th. Space is limited, so please call the Education Office to reserve your spot at 310-510-0954.



The HIKE: Bringing the Biosphere Home

July 7, 2007

Difficult

\$30.00 Members \$35.00 Non Members

Route: Emerald Bay – Parsons Landing

We will practice journaling as a form of personal translation of the world into a meaningful representation of the self.

Reservations must be made by June 29. Space is limited, so please call the Education Office to reserve your spot at 310-510-0954.

The HIKE: The Majestic Oak

August 4, 2007

Difficult

\$30.00 Members \$35.00 Non Members

Route: KBRT Road-Bulrush-Middle Ranch

Beginning along a ridge of sage and sun we will make our way descending into Bulrush Canyon and the deep shade of its mature oak trees. Reservations must be made by July 27th. Space is limited, so please call the Education Office to reserve your spot at 310-510-0954.

Celebrate! Conservancy Style

Text and photos by Bob Rhein

Venues provide scenic locations while helping conserve Catalina's wildlands

If you're reading this now, chances are you consider Catalina a very special place. Maybe there is a special event in your future like a wedding, anniversary, commitment ceremony, religious confirmation or a company picnic? Events such as these can now be celebrated at 10 spectacular locations on Catalina stewarded by the Catalina Island Conservancy.

Weddings and receptions have been held for years at the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden—maybe even yours. This year, the Conservancy looked at nine other locations to offer officially for such special occasions. Aside from these events benefiting from the inherent beauty of Catalina's wildlands, they'll also be helping to protect the Island's most scenic places for today and tomorrow.

Starting nearest to Avalon, the following locations are available:

Wrigley Memorial & Botanical Garden

Already popular for weddings and receptions, this 37-acre garden is an idyllic setting for a special event. Guests enjoy Catalina endemic and native plants, as well as otherworldly succulents as they stroll through the serene garden. The Memorial's 80-foot tower provides a commanding view of Avalon Canyon and the bay. 1.6 miles from Avalon

Ocean Overlook at Summit Pass



The awe-inspiring San Pedro Channel view makes Summit Pass one of the most scenic locales in Southern California. On most days, the mainland is visible, especially the Palos Verdes Peninsula,

and the San Gabriel Mountains. The journey to the Summit is an adventure in itself as you wind along the historic Stagecoach Road from Avalon.

3.2 miles from Avalon

Haypress Picnic Ground

This rustic, wonderfully scenic setting—complete with picnic tables and even a playground for the kids—is located in secluded Haypress Valley on the banks of a tranquil pond. Large enough for up to 300 guests, this area has restrooms, fresh water and barbeque stoves ready for charcoal briquettes. Haypress is ideal for company picnics or other informal occasions.

3.9 miles from Avalon

Laura Stein Cliffside Camp

This location offers breathtaking ocean vistas and dramatic views of the mainland in a rustic, camp-like setting. This charming location perched high above the San Pedro Channel features four-sleeper, platform, canvas tents, providing overnight accommodations for 30 individuals. The camp also features hot and cold running water, refrigeration and cooking facilities.

4 miles from Avalon

Black Jack Mountain Campground



Nestled among fragrant pine and eucalyptus trees, this campground delivers a dramatic backdrop for true nature lovers who enjoy a mountainous setting just 45 minutes from the sand and saltwater of Avalon. Picnic tables, fresh water and restroom facilities are available.

8.4 miles from Avalon

Ocean Overlook at Little Harbor

For sheer beauty and grandeur, this overlook is a romantic landscape that resembles a plein air painting come to life! Located on the “windward” side of the Island, you and your guests will be amazed at the deep blue-and-emerald waters, craggy cliffs, and crashing waves of Little Harbor and Shark Harbor.

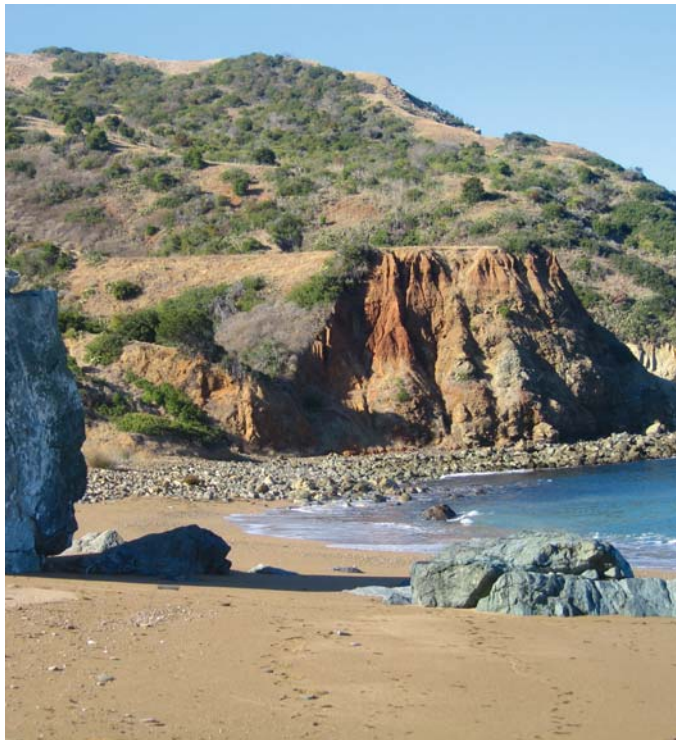
16.2 miles from Avalon

Little Harbor Beach

Little Harbor has been described as home to the most stunning vistas on Catalina. Picnic tables, palapas, fresh water and restroom facilities are a very short, flat walk from the broad beach. This location will provide a picturesque and comfortable setting for a special surfside celebration.

17.4 miles from Avalon/7 miles from Two Harbors

Parsons Landing



Located just a few miles from the far western end of the Island, Parsons Landing offers a secluded locale for a large event. The bluff overlooking the beach is easily accessible and provides a grassy area perfect for picnicking and recreational activities. Views of the mainland are dramatic, heightening the feeling of being so close, yet so far away from civilization.

7 miles from Two Harbors

Whites Landing

Whites Landing is a popular spot for boaters who favor dropping anchor over parking a car. The beach features a newly refurbished pier for drop-off by dingy. The compound includes a large dining/meeting hall for up to 100 guests, with fully equipped kitchen facilities. There's plenty of fresh water and restroom facilities.

5 miles from Avalon by water

Airport in the Sky



This unique and breathtaking venue at 1,600-feet will thrill and delight your guests with a backdrop that evokes Catalina's pioneering days of modern aviation. The rustic DC-3 Grill restaurant accommodates 60 and features a romantic wood-burning fireplace. The outside patio, with its sweeping view of the Island's rugged interior, accommodates 120. A barbeque menu from an old-fashioned outdoor BBQ pit on the patio is available. 10 miles from Avalon — Minutes by air

Those booking events in 2007 will receive a complimentary membership at the Explorer Level—a way of saying “thank you” for supporting the Conservancy's efforts to protect and restore this very special place! 

If you're interested in coming home to Catalina to celebrate a special event, you can learn more by contacting our special events coordinator at specialevents@catalinaconservancy.org. Or visit www.catalinaconservancy.org and click on “Weddings & Special Events.”

Catalina Island Shrew

On April 25, 1941, a domesticated cat on Catalina entered a house in Avalon Canyon with her latest kill. The animal in this case was special. It was the very first Catalina Island shrew (*Sorex ornatus willetti*) ever found.

Still, little is known about this elusive creature. It is a subspecies of the mainland ornate shrew (*Sorex ornatus*). Shrews look like long-nosed mice, but they aren't rodents at all; they're insectivores, related to moles and hedgehogs.

Catalina's shrew is reclusive. In all, there have been only 31 actual shrew sightings, either dead or alive, since that day in 1941. In the last round of live trappings in 2004, Biologists captured and released only 20 shrews.

Scientists have determined that shrews like low, dense vegetation conducive for nesting, foraging and protection from predators. The shrew's predators on the Island include feral cats, raptors, bullfrogs, and snakes. 



Catalina Island shrew



**CATALINA ISLAND
CONSERVANCY**
35 YEARS 1972-2007

P.O. Box 2739
Avalon, California 90704
www.catalinaconservancy.org

*The mission of the Catalina Island
Conservancy is to be a responsible steward
of its lands through a balance of
conservation, education and recreation.*

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