

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Restoring the extinct-in-the-wild 'Alala to the wild

Featured Speaker: Ronald Swaisgood, Ph.D., serves San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG) as the Brown Endowed Director of Recovery Ecology. In this role, he oversees multiple species conservation programs in Southern California and around the globe. In addition he serves as the General Scientific Director of Cocha Cashu Biological Station in the Peruvian Amazon.



Ron's research programs fall into three broad categories: conservation breeding, reintroduction/translocation biology, and population ecology/adaptive management. Examples of conservation breeding programs include those for giant pandas, Pacific pocket mice, Hawaiian forest birds, San Clemente loggerhead shrikes, and mountain yellow-legged frogs, all integrated with ongoing reintroduction programs. He supervises several additional reintroduction/translocation programs, with species such as kangaroo rats, California condors, black rhinoceros, Tasmanian devils, as well as the restoration of ground squirrels as ecosystem engineers to help recover burrowing owl populations. Other programs are geared toward understanding the ecological requirements for species persistence and monitoring the impacts of management actions: examples include Andean bears, polar bears, giant pandas, California least terns, and western snowy plovers. All of these projects involve extensive collaboration and partnerships.

Ron earned his a doctorate in Animal Behavior from University of California, Davis. He is actively involved in connecting society to conservation and science, engages in extensive training, outreach, and professional service, and has served as an adjunct professor at three universities. He is active on several international conservation committees, chairs the IUCN's Giant Panda Expert Team, and is past-chair of the Animal Behavior Society's Conservation Committee. As an advocate for reconnecting society to nature, he has served on committees for the Children & Nature Network and San Diego Children & Nature Collaborative.



Program: The road to recovery is a long road, especially when you start with just 22 individuals. Many would give up facing such a daunting challenge, but SDZG does not give up on species. Witness the recovery of the California condor. Today, we are on the same recovery path for another iconic species, the 'Alalā, or Hawaiian crow. Once widespread and well-known on the Big Island, the 'Alalā entered the extinction vortex a few decades ago, following in the footsteps of the many unfortunate native Hawaiian bird species which have gone extinct. Now, SDZG has taken a leadership role in bringing this species back from the brink of

extinction. Ron will share the story of the challenges, pitfalls, and successes of this developing program. Beginning with a low of just 22 birds, these efforts have established a healthy and growing captive population that now number more than 140 birds. Late last year SDZG started the reintroduction program by releasing 11 birds. Even after years of careful planning, this initial reintroduction came up short, losing three birds (2 to a native predator) in a short time period. Since then, the team has regrouped and released another 11 birds, which have been fairing well (so far). Ron will describe the intensive pre-release training program used to condition birds for life in the wild and the equally intensive post-release support and monitoring.

Dinner is at the Hunte Pavilion
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Thursday, February 8, 2018

5:45-6:15 pm	Check-in at the main entrance. Check-in will close promptly at 6:15.
6:00-6:30 pm	Cocktails and Animal Ambassadors Opportunity Drawing Tickets for sale (and throughout the evening)
6:30-7:30 pm	<p>Welcome and Dinner</p> <p>Salad: Field Green Salad with seasonal garden greens, red cabbage, shredded carrot and cherry tomatoes, Ranch and House Vinaigrette</p> <p>Entrée: Grilled Breast of Chicken Oregano with roasted new potatoes, feta crema, herbed croutons, sweet peas, and fresh picked minted heirloom tomato salad</p> <p>Or: Potato Gnocchi (Veg) with roasted bell peppers, fire roasted artichoke hearts, and craft beer cheese fondue</p> <p>Dessert: New York Style Cheesecake with Seasonal Fresh Berries</p>
7:30-8:30 pm	Program: Ollie’s Minute, Mark’s Moment, and Featured Speaker, followed by the announcement of the opportunity drawing winners.



Reservation form

Deadline – January 31, 2018

All reservations, including payment, must be received by the deadline.

Reservations/payments received after the deadline will be returned. You will also be notified by email or phone that you missed the deadline. **Sorry, no phone RSVPs. No-shows are non-refundable.**

The price of \$55 for Ocelot members and \$70 for guests includes dinner and/or the program.

Ocelot Member \$55	Guest \$70	Chicken	Gnocchi (Veg)	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please include the email address for your guest(s), if you want them on our mailing list:

Dinner(s) \$ _____

Opportunity Drawing (basket) tickets (\$5 each or 5 for \$20) \$ _____

Tax-deductible donation to the Grants Program: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make checks payable to **"ZSSD Ocelots"** (Zoological Society of San Diego, Ocelots) and send with this form to:

**ZSSD Ocelots
c/o Marcia Schofield
P.O. Box 686
Solana Beach, CA 92075-0686**

PayPal Option. In order to cover fees, PayPal prices: MEMBER -- \$57, GUEST -- \$72

Use www.paypal.com with email address OcelotsByMail@yahoo.com

Then please EMAIL the above information to OcelotsByMail@yahoo.com