



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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Catalina Island Conservancy Receives Donation from Las Caballeras

AVALON – Las Caballeras, an organization of horsewomen who gather every fall for a six-day vacation with their horses on Catalina, recently presented the Catalina Island Conservancy with a \$1,400 donation for the bison, which was from contributions collected during their ride this year on Catalina.

The organization's first ride was 1995, and the annual event has grown from 26 riders to about 50 riders today. Its members have been strong supporters of the Conservancy, raising funds for the organization, participating in the Conservancy Annual Ball and hosting and participating in many other events that benefit the nonprofit organization. Along with their male counterparts, the Los Caballeros, the horsewomen make up the Conservancy's equestrian support group.

"The Catalina Caballeros are among our most enthusiastic members and supporters," said Tony Budrovich, Conservancy president and CEO. "We especially appreciate the Las Caballeras for their financial support for the Island's iconic bison population. With their help, we have been able to maintain the herd for Catalina visitors to enjoy."

Blanny Avalon Hagenah, a Conservancy boardmember and Las Caballeras president, said the riders appreciate the Conservancy's work to restore and protect the Island's wildlands.

"The riders love the bison, and they are so inspired by the Island's natural beauty that they are more than happy to donate to ensure the Conservancy can continue in its mission of protecting and restoring Catalina," she said.

About the Conservancy

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged

shoreline. It provides an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 150 miles of hiking opportunities within its road and trail system. The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and guided experiences in the Island's rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit www.catalinaconservancy.org.



Mary Stein, Las Caballeras Board of Directors, (center) was among the members of the organization who raised \$1,400 for the Catalina Island Conservancy. She is joined by Tony Budrovich, Conservancy president and CEO, and Kelly Stone, Conservancy director of facilities management. Photo by Robb Rosenfeld.