



## CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY™

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### **Catalina Island Conservancy Hosts Symposium Spotlighting Conservation and Education**

*Public joined in person and virtually for annual event*

**LONG BEACH** – (October 14, 2021) – The Catalina Island Conservancy invited the public to join for its 2021 Catalina Island Conservancy Annual Symposium on Friday, Oct. 8, at the Aquarium of Pacific in Long Beach.

The one-day mini-symposium featured presentations on Catalina research focusing on conservation and education programs on the Island. The event offered a chance to see short presentations by Conservancy biologists, educators and research partners, with an opportunity for an interactive question and answer segment after each 20-minute lecture.

The hybrid event brought together the convenience of last year's completely virtual symposium with the renewed opportunity for in-person interaction with safety measures including masks and social distancing. Across both platforms, over 120 people enjoyed learning about Catalina Island and the Conservancy's ongoing work.

"We enjoyed being able to see Conservancy members safely in person at this year's Catalina Island Conservancy Symposium, while still offering a virtual option for those who do not live nearby or prefer that experience," said Conservancy President & CEO Tony Budrovich, who also welcomed guests to open the program. "Hearing the passion and expertise of our great Conservancy team allows for added learning and leaves me feeling excited and inspired."

Among the presentations were discussions of several Conservancy programs, including a look at Catalina's sensitive wildlife species; invasive plant removal; the history and future of Conservancy education program Course Catalina; exploring the importance of fencing and enclosures to protect native and endemic plant species; and how Summer Naturalist interns helped visitors make the most of a stop at the Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden.

We are grateful to our all of our sponsors and partners who helped make this event happen, including the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Port of Long Beach.

## **About the Catalina Island 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 access to the Island's wildlands and 50 miles of biking and nearly 165 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](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org).