



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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Catalina Island Conservancy Celebrates 20 Years Of the Conservancy Ball on April 11 *Join the Fun by Reserving your Seat Today*

More than 20 years ago, Randy Boelsems recalls a beautiful Catalina Island day, when he was sitting on his boat, admiring the historic Casino Ballroom and thinking: Wouldn't it be great to go to an event there?

From that one thought came years of elegant, exciting and entertaining events at the Casino Ballroom that have supported the Catalina Island Conservancy. This year, on April 11, Boelsems and hundreds more guests will be back in the Casino Ballroom to celebrate the 20th Annual Conservancy Ball, "Leapin' Lizards! An Emerald Celebration."

"This year's Conservancy Ball promises to be a fun-filled evening of dining and dancing to the sounds of Society Beat, one of Southern California's most popular, modern-day Big Bands," said Bob Reid, Catalina Island Conservancy's chief development and communications officer. "As it has for the past 20 years, this year's Conservancy Ball also will benefit the organization's many programs on the Island."

The Conservancy Ball will feature an elegant, art deco inspired theme. Guests will enjoy the excitement of a live and silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and adventures, including a day in the field with the Conservancy's wildlife biologists as they conduct the annual Island fox trapping and a crowd-favorite – a hand-etched balthazar of Rusack Vineyards wine.

The Corsair Yacht Club will be returning as the Conservancy Ball's co-host for an unprecedented third time. The Corsairs hosted the first Conservancy Ball in 1996 when Boelsems was the commodore and convinced the yacht club to help him make his idea a reality. He said the members worked together to plan the event and decided that it should benefit the Conservancy.

"When we planned the first ball, we didn't think there would be a second one," he said. "But that first one was magic. It was really magic."

Les Brown and his Band of Renown, one of the most famous of the Big Bands, played at that first ball in 1996 and every ball until Brown's death in January 2001. His son led the band at the 2001 ball and other bands have performed since, continuing the tradition of the Big Band sound throughout the Conservancy Ball's history.

“For my wife and me, the Conservancy Ball weekend has been the most romantic weekend of the year for 20 years,” Boelsems said.

Reserve your seat today for the Conservancy Ball

- What:** Leapin’ Lizards! An Emerald Celebration
20th Annual Catalina Island Conservancy Ball
- Where:** Avalon Casino Ballroom, Catalina Island
- When:** 6-7 p.m. Hosted Cocktails, 7-11 p.m. Dinner and Dancing
April 11, 2015
- More Info:** Visit www.CatalinaConservancy.org or call 562-437-8555 x239

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.