



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2015

Contact: Laura Mecoy
310.546.5860
laura@lauramecoy.com

Guests Enjoy Elegant Evening at the 20th Annual Catalina Island Conservancy Ball *Fun-filled Event Supports Conservation, Education and Recreation Programs*

AVALON – More than 400 guests enjoyed an elegant evening of dining, dancing and supporting the Catalina Island Conservancy at its 20th Annual Conservancy Ball on April 11 in the historic Avalon Casino Ballroom. Over its history, the fun-filled event has raised nearly \$5 million to support the Conservancy's conservation, education and recreation programs.

“We thank our many supporters who joined us for the 20th Annual Conservancy Ball,” said Ann M. Muscat, PhD, the Conservancy's president and CEO. “Their contributions help ensure the Conservancy can continue to protect this beautiful Island and enhance its education and recreation programs. We also thank the Corsair Yacht Club and all the volunteers for helping to make the evening such a great success.”

The Corsair Yacht Club, which hosted the first Conservancy Ball and the 10th Conservancy Ball, was the co-host for the 20th Annual Conservancy Ball, “Leapin’ Lizards! An Emerald Celebration.” U.S. Bank was the Sponsor Reception Partner.

Among the many honored guests were U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal of Long Beach and his wife, Dr. Deborah Malumed; State Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell of Long Beach, and his wife, Jennifer O'Donnell; Avalon Mayor Anni Marshall and her husband, Billy Delbert; Avalon Mayor Pro Tem Oley Olsen and his wife, Kate Olsen, and Avalon City Council Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy and her husband, Mike Cassidy.

A spirited live auction produced prize-winning bids for several items, including a one-of-a-kind, hand-etched balthazar of Rusack Vineyards wine, a romantic Danube river cruise for two and an opportunity to be a guest bartender at the Bluewater Grill. Among the more than 100 silent auction items on which guests bid were tickets to LA Lakers games, vintage Catalina Island memorabilia, jewelry, artwork and vacation stays in Pebble Beach, Mammoth, Scotland and other destinations.

Guests also bid on unique Catalina Island adventures including a Jeep® Eco Tour with the Conservancy's president and CEO, a day in the field with Conservancy Director of Conservation and Wildlife Management Julie King as she conducts the annual Catalina Island fox trapping, a week at a Catalina summer camp and a natural history tour with Conservancy Chief Conservation and Education Officer John M. Mack. Society Beat, a popular group with a Big Band sound, provided the music for dancing and entertained the guests throughout the evening.

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.



Guests at the 20th Annual Conservancy Ball enjoyed dancing in the historic Avalon Casino Ballroom to the sounds of the band, Society Beat. Photo by Shana Cassidy.