



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FIRST OF SIX "AT THE WATERING HOLE" TALKS AT ZOO **"ISLANDS OF CHANGE" – PHOTOGRAPHERS RALPH CLEVINGER** **AND MIKE VERBOIS, JOINED BY DONALD BARTHELMESS**

- Friday, March 21 in Zoo's New \$7.5 Million Discovery Pavilion
- Wine, Appetizers, Viewing of Photography Exhibit: 5 p.m.; 90-Minute Conversation: 5:45 p.m.
- Tickets \$20; \$15 for Santa Barbara Zoo Members
- First of Six New "Conversations About Conservation" Talks in 2014

Santa Barbara, CA, March 11, 2014 – The Santa Barbara Zoo debuts a new series of "conversations about conservation" called At the Watering Hole in the new \$7.5 million Discovery Pavilion on Friday, March 21 beginning with wine and appetizers at 5 p.m. and the multimedia, 90-minute talk starting at 5:45 p.m.

These evenings are for adults to gather, enjoy wine and appetizers, and exchange ideas. Experts in the fields of conservation, the natural world, and issues facing the planet present topics of interest in an informal setting, with time dedicated for guests to ask questions and discuss the topic. Six talks At the Watering Hole are scheduled in 2014 (see below).

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for Santa Barbara Zoo members. Package of three talks (Spring or Fall) are \$45, or \$40 for Zoo members. Packages of all six are \$80, or \$75 for Zoo members. Tickets are available online: www.sbzoo.org/events or call (805) 962-5339.

About March 21 At the Watering Hole: "Islands of Change"



"Islands of Change" features Ralph Clevenger and Mike Verbois, the two local photographers whose works are on view in Discovery Pavilion's Volentine Family Gallery. Each discusses their works: Clevenger in the nearby Channel Islands and Verbois at the Galapagos Islands. Then Donald Barthelmess tells the story of commercial diving in Santa Barbara through the lens of the abalone and the sea otter.

Both Clevenger and Verbois are well known nature photographers and graduates of the Brooks Institute, where Clevenger is on the faculty. Barthelmess is a professor of Marine Diving Technology at Santa Barbara City College, and a former submersible pilot and commercial diver.

Future Talks At the Watering Hole

The next talk At the Watering Hole, on Thursday, April 17, is an exploration of the Galapagos Islands and the impact of Darwin's discoveries there, presented by Zoo CEO Nancy McToldridge. On May 15, the dramatic comeback of the Channel Island fox is discussed by Dr. Estelle Sandhaus, PhD, the Zoo's Director of Conservation and Research, and Tim Coonan, a National Park Service biologist.

Three talks in Fall 2014 are focused on the story of the California condor (September), nature in local Stories and myths (October) and behavioral enrichment at the Zoo (November). Speakers and details to be announced soon.

About Discovery Pavilion

Discovery Pavilion serves as the hub of the Zoo's many education programs, including the award-winning Zoo Camp, and also overnight Zoo Snoozes, school field trips, keeper talks, and new offerings including a pilot program for local homeschoolers, and after-hours and overnight Safaris for kids.

At the heart of Discovery Pavilion is 2,300 square feet of open space which can be configured into two classrooms, both with independent AV capabilities. The Animal Kitchen has been relocated into Discovery Pavilion, and a new gallery features changing exhibitions that relate to the natural world – both are open during regular Zoo hours.

Behind the scenes are a new volunteer lounge and library; a research library open by appointment only; staff locker room; and offices for the Zoo's education, conservation and research, human resources, and other staff.

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*Known as one of the world's most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA endangered species programs for Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. A private nonprofit corporation, the Santa Barbara Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements. The Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$6. Visit www.sbzoo.org.*