



UCR Boyd Deep Canyon Lecture Series 2011-12

in partnership with UCR Palm Desert and The Living Desert



Held on
Thursdays
at 6 p.m.
at
UCR Palm Desert

This series is free and open to
the public. Reservations are
required. Register online at
[http://palmdesert.ucr.edu/
programs/events.html](http://palmdesert.ucr.edu/programs/events.html)

75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211
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E-mail: palmdesert@ucr.edu
760- 834-0800

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.

Linking Air Pollution, Invasive Plants, and Fires in the California Deserts

Edith Allen, Ph.D.

Professor, Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside

Due to a variety of factors, the levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx) are increasing in the California deserts and are causing damaging changes to the desert ecosystem. Dr. Allen will explain these factors and will describe how they all work together to impact the native wildflowers and surrounding deserts.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.

Big Lizards, Big Bears and Little Ground Squirrels: The Importance of Comparative Physiology in Wildlife Conservation and Human Medicine

Henry Harlow, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Zoology & Physiology, University of Wyoming

What do Komodo dragons, black and polar bears, and squirrels have in common? Dr. Harlow will show how these animals conserve energy by varying their body temperatures. His findings provide insights that may be applicable to human medicine and even long distance space travel.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.

Nature's Armored Tank: Survival Tactics of Desert Tortoises

Kenneth Nagy, Ph.D.

Research Professor and Professor Emeritus, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles

Deserts present animals with the potentially fatal challenges of dehydration, overheating and freezing, as well as starvation in some seasons and even during entire years. Desert tortoises are long-lived, year-round residents that can grow and reproduce in the southwestern deserts. How do they do it? Dr. Nagy explains how field studies of their behavior, physiology, morphology, and ecology are revealing a suite of unique survival capabilities.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.

Restoring the Galapagos Tortoise Dynasty: Innovations in Research and Management Result in Enduring Success

Linda Cayot, Ph.D.

Science Advisor and Liaison, Galapagos Conservancy

Over the past 50 years, an integrated approach to conservation, continually combining new research and adaptive management, has resulted in major advances in the recovery of populations of the Galapagos giant tortoise. The successful tortoise breeding and rearing program was only the start. Dr. Cayot will explain how increased understanding, habitat restoration, and advances in tortoise genetics have created opportunities that would have been impossible to imagine even a few decades ago!



THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.

Quail Tales: Lessons from Quail about the Origin of Species

Jennifer Gee, Ph.D.

Research Associate, Department of Biology, University of California, Riverside, Interim Manager, Bernard Field Station, Claremont College Consortium

Species do not form instantaneously. When populations are in the process of splitting into distinct types, they may still interbreed and exchange genes. This is a definitive moment in evolution. Dr. Gee will examine the California and Gambel's quail species to demonstrate the delicate balance of conditions needed to have successful hybridization.

