

## Ocelots Dinner Program

**When:** **Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

**Where:** **San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
The Watering Hole Restaurant**

**Who:** **Lisa Peterson, Senior Vice  
President, Executive Director,  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
Marco Wendt, San Diego Zoo  
Wildlife Alliance Ambassador**

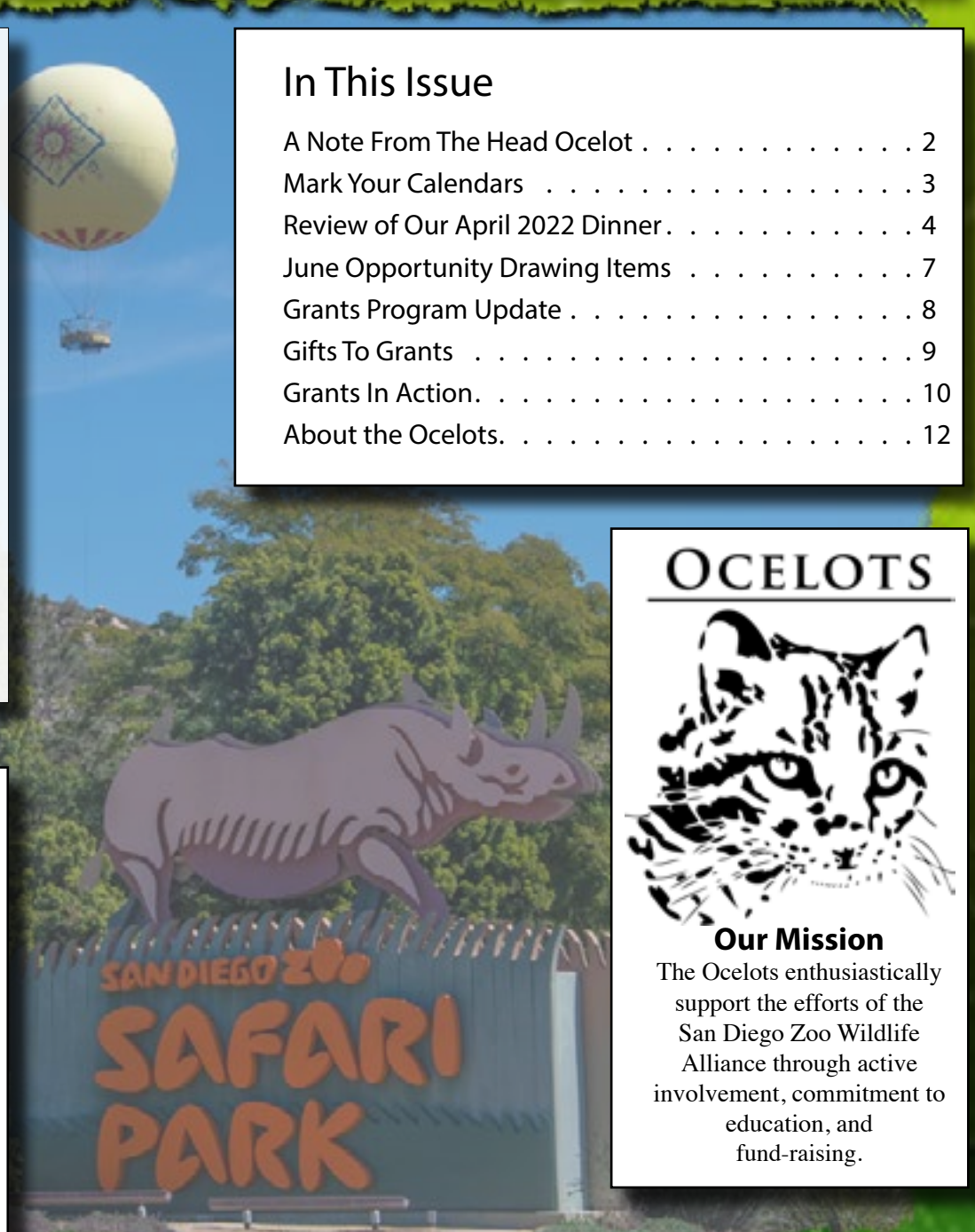
**What:** **A Special Safari Park  
50th Anniversary Celebration!**

### Timeline for the June Dinner

- 5:15 to 6:00 Check-in at Hunte Pavilion  
Shuttles will depart Hunte at 5:30, 5:45, and 6:00
- 6:00 to 6:45 Mix & Mingle / Animal Ambassadors
- 6:45 to 7:45 Dinner
- 7:45 to 8:45 Program
- 8:45 to 9:00 Opportunity Drawing and Silent Auction
- 8:45 to 9:15 Return Shuttles (all diners are required to use the shuttle to depart the Watering Hole)  
Shuttles will depart at 8:45, 9:00, and 9:15

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## OCELOTS



### Our Mission

The Ocelots enthusiastically support the efforts of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance through active involvement, commitment to education, and fund-raising.



BY BABS SOLLER  
HEAD OCELOT

## A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OCELOT

### Happy Anniversary

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park opened on May 10, 1972. Its mission to promote wildlife conservation around the world and to protect biodiversity in our backyard hasn't changed in 50 years. Key milestones from the Park's history can be found at <https://50th-anniversary.sdzsafaripark.org>. As you look at photos in this compilation you notice that rhinos have always been important in the Park. It is bittersweet to see the photo of 3 northern white rhinos who arrived in 1989 (milestone 21). Though they no longer roam our savanna, their cells are stored in the Frozen Zoo and Ocelots are helping to bring them back by supporting the work of SDZWA's conservation scientists at the Beckman Center.

Early photographs highlight the lack of vegetation on the original Safari Park site. The horticulture department now maintains over 1.3 million plants for visitors and wildlife to enjoy. Over the years Ocelots have supported grant requests for tools to help maintain the gardens and plants that not only decorate but provide food and shade for our wildlife. As you walk around the Park take a moment to enjoy the plant life in addition the wildlife and know that Ocelots have helped make the Park such a beautiful place to visit.

I hope that you will be joining me on **Tuesday, June 28** to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Safari Park with our speakers Lisa Peterson, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and Marco Wendt, SDZWA Ambassador. For the first time Ocelots will be holding our dinner at the Watering Hole, where you can enjoy your pre-dinner drinks viewing our vast herds on the African savanna. It should be an amazing evening.

I recently learned that 2022 is also the Ocelots' 40th anniversary. We will be celebrating this milestone at a future dinner event, so stay tuned!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*You won't want to miss a single Ocelots event this year!*

**Jun 28 Dinner (Park):** Lisa Peterson, Marco Wendt:  
*Safari Park's 50th Anniversary*

**Aug 4 Dinner (Zoo):** Heather Myers:  
*Orangutans*

**Oct 2 Luncheon (Park):** Speaker and subject TBA

**Dec 15 Dinner (Zoo):** Debbie Denton : *African Penguins*

*Please note that these dates, venues, speakers, and topics are tentative and are subject to change. Our speakers are staff members of SDZWA and their schedules may change necessitating a change in our programs.*

## Contribute to the Oceletor!

We invite you to submit articles and photographs for the **Oceletor**.

All content should be submitted electronically to the **Oceletor** Editor, Paul Brooks, at [pbrooksphotos@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrooksphotos@hotmail.com).

The chubby unicorn says,  
"Thanks, Lonnie for the dinner photos!"

## Contact Us

The best way to reach a member of the Steering Committee is to use the following e-mail address: [sdzwaocelots@gmail.com](mailto:sdzwaocelots@gmail.com)

This e-mail account is monitored frequently, and questions can be routed to the member of the Steering Committee who should handle them.

The following people can be reached directly:

Babs Soller—Head Ocelot (508) 320-9536 [babs.soller@gmail.com](mailto:babs.soller@gmail.com)

Theresa Low—Grants (858) 391-8616 [lowtm@earthlink.net](mailto:lowtm@earthlink.net)

Paul Brooks—Oceletor Editor (619) 889-9051 [pbrooksphotos@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrooksphotos@hotmail.com)

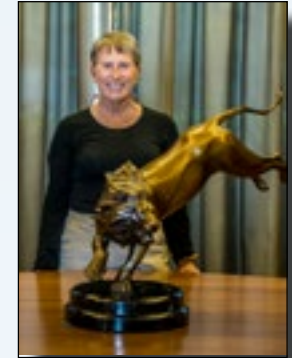


SAN DIEGO ZOO  
SAFARI  
PARK



## REVIEW OF OUR APRIL 2022 DINNER

BY LAURA SWAUGER



April dinner attendees were welcomed by two South American wildlife ambassadors. Armando the southern three-banded armadillo has lived at the Zoo about twenty-three years, beyond the twenty-year life expectancy for the species. He is one of few armadillo species that can roll his keratin shell into a ball. Tornaro the two-toed sloth was co-reared by his mom Xena and the human care staff. In the wild he would have algae growth in his fur that provides a symbiotic relationship with a moth that lives in the fur and lays eggs in the sloth poop

Kathy Morrison welcomed attendees, their guests, and new Ocelots members. Theresa Low announced that the 2021 grants have been approved and will be supporting projects in six of the eight conservation hubs. A highlight was her announcement that the four-year study on the effectiveness of solar-powered predator deterrent lights on livestock pens in Kenya will be concluding this summer, and thanks to an Ocelots grant, eighty more of these lights can be installed.

Ollie Ryder reviewed the progress of genome analysis, which started with yeast and nematodes and now includes the complete analysis of the human genome. This data provides new tools to understand life. One possible application is to identify common features between endangered species. There is still much work to be done.

*Tornaro, the two-toed sloth*

*Armando, the southern three-banded armadillo*



Review of our April 2022 dinner continued

Caroline Moore, Ph.D., D.V.M. and Mrinalini Erkenwick Watsa, Ph.D. presented “Wildlife Laboratories and Conservation in the Amazon Rainforest.” The tag-team presentation illustrated the effectiveness of blending the various scientific divisions, in this case Dr. Moore from Disease Investigations and Dr. Watsa from Population Sustainability. Together they are working in the Los Amigos Biological Station located at the convergence of the Madre de Dios and Los Amigos Rivers in Peru. The Amazon Basin is being threatened by logging and mining. Due to climate change the Amazon regions are now emitting more carbon than they absorb.

Caroline explained that in Peru mining activities release mercury into the environment, impacting various animals such as birds, bats, non-human primates, and ocelots. The intact forest canopy near artisanal mining operations captures mercury at a higher rate than deforested areas. Such mercury accumulation in the soil, biomass, and songbirds can be detrimental to future conservation efforts.

Mrinalini and her colleagues involved in conservation efforts in the Amazonia Hub established the first in-situ molecular genetics lab in the Amazon. In the past the local scientists were the sample collectors (hair and feces) and those samples were sent back to the United States for analysis. The In-Situ Laboratory Initiative has empowered local scientists to analyze these samples in a genetics lab built right in the research area in the Amazon. The necessary scientific equipment has been primarily donated from North American labs.

The analysis of DNA has numerous applications. DNA barcoding allows for species identification. It can be used for an accurate count of animals within a species and the relatedness of those animals. It can be used for dietary analysis and contaminate impact. The use for disease biosurveillance is crucial in determining zoonotic disease and the potential for the next pandemic. The DNA can be used in monitoring illegal wildlife trafficking.



Review of our April 2022 dinner continued

In the first year of operation scientists collected over 5000 samples from June to August of 2021. They analyzed the DNA from 257 species of primates and other terrestrial mammals, birds, snakes lizards, and frogs. The procedures utilized in the Amazon have application to conservation projects in other parts of the world. Hair snares for capturing samples for DNA analysis have been used in Kenya as a much less expensive technique to collect data to determine animal populations than the use of camera traps.

The lab in Peru is small, and the space limitations and rugged conditions required equipment that can hold up in the hot and humid environment. The team has been able to develop a small and energy efficient DNA sequencer with a \$450-\$800 portable mini-PCR unit attached to a \$1000 laptop. Through Field Projects International (<https://fieldprojects.org>) the scientist continue to solicit equipment donations to further the work started last year.

The team at Los Amigos plans to expand on their work this year in habitat description and climate integration, analyzing microbiome health and assessing forage patterns. They will work on wildlife tracking and surveillance, as well as biomarker development. The study of mercury contamination will continue.

The effort in Peru is not just science for science's sake. Taricaya Ecoreserve is dedicated to rescuing animals confiscated from the illegal pet trade. Staff from Los Amigos share their veterinary expertise and stepped in to help with recovery from a major flood that affected the center. Dr. Watsa highlighted the resident Cholita, an Andean bear who was rescued from a circus. Cholita suffered tooth and front claw loss from circus handlers, and hair loss from the stress of twenty years of captivity. She is thriving with the dedicated care from Taricaya staff.

*Kathy Morrison  
introduces the 2  
speakers*

*Caroline Moore, Ph.D., DVM  
Oliver Ryder  
Mrinalini Watsa Ph.D.*



JOY WOLF

## JUNE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING ITEMS

### Ocelots Zootique June 2022



#### Silent Auction

Bring cash or check please!



**IZU the Roaring Lion**  
20" x 24"  
Designed by Kathy Wise and made by Allan Price July 2020

Value \$2100  
*Starting bid \$300*



**Savanna Quilt**  
Oversized 58" x 78"  
Machine was cold/line dry

Value \$300  
*Starting bid \$50*

#### Opportunity Drawing

\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20  
Cash or check only

Large Zebra Print Vase



Woven Wall Hanging



Travel Basket of Plush Animals



Set Of Two Etched Glasses By Kai Schumann  
(Two Glasses Per Winner)



Some of the Winners from our last Meeting



## GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Each year the grants committee includes Ocelots members with various experiences and knowledge of SDZWA. The 2021 committee included Karen Sharpe, Anne Rubsamen and Susan Carter. Here are their insights to the awards process.

BY THERESA LOW  
GRANTS COORDINATOR



*"For me, serving on the Grants Committee provides the optimal connection between Ocelots' fundraising efforts, our group's mission, and the needs and aspirations of the Zoological Society in supporting research, outreach education and care for wildlife and flora. This is a long sentence, but being able to bring together my many years volunteering for the SDZWA with my even more years of involvement in Ocelots and harboring a passion for conservation and wildlife, allows me an opportunity to make a huge contribution." ~ Karen Sharpe*

*I found us to be a cohesive group with a common goal to grant as many requests as possible, each contributing her own knowledge and experiences with the zoo and safari park. For me, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the purpose of Ocelots. Our meetings helped me understand the complex workings of the facilities and ended up providing a deeper meaning to the presentations at the group meetings. I also enjoyed working with my fellow committee members and look forward to seeing you all again! ~ Anne Rubsamen*

*What a privilege it has been serving on the Ocelot Grants team this year. It was humbling to see the numerous funding requests submitted by the various departments at the Park, Zoo, Conservation Science and Retail arms of the Society - all of which ultimately support the animals in the care of the specialists on site, the researchers in the field, the habits and guest experiences. Generous, non-designated, donations by members throughout the year allowed the Grants team members to award over \$178,928.81 throughout the organization. In spite of those generous donations, many requests went unfunded and we're hoping to be able to exceed that total next year - with YOUR help. So....donate early, donate often and we will be able to grant the wishes of even more worthy requests next year!! ~ Susan Carter*

What a great team. It is a joy to work with them!





## GIFTS TO GRANTS

Your support throughout the year adds up. Here are three options for donating.

- 1) Monthly Online Donations. Sign up for online monthly giving and designate the total of your gift in December to specific 2022 grant requests or to the general grants fund.

[https://secure3.convio.net/sdzoo/site/Donation2?df\\_id=15703&mfc\\_pref=T&15703.donation=form1](https://secure3.convio.net/sdzoo/site/Donation2?df_id=15703&mfc_pref=T&15703.donation=form1)

- 2) One-time Online Donation. To make a one-time donation with your credit card,

[https://secure3.convio.net/sdzoo/site/Donation2?df\\_id=15704&mfc\\_pref=T&15704.donation=form1](https://secure3.convio.net/sdzoo/site/Donation2?df_id=15704&mfc_pref=T&15704.donation=form1)

- 3) By Check. Make check payable to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance with Ocelots Grants Program on the memo line. Mail to: Karl Bunker, 153 Twin Oaks Circle, Chula Vista, CA 91910.

*Did you know* on opening day of the San Diego Wild Animal Park (as it was known at the time) Carol, the Zoo's famous painting elephant took a bath in the Park's watering hole with the help of Joan Embery? In 2017 Ocelots had the honor of finding a new home for one of Carol's paintings. Ocelots members and guests contributed over \$1,100 to our Grants Program for a chance to have a painting by Carol the Asian elephant.



## GRANTS IN ACTION

When animals arrived at the Park over 50 years ago, feeding them was one of many challenges that needed to be addressed. "Diet alone is a science we have to work out. Hornbills, for instance, eat figs, yet there are forty species of figs in their original habitat. In this country, we have one fig, commercially grown, and one that hornbills have probably never seen before. We decided to grow the exotic trees or plants ourselves." (Excerpt from "*Mister Zoo The Life and Legacy of Dr. Charles Schroeder*")

BY THERESA LOW  
GRANTS COORDINATOR



Planting roots. The same need for trees and plants continues today. Ocelots just awarded over \$6,700 to recipients at the Park for trees supporting animal care. Here are a few examples:

- Horticulture: a large *Ulmus parvifolia*, commonly known as the Chinese elm, for the central Asia habitat to help provide shade and enrichment
- Birds: Brazilian peppertrees for milky storks and *Acacia longifolia* for chick habitats
- Rodrigues fruit bats: guava, peach, pear and cherry trees, and blueberry bushes
- Mammals: variety of trees for shade and browse for addax antelope, addra gazelle, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope

More growth. The Zoo's horticulture team shared photos of tropical plants they added to the bonobo viewing area. The team wanted to enhance the VIP experience at the bonobo habitat with appropriate tropical plant species in the surrounding landscape.



## Grants in actio continued

Finally, an update from the Leopard Conservation Program in Kenya where a grant award was used to purchase solar-powered predator deterrent lights. Between June 2019 and March 2021, the conservation teams built predator-proof bomas – 81 wire bomas and 82 light bomas. The wire and light bomas are part of an ongoing study across seven communities focusing on:

- specific predator attacks (hyena, lion, wild dog, cheetah, jackal, and leopard)
- the livestock attacked (cattle, shoats, camel, and chickens)
- where the attacks occurred (inside or outside a boma)
- the bomas with or without lights

This 4-year study concludes in June 2022. Going forward the teams want to provide community access to lights and wire materials. Solar lights are used to equip herders and homeowners where electricity does not exist. These lights enhance community well-being and increase safety at their bomas. With your support, the teams were just awarded funds for an additional 80 solar-powered lights. Thank you!

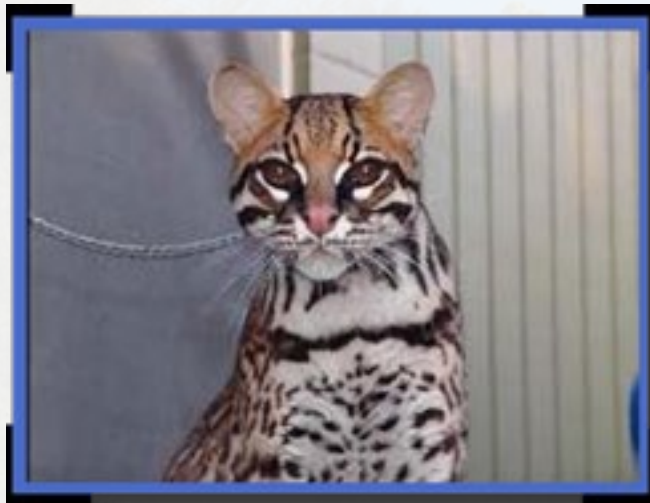
At our June event, I look forward to sharing a “fishy” update from the Park nutrition team.

If you are interested in more information on Celebrating Fifty Years of Conservation at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park visit <https://50th-anniversary.sdzsafaripark.org/>

## ABOUT THE OCELOTS

### Ocelots

enjoy a special relationship with San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. While having fun at many educational dinners and other special events at the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park, Ocelots raise money to support the Ocelots Grants Program. Departments within the San Diego Zoo, Safari Park, and Conservation Science and Wildlife Health, as well as conservation programs throughout SDZWA are eligible to apply for these grants.



**Diego** the ocelot, pictured above, was donated to the San Diego Zoo by the Ocelots in 2005. Diego is a working member of the Education Department!



**Dafyd** the ocelot, pictured above, lived at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in an enclosure funded by the Ocelots in 2011.