



-----Middle Winter Moon- February 2017-----



"An exceptional winter brought unusual amount of snow at the James Reserve and the adjacent Lake Fulmor.

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Greetings and best wishes for 2017 from the James Reserve!

The James Reserve has enjoyed an exceptional year of progress and growth. Last year marked a half-century of service at the James Reserve. With your support and encouragement, our 50th



Trailfinders Reunited at the James Reserve 50th Anniversary. Pictured here are Linda Kamb (Barclay Kamb), Eb Sebenius, and James Reserve Director, Jennifer Gee.

year was the best and most productive year in my four years as Director of the James Reserve. We made significant strides in reaching our 5-year goals that are aimed at increasing use and expanding the diversity of activities at the James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves with new research and teaching programs, and building new youth education programs, especially in Science Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). In 2017, we look forward to welcoming back a new cohort of scholars who have been revitalizing the James with cutting edge research projects and innovative classes, and to expanding the pilot youth programs that we launched last summer. *The James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves serve a unique role in the academic community as well as on "the hill,"* a culturally distinct and ecologically diverse region that includes a broad area in the foothills and mountains that rise up from the desert cities. As part of the University of California Natural Reserve

System (UC NRS), the James and los Osos preserve lands on the hill that are dedicated to understanding and wisely stewarding the landscape of this special place. *To kick off the next half-*

century at the James, we begin with more celebrations not just at the James, but also throughout the University of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS <http://www.ucnrs.org/>). Stay tuned as the NRS launches a capital campaign this year for the entire network of the UC's 39 reserves. Our 51st year in 2017 promises to be an even better year!
Lolomi,

Dr. Jennifer Gee
Director of the James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves

Research highlights at the James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves



"If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth." ~Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe, letter to President Franklin Pierce

James Reserve's recovering frog population thrives. It has been 6 years since researchers from the USGS and their collaborators first began efforts to restore native populations of Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs (MYLF) (*Rana mucosa*). In the late 1980's, the James Reserve's frog populations crashed and went locally extinct at the James Reserve. Since 2007, lab-reared eggs, tadpoles and froglets have been released back into the wild in the San Jacinto Mountains. The reintroduced eggs and tadpoles did not survive at the James. However, the older and more developed captive-reared froglets were a different story.

Success! Last summer, we finally spotted some wild tadpoles in Indian Creek. The tads are a sign that our frog population is probably on the mend and on its way to recovery. We continue to closely monitor these important residents of Indian Creek. The James Reserve is delighted to continue to support this on-going and ever-more successful restoration project.

2016 benchmark of vascular plant diversity at Oasis de los Osos

I nā mālama 'oe i ka 'āina, na ka 'āina malama iā 'oe (if you take care of the land, the land will take care of you) ~Hawaiian Proverb



The location of the James Reserve's satellite, Oasis de los Osos Reserve. For more information about this reserve, please visit our website, <http://james.ucnrs.org/oasis-de-los-osos/>

Like annual physical exams, we must continually check the health of our reserves by monitoring the status of the flora and fauna. It takes a big effort and many scientists to keep close watch on all the life, more than the James Reserve staff has time to devote to. Dr. Amanda Fisher (CSU Long Beach) and her student, Brittany Betz, have stepped on to take on the challenge of documenting vascular plants at our desert site, Oasis de los Osos, located next to Snow Creek Village in the San Gorgonio Pass, near Palm Springs.



The figure to the left shows A) *Galium angustifolium* subsp. *gracillimum*, CNPS 4.2, is an uncommon dioecious shrub growing among boulders on the alluvial fan. B) *Quercus wislizeni* var. *frutescens* is an uncommon tree on north-facing granite in the canyon. C) View to the north along Lamb Creek in November, 2016. D) A small population of *Washingtonia filifera* persists near Lamb Creek. E) *Eriodictyon crassifolium* var. *crassifolium* is a common shrub on rocky hillsides in the canyon. F) *Selaginella bigelovii* is common in the canyon. Sporangia were present in November, 2016. G) *Eriogonum elongatum* var. *elongatum* is a common shrub in the canyon. H) A *Hypis emoryi* individual at the Oasis is on the western edge of the species' natural distribution.

Education highlights

Let children walk with Nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plain and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life.~John Muir

Early exposure to science and tradition of integration—

The James Reserve builds on a foundation of teaching and outreach that was established long before the founding of the James Reserve. Before selling his property to the University of California, Harry James had already developed a flourishing tradition of K-12 education (1927-1966), which he began as a weekend program as part of the curriculum at a boys' school in Pasadena. This program eventually evolved into a summer program called the Trailfinders. Mr. James was a pioneer of STEM education, a visionary for outdoors education geared towards science and scholarships, as well as in training a diversity of students. The Trailfinders program instilled within its participants a profound obligation to stewardship of wilderness, especially for what is now the James Reserve. As an honorary member of the Hopi Tribe, Mr. James included Hopi children and economically disadvantaged children in his Trailfinders program. We are committed to carrying on and evolving this inclusive program (<http://james.ucnrs.org/reviving-the-trailfinder-spirit/>). The James Reserve has influenced the lives of visitors with meaningful memories unique to life at the James.



In the last five years, several K-12 groups have made their first visit to the James Reserve, which have led to stable partnerships and new trail programs. Among these efforts, the James Reserve, Idyllwild Nature Center and Idyllwild Arts Alliance have launched a next generation of "Trailfinders," that is called "Super Naturalists." The new cohort of Trailfinder-Naturalists includes girls as well as boys. To view images of the Trailfinders, please visit <http://jcmoule.smugmug.com/Family/Trailfinder-Memories/i-2XwKTKv>

Lives can be changed from something as small as seeing a bobcat for the first time, but the James is also a place for making new scientific and personal discoveries and forging collaborations and friendships that last a lifetime. Since the last newsletter, the James Reserve has continued to play an important role in the field biology component of many courses that give students hands-on experience with data collection. Dr. Chris Clark brought his Vertebrate Zoology class to observe him trap Anna's hummingbirds at the James Reserve hummingbird feeders. Special Education Teacher, Suzi DuAmarrell, brought her class to give them experience in a new environment, very different from their homes in Hemet. Suzi's students went on a 5-senses scavenger hunt and recorded how the environment is different than life in their urban environment. One of them found a hibernaculum of lady bird beetles along the path!

Broader societal impacts—public engagement

The James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves are uniquely poised to reach out and communicate to the public. As the James is celebrating its 50th year of being a Natural Reserve, Dr. Gee will give the audience at the Nature Center an overview of the half century of discoveries that have happened at the James. In addition to giving public lectures and presentations, you can check out our monthly column in the local paper, the Town Crier, and regional magazine, Palms to Pines. Past contributions can be found at our website (<http://james.ucnrs.org/outreach-at-the-james/>).

Breaking News and Upcoming Events



Dr. Kim Hammond,
UCR NRS Faculty
Director

Welcome back to our Faculty Director, **Dr. Kim Hammond**, who will be resuming her position as UCR's UCNRS Faculty Director. She has spent the last couple of years as Program Director at the National Science Foundation. We thank Dr. Rick Redak for his service as interim Faculty Director while Kim has been away.

Welcome also to **Andrea Campanella**, our new James Reserve Assistant Director, beginning December, 2016. Andrea was born and raised in Rome, Italy where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Biology from the

Università La Sapienza and worked with the WWF-TRAFFIC and the CITES. He studied

foxes and small mammals for a long term NSF Project in Chile then moved to the US (2001) where he studied the effect of shrubland-grassland ecotones on small mammal populations at NMSU. Andrea drifted from the enchanting Chihuahuan Desert of Southern New Mexico to the magnificent coast of the Acadia National Park (ME), to the Alpine Tundra of the Niwot Ridge in the Rocky Mountains (CO) where he managed a project researching the effects of climate change on the Treeline. Andrea finally landed in the San Jacinto Mountains, captivated by their unique and diverse climatic gradients and vegetation where he has started his new position as the Assistant Director of the James Reserve.

We had to bid farewell last July, 2016 to **John Laundré**, after two years as Assistant Director. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank John for his strong work at the James.

We will miss John and Cecile and we wish them all the very best for their new adventures!



Andrea Campanella, new
Assistant Director at the James
Reserve

Former Assistant Director, Dr.
John Laundré, pictured with his
daughter, Cecile, on a family
vacation in Brazil (2015).



Upcoming public events:

February 20: Oasis de los Osos early wildflower viewing hike (The Idyllwild Nature Center Volunteers)

February 21, 22 and 23: What is the value of a tree?

March 4: 10th annual Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center



Lemon lilies along Indian Creek at the James Reserve

June 24-25: Lemon Lily Festival (Nature Center with tours at the James Reserve)

August 1: Tour of the James (with Idyllwild Garden Club)

August 4-5: Butterfly Daze

CLEARLY TREES ARE IMPORTANT. BUT FOR WHOM? AND WHY?

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A TREE?

February 21 - 6:00 PM - UC Riverside
February 22 - 4:30 PM - Idyllwild
February 23 - 6:00 PM - UCR Palm Desert Center

Join us for an evolving, interdisciplinary panel discussion. Three locations and dates. Free admission & refreshments.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS
G. Darrel Jenerette, UCR Department of Botany & Plant Sciences
Ryan Berk, Co-owner & Founder of Parliament Chocolate, Redlands, CA
Jason Seligan, Armenia Tree Project, Treeevangelist

Sponsored by:
UCR RENEWABLE SOCIETY, Global Food Initiative UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, CAFE California Agriculture and Food Enterprise, UCR PALM DESERT

RSVP preferred. Details at treepanel.eventbrite.com

The James Reserve turned fifty years old!

Our founders, the Trailfinders have been steadfast mentors. In addition to their guidance for over 50 years, they have always been there for the James Reserve. The Trailfinders' support ranges from personal phone calls, letters and emails, monetary donations to funding the construction of our first and well-used and well-loved Trailfinders Lodge. Like our champion pine, the Council Tree, the Trailfinders Lodge has become an icon at the James.



The James Reserve welcomed guests of all ages and backgrounds. We spent the day learning about the history of the James Reserve as well as an introduction new research programs. At the end of the day, enjoying BBQ and live music.



A painting of Mt. San Jacinto, donated by Trailfinders, Nancy and Ed Paul to mark the James Reserve's 50th Anniversary Celebration. It is showcased in the Blair House, our private VIP cabin.

This year, we received a special gift from Nancy and Ed Paul, a gorgeous painting of Mt. San Jacinto, one of the peaks visible from the Four Saints Trail. The picture has been displayed in our VIP cabin, the Blair House. I am fortunate to have gotten to know this exceptional group of individuals. The young generations have lots to learn from them (you)!

Looking forward to the second half-century at the James and Oasis de los Osos Reserves

The University of California Natural Reserve System is in the process of planning its 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which will kick off with a public launch in 2018. Funds will be used for improvements in our facilities. The James Reserve invites you to be a part of our next 50 years as we continue to train tomorrow's conservation leaders through financially sustainable educational programs. We look forward to the coming year with its new activities and visitors, and we hope to welcome you back soon for a visit at the James! Please contact Jeff Katz, Asst. Vice Chancellor of Development at 951.827.1923 for more information about the campaign.

<https://advancementservices.ucr.edu/AdvanceOnlineGiving/Search?key=Jacinto>

Trailfinder Notes and News: January 2017

To all Trailfinders and friends:

Thanks again to those who responded and/or attended our Fall reunion at the Hale Solar Laboratory hosted by Jim Moule and his daughter. We enjoyed a respectable turnout with numerous fresh faces in attendance. The site was spectacular and the weather cooperated. We meet twice a year. The traditional summer picnic gathering is held on the first Sunday in June at the James Reserve. This year it will be on June 4. Our Fall meeting is held on the first Monday in November somewhere in the Pasadena area.

Long-lost Trailfinder alumni, family, and friends continue to re-establish contact with us. We are found through the James Reserve website and our own Trailfinder Facebook page maintained by Jim Farber.



Again, we remind fellow campers to provide us with a physical post-office address. Our invitations go out by US mail. E-mail is used for follow-up correspondence. Sadly, some contacts leave only their e-mail address and our later replies to them end up as unread "spam".

Looking forward to a gorgeous Spring after these Winter rains.

Lolomi,

Jim Halley, Chief

James49halley@gmail.com

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(951) 827-6835; website: james.ucnrs.org

If you wish to support the James Reserve, you can make a donation in the following ways: Please make your check to the "UCR Foundation" and write in the memo line "James Reserve-200330." Do include a note if your gift is in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Mail to the UCR Foundation, 1136 Hinderaker Hall, Riverside, CA 92521. You can also donate online by going to <https://advancementservices.ucr.edu/AdvanceOnlineGiving/search>. Choose "College of Nat & Agr. Science and under that follow the link to "Natural Resources" and then "James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve. Thank you!