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

This series is free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 14TH
Dr. Jeff Lovich
Jeffrey E. Lovich, U.S. Geological Survey, Southwest Biological Science Center, Flagstaff, AZ
Renewable energy development & terrestrial & aquatic wildlife conservation: the new frontier
Renewable energy development is experiencing a renaissance particularly in the Desert Southwest United States where wind and especially solar energy potential is high. The region is characterized by high biodiversity including threatened and sensitive species like Agassiz’s desert tortoise. We surveyed the peer-reviewed scientific literature for information on the known and potential effects of utility-scale renewable energy development (USRED) and operation on non-volant terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

DECEMBER 12TH
Dr. Norm Ellstrand
UCR Professor of Genetics, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
Prying into the Long Distance Romances of Plants
The exchange of genes between plant populations by seed, pollen, or plants can have important evolutionary and applied consequences. But plant geneticists had dismissed such gene migration as too insignificant to have any impact. Until Dr. Norman Ellstrand came along. Ellstrand will discuss how his research at UCR radically challenged that view and how it lead him to apply what he found to answer questions about the risks of genetically engineered plants.

JANUARY 9TH
Dr. Anne Houtman
California State University Bakersfield, Dean, School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering, Professor, Biological Sciences
Why We study Hummingbird Song: What can we learn from hummingbird song?
The study of bird song has given us a richer understanding of the evolution of communication, the nature of human language and mind, and the impact of technology on the natural world. Hummingbirds’ little-studied song offers unique insights into these matters, and illustrates the importance of field studies for science and for education.

FEBRUARY 13TH
Taylor Edwards
Assistant Staff Scientist, University of Arizona
Turtle Trouble! Applying science and technology to turtle conservation
Turtles and tortoises are one of the most threatened groups of animals on the planet with over half of all turtle species at risk of extinction. This is a global phenomenon and while the usual suspects of habitat degradation and environmental change contribute to the problem, the biggest threat to many species are human consumption and exploitation.

MARCH 13TH
Dr. Dan Costa
University of California, Santa Cruz, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ida Benson Endowed Chair in Ocean Health
Title goes here
Daniel Costa’s research focuses on the ecology and physiology of penguins, whales, dolphins and other marine mammals and seabirds, taking him to every continent and nearly every habitat from the Galapagos to Antarctica. He has done pioneering work using animals to provide oceanographic data as well as data on their own behavior.

Reservations are required. Register online at palmdesert.ucr.edu/programs/events.html