



Friends of Long Marine Lab's Annual Whale of an Auction, a Benefit for the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, set for Saturday, June 20

SANTA CRUZ, CA--The Friends of Long Marine Lab (FLML) will hold its 24th annual "Whale of an Auction," the group's popular annual fundraiser, on Saturday, June 20. The event will take place in a new location this year, the newly refurbished Cowell College on the beautiful University of California, Santa Cruz campus. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

Over the past 24 years, the auction has grown from humble beginnings into a lavish affair featuring both silent and high-energy live auctions. A delicious feast adds to the excitement—caviar, oyster bar, catered buffet, fine wines, champagne—and it's a green event with all seafood chosen in accordance with Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines. Tickets for the live event are \$85 for FLML members and \$95/public if purchased by June 16; \$100 at the door. For tickets and information, call (831) 459-3800.

New this year is an online auction, offering 31 fabulous trips and treats for early bidding! Go to <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu> to view and bid, or to preview the live auction items.

Auction highlights this year include an adventure to the North Coast with Gary Griggs and Sandy Lydon, private photography workshop with National Geographic's premier photographer Frans Lanting and acclaimed videographer Christine Eckstrom; "extreme" birding with falcon expert Glenn Stewart; behind-the-scenes trips to Año Nuevo, Long Marine Lab's sea lion and seal research lab, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; exotic getaways to Costa Rica, Hawaii, and Mexico; rare opportunities such as poker lessons with a pro or Stem Cell treatment for your dog; private parties including the Crow's Nest lobster and clambake for 20, Boardwalk bumper car for 50, and sailing on the Chardonnay for 49; or dazzling trips to San Francisco, Desert Springs, Laguna, and Washington D.C.!

This charity auction provides crucial support for the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, the community education hub at Long Marine Lab in Santa Cruz. Although part of UCSC's marine science campus, the Seymour Center remains primarily self-funded. While the economic downturn has made funding more difficult for many museums and related organizations—including the Seymour Center—the institution has served a record number of children and families during the past year, helping them discover why ocean science is important, both immediately, and for the future of our planet. Community support has never been



more important.

The Whale of an Auction raises funds directly for K-12 and community education programs, the care and feeding of more than 400 aquarium animals, and the volunteer program. Last year's successful auction raised \$80,000 for the Seymour Center.

The 2009 Whale of an Auction is sponsored by Nordic Naturals, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Michael's on Main, and Pacific Publishing/Community Printers; many generous table sponsors; and advertising sponsors *Good Times* and *Santa Cruz Weekly*.

The Seymour Center is located at the end of Delaware Avenue on the west side of Santa Cruz. Regular public visiting hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (831) 459-3800 or visit the Center's web site at <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu>.