

Science Forum Lecture Series

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**Friday July 13, 2012
at 7:30 PM
Beckman Hall
Room 104**

Lonesome George is Gone, But Remarkable Tortoise Conservation Things are Happening in the Galapagos!

This presentation details the challenging natural history of a number of species of giant tortoise from the Galápagos Islands. From the late 1500s to the 1800s pirates, whalers, sealers and other early visitors removed as many as 200,000 giant tortoises, mainly as a source of fresh meat. The plight and 45+ year recovery effort for the Española, Pinta, Pinzon and Floreana island tortoises will be highlighted.

The extraordinary conservation program conducted jointly by the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and the Galápagos National Park Service (GNPS) to bring these animals back from the brink of extinction will be discussed. As of 2007, more than 4,700 young tortoises have been returned to the wild in Galápagos, and many of them are now reproducing and increasing their population numbers.

Since 1986, Dr. Caporaso has visited the Galápagos Islands 18 times. He is the professor for a Chapman University course, **Darwin and the Galápagos**.



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