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NOTED WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONISTS LAURIE MARKER AND JIM FOWLER THIS FALL AT ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences and the Philadelphia chapter of the Explorers Club are teaming up this fall to present free public lectures by two prominent wildlife conservationists who have devoted their lives to saving endangered species and preserving their habitats.

Dr. Laurie Marker, director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund and recent recipient of the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, will present a talk on “20 Years of Cheetah Conservation” on Thursday, Oct. 21. Jim Fowler, one of the world’s best known naturalists from his role as host of “Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom,” will speak about his worldwide conservation and education work on Thursday, Nov. 4. Both programs will take place at the Academy of Natural Sciences and are free. Here is more information:

20 Years of Cheetah Conservation, Dr. Laurie Marker

Thursday, October 21

6 p.m. Reception

6:30 p.m. Lecture

Free

To register: <http://cheetahconservationfund.eventbrite.com/>

Dr. Laurie Marker is among the world’s leading experts on cheetahs, the world’s fastest land animal. She has conducted groundbreaking research on the re-introduction of captive-born cheetahs into the wild, helped identify their limited genetic makeup, and contributed vital information on cheetah health, reproduction, mortality, evolution, and genetics. In 1990, Marker founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund and established its headquarters in Namibia. She has led her conservation organization from its humble beginnings in a tiny farmhouse to a worldwide model for predator conservation. In addition to continuing research on the cheetah and its ecosystem, the foundation works internationally with scientists, government officials, businesses, and communities to raise awareness, develop policies and initiate business practices linking the economies of country landowners to international consumers and businesses. In addition to many international awards, Marker was recognized in 2000 as one of *Time* magazine’s Heroes for the Planet.

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An Evening with Wildlife Conservationist Jim Fowler

Thursday, November 4

6 p.m. Reception

6:30 p.m. Lecture

Free

To register: <http://jimfowlerwildlife.eventbrite.com/>

Jim Fowler, one of the world's best known wildlife conservationists, has presented information about wildlife and wilderness to the American public on television for more than 40 years. He first served as co-host and later became host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," and also hosted "Mutual of Omaha's Spirit of Adventure." Both programs received many awards including four Emmys. Fowler also was the wildlife correspondent for NBC's Today Show for many years, and he was a regular on the "Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." Fowler is actively involved in a nationwide conservation education program conducted at the local community level. He is president of the Fowler Center for Wildlife Education in New York and serves as the honorary president of the Explorers Club. In 1994 he received the prestigious Explorers Club Medal, the club's highest honor.

The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

The Explorers Club is an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. Since its inception in 1904, the club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide. www.PhiladelphiaExplorers.org.

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HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!