The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature’s Delighting and Inspiring
15th Annual Spring Barbecue

(Solvang, CA, March 14, 2018) – Every year the Wildling Museum’s spring barbecue fundraiser is in a unique, natural location where guests can mingle while enjoying a beautiful landscape. This year was notable because it included the first Legacy Awards and also because it ranked as one of the top fundraising events in the museum’s 15-year history. The 2018 Barbecue took place on Sunday, April 29th at an extraordinary location, in the Santa Barbara mountains, off Mission Canyon road. The journey to arrive at this venue started with parking, courtesy of the Old Mission Santa Barbara, and then catching a ride with the Santa Barbara Airbus up the mountain.

After checking in, guests enjoyed appetizers and beverages and were free to explore the property of the Creekspirit Foundation. Our gracious hosts, Patti Jacquemain and Dave Gledhill, are founding members of the Wildling Museum and continue to serve on the board. Their beautiful venue is full of Patti’s mosaic art and perfectly complemented the jazz guitar by Michael Holland, all combining to create an atmosphere filled with passion for art and nature! Decorations were courtesy of our exceptional Wildling Event Volunteers. Catering was by Feast & Fest with dessert donated by Olsen’s Danish Village Bakery, wine pouring courtesy of Buttonwood Winery & Vineyard, Wandering Dog Wine Bar, and donated beverages thanks to M.Special Brew Co, Rusack, Hilliard Bruce, Kalyra, Nielsen, Dierberg, Bridlewood, and Alma Rosa wineries.

The 2018 Award Winners

More than an afternoon of entertainment, this event is an opportunity to honor outstanding individuals for their accomplishments. Joan Easton Lentz received the Wilderness Spirit Award, and Pete & Becky Adams and Jack & Judy Stapelmann received our first Legacy Awards, created by sculptor Bud Bottoms and sponsored by Northern Trust.
Wilderness Spirit Award

This year, the Wilding honored Joan Easton Lentz with the Wilderness Spirit Award. Joan Easton Lentz is a naturalist and author who grew up in Santa Barbara, and has spent much of her life studying the region’s natural history.

Joan has written several books, but most significantly, A Naturalist’s Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, which celebrates the Santa Barbara region as an ecological hotspot, a truly unique place on our planet. This book has become a vital resource for the Wildling and helped shape their second floor gallery space. Joan’s thorough research has left a lasting legacy for all local nature lovers.

Legacy Award

For their years of generous unwavering support, the Wildling is thrilled to honor Pete & Becky Adams and Jack & Judy Stapelmann with the first Legacy Award. Without their efforts, the Wildling would not be what is today. From serving faithfully on the Board of Directors, supporting strategic planning efforts, and then helping to purchase our building, the Wildling will forever be grateful for their generosity.

Pete Adams served on the Board for 6 years, the last three as Chair. He is proud of the strategic plan that he and the Board developed, which has led to the relocation, growth and stability of the museum. He remains on the Advisory Council, and is grateful that his business experience in finance, marketing and executive leadership has helped the Wildling flourish.

Judy Stapelmann served an extra year on the Wildling Board to help with fundraising for the purchase of the Museum building. Judy is a lifelong horseback rider and has organized trail ride fundraisers for the Museum.

Abundant Contributions

An event of this caliber would not be possible without the businesses and individuals who share our mission to inspire our community and visitors to enjoy, value, and conserve wildlife and natural areas through art. It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge their contributions. Many generous individuals contributed in multiple categories such as donors, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons of this Spring BBQ event. For a full list of contributions please visit our website: http://www.wildlingmuseum.org/spring-bbq/

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The Wildling Museum of Art & Nature, where art and nature meet, offers visitors a unique perspective on the importance of preserving our natural heritage. Through the eyes of artists, education and field experiences, guests can renew their relationship with the wilderness and understand its fragile nature – hopefully leaving more committed toward ensuring those spaces remain for future generations.

The Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on Tuesdays). For more information, to volunteer and/or join as a member to support this important local arts and nature institution, please visit www.wildlingmuseum.org.