

## DAC Meeting 2/28/15 Guest Speaker Biographies

### **John Randall**

John is the lead scientist for the Nature Conservancy in southern California. Armed with a PhD in ecology from UC Davis, John has worked to protect California's extraordinary native species for 24 years. He recently relocated to Southern California to better explore both the southern third of the state and northern Baja California, where there is still so much to conserve. His current research focuses on the effects of developing solar, wind and geothermal energy projects in the California Desert. One of the goals is to create a model for siting renewable energy and protecting the deserts that the rest of the planet can follow. Part of John's research is determining how desert plants and animals will respond to projected climate changes, which will help inform what to protect now for the future.

### **Barry R. Sinervo**

Barry is a Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He holds a PhD in Zoology from the University of Washington. The Patagonian lizard *Phymaturus sinervo*, a newly described species, was named in his honor. Barry has been a visiting professor at the Natural History Museum, in Paris, and is currently a special visiting professor at the University of Brasilia, in Brazil. Much of Barry's work focuses on the microevolutionary changes in behavior and physiology of lizards. He is also interested in the evolution of development in marine and freshwater organisms with larval stages (e.g., sea urchins and amphibians), and other macroevolutionary problems of evolutionary biology that involve speciation. His recent work is related to socially mediated speciation rather than ecologically mediated speciation, which is typically considered in speciation studies.

### **Jeffrey Lovich**

Jeff is a Research Ecologist with the Southwest Biological Science Center. He has studied the ecology and systematics of turtles and other reptiles for over 30 years, discovering and naming four of the world's 330 turtle species or subspecies, including three in the United States and one in Japan. Other interests include the ecological impacts of invasive species, the ecology and distribution of relict species, and the impacts of human activities (including renewable energy development) on ecological patterns and processes in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. He received a Fulbright Senior Specialist Award in 2008 to collaborate with researchers at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, Morocco. Current research focuses on the impacts of wind and solar energy development on federally protected populations of the desert tortoise and the ecology of poorly-known species of turtles in the United States and Morocco.