



NEWS RELEASE

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Chicago Zoological Society Presents Second Annual George B. Rabb Conservation Award

Dr. Carl Safina, Blue Ocean Institute Founder, Speaks at
Brookfield Zoo February 22nd

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Brookfield, IL--Dr. Carl Safina, renowned author and protector of the world's oceans for the past 25 years, is the 2006 recipient of the second annual George B. Rabb Conservation Award presented by the Chicago Zoological Society.

On Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Safina will speak at Brookfield Zoo and describe his latest book, *Eye of the Albatross*, which uses an albatross' story to explore the impact of humans on the ocean ecosystems.

Dr. Safina earned the distinguished Rabb Award for his devotion to solving problems facing ocean wildlife and promoting a balanced co-existence between humans and other animals. His work and passion led him to develop campaigns to ban high-seas drift nets, restore our oceans' depleted populations of tunas and sharks, and reduce albatross drownings on commercial fishing lines. Dr. Safina also re-wrote and reformed U.S. fisheries law and worked to pass a United Nations global fisheries treaty.

Dr. Safina's interest in conservation began decades ago as a recreational fisherman, noticing dwindling populations of white marlin, shark, tuna and sea turtle populations. His fight to keep the ocean habitat in headlines has continued since.

In 2003, Dr. Safina co-founded The Blue Ocean Institute with the mission of using science, art and literature to inspire a "sea ethic"--a closer relationship between humans and the sea, and a respect for sea-dwelling natural resources. One of the Institute's programs, *From Sea to Table*, features a consumer guide to ocean-friendly seafood with rankings of which

species are best to eat without the risk of overfishing. Dr. Safina's book, *The Seafood Lover's Almanac*, helps consumers balance healthy seafood diets with conservation sensibility.

"With the George B. Rabb Award, the Chicago Zoological Society is recognizing Dr. Carl Safina for his life's work and unparalleled dedication to protecting the world's oceans and marine wildlife," says Dr. Stuart Strahl, CEO and president of Brookfield Zoo. "Dr. Safina exemplifies the meaning of the award, by living his conservation ethic and providing a role-model for the many of us who share his concern for living responsibly within our world."

Dr. Safina's achievements further extend into the literary world. As the author of more than 100 scientific ecology publications, his first book, *Song for the Blue Ocean*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Other works include *Eye of the Albatross* and *The Seafood Lover's Almanac*. Dr. Safina's latest book, *Voyage of the Turtle: In Pursuit of the Earth's Last Dinosaur*, will be released in May.

Dr. Safina's lecture kicks off *Dive into Ocean Ecosystems*, a four-part lecture series at Brookfield Zoo. He will receive the Rabb Award on Feb. 22 in a private ceremony.

Other lectures in the zoo's series will discuss the living threats to dolphin populations (March 28), sharks (April 25) and coral reefs (May 23). For tickets and information about Dr. Safina's February 22 lecture and the four-part lecture series *Dive into Ocean Ecosystems*, visit the zoo's Web site at www.BrookfieldZoo.org or call (708) 485-0263, ext. 297.

Dr. Carl Safina

Dr. Safina holds a doctorate in Ecology from Rutgers University. He was named by Audubon magazine as one of the "100 Notable Conservationists of the 20th Century." Among his many honors, Dr. Safina is a recipient of the Pew Scholar's Conservation award, a World Wildlife Fund Senior Fellowship and a Lannan Literacy Award recipient for his nonfiction writings. For 10 years he served as the National Audubon Society Vice President for Ocean Conservation. An adjunct professor at Stony Brook University and a visiting professor at Yale University, Dr. Safina resides in Long Island, New York.

The George B. Rabb Conservation Award

Dr. George B. Rabb was Brookfield Zoo director and president of the Chicago Zoological Society from 1976 to 2003. A recognized leader in animal husbandry and conservation research, Dr. Rabb chaired the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union from 1990 to 1996 and is a founder of Chicago Wilderness, a regional nature reserve that includes more than 250,000 acres of protected natural lands. Today, Dr. Rabb is active with other scientists around the world on the declining amphibian challenge and other significant challenges facing zoos and the conservation community.

The George B. Rabb Conservation Award was created by the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Zoological Society to honor Dr. Rabb's lifetime

accomplishments.

Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo's mission is to inspire conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife and nature. Open every day of the year, Brookfield Zoo is located off First Avenue between the Stevenson (I-55) and Eisenhower (I-290) expressways and is also accessible via the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), Metra commuter line, CTA, and PACE bus service.