

FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
SALAMANDERS



# 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

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CONTRIBUTING TO A WORLD WHERE  
SALAMANDERS ARE CONSIDERED,  
CONSERVED, AND APPRECIATED  
WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND.

FALLS CHURCH, VA

## **A Full Year for FCSal!**



FCSal is proud of the year we had in 2016! We successfully launched our newest initiative, Salamander Saturday, an event promoting global unity in the effort to protect salamanders. Over 20 events were held throughout the United States and Canada. We even got a shout out from USFWS on Twitter! Don't fret if you missed Salamander Saturday this year; FCSal will be celebrating salamanders on the first Saturday in May annually.

FCSal began 2016 with our most important work, awarding funds to grant recipients. In our first international grant cycle, we received 15 extraordinary applications. After much deliberation, we awarded \$4,474 to Dr. Christopher Michaels from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

and Jose Alfredo Hernandez Diaz from Africam Safari for their incredible work with the Taylor's salamander in Laguna Alchichica, Mexico. This unique salamander evolved in isolation and inhabits brackish water. The money allocated by FCSal is being used to study the ecology of the salamander, assess and address threats, and research its poorly-known biology. Furthermore, the project is engaging local communities to educate, involve, and empower people in conservation action. FCSal also contributed to two educational outreach grants that will aid in developing a global effort to increase appreciation for salamanders and their habitats.

We continued to participate in a variety of courses and conferences in 2016. We partially funded the Amphibian Survival Alliance's Neotropical Salamander Course in Siquirres, Costa Rica. This course focused on building expertise and capacity in neotropical American institutions which have traditionally focused on frog conservation. Here at home, FCSal board members attended several conferences to increase our outreach including the Special Highlands

Conference on Plethodontid Salamander Biology, the American Association of Zoo Keepers Annual conference, the Animal Behavior and Management Alliance conference, and Wetlands Awareness Day. These opportunities have allowed us to improve our cooperation with conservation organizations at home and around the globe and gain important new sources of financial backing.

Thank you all for the support you provide FCSal each year. Your efforts have resulted in \$22,000 in funds provided for salamander conservation, research, and education around the globe. We look forward to increasing this amount in 2017!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Augustine'.

**Lauren Augustine**

**President, Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders**

**[www.fcsal.org](http://www.fcsal.org)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/ChopsticksForSalamanders/>**

### **THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALAMANDERS BOARD**

**Vice President**  
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Katherine Mantzouris

**Secretary**  
Megan Baumer

**Board Members**  
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# SUPPORT AND FUNDING

FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALAMANDERS

## SALAMANDER SATURDAY

A day to celebrate salamanders – you're all invited!

FCSal has been developing partnerships with other organizations since its beginnings as Chopsticks for Salamanders. Many of these partnerships were vital in the initiation of Salamander Saturday.

The first annual Salamander Saturday was held on May 07,

2016. This inaugural day was celebrated with 19 events in seven U.S. states, and

three international events held in Canada! Eight zoos and AAZK chapters participated with educational booths, informing guests about salamanders and their habitats. Eight nature centers gave special attention to salamanders through guided walks, live animal demonstrations, and guest speakers. One university in Canada hosted lectures on salamander research and two conservation organizations held a day of appreciation with educational events.

“...THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN OR HOLD A SALAMANDER SATURDAY EVENT.”

This variety of activities and events demonstrates that there is no limit to the different ways to participate in or hold a Salamander Saturday event. From an actual field survey in which participants got muddy counting salamanders in a local forest (River bend Nature

Center) to an upscale restaurant event dressed in their best (Science Class, hosted by Clare and Don's Beach Shack), our participants got creative to get the message out about salamander appreciation!

If you are interested in holding a Salamander Saturday event for 2017, please contact [info@fcsal.org](mailto:info@fcsal.org) for more information or to have your function added to our website. For a complete list of events as they are planned, go to [FCSal.org](http://FCSal.org). Don't forget that Salamander Saturday is held annually on the first Saturday in May!

## SALAMANDER SATURDAY

Many thanks to everyone that held a Salamander Saturday event in 2016!

- \*Quinte Conservation Area  
Belleville, ON, Canada
- \*Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- \*Matt Ellerbeck-Salamander Man
- \*Toronto Zoo  
Toronto, ON, Canada
- \*Rancho del Oso Nature Center  
Davenport, CA
- \*San Diego Zoo  
San Diego, CA
- \*Brevard Zoo  
Melbourne, FL
- \*Maryland Natural History Society  
Baltimore, MD
- \*Maryland Zoo  
Baltimore, MD
- \*Patapsco Valley State Park  
Catonsville, MD
- \*Turtle Back Zoo  
West Orange, NJ
- \*Highlands Biological Station  
Highlands, NC
- \*Grandfather Mountain  
Stewardship Foundation  
Western, NC
- \*Elmwood Park Zoo  
Norristown, PA
- \*Dallas Zoo and AAZK Chapter  
Dallas, TX
- \*Fort Worth Zoo  
Fort Worth, TX
- \*Green Mountain Conservation  
Camp – Kehoe  
Castleton, VT
- \*Hidden Oak Nature Center  
Annandale, VA
- \*Huntley Meadows Park  
Fairfax, VA
- \*Clare and Don's Beach Shack  
Falls Church, VA
- \*River Bend Nature Center  
Great Falls, VA

## 2016 GRANT CYCLE

2016 marked the first year FCSal accepted international grant applicants, demonstrating the need for salamander funding across the world.

"Assessment of the Conservation status and needs of Taylor's salamander" Dr. Christopher Michaels from the Zoological Society of London and Alfredo H. Diaz from Africam Safari, awarded \$4,474.

Taylor's salamander (*Ambystoma taylori*) is a neotenic, Critically Endangered micro-endemic salamander found only in Laguna Alchichica, Mexico, which evolved under isolated conditions and inhabits brackish water in a bizarre stromatolite-dominated system. Due to this combination of endangerment and evolutionary distinctiveness, *A. taylori* holds 7th place on the EDGE of Existence global priority list for amphibian conservation. Laguna Alchichica is threatened by water extraction and pollution as a result of growing human pressure. Unlike other lakes in this region, most of the threats to Taylor's salamander are very local and therefore have great potential for rapid amelioration. There is a unique opportunity to prevent ecological extinction of this species, which has occurred in related species (e.g. *A. dumerilii* and *A. mexicanum*). This grant application is intended to support fieldwork for the second year of an EDGE Fellowship (for José Alfredo Hernández Díaz), which is also financially supported by ZSL. The project will estimate population size and map the distribution of the salamander in Alchichica, assess and address threats and research its poorly-known biology. We will engage with communities to educate, involve and empower people in conservation action. We will produce a conservation blueprint, which both collaborating institutions are committed to support. In the first year of the project, funded through the EDGE program, we have established links with local authorities and communities and involved them in habitat restoration, completed half the data collection for population size and distribution, and produced a peer-reviewed publication on parasitosis in the species (in press).

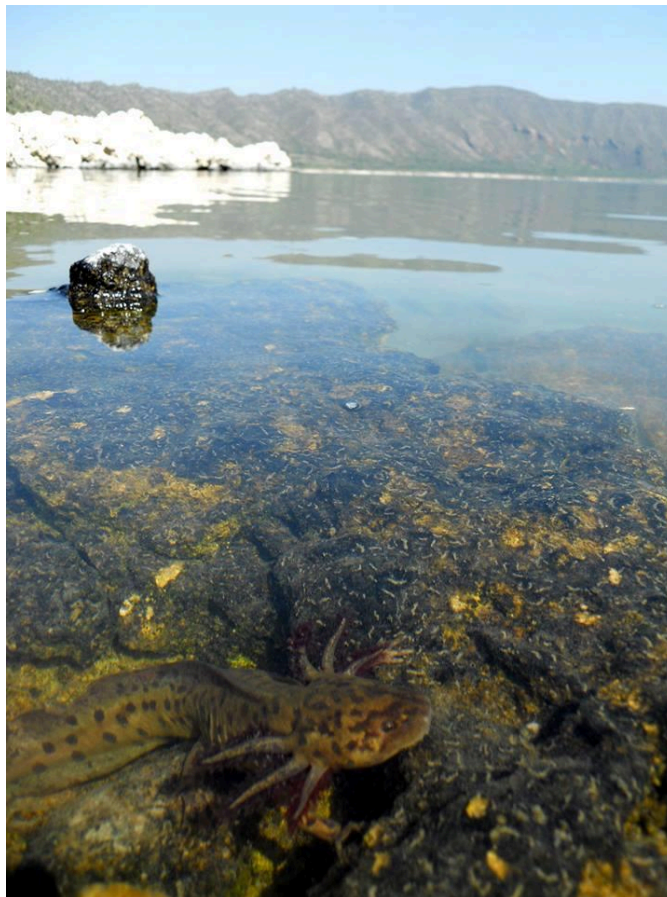
"Developing China's first Chinese giant salamander conservation eco trail in Fanjingshan National Nature reserve" Shu Chen from the Zoological Society of London, awarded \$500.

Endemic to China, the Critically Endangered Chinese giant salamander (CGS; *Andrias davidianus* - Cryptobranchidae) is the world's largest amphibian. It also earns the moniker "living fossil" due to its long evolutionary history dating back to the Jurassic period. Despite the charismatic distinctiveness of the species, conservation awareness of CGS is relatively low in China and anthropogenic threats are still prevalent in the wild. The recent expansion of the CGS farming industry may further mislead public perception towards consuming CGS, at the same time weakening the important need to conserve wild populations of the CGS and its habitat. This project aims to promote the plight of CGS through the development of China's first CGS oriented educational trail in Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve (FNNR) of Guizhou Province, one of a few sites where wild CGS are still present. Results from a pilot survey led by ZSL in FNNR suggested that tourists had a low awareness of the CGS in this area and that there was a high willingness of local villagers to participate in future wildlife ecotourism initiatives. There is therefore a strong local need for this project and the fact that local villagers are interested makes this program more suitable in the long term. To be interactive and informative, the design and development of this educational eco trail would be tailored to this species' natural habitat in FNNR. The program would promote the significance of the CGS in Chinese culture and incorporate with arts design. In addition, stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising campaigns would be conducted simultaneously in order to promote this project at the regional, national and international level. The success of this project could provide a template for future replication in other CGS priority conservation areas and thus deliver a wider conservation impact.

## 2016 GRANT CYCLE

"Vernal pools for me" Aram J. K. Calhoun and Kristine Hoffmann from the University of Maine, awarded \$500.

The Vernal Pools for Me project will enhance the connection between the public and vernal pools by encouraging understanding of these special resources and the amphibians that depend on them through a portfolio of multi-media outreach materials for children. Project design and deliverables will be developed with our partners (Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Stillwater Montessori School, Hirundo Wildlife Refuge, etc) to tailor our efforts to make the deliverables most useful and engaging to our audience. A postdoctoral fellow will coordinate the project and work with skilled undergraduate students to produce many of our products, which will include a hybrid coloring book and guide book, YouTube videos highlighting science as a process and the biology and ecology of vernal pool animals, comics describing the life histories of vernal pool amphibians, a sing-along song, blogs by our partners, smart phone applications and/or web games, and items identified by our stakeholders. Products will be shared through our partners and posted on the Of Pools and People website, where they will be available freely to educators, nature centers, and the public, and some material will be printed for distribution through our partners.



Taylor's Salamander, Photo by Dr. Christopher Michaels

+To disseminate information about the threats to salamanders and their habitats. +To increase awareness about salamander diversity, biology and conservation. +To raise money for salamander conservation, education, and research. +To fund salamander conservation initiatives through an annual grant.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Revenue

Surplus funds (2015).....	\$10,900.18
Individual donations.....	\$380.00
Chopsticks sales (AAZK Chapters) .....	\$2,485.00
Chopsticks sales (conferences) .....	\$742.00
Merchandise Sales Online .....	\$723.19
Salamander Saturday events.....	\$1905.63
Salamander Happy Hour .....	\$1249.56
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<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$21,287.69

### Expenditures

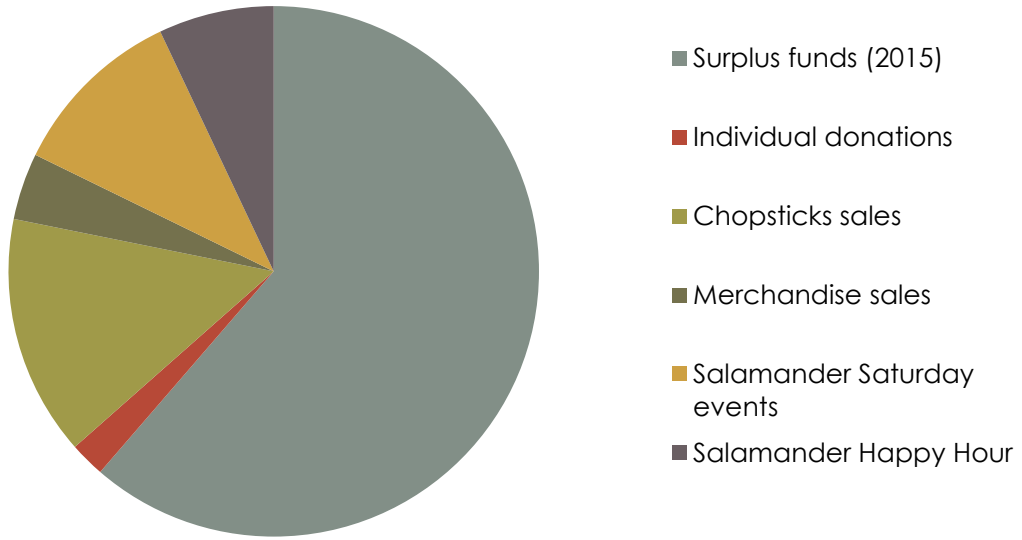
Further chopstick purchases.....	\$380.00
Grants funded.....	\$5,474.00
Website expenses.....	\$99.00
Postage and printing.....	\$514.55
Non-profit status.....	\$26.95
Administrative fees.....	\$147.15
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<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$6,641.65

### Base cost per chopstick sale

Chopsticks base price.....	\$0.80
Embroidered carry-bag.....	\$1.95
Business card.....	\$0.22
U.S. shipping per pair (in bulk).....	\$0.25
Trifold added to each chopstick sale.....	\$0.15
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<b>Base cost per pair</b>	\$3.37

Paying bulk price of \$10.00 per pair generates \$6.63 for salamander conservation per pair.

## Revenue



## Expenditures

