



MAT, copyright 1976

torreyana

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, No. 44, October 1979

Judy Schulman, Editor

THE NEXT DOCENT MEETING will be October 20 at 9 a.m. in the Lodge. Dr. Phillip Pryde of San Diego State University will lecture and present a slide show of preserves in the Soviet Union. This should be an interesting meeting so let's have a good turnout!!!

THE PRESIDENT'S HOPPER

I have the signed MAT prints for all of you who were on the list I turned in last month. I do not have wrappers or envelopes to put them in, so you may want to bring a suitable container to the meeting to take them home in. They measure 10 and 1/8 inches by 13 and 1/2 inches. If those who have not made a selection will communicate their choices I will include them in the second list.

This is "LOVE YOUR HEAD RANGER" month. We are going to miss Ranger Ross who is being reassigned to San Elijo at Cardiff. Leroy's contribution to the Docent Society and his high regard for the work we do is unmatched. We wish him well.

-Bob H.-

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES by Millicent Horger

The treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$600. Docent performance was discussed. Try to sign up for 1 fixed duty, or better yet, 2, for each month. Julie Marine was presented with a beautiful mum plant in appreciation of her work as duty coordinator. Ruth Hand have a book report on The Sense of Wonder by Rachel Carson. There is a new 6 minute slide show in the Lodge narrated by Hank Nicols. Ranger Ross reported on the work of the YCC this summer: the south overlook on the Guy Fleming Trail, the trail over Red Butte and new overlooks on the Rim Trail (open for guided tours only) and Yucca Point. He then led the Docents on a walk to see the completed projects.

A NOTE TO THE WISE

Remember to do your duty....it's the docent thing to do!!!

10-79

SOME FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT BUTTERFLIES

Excerpts from "Butterflies Are Full of Surprises"
by Ted Williams in the August-September 1979
issue of National Wildlife.



...an angry butterfly may pursue you for 500 yards. The smaller the butterfly, the more aggressive it is apt to be. Two of our smallest and commonest species—the American copper and pearl crescent—are among the most pugnacious of the lot. They will establish a territory and dart out at anything that strays into it, be it cat, dog, cow, bird, human, grasshopper, squirrel, Frisbee, or even the shadow of an airplane...

...Some butterfly assaults—most notably those of the calicos and their relatives—are accompanied by a series of sharp clicks, audible for over 100 feet and made by snapping two body segments together while moving both pair of wings at a peculiar, alternating beat...

...Butterflies may appear even more colorful to each other than they do to us. They are thought to possess the broadest known visual spectrum of any animals on earth. Many species have ultraviolet wing patches which are invisible to humans but obvious to potential mates...

...The butterfly's sense of smell and taste are remarkably acute and are vital to its feeding and mating. Monarchs, for example, have a taste sensitivity about 2,400 times greater than humans...As for taste, some butterflies can bring out the "flavor" of their food by walking on it—their taste organs are located on the soles of their feet...To revive a butterfly weakened by hunger, you can administer a "butterfly elixir"— $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon honey, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sugar, one cup warm water—via a well soaked pad of cotton or wool. Pick up the ailing butterfly by its wings, taking care not to dislodge the tiny scales, and touch its feet to the pad. If it refuses to feed, uncoil its watch-spring "tongue" with a fine needle until the tip touches the pad...

...The "drinking club" is one of the butterfly's most astonishing and least understood behaviors. Groups ranging from a few to as many as a hundred adults will gather on wet ground or rock where they will drink for hours, sometimes pumping so much liquid through their bodies that droplets fall from the ends of their abdomens every 10 seconds or so. Almost always, these are males. Certainly they cannot be driven by thirst alone. Perhaps it is some kind of cleansing action. Or, since drinking clubs are often seen in and around manure, perhaps it serves to introduce beneficial bacteria to the intestine...

In their larval forms, butterflies have evolved startling effective defense mechanisms. These include colorations that make them appear to be bird droppings, stiff hairs that ward off wasps or birds and spots that look like large eyes. Swallowtails thrust a fleshy, Y-shaped organ out from behind the head where it pulsates and gives off repugnant odors. The larvae of some species rear up on their hind legs and bob and weave like threatening snakes. Others curl up and play dead...

Most meadow butterflies cannot fly until the sun has heated their bodies to at least 70 degrees. And many will respond instantaneously to shade by ceasing all activity... Some species, probably to take better advantage of solar heat, often rest with their forewings folded together and back wings held straight out...

SANTA ROSA ISLAND by Bob Hopper

10-79

"Santa Rosa Island is located 24.5 miles southwest of Goleta Point on the mainland. It is 15 miles long and nearly 10 miles wide. The island is privately owned and permission to land must be obtained from Vail & Vickers, 123 West Padre St., Suite D, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

The highest point, near the middle of the island, is 1589 feet and visible from 40 miles. The island has some water and is partially covered with vegetation, but there are no large trees. The shores are bold, high, and rocky---there are no harbors---there are sand dunes as much as 300 feet high. Deer and cattle can sometimes be seen on shore. Mounted cowboys tend the herds."

The foregoing is a quote from the Southern California Yachting Association Yearbook of 1976. It is interesting that Torrey Pines are not mentioned and that the statement "there are no large trees" appears in the description for mariners. Perhaps the trees are not visible from the coastal areas and maybe they don't grow as tall as the mainland stand at the Reserve. I will try to get some information about our "other point of interest" and if you have some information please let me know.

TIME OUT

As of October the First the Torrey Pines State Reserve closes at 5 PM daily. Docents please note that our duty hours are now 11 to 2 and 1 to 4. The nature walks are at 11:30 and 1:30. Please report for duty at your scheduled time so that an alternate might be located to serve your duty if you become a "no-show." If no one shows for the walk, spend some time on the trails or helping the other docent with the lodge duty.

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
PO BOX 38
Carlsbad, CA 92008

FIRST CLASS