



TORREYANA

Published for members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #61, April, 1981

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: Sat., April 18, 9:00 A.M., Lodge

Our own Bill Brothers will give a lecture on Botany, with emphasis on the plants found in the Reserve, and including tips on using plant keys.

Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

I would like to thank everyone at the last meeting for taking my survey. The answers will definitely be considered in planning all future docent activities.

The board has been discussing the possibility of redesigning the museum. Please bring any ideas you have to the next meeting. I would like to have an open discussion involving what facets of the Reserve we want to present and how we should display them.

To me, the watchword for being a docent is reliability. Each of us should have a reliability factor based on the following 4 items: (1) Do I attend meetings whenever I can? (2) Do I do on the average at least 1 duty per month? (3) Do I give sufficient notice to the duty coordinator when I can't make a scheduled duty? and (4) Is the information I give to visitors correct and do I admit that I don't know when a visitor asks me about a plant with which I am unfamiliar?

One final word, please remember the importance of doing things in groups (especially with 12 members) because it's CHEAPER BY THE DOCENT!

Judy

Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine

March 21, 1981

SURPRISE !

A new couch and chair are now in place in our docent room. Thanks to Ruth Hand and Sunny Rankin, and also to Ranger John Magee who helped deliver it in a park pick-up truck.

A warm welcome to new associate docent, Stan Geller, and a warm welcome back into the Docent Society to John Ferrer.

Our meeting was called to order by Pres. Judy Schulman at 9:30, due to a little excitement around 9:00 A.M. when our meeting usually starts. There was an uninvited visitor to the Reserve who landed by hot air balloon in the public parking lot. I'm glad it didn't come down in a Torrey pine tree or cause a fire. Luckily, no one was injured.

Each docent filled out a questionnaire for Judy. After having our coffee and delicious tea breads provided by Mary Christenson, we were introduced to our guest speaker, Diana Herron, who is well known at the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park for teaching classes in basic birding, and leading bird walks around San Diego. She gave an excellent talk and slide show on birds that we may look for around the Reserve area. A walk on the Parry Grove Trail followed our meeting. Our docents were asked to listen to bird calls and bird songs in helping to identify birds, especially when they are sometimes difficult to spot in our Coastal Chaparral.

SPRING TRAINING SESSION

Mark your calendars now for the Saturday mornings of May 2, 9, 16 and 30. Subjects to be covered include regional history, vertebrate biology, birds, botany and interpretive techniques. Plan to attend Orientation on May 2, and try to line up some interested friends to join us! Meet at the Lodge at 9:00 A.M.

INTERPRETERS' MEETING by Isabel Buechler

Approximately 25 interpreters representing several different organizations in the San Diego area met on March 4 for supper and a meeting at Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma. While enjoying the spectacular nighttime view from the monument, attendees had the opportunity to become acquainted and exchange ideas. Park Ranger Jim Tuck conducted the short meeting, while youngsters watched a Disney movie in the auditorium. Representatives were from the following organizations: Torrey Pines State Reserve, San Diego County Parks, Calif. State Parks and Recreation, San Diego Historical Society, San Diego Field Ornithologists, Gaslamp Quarter Association, Sea World Education Dep't., and U.S. Forest Service.

News & Notes



NIGHT WALK

The Sierra Club has scheduled a night walk in the Reserve on Friday, April 17. Docents are invited. Hank Nicol will lead the walk.

This happens to be Good Friday, and just two days before Passover and the full moon. It promises to be a spiritual or perhaps just an interesting experience. If you have never been on a night walk, it could prove to be inspirational.

Meet at the Lodge at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, April 17.

Please sign up for extra duty during the week before Easter, when we expect a large number of holiday visitors. Call Ruth Hand: 459-9020

If space permits, the current membership list will be published in the next Torreyana. Should you object to having your address and phone nr. in print, call the editor before April 25, please.

Poetry Corner

Stars

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head,
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire
That aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill,
I watch them marching
Stately and still,

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty.

-Sara Teasdale

April 1981

Once I read an article in which some guy was trying to promote the use of the cube in architecture. To him the cube was the highest human artistic expression. After all, the Muslims built a cube over their sacred rock in Mecca, and the cube is never found in nature.

One of the basic necessities at our house is nampla. That's fish sauce to you, unless you've been to Vietnam or the Philippines, and you call it nukmam or patis. Basically, it's a saturated solution of salt in fish juice. It's bottled in the tropics. Somewhere between Thailand and the U.S. of A. the nampla cools off and some of the salt crystallizes. Nearly every bottle has a few perfect cubes in the bottom. If that's not entirely natural, how about this? If you look at a Torrey pine needle through a microscope you may see small cubes here and there. That's right! Salt!

Salt crystals are not the only natural cubes. Bornite, argentite, galena, and naumannite crystallize into cubes too. You probably never heard of these rocks, but I'll bet you've heard of "fool's gold". In the 16th century Sir Martin Frobisher hauled a shipload of it back to England. He thought he was going to be rich.

Pyrite forms in swamps. It may be a little hard to tell now, but Red Butte, Red Ridge, and Broken Hill were once at the bottom of a marsh. Decaying organic matter forms hydrogen sulphide. That's the stuff that makes rotten eggs so fragrant. It reacts with iron to form iron sulphide, or pyrite. It may have duped Frobisher, but the Vikings knew all about it. They smelted it for tools and weapons. Later on, the first English settlers in Virginia smelted "swamp iron".

Pyrite is another of those things the architect said don't exist. Ideally it crystallizes into cubes. Sometimes it becomes octahedrons. Most of the time, though, the crystals are far from perfect. Pyrite is harder and more brittle than gold. In fact, gold isn't brittle at all. You can bend it and beat it into almost any shape. Pyrite has one other disadvantage gold doesn't have. It rusts.

The little crystals of pyrite that formed in our ancient marsh weren't pure. They had a large portion of sand. When the iron rusted, we were left with a lot of little red concretions, sand glued together with iron oxide. The bottom of the old marsh was uplifted 250 feet or so. When the overburden eroded away the hard little concretions had some corners knocked off. Now they are the little "ball bearings" which help us skin our knees and tear our pants.



PYRITE CRYSTALS
(Idealized)



Pyrite Crystals
Ojinahua Mine,
Chihuahua, Mexico



Pyrite Crystal
Logroño, Spain

Hank

Getting to Know You

Helen Chamlee

Helen Chamlee, known to many docents for her skillful interpretations on wildflower walks, was the person inspired to name our newsletter, "Torreyana", when it was first published several years ago. A perfect name! She has had a long standing love affair with T.P.S.R. and is a supporting member.

Active at the Natural History Museum in many capacities, she is also botanical consultant, researcher, lecturer and writer, and has helped design parks, nature trails and public plantings. Helen was named a fellow of the Native Plant Society for distinguished service, and has received numerous awards, including one from the Calif. Council of Landscape Architects. A native plant garden at Wild Animal Park is named after her.

She established Florida Canyon as a native plant preserve and formed the "Canyoneers" guide group. Her two acre homesite, Canyon Trails, she opens once each year to public view.

Helen has graciously permitted us to reprint some of her articles.

Japanese Poem



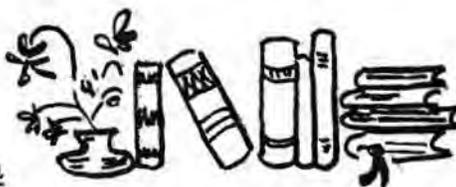
Hours Well Spent

Months and days I've wasted
Doing some useless thing,
How few the hours that have been well spent,
Viewing the flowers in spring!

-Fujiwarano Okikage (about 900 A.D.)

Book Report

By Mike Wainwright



Natural History of Southern California
By Edmund C. Jaeger, U.C. Press, 1969

I enjoyed this book. It is divided into several sections on plant and animal life, seasons, nature studies and biotic communities, well illustrated with photos. The book gives a brief introduction to the climate and wildlife of our region, with many ideas on how to observe and enjoy nature, such as raising caterpillars, photography tips, and the location of nature drives and trails.

On a day of golden sunshine I walked around my canyon trails and three things I saw: California poppies, huge blossoms on plants that have been growing all winter, plants that now are foot-high silvery mounds standing out against the greenest wild grasses we have seen in many years. Why do we call them golden poppies? Gold they're not, these earliest ones, they are dazzling satiny orange.

The earliest blue ceanothus, almost too sweetly fragrant, with flowers in such number as to nearly conceal the foliage.. A medium blue, soft, yet under certain lights as metallic as automobile paint. This ceanothus exasperates photographers; never, ever, does it look real in a photograph. Apparently it looks real enough to bees and other winged small creatures; they find and work it busily.

Giant coreopsis with its succulent grass-green leaves is satisfyingly showy. Just beyond, the tree poppy with its little saucers of purest yellow is beginning its long season of bloom.

And then, near the bottom of the hill, so many wild onions I couldn't believe my eyes. Only a few days earlier I had been gloating over the first wild onion and now here were dozens, hundreds. Felt like Wordsworth, coming at once upon his crowd, his host of golden daffodils. Except that these little onions (alliums) are not gold, but pale lilac, borne in starry clusters on foot-tall leafless stems.

Wild sweet pea vines form a network over the tops of the manzanitas, holding their clusters of bright pink pea flowers above the glossy green manzanita foliage.

The silver stars of the dudleyas have been marred by snails.. Darn! These invaders from moister parts of the world don't find many of our natives to their liking--not juicy enough, but the succulent leaves of the dudleyas suit them just fine.

Brodiaeas are beginning to flower, with eight, ten, up to twenty-five buds to a cluster. Some big spectaculars are to come. Two kinds of yucca are in bud. There is Mohave yucca (Yucca schidigera), with its clumps of swordlike dark green leaves and three-foot flower stalk laden with bells of glossy chocolate outside, creamy inside. Then there is Yucca whipplei, which sends up its stalk eight to twelve feet, with hundreds of white bells on the upper half.

In the dooryard garden with its cultivated exotics are freesias, grape hyacinths, daffodills, speciea gladiolus, sparaxis, iris, one lone Dutch hyacinth, and both Chinese and Japanese wisterias. Color it bright and cover it with fragrance as the old fashioned freesias perfume the air.



Along Our Bloomin' Trails

BLUE AND PURPLE

NIGHTSHADE.

Solanum Dulcamara. Nightshade Family.

PLATE CXLI

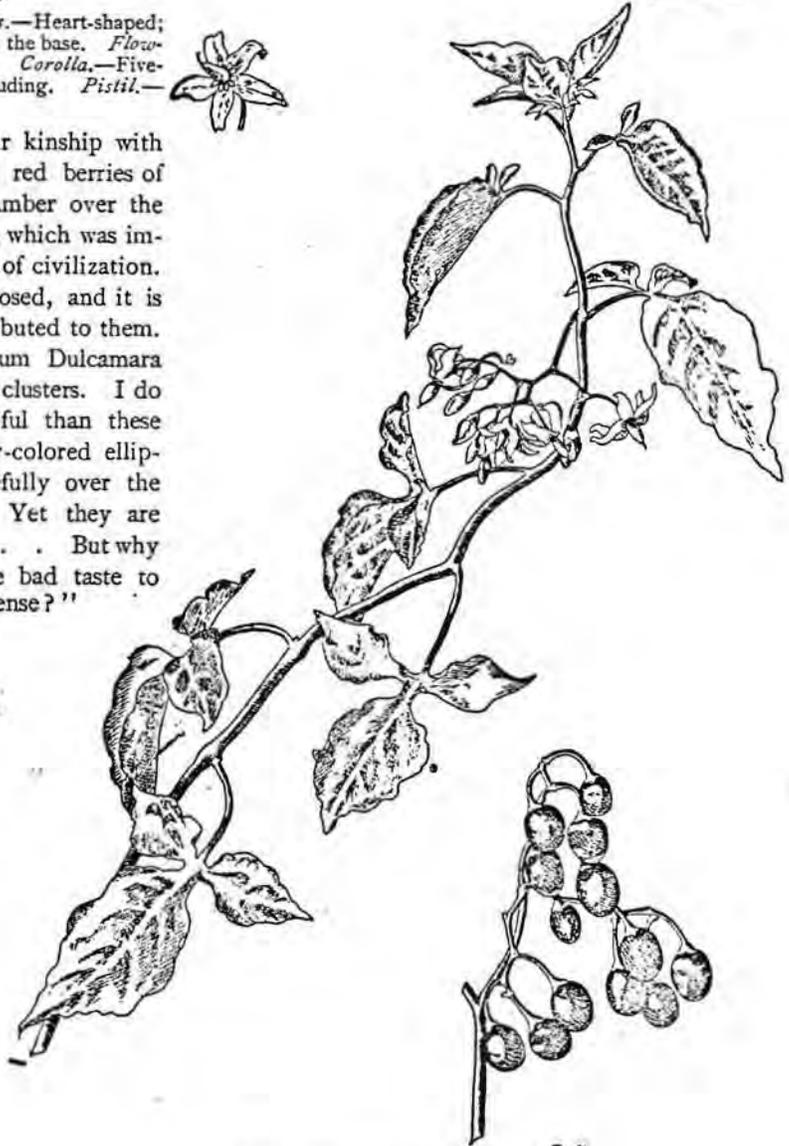
Stem.—Usually somewhat climbing or twining. *Leaves.*—Heart-shaped; the upper halberd-shaped or with ear-like lobes or leaflets at the base. *Flowers.*—Purple; in small clusters. *Calyx.*—Five-parted. *Corolla.*—Five-parted; wheel-shaped. *Stamens.* Five; yellow; protruding. *Pistil.*—One. *Fruit.*—A red berry.



The purple flowers, which at once betray their kinship with the potato plant, and, in late summer, the bright red berries of the nightshade, cluster about the fences and clamber over the moist banks which line the highway. This plant, which was imported from Europe, usually indicates the presence of civilization. It is not poisonous to the touch, as is often supposed, and it is doubtful if the berries have the baneful power attributed to them. Thoreau writes regarding them: "The *Solanum Dulcamara* berries are another kind which grow in drooping clusters. I do not know any clusters more graceful and beautiful than these drooping cymes of scented or translucent, cherry-colored elliptical berries. . . . They hang more gracefully over the river's brim than any pendant in a lady's ear. Yet they are considered poisonous; not to look at surely. . . . But why should they not be poisonous? Would it not be bad taste to eat these berries which are ready to feed another sense?"

From How to Know the Wild Flowers, by Mrs. W.S. Dana
Pub. 1893

Large patches of purple nightshade are in bloom on the northern loops of the Parry Grove and Guy Fleming trails.



Fruit.

NIGHTSHADE.—*Solanum Dulcamara.*

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

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Will he disappear from Los
Peñasquitos Lagoon?

NORTH CITY WEST

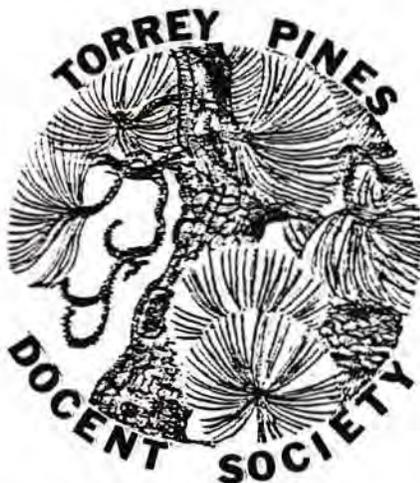
Times change. A few years ago, we,
the citizens of Sandiago (sic), the
mayor, the city council, everybody,
congratulated ourselves on the
existence of Camp Pendleton. It
kept Los Angeles at bay. Now we
admire L.A. so much we want to
build one of our own.

-H.N.



Great Blue Heron

Torrey Pines Docent Society
C/o Torrey Pines State Reserve
2680 Carlsbad Blvd.
Carlsbad, Ca. 92008



FOR

File Copy
Keep in Library



Scrub Jay