



# TORREYANA

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NEXT DOCENT MEETING: Saturday, April 17, 9:00 A.M., Visitor Center

The Docent Training Program will begin. During the first session, Bill Brothers will give a talk on Being a Docent and on the subject of the Torrey Pine Tree; followed by Ranger Bob Wohl, who will enlighten us on the State Park System, Torrey Pines State Reserve in particular. A walk afterwards will emphasize the special aspects of TPSR. Depending on how the slides turn out, there will be a short presentation at the April meeting on the positive and negative aspects of museums visited recently by Ranger John Magee and Naturalist Hank Nicol, including: Cuyamaca, Anza-Borrego, Salton Sea and Idlewild County Museum.

The second training session, April 24, will feature Dick Edwards, Regional Interpretive Specialist, who will discuss Interpretation: Techniques in the Field. The walk following this talk will help us to learn to use the techniques on our trail walks.

There will be 3 more training sessions- May 1, May 8 and the final one on May 15. These meetings will cover botany, history and zoology. Check your May Torreyana for more details. All docents, as well as new trainees, are welcome. Come and refresh your memories and learn something new!

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## NEEDED !!!

Docents on hand during the week of Easter vacation, April 5th through April 9th, to welcome visitors from 12 noon on, or as long as you can stay. If two docents come each day, a walk can be scheduled. Easter week-end the usual schedule will be resumed. Call Ruth Hand, at 459-9020, to sign up.

Happy Easter! Happy Passover! Happy Spring! To celebrate, you may wish to visit Quail Gardens. The California Native Plant Society will host a free, public show there April 18, featuring native plant specimens and their uses in horticulture, as food, and in medicine.

# Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

DOCENT ALERT! DOCENT ALERT! There are 2 State Assembly Bills waiting to be passed through legislature that would be detrimental to the workings of the State Park System. The first is State Assembly Bill #2910, introduced by Lehman, which would abolish the State Park Commission. This is the only people's forum left where individuals can give their input into the State Park System. The second is State Assembly Bill #2596, introduced by Boscoe, which would authorize the Farming and Agriculture Director to eradicate or trap, to employ hunters or trappers, or to order the county agriculture commissioners to eradicate or trap any predator which is found to exist in any park, highway, right of way, or other property subject to control of any state agency that is found to be causing damage in public or private lands. The danger in this bill is that we would not only cause a potential disruption of the balance of nature, but also we would lose management of our own park. Please write to your State Senator and/or Assemblyman in order to voice your opinion. Write to Senator William Craven (38th District) at 550 West Vista Way, Vista CA. Assemblyman Bob Frazee (76th District) can be reached at 2725 Jefferson, Carlsbad, CA 92008.



Red-tailed Hawk

My thanks to everyone who attended the meeting about museum renovation. We need everyone's help and suggestions in order to make this project a success. My special thanks to District Interpretive Specialist Dominique Ghotelli for attending and giving us some guidelines.

We had a surprise visit from Margaret Allen, Guy Fleming's daughter, who shared with us some of her photographs of the reserve and some of her mother's beautiful sketches of scenes at Torrey Pines. These were of particular interest to me since I am doing historical research on the reserve. Speaking of history, I'd like to ask a favor of all of you. If any of you have any pictures of TPSR taken before 1975 or know of any articles, I would appreciate you telling me about them. Also if you meet someone who happens to mention that they were stationed at Camp Callan in the 1940's or that they used to come here when they were children, please ask them if they would mind leaving their name and phone number with the ranger so that I could call them later and ask them some questions about their memories of the place.

There are some associates out there (don't worry, I won't name names) who should be about finished with their check-off list. It is important that you finish them as soon as possible. I will be glad to meet with any associate at the Reserve and spend the day with them going through any items that are left. Please call me at 452-7683 to make arrangements. Also remember that any docent on duty will also be glad to help you check items off the list.

If you would like to order a TPDS t-shirt or a name tag, please call me within the next week in order to have the items at the next meeting.

Finally, remember to tell friends who might be interested in joining us that our training session starts in April. Come one! Come all!

Judy

# Secretary's Notes

by Mary Miller, Acting Sec'y.

At the March meeting, Bill Brothers led a discussion on Museum renovation, with emphasis on information he has gathered on the Torrey pine. Sharing of ideas followed.

Dominic Ghotelli recommended for reading Help for the Small Museum, and suggested that in our planning we consider objects to tell the story, limited space available, audience awareness, and design techniques. All docents are requested to turn in ideas and outlines to Hank Nicol or Bob Wohl before the next meeting, no matter how sketchy. By April 2nd, please!

John Magee presented a questionnaire to be handed out to visitors, asking: Why did you come to TPSR? What exhibits would you like to see? How should information be presented? The answers will be helpful in planning the renovation.

Bob Wohl reported on a recent meeting in Carlsbad for a general plan for the San Diego Coast. There will be a meeting just for Torrey Pines in mid-June. This will probably be the last plan for Torrey Pines with policy type decisions. Input is needed from docents.

Call John Magee if you are interested in joining Natural History Museum classes in training to lead walks for the blind, starting April 14.

Judy Schulman shared the historical research she has done so far, a vast amount of work! Thank you, Judy.

Welcome to new docent, Emmy Garnica.

Following the meeting, refreshments were served.

## Quiz

- 1- Lack of rainfall is what makes a desert a desert. True or False?
- 2- A rattlesnake's age may easily be determined by counting one year for each rattle. True or false?
- 3- The flower stalk of the Century plant will reach a length of 15-30 feet, at the rate of 1 foot per day. True or false?
- 4- Rattlesnakes hunt exclusively by sight, sound and smell. True?
- 5- More people drown in the desert than die of thirst. True or False?
- 6- The sap of the Century plant has been used as a liquor base. True?
- 7- Where is vegetation the most dense in the desert?
- 8- After killing a snake, a road runner will make short work of devouring it? True or false?
- 9- Aside from its psychoenergizing effect at Christmas time, the mistletoe is beneficial to desert trees in retaining water during brief rains. True or false?
- 10- What is the single most important survival rule of the desert?

# News & Notes

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT TPSR A SUCCESS

On Saturday, March 13, eighteen scouts and other volunteers met at the Lodge to begin work on a day-long service project designed by Carsten Kooyman, a prospective Eagle Scout from Troop 1717, San Diego Council. Carsten worked closely with Ranger John Magee, and they developed a plan that included non-native plant removal and removal of broken glass and other potentially dangerous litter on the beach from Tower 1 to the Lagoon.

The day was successful for all concerned. The scouts all viewed the slide program and Ranger Magee spoke with them about the Reserve before they started on their assignments. Special thanks to John Magee for being so supportive and helpful to the young men in this scouting program. Carsten Kooyman is the 15 year old son of Jerry and Melba Kooyman. Melba is one of our docents and has been a regular volunteer at the Lodge since 1972 when they were called "lodge-sitters".

### Ed. Note:

Watch for Hank Nicol's article, Further Along the Trail of the Lonesome Pines, in the next Torreyana. We had a space problem this month because your editor got carried away with the desert adventure story. Also hope to include next month Helen Chamlee's article about the marah, wild cucumber to most of us.

### Answers to Desert Quiz:

- 1- True. It is not the only factor, however. Another is a strong, fairly constant wind that causes the rapid evaporation of moisture.
- 2- False. There is one rattle for each shedding of skin, which can vary greatly.
- 3- True.
- 4- False. They also hunt by sensing the body heat of prey and can detect 1° differences.
- 5- True. The desert is prone to dangerous flash flooding.
- 6- True: tequila, mescal, and pulque.
- 7- Near a wash, where roots can tap into underground water.
- 8- False. R.R. can take up to 3 hours to swallow a whole snake.
- 9- False. Mistletoe is a parasite and can kill a tree.
- 10- Always let someone know where you are going to be.



IN SEARCH OF THE DESERTLILY by M.H.

Off to the desert one warm spring day to put some miles on Isabel's merry new Oldsmobile, our first priority upon reaching Borrego Springs is to locate Ranger Jeff Price, formerly of TPRS. Obliging workers at the Ranger Station by radio ascertain that Jeff will be at the Ocotillo Wells Ranger station around 12:30, allowing us time for a stop at the Visitor Center (fantastic slide show!) and lunch at a sunny bench on the Observation Deck. Anza-Borrego Desert is the largest of the state parks, covering an area of nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  million acres. We drive over to O.W. and after a short wait are warmly greeted by big Jeff, barreling up to the gate in a cloud of dust. Once inside the office, he outlines the tour plan between his sandwich and apple lunch and a phone call home to check on chicken-poxed son, Jarad.

This Ranger Station is somewhat desolate, but we notice Mat's pencil drawing prominently displayed, along with photos and other memorabilia. Jeff is one swell guy! His plan is to load Isabel and me into his Ford bucking Bronco jeep and take us for an hour or so over primitive roads you would not believe, through an area reserved for "off" road vehicles. "No" road might be a better word. So we climb in, fasten seat belts and bounce happily along, stopping now and then to get out and admire the vegetation.

The chuparosa bush is now in bloom. That is a Spanish word meaning "red sucker". The same word means "humming-bird". Did you know that? Jeff then enlightens us about the ocotillo, also in flower. The leaves turn red and fall before the blossoms come, so all of the plant's energy goes into seed production. A lovely pink wild flower is the Five Spot. It has 5 red dots in the center of each blossom.

All the while, Jeff is looking for the desertlily, which Isabel especially wants to see. Every now and then he zeroes in on a plant we can't even see, stops with a jolt and exclaims, "There's one! Does it have a flower?" He can spot the foliage from a mile away, it seems. The flowers are mostly dried up, though.

We note the jumping cholla in bloom. Jeff describes the flowers' color as "sherbet green". Popcorn flowers and sand verbena are similar to those at the Reserve, and there is another tiny white "belly flower" we can't identify. The desert lavender is just starting to flower. Nice to put in a drawer with your underwear, says Jeff.

A zebra-tailed lizard runs across the road in front of us, with his tail straight up and flapping in the air. Lickety-split he goes! When a bird grabs the most noticeable part, the tail, it breaks off and the lizard escapes. Smart critter!

Galleta grass is abundant. Purple lupine, too, only smaller than those in the Reserve, and many, many desert sunflowers with the same coloring as California poppies. Passersby beware! The thorny Cat's claw is nicknamed the "wait-a-minute bush" for obvious reasons.

Our jouncing jeep takes us through Buttes Pass to Hawk Canyon, on an earthquake fault. This is a contact zone where two different kinds of rocks, sedimentary on the west and metamorphic on the east, meet. Jeff shows us the "dry Fall", at this time of year completely arid but during the rainy season the watershed for a huge area. A red-tailed hawk swoops and hovers.

And there, at last, we behold the lovely desertlily in bloom, only two plants, and each one protected by a ring of rocks Jeff had placed there last year. The flower looks like a small Easter lily. The bulbs were dug and eaten by the Indians and called Ajo (garlic) by the Spanish. Jeff lovingly waters the lilies from his drinking water bottle. Isabel takes a couple of snapshots and Jeff points out the old Indian trail high up on the ridge top, with its rock cairns (to mark the trail). There he has picked up Indian artifacts- pottery pieces, etc. Century plants line up on the ridge like Indians ready to attack.

From Hawk Canyon we bounce along the San Felipe wash. During flash floods in Aug. and Sept. drainage from the Cuyamacas and all of the Borrego Valley empties into the Salton Sea. Now it is dry and called the "whoop-dee-doo" road to Blow Rock Canyon. Hang on! Bumps and gullies before the climb up the sand dune. The dune buggies skim over the bumps, fly through the air and then slam into the ground, creating the gullies. As we lurch along in the Bronco, I am sorely reminded of my first horseback ride. Only a 4 wheel drive can make it on these so-called roads. Up and over the top of the huge sand dune, just over the crest we see the "100 dollar hole", named for the tow-truck charge to remove your stuck vehicle.

It is very steep and ruddy going down the "goat trail". Narrow, too. Even goats would not be crazy about it. Fresh gopher holes decorate the middle of the trail. When on night patrol, Jeff says, he blows his siren to attract the nosy coyotes, who always come to investigate the strange sound. Most of the desert animals are nocturnal.

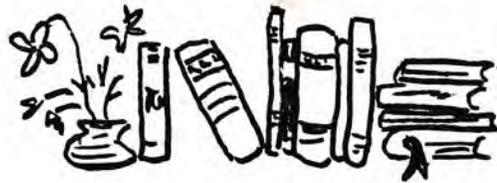
At the bottom of the goat trail a covey of doves flutters up from the creosote bushes, a fitting ending for our special desert adventure. We are back at the Ranger Station, tired yet exhilarated, and it's time to head home. We won't soon forget this day. Thank you, Jeff, for making it happen.

*Millicent*

Desert photo by Jeff Price

# Book Report

by Stanley Geller



Book Report: MY LAND IS DYING

Harry Caudill

"My land is dying," said Dan Gibson, an 80-year old coffin-maker who has spent his entire life in Knott County, Kentucky. He is viewing acres of wasteland which once was clothed with forests of walnut, oak, and poplar. In 1965, 12,000 acres of fertile land was laid waste. The cause was strip-mining.

The Wall Street Journal, in an article on strip-mining, stated that the reclaiming of land which is strip-mined by mammoth machines that extract coal is virtually impossible.

Automation of strip mining not only has destroyed the land, but it has left the mountain people of Appalachia jobless. Many suffer from poverty and are afflicted by Black Lung disease, a side effect of their years of toil in the mines.

The book tells about the automation of the mining industry which led to stripping the land. Not only is the land laid waste, but the mountain people, miners by trade, were left jobless and without hope.

Dan Gibson, the courageous man who saw his land dying and being destroyed by the mining interests, became the rallying cry for thousands of men and women who made the mountains of Eastern Kentucky their home. Together they formed the APPALACHIAN GROUP TO SAVE THE LAND AND PEOPLE. They motorcade to the capitol of Kentucky to have an audience with the Governor of the state. He sympathizes with their cause. Soon he, the Attorney General, lawyers from the Sierra Club, and members of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) came to their aid. Permits to strip-mine on private property are revoked.

But mining interests fight back their way. Massive lobbying in behalf of the industry takes place at the state capitol in Frankfort. Compliant judges ruled in favor of the mining interests. Members of the APPALACHIAN VOLUNTEERS (AV) are arrested and branded subversives of the government.

Much of the land is ruined and most people remained jobless and in poverty. Among the young there was an exodus to the cities.

This is a true account of the battle between the coal interests and the mountain people of Eastern Kentucky. This was a tragedy for the people, and the land they loved.

**TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY**

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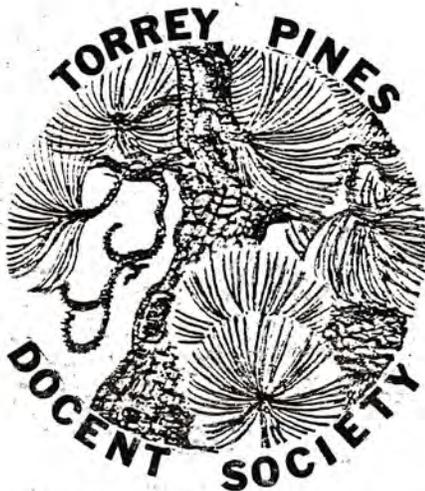
*Poetry Corner*



"Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for lo, the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away."

-Song of Solomon 2:10-14

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Scrub Jay