

TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #93, Feb., 1983

Next Docent Meeting: Saturday, February 19, 9:00 A.M., Visitor Center

At the annual meeting on Saturday, February 19, the general election of officers for the Torrey Pines Docent Society for 1983 will occur. The nominating committee is asking for your recommendations for Docents to serve on the Executive Board. If you have not been reached by phone and wish to serve on the board, please contact June Warburton, the nominations chairperson, at 453-5802. PLEASE DO NOT CALL HER AFTER 7:00 P.M.

At the coming election, offices to be filled are as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees must provide their consent either by writing or by being present to accept verbally a nomination at the annual election meeting. Please remember that only full voting members are qualified to vote and to hold office. This means members who have paid their dues for 1983 and completed all prescribed training requirements for full membership, according to the by-laws of T.P.D.S.

The following information describes the duties of the Executive Board: President- Presides over monthly meetings and special Board meetings. Vice-President- Conducts meetings in absence of President, assists President by coordinating monthly meetings and training program for new members. Secretary- Records minutes of monthly meetings and Board meetings and keeps a record on file, keeps on file a record of applications for membership and a current membership list. Treasurer- Keeps a current record of the organization's finances (dues, donations, expenditures, monthly bank statement) and upon authorization from the Exec. Board may sign checks to meet the expenses of the Society. Gives monthly report.

Please help us keep the Docent Society alive and interesting for everyone. Won't you please share in the work? That means giving your full support- doing monthly duty, serving on the Board, or assisting in other capacities. Presently serving on the Board are: President- Judy Schulman, Vice President- Bill Brothers, Secretary- Julie Marine, Treasurer- Mary Miller, Torreyana Editor- Millicent Horger, Sales-Coordinator- Rowdy James, Duty Coordinator and Librarian- Ruth Hand. The position of Executive Secretary is held by the Ranger in charge of Docent Activities- Bob Wohl.

We hope to see a large turn-out of Docents at the Feb. Meeting.

Report from the Vice President

Our next meeting will involve all docents in discussing our plans for the new year. Bring your ideas and comments about monthly meeting topics, field trips, projects etc. A group walk through the reserve will follow the above activities.

Sea World



Bill Brothers

We met at the group entrance where our wonderful tour guide, Kristi Anderson, introduced herself, as we waited for the last of our two dozen to show. The two hour plus tour included a review of the park grounds interspersed with behind the scenes excursions. We first petted the dolphins which are the smallest toothed whales and have only one blow hole compared with two on baleen whales. Since dolphins are mammals they have mammary glands, are warm blooded and have hair, but only in the embryonic stages.

After entering a low, dark and damp building we huddled for a view of the penquins. Small Adele penquins were swimming and flopping spasmodically in the frigid water while large Emperor penquins paraded above. Kristi mentioned that male Emperor penquins will incubate a single egg for two months without leaving or eating while the females journey 40 miles to the sea to store up fish for the expecting chicks.

Sharks Sharks and SHARKS.

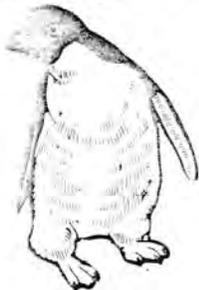
Some sharks lay eggs, some give live births, while all sharks have cartilagenous skeletons. We caressed shark skin (from a dead shark) which was abrasive due to pointed placoid scales. The last 300 million years have seen the scales on sharks evolve into human teeth.

The most exciting feature was to get a glimpse and touch the extremely rare torrey pine which we heard grew in a small isolated area of a distant and exotic land. We concluded our tour with a view of dolphin training and the research facilities. Our only casualties were to leave behind four members for feeding time.

News & Notes

The Torrey Pines Association extends an invitation to all docents to attend the annual Torrey Pines Association meeting on Thursday, February 17, at 3:00 P.M. at the Visitor Center.

The revised membership list will appear in the March issue of the Torreyana. If anyone objects to having his/her name in print, please contact the editor before February 25.



Editor's Note: Many thanks to Isabel Buechler for her help with the typing of this month's Torreyana.

M. H.

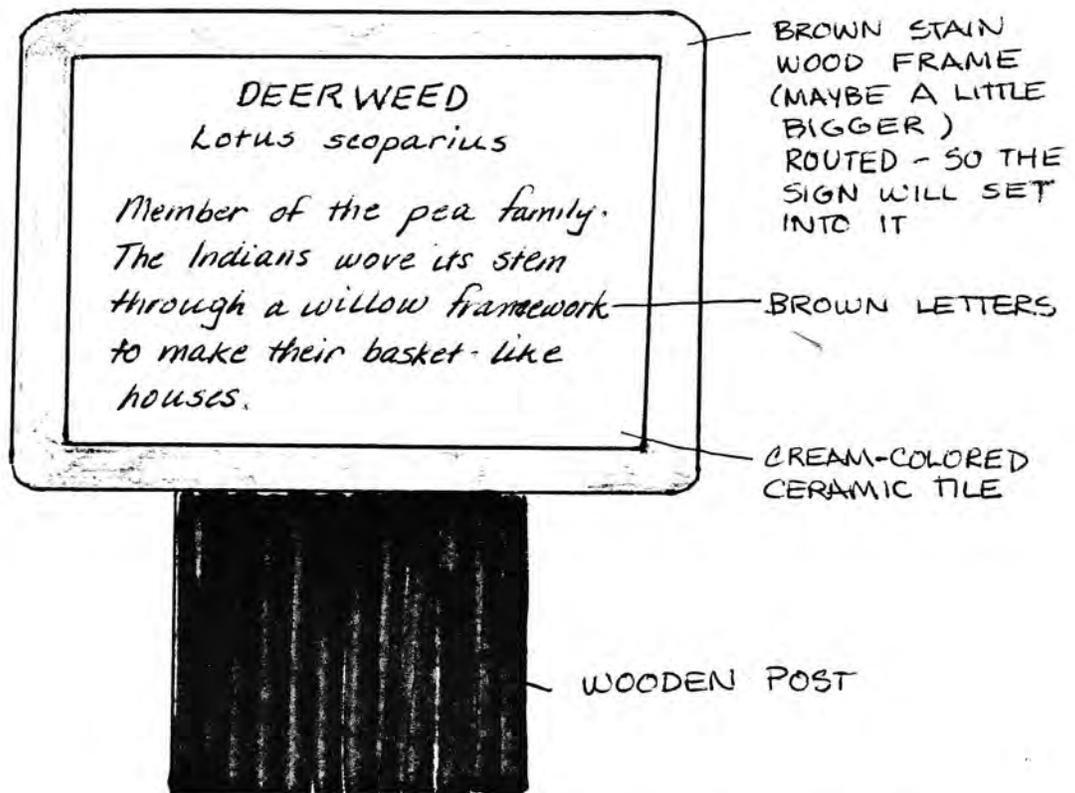
Report from the Ranger

by Kathy Watton

We've been hitting the docents for a lot of help lately. This time it doesn't take money, just muscles. It's the digging and transplanting kind of help. Oh yes, and carpentry later on.

We've been working (Hank and I, and some volunteers) on the gardens for a while now. I'm really kind of excited about what I think the end result will be--approximately 40 plants, each individually identified by a sign and separated from the other plants.

The signs will be 4" x 6" cream-colored tiles with brown lettering. They will be framed in wood, then put on posts--something like this:



It may be a while before the plaques are completed, but we're trying to get as much done now as we can. Generally we've been doing the garden projects on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you could spare some time on one of those days, give us a call, then come on out. Or if you're only here on the weekend, a little weeding (inside the rock/mulch rings) would be helpful.

Kathy

Ed. note: Hats off to Ellen Sojholm, associate docent, who, upon arriving for her duty one Sunday and finding few visitors, asked if she could do some weeding in the front garden! Permission quickly granted by the Boss Ranger. A good example for the rest of us, Ellen!

ANIMAL TALK

COYOTE (canis latrans)

The coyote belongs to the same family as jackals, foxes, wolves and domestic dogs. They weigh from thirty to fifty pounds, are from four to four and a half feet long, and their color ranges from tan, grey, brown, reddish or a combination of these.

With coyotes, mating is not merely a biological function as it is with the domestic dog. The female carefully screens her suitors, and chooses her mate after a prolonged courtship. When she finally chooses her mate, it almost always will be a lifetime union. There is a reason why the female is so choosy. The male takes an active and crucial role in the rearing of the young, and it's doubtful that the mother and young could survive without his help. The father helps in digging or finding a den, he brings food to the nursing mother, and acts as sentry at the entrance of the den. When the pups are old enough to leave the den, he then serves as a "babysitter", to give the mother a well deserved rest. Coyotes are affectionate and loyal mates, and devoted parents. In the event that coyote pups become orphaned, other adults have been known to "adopt" the youngsters and raise them as their own. Mating usually takes place around January, and, after a gestation period of nine weeks, the young are born in a hole in the ground, (usually an abandoned badger, or fox hole that has been enlarged to fit their needs.) Frequently, a pair will return to the same den year after year. For coyote pups, hunting begins with insects, then, as coordination develops, they graduate to "bigger game", mice, gophers, squirrels, rabbits or whatever they can catch.

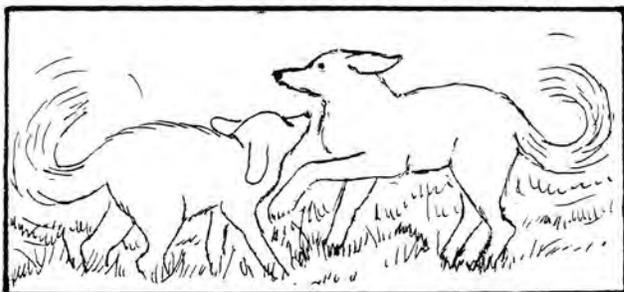
Coyotes have highly variable modes of social organization, ranging from solitary individuals to stable groups. However, their primary social unit is the "pair", not the "pack". Even when a "pack" is observed, the members are usually genetically related, (the mated pair and offspring from the previous year who have not yet set out on their own.) Pack affiliation has no great survival value when their main food source is small rodents. In locations where hard winters make small game scarce, larger groups or "packs" are noted, for then, their main food source becomes carrion. Large hooved animals, as well as others, have a much higher mortality rate in winter due to malnutrition and disease, and all carnivores take advantage of this easy food source. In larger numbers, the coyotes have a much better chance of taking possession of this carrion than a single pair would, so in this case a "pack" is necessary for survival. Coyotes' natural predators are few, their main enemy is man! Sheep and beef ranchers and farmers, using poisons, steel traps, planes and the horrible cyanide guns have tried to eliminate the coyote from their areas. In the few instances where they have been successful in doing this.....mice and rats became so abundant that there were severe crop losses.

In nature's plan, all living things have a purpose. Each genus, like a thread in a tapestry is an important part of the whole. Remove that one thread and the tapestry becomes unbalanced. The original design....ruined.

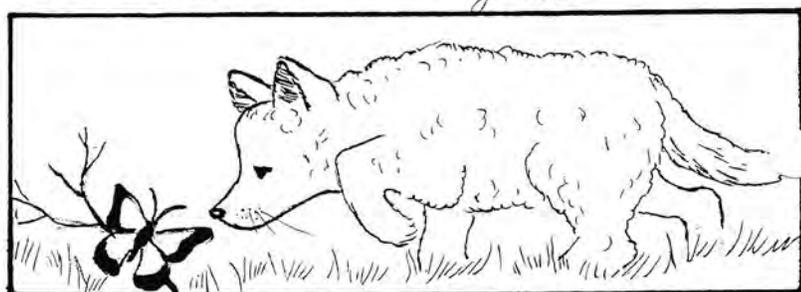
It is ironic. Sheep ranchers call the coyote a ruthless killer who wantonly destroys his herds. Yet.....it was MAN...with his genetic tampering, who LITERALLY bred the horns right off of the sheep's head,....creating the completely defenseless, vulnerable animal we call the domestic sheep.

The coyotes' enduring resistance to the harassment of man and the restriction of their habitat, is a credit to their intelligence and adaptability. The War between man and coyote has been going on for a long, long time. After looking at the record..
.....I think I'll bet on the COYOTE!!

- June -



Courtship



Holding a "point" at 6 weeks of age.

There was a message on my desk. Dr. Bob Haller had called. He's Professor of Botany at U.C. Santa Barbara. He wanted to know about a stand of Torrey pines "somewhere to the south of the Reserve as shown on Griffen and Critchfield's map and please call him back."

First I thought I'd call one of the map makers to see how good his memory was. I don't know Griffen, but I do know Critchfield. I have his address wired, but I keep losing his phone number. I looked in Ma Bell's book. I found the number for the ambulance service in Tecate. I found what to do for someone who's choking, unconscious, has had a heart attack, or a broken leg. I found out what to do about poisoning, burns, and earthquakes. I found out where all the phone stores in San Diego County are doing business. Back on page A-26 somebody had finally put in how to call "Information." Further along (page A-49) I found the area code for Berkeley. In only three tries I was talking to Dr. Bill Critchfield of the United States Forest Service.

Dr. Critchfield is a forester and research geneticist as well as a geographer of trees. He said that he hadn't seen the lost grove of Torrey pines himself. He had taken his information from a botanical survey in the 1930's. He rather expected that the site was covered with houses. I rather expected he was right. I'd give it a try anyway.

I tried to compare the map to a street map. Griffen and Critchfield hadn't bothered to mark any streets..., or maybe there weren't any streets when they made the map. It seemed as though the canyon where the paved road goes down to Black's Beach might fit. Ranger Randy Hawley and I hopped into the pickup and headed that way.

We looked up and down the canyon. There were lots of lemonade-berry, toyon, scrub oak, and whatever bushes, but nary a Torrey pine. We did see some large Torrey pines behind some houses at the edge of the mesa. Maybe. We headed that way. We parked in front of a large house. A very large house. We thought it would be nice to ask permission before we blundered around to the back. We went up to the front door. I rang the bell.

Two doors opened up 100 feet away. Two voices spoke. "May I help you?" We explained our search for the lost Torrey pines to a secretary and a maid. The maid went on about her business. The secretary, a very nice lady, let us through an office to the back. She unlocked a gate.

The trees were disappointingly young, only about 30 years old. They had been planted after the house had been built. They had grown large because of the civilized care they'd been getting. And we were in civilization. Boy, were we in civilization! The house was the official residence of the Chancellor of the University. It had squares and squares of feet. It had acres and acres of lawn. It had beautiful trees, manicured shrubs, and a swimming pool.

I called Dr. Haller with my non-news about my non-adventure looking for non-trees. He decided that he would put down the grove as extirpated, U.C. (Under Concrete). I told him about our search and about the house. He said that he'd been in the Chancellor's

residence for a shindig some time back. He had been all through it, and it was some kind of fabulous.

The search for the trees was a flop, but, in science, failure to prove something can be as important as proving something. But that isn't the moral here. The moral is: if somebody offers you a job as Chancellor of the University of California at San Diego, TAKE IT!

Hank

Judy's Gentle Conglomerations of Thought

Just a few bits and pieces of business to catch up with this month... I have finally found a new place to do our name tags. They will cost \$3.50. If you are interested in having one made, please call me at 452-7683 (evenings). I need a minimum order of five. We now also have iron-on transfers of the Torrey Pines Docent Society logo for \$2.00. You no longer have to buy a T-shirt with the logo already on it.

I hope everyone has noticed how nice the museum garden is looking. We can thank Ranger Kathy Watton for that. Naturalist Hank Nicol and Ranger Hood have also been instrumental in the garden project. Anyone who wants to help them should contact the lodge on Mondays or Tuesdays. Be sure to call first! More ranger-related information--the state park system is offering us the opportunity to make money for the Docent Society by helping sell annual passes. They cost \$40 and we get \$10 for each one we sell. A bit of bad news--because of budget cuts, we won't have any park aides until summer. It is now more important than ever that we do our monthly duty.

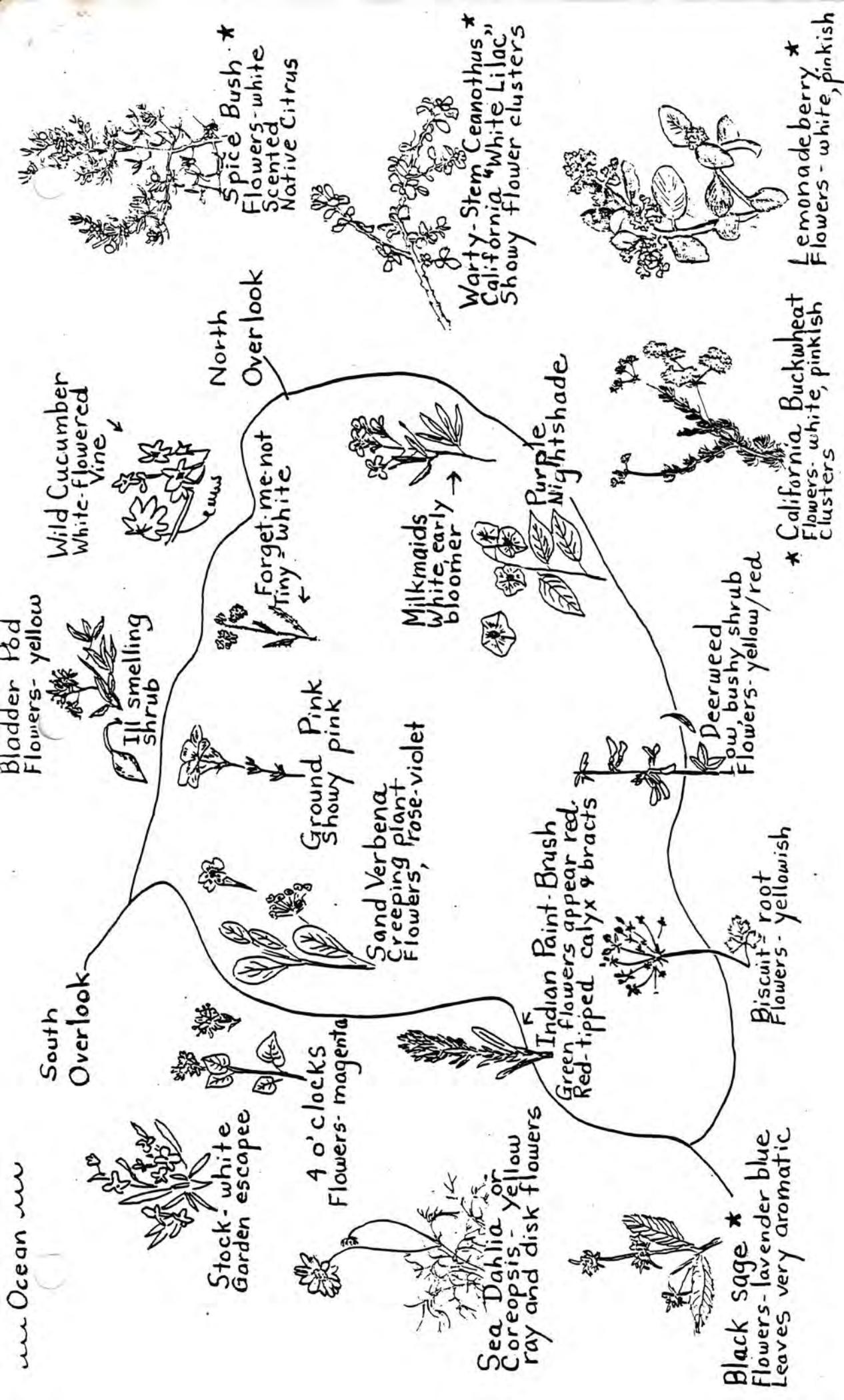
We have a new book in our docent library called Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8 - California. If you remember, Steven Crouthamel, Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at Palomar College, recommended the book as an excellent source of reference. Over 40 Indian tribes are discussed. Chapters of particular interest to us include those on the Luiseno and the Tipai and Ipai. In addition, there are articles on rock art, basketry, music, mythology, archeology, and social organization.

Docent Doings

The Guy Fleming Trail Wildflower map on the following page, prepared by Isabel Buechler and Millicent Horger, will be sold to the public from the Docent Desk @ .05 ¢ each (to cover printing cost). Every few weeks the map will be updated as different flowers appear.

Please relay your comments on the map and any suggestions to Isabel (222-7016) or Milli (401-9554).

ocean view



Large Chaparral plants found in many places *

Guy Fleming Trail Wildflower Map #1, February

(See colored photos in albums in Visitor Center)

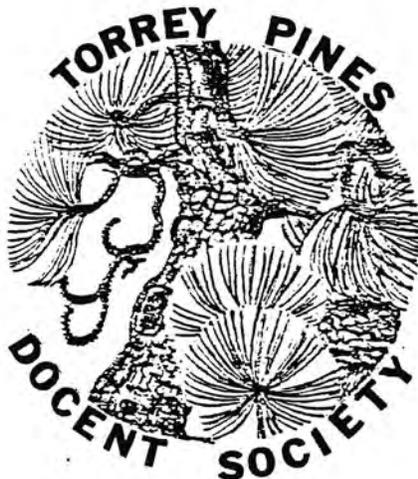
Poetry Corner

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
PRESIDENT- Judy Schulman
Deadline for Torreyana copy
the 25th of each month.
Send contributions to:
Millicent Horger, EDITOR
13130 Carousel Lane
Del Mar, Ca. 92014
Phone: 481-9554

What is a weed? A plant
whose virtues have not yet
been discovered.
Ralph Waldo Emerson



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



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Scrub Jay