

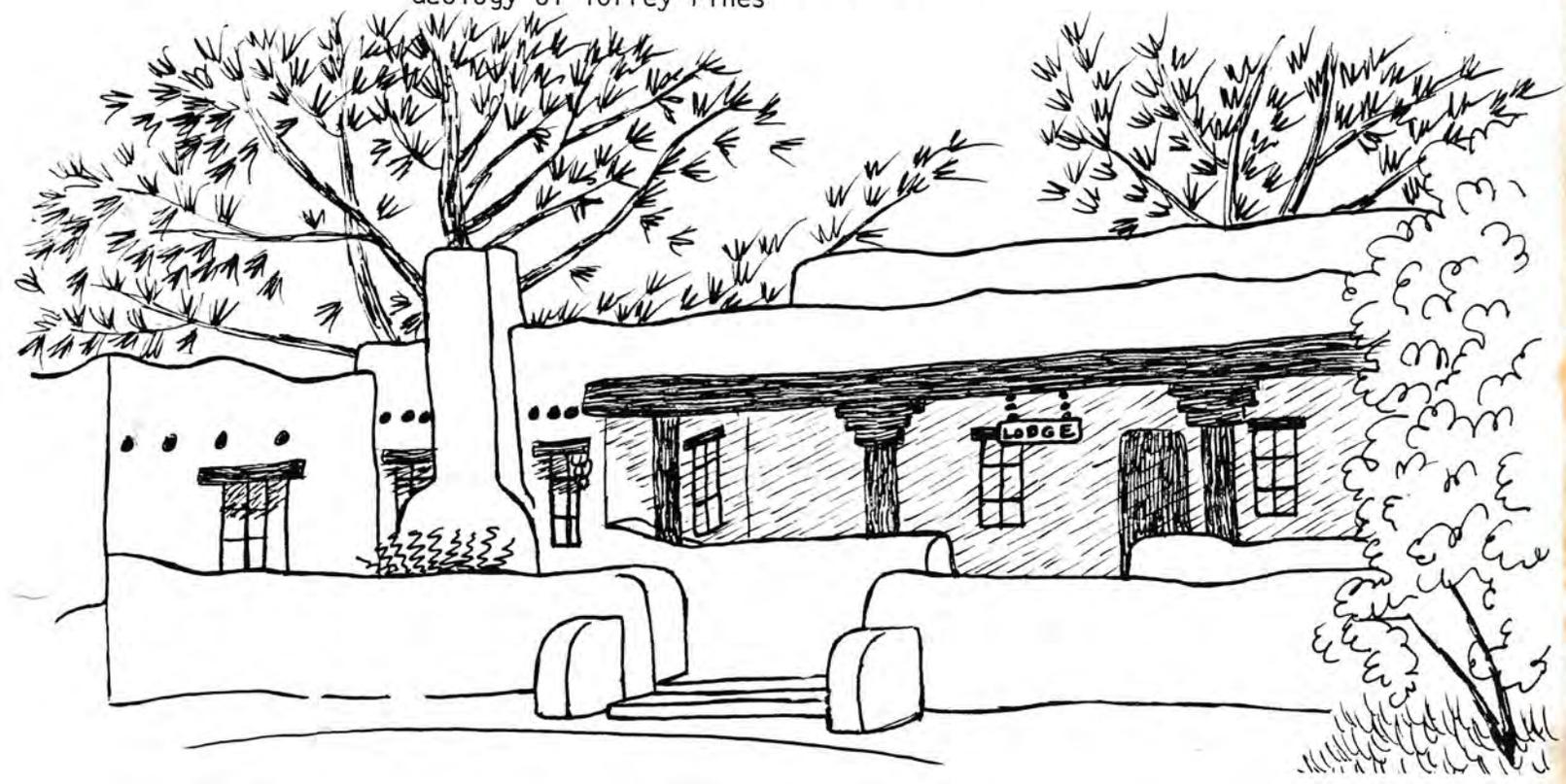


TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #95, April, 1983

Our 1983 training session will be held on five consecutive Saturdays starting April 9 and continuing through May 7 at 9:00 a.m.. All docents and friends are invited to attend. The speaker schedule is listed below.

- April 9 Judy Schulman, Bob Wohl and Bill Brothers
 Introduction, The State Park and The Torrey Pine
- * April 16 Dick Edwards: Regional Interpretive Specialist
 Interpretive techniques *Regular Docent Monthly Meeting
- April 23 Judy Schulman: President TPDS
 History of Torrey Pines
- April 30 Mitch Beauchamp: Pacific Southwest Biological Service
 Botany of Torrey Pines
- May 7 Tom Demeré : Natural History Museum
 Geology of Torrey Pines



A CHANGE OF PACE by Karen Schlom

About twenty five Docents and staff members went on the bus trip to Anza Borrego Desert State Park March 20th. This was an exhilarating change of pace from our usual coastal sage scrub community. For a day we became desert rats.

I have never seen the desert so green or with such a beautiful variety of plants in bloom. The beavertail cactus and ocotillo were the most spectacular, and the dandelions made yellow swaths on the desert floor.

Desert Dandelion: numerous bright yellow petals, often with a central red spot, one inch diameter. Leaves thin and inconspicuous. Eight to twelve inches tall, plants often grow in clusters. The stems bleed a white fluid.



Our first stop was the Anza Borrego Visitor Center. We were given a special look at their behind-the-scenes working area. This room holds one of the largest collections of big horn sheep skulls in the U.S.

Park Naturalist Mark Jorgenson spoke to us about the park as it is today, and as it was thousands of years ago. Anza Borrego used to be a wet, lush area. Fossilized skeletons of a woolly mammoth mother and calf were uncovered just recently.

We all watched the very sharp and highly technical slide show. It is a view of the park through the changing seasons.

After our stop at the Visitor Center Mark took us on a short nature walk up Palm Canyon. We learned that the ocotillo blooms extremely rapidly after rainfall. We examined grinding holes in rocks where Indians of the area had ground the local seeds.

After the nature walk was over some of us attempted to hike all the way up Palm Canyon to see the rare palms. Unfortunately, too much water was flowing down the canyon for us to make it up without having to ford the river. We had to retreat.

Thank you, Bill Brothers, for arranging this trip. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. Even though we're all rather partial to our own Torrey Pines, it's still nice to have a change of pace.

DESERT QUIZ

- 1- Much of the American Southwest was once the floor of a pre-historic ocean. True or false?
- 2- Each species of yucca is dependent upon a particular kind of moth. True or false?
- 3- The desert big horn's climbing ability is due to a spur-like projection on the tip of each hoof. True or false?
- 4- The Century plant (which derives its name from its long life) always lives over 100 years. True or false?
- 5- The road runner will avoid a rattlesnake at all costs. True or false?

Secretary's Notes

by Julie Marine

The March 19, 1983, meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society was attended by 30 docents, guests, and park staff. President Judy Schulman welcomed the group and began the meeting with several announcements.

Active members were asked to sign up for new badges that will be available from the rangers at no cost to members.

Dr. Gerald Kooyman (docent Melba's husband) had the honor of meeting Queen Elizabeth during her recent visit to Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Kooyman is a research physiologist at that institution.

Bill Brothers announced the schedule and subjects to be covered in the docent training classes that begin April 9.

Jim Whitehead announced that he will represent the docents at a State Parks meeting March 31 at the County Administration Building.

Bill Brothers reported that the cost of the trip to Anza Borrego State Park by chartered bus on March 20 is \$15. Those going should be at the lodge by 7:45 a.m. Mark Jorgensen, naturalist at Anza Borrego, will lead a hike in Palm Canyon.

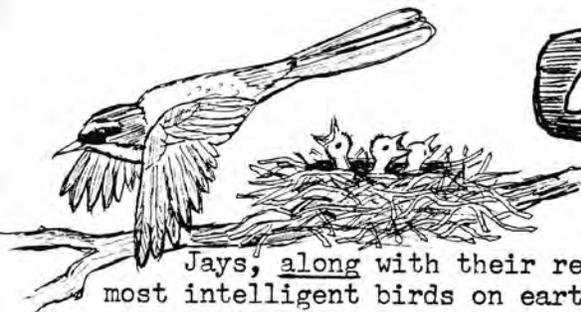
President July Schulman distributed copies of the updated docent roster. The new list gives names, addresses, and telephone numbers in three membership categories: full members, who are active, voting members; associate members, who are working toward completion of their membership requirements; and supporting members, who are not able to serve duty but have contributed at least \$10 or have been elected to honorary membership.

Door prizes were awarded to Ruth Cheney and a new associate member.

Bill Brothers introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Ron McPeak, who is a marine biologist for the Kelco Company. Ron presented an interesting and educational slide program on the dynamics and utilization of the kelp forest off the coast of Southern California. Kelco has long been involved in research on better ways to harvest kelp as well as on methods of cleaning up the oceans and restoring kelp growth, to provide a better balance of nature for future generations. Our sincere thanks go to Ron for his most informative presentation on a subject that docents can share with visitors to the Reserve.

Refreshments followed the program. Thanks go to those who have provided food or contributed to the coffee fund. All docents are urged to assist either by furnishing refreshments or by donating to the coffee fund. Anyone who would like to serve as refreshment chairman should feel free to contact Julie Marine at 755-5598. Also, anyone who can bring refreshments should call Julie so that something can be planned for each meeting.





ANIMAL TALK

SCRUB JAY
(Aphelocoma coerulescens)



Jays, along with their relatives the Crows, Magpies and Ravens, are considered the most intelligent birds on earth, and reportedly able to learn quicker than dogs, cats or even monkeys. In an experiment, Jays confined to a cage, tore strips of newspaper to use as a "rake", to pull food pellets closer that were outside their cage and out of reach. In another experiment, Jays dropped solid objects into a water dish to raise the level of the water which was also purposely made too low to reach. Playful and inventive, captive Jays have been known to drop a ball, just for the fun of seeing it bounce. A rather bizarre game of the Jays' is called "Anting". They drag their bodies along the ground near an ant hill, allowing the ants to crawl all over them. When they are covered with ants, they contentedly pick them off, one at a time, relishing the luxury of such a tasty lunch, and the fun of the game itself.

* It is not commonly known, but the Jay is a gifted mimic, who not only imitates the sounds of other birds, but also animals, the human voice and inanimate objects like the squeak of an old rocking chair. One captive Jay named Jasper, had 50 different sounds in his repertoire, and related them to objects. One vocalization common to some Jays is the "whisper song". Its composition and quality are musical and when heard by us, comes as a big surprise, since we usually associate Jays with loud raucous sounds. The Jays' "whisper", of sweet, low-toned calls can be compared on a par with that of a warbler, oriole or thrush, and as sensitive and gentle as the doves'. The vocalizations we most frequently hear are "alarm" calls. Few predators can successfully prey on Jays because of their effective sentry system and mobbing tendencies. A Jay in danger will send out a distress call. In just moments, he and the predator are surrounded by angry Jays who, putting their own lives on the line,, try in every way they can, to distract and annoy the predator so that their friend can escape.

Generally monogamous, the Jays do not mate until their third year. Because they live to be 14 years old in the wild, strong bonds are formed with their mates, offspring, and other Jays, which has resulted in the development of a complex and effective social structure. Like most birds, Jays mate in Springtime. The female does most of the nest building, (usually in low scrub), and always builds a new nest each year. After the 3-5 bluish or greenish eggs are laid, the male begins bringing food to the brooding female, and then, later on to the nestlings. Jays are attentive and solicitous parents, continuing to feed the young after they leave the nest. Extremely protective, ..no enemy is too big or fearsome that the Jays will not readily scold, harass and often attack, to defend their young. The Jay's bill is a versatile and effective eating utensil. Sturdy enough to hammer and pry a hard nut shell, slender enough to probe, and, with a slight "hook" for tearing, pulling and stripping. Their main food is acorns, but they also eat insects, fruit, eggs, seeds, caterpillars and carrion. Because of their habit of burying some foods, they are responsible for "planting" a large number of trees and plants in their surroundings.

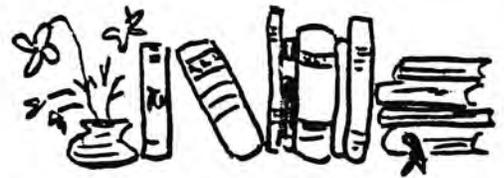
One time,.....for a year and a half, I had the honor of being accepted by a Jay as a friend. Oh,..it started out in the usual way..with me giving him peanuts. But, after a while, he would fly from quite a distance when I called him, and land on my hand. Then he began, "Keeping me company", when I sat outside in the yard to read. His dish was full of peanuts, so he wasn't waiting for food. Sitting only a few feet away from me, he would close his eyes and "talk" to me in his soft, sweet, "whisper song" for over an hour at a time. Even to this day, few friendships, of man or beast, have been as touching and memorable to me as the one I shared with my friend Robert.

By June Warburton

— June —

* BIBLIOGRAPHY: Crows, Jays, Ravens and their relatives by Sylvia Bruch Wilmore, 1977
Ravens, Crows, Magpies and Jays by Tony Angell, 1978

This article was especially written for Don Harger, who has the time, the interest and the PEANUTS to share with these beautiful, intelligent and comical birds.



This month THE TORREY TELLER would like to tell you about a book that is a "must-have" - or at the least a "must read" - for all docents. Written by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., State Parks of California from 1864 to the Present is the result of the 50th Anniversary Celebration (1977-78) of the California State Park System. Those involved with the celebration felt the need to make information publically available about the creation of the park system during the 1920s. What was originally intended as a small illustrated booklet ended up as a large-format 128-page book with over 150 historical photographs and other illustrations. There are 4 beautiful views of Torrey Pines State Reserve along with a dozen or so photos from the other state parks in San Diego County. The books features magnificent full-color photos by Philip Hyde who is considered to be one of America's foremost photographers of the natural scene.

The author, Joseph H. Engbeck Jr., has written and edited many publications about the California State Park System. In this his latest work, he discusses how and why the park system was created starting in 1864 with Yosemite - the first state park in the nation. Chapters include "Yosemite, the First State Park," "California Redwood Park," "The Historic Preservation Movement," "Save The Redwoods!" "A Whole System of Parks," "Building the System," "The Postwar Years," "Parks and the New Conservation," and "The Present and the Future."

The book is available in limited quantities at local bookstores. I have seen prices ranging from \$20-\$30 dollars. A deluxe edition can be obtained for \$50 from the California State Parks Foundation/1706 Broadway, Room 610/Oakland, Ca. 94612.

News & Notes

The Executive Board of TPDS has agreed to donate monies realized from the sale of annual passes toward the purchase of the ceramic plaques, marking the plants in the front and Whittaker gardens.

The wildflower maps are selling well. Encourage visitors to buy all three maps. (See p. 7 for April map.) Many plants on maps 1 and 2 are still in bloom. A bargain at 5¢ each!

Lemonadeberry shrubs are now bearing berries! Have a taste!

Learned en route to looking up other things: The seeds of the Arctic lupine, buried in the Yukon in the Pleistocene Era 10,000 years ago, were discovered recently and planted by scientists. Six of them germinated within 48 hours, and one of them flowered at the age of 11 months. (It takes modern lupine three years to flower.)

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!



DULL STUFF by Hank Nicol

I finally got around to blowing 24 dollars on a book I've been wanting for a long time. Seeds of Woody Plants in the United States never made the Book of the Month Club. Its title is even less catchy than that of its predecessor, The Woody Plant Seed Manual. The author is Forest Service. Nice name. Wonder what he looks like. The book didn't have a dust jacket.

Seeds..... has a lot of dull stuff. It has chapters on seed biology, genetics, and seed production. It also has several pages of excellent color photographs, and one of the longer chapter titles is "Pinus".

We've always claimed that the Torrey pine is something special. One of the ways it is special is its seed. Besides having, probably, the second largest seed of any pine, the seeds mature in three years. Most pines' seeds mature in two. Until I looked in this book I hadn't realized what "most" meant. The book lists the 59 species of pine which are reasonably common in the United States. There are over 100 species, but 59 should be an adequate sample, as the pollsters would say. Of the 59, only three have seeds which take three years to mature. Besides our own Torrey pine, there is the fairly common, at least in La Jolla, Italian stone pine and the Chihuahua pine. What, if any, advantage or disadvantage this slow maturing of seeds has for the trees is beyond me. We might think that this is one of the reasons that the Torrey pine has such a narrow range. One trouble with that is that the other two have wide ranges. The stone pine may have been spread around the Mediterranean because of its edible seeds, but the Chihuahua pine has seeds which are too small to be of much use to humans. The seed of the Chihuahua pine does have a long wing which would help it to spread. The Torrey pine seed has a small, useless wing, and the Italian stone pine seed has no wing at all. The only conclusion I can figure out so far is that the more I learn the less I know.

Hank

ANSWERS TO DESERT QUIZ

- 1- True
- 2- True. Each species of yucca has its own species of moth which carries pollen.
- 3- False. He has a concave hollow at the tip of each hoof which acts like a suction cup and a springy, rubber-like inner hoof.
- 4- False. Anywhere from 10 to 75 years.
- 5- False. Road runners will attack rattlesnakes, sometimes taking up to three hours dodging, leaping and aiming stab after stab to the base of the reptile's brain.

W. Ocel m

STILL BLOOMING
(Map #1)

- Biscuit root
- Black sage
- Bladder pod
- Deerweed
- Forget-me-not
- Four o'clock
- Ground pink
- Paint brush
- Purple nightshade
- Sand verbena
- Sea dahlia

(Map #2)

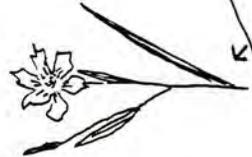
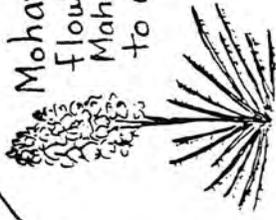
- Bindweed
- California poppy
- Encelia
- Groundsel
- Lupine
- Monkey flower
- Pearly everlasting
- Phacelia

South Overlook

Prickly pear
Flowers - greenish yellow



Mohave yucca
Flowers in large, dense cluster.
Mahogany colored buds open to creamy white flowers



Blue-eyed grass
Flowers deep blue.
Iris family

Golden yarrow
Flowers - yellow.
Somewhat woody, gray-green leaves



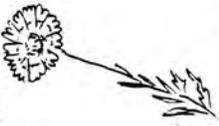
Sea-Fig
Succulent - fleshy leaves, flowers - rose
(Hottentot fig - yellow)



Found along the road

Found on other trails

Tidy tips
Rays yellow tips with white tips

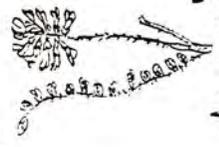


North Overlook

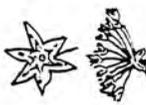
Larkspur
Flowers - dark blue - purple



Locoweed
Flowers nodding, greenish-white.
Stems hairy



Wild onion
Flowers white with rose midvein



Owl's Clover
Flowers in dense terminal spike, bracts with lavender-purple tips



Yerba Santa
Large shrub, flowers - lavender, leaves gray, wooly.



Tree Tobacco
Shrub or small tree, flowers - yellow



Guy Fleming Trail Wildflower Map #3, April

(See colored photos in albums in Visitor Center)

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
ASSOC. ED.- Isabel Buechler



Poetry Corner

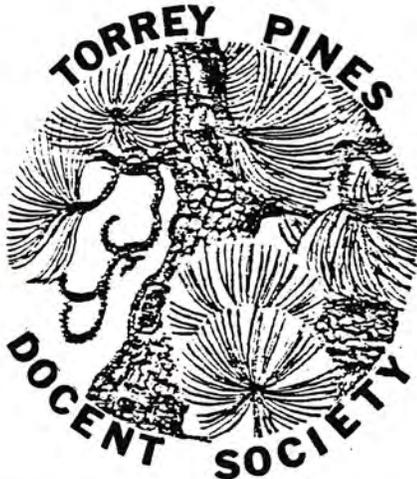
Everyone needs beauty as
well as bread, places to play
in and pray in where nature
may heal and cheer and give
strength to body and soul
alike.

John Muir

Will you volunteer to help
spring clean the Docent
Lounge? Phone Julie Marine,
755-5598.

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

*File Copied
Keep in Library*



FOR

~~Bob Wohl
2680 Carlsbad Blvd.
Carlsbad, CA 92008~~



Scrub Jay