



TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #97, June, 1983

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: Saturday, June 18, 9:00 A.M., Lodge

Hank Nicol, Park Naturalist, will lead us on a walk in the Reserve Extension. Between 1964-1970, far-sighted citizens saved this magnificent area with its groves of Torrey Pines and a wide variety of native shrubs, several of which do not occur on the southern bluffs, from development by the then booming housing industry. Located approximately one mile north of the original Reserve, it contains two upland blocks of eroded ridges and ravines, framing a broad central valley forming a natural amphitheater.

MEET AT THE LODGE AND WE WILL CAR POOL TO THE EXTENSION!

A native plant found in the Extension, absent from the main Reserve area, is the spectacular Scarlet Larkspur (*Delphinium cardinale*), the red trumpets of which may be seen on the slopes of the central valley in late spring.



Scarlet Larkspur

HELP!! HELP!! ALL DOCENTS AND RANGERS!

We are having a problem with record keeping in the museum store. In the 20 weekly summaries since Jan. 1, '83, there have been 18 times with overages in the till, 2 times with small shortages. Money in varying amounts is getting into the till with no sales slip to identify it. It is important to make accurate inventories on sales and identifying other income such as donations, dues, etc.. Will each of you please remember to put no money into the till without a sales slip identifying the transaction. Please note the title of each book and name the other items you sell. This will save my hair from turning white and help me retain my usual sunny disposition.

- Rowdy

News & Notes

To date, the Torrey Pines Docent Society has contributed to the Museum Renovation in two ways. First, we have donated monies toward the purchase of ceramic tiles and posts to identify plants in the Interpretive garden. Second, the Board voted to donate money for enlargement of photos by Hank Nicol, which will be used in the exhibit booths and on the wall panels.

In their meeting last April, the State Park Commission approved the renaming of the section of the park currently known as the Torrey Pines State Natural Preserve. It will now be called the Ellen Browning Scripps Natural Preserve. This area includes the Guy Fleming Trail, the Parry Grove Trail, and the area up to and including the Canyon of the Swifts.

Coveys of get well wishes are winging their way to Docent-of-the-Year Ruth Hand. We miss you, Ruth! Come back soon.

Report from the Rangers

Park Aide Karen Schlom is leaving for the summer to work as a seasonal naturalist at Olympic National Park in Washington. The National Park System's gain is the State Park System's loss.

Park Aides Martha Black and Greg McCormack and Rangers Greg Hackett and Chris Platis participated in the 75 mile Tecate to Ensenada Bike Race.

On April 12, Ranger Bob Wohl appeared on Channel 13 (L.A.) on the game show "Tic Tac Dough". He won \$6,500 in prizes including a 7 day trip for two to the Barbados.

Ranger Kathy Watton will be transferring to Gaviota State Park near Santa Barbara in June. She was instrumental in renovating the garden in front of the Lodge.

Along Our Bloomin' Trails

Keep your eyes peeled for bedstraw (greenish white), conchalagua (bright pink), Mariposa lily (lavender) and scarlet pimpernel (coral), all now in bloom.

Secretary's Notes by Julie Marine

Forty one docents, park staff and visitors were present at the monthly meeting on May 21, 1983. President Judy Schulman thanked Glenn Dunham for serving as Host and Duty Coordinator. The door prize, a book on Diguëño Indians, was awarded to Bill Brothers.

Our guest speaker, Martha Chapin, author and lecturer, gave a talk on "A Day in the Life of the Coastal Indians". She brought many items to demonstrate the skills and ways of the Indian people including samples of food- dried currants, seaweed, chia and sage seeds. Greeting us with "Hoja" (hello), she took us back in time. In a mental picture, Martha helped us visualize a lush countryside with an abundance of wild animals- deer, cougar, even wild bears. She asked if we could see Indian women in willow bark skirts and children playing games nearby, the men making arrows and bows and telling stories to prepare the boys for their future life and survival.

Martha has visited the Indians in California and Mexico over many years. Some came to Torrey Pines as late as the 1920's. Martha and her husband have been adopted by a group of Indian people in the mountains of Baja. She spoke of the suffering of the Indians since the founding of the Missions and settling of other people.

Docents shared their feelings about what they would choose to be had they lived in a coastal Indian village. We thank Martha for her inspiring picture trip back in time, and for the items she shared with us this day- a rattlesnake skin, earthen pots, baskets, lariat, war club, bow and arrows.

There was another surprise when we came into the Lodge. New docent, Carolyn Anderson, brought a diorama that she, herself, created, showing a typical Indian village. We are very fortunate to have people with such talent join us in our goals to make the museum at TPSR exciting to the visitors.

Last of all, three docents attending the Southern Calif. Docent League were: Isabel Buechler, Millicent Horger and Julie Marine. Held in Balboa Park, the theme was "Volunteerism- What's in it for you", with guest speaker Janice Victoria. Highlights of her talk, "Uniquely You" follow: 1.) Thousands of dollars are saved by using volunteers. 2.) Volunteers raise money for museum improvements. 3.) They help staff with research projects. 4.) These diversities compliment talents of the staff. 5.) Docents learn to hold the interest of children and adults. 6.) The rewards are: training by professionals, a desire to learn and teach others, personal growth. Thus the reward is what you become by it.

The Docent Day concluded with tours of the Museum of Natural History, Museum of Man, Museum of Fine Art and the Aerospace Museum.

Julie

ANIMAL TALK

Grey Fox

The fox most commonly seen in the West is the Grey Fox. Because of his habit of readily climbing trees, he is sometimes referred to as the tree fox. So comfortable in trees, in fact, that he is able to leap from limb to limb when hunting birds.

Unlike his cousin the Red Fox, who is famous for leading his enemies on long cross country chases, the Grey Fox prefers to hide in dense brush or climb a tree to evade his pursuers. Although his basic color is salt and pepper grey, the sides of his legs, neck, back and base of ears are reddish-brown. Nose and muzzle are black, and his large bushy tail has a black streak running along the top, and often his tail is tipped with black.

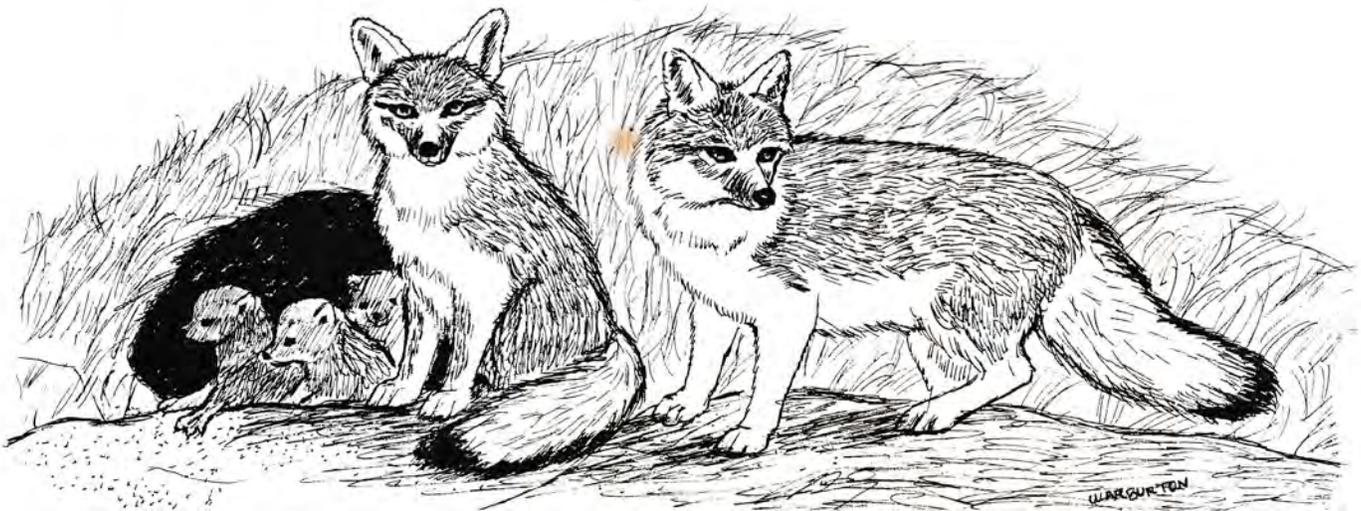
Like other wild canids, he depends on rodents for the bulk of his diet. Besides rats and mice, the fox also hunts for rabbits, squirrels, birds, insects, frogs, and will consume eggs, fruit, berries and carrion when he can find them. Strangely enough, when hunting for rodents, the method he uses is very cat-like. Waiting motionless until the rodent is in just the right spot, the fox, leaping in a perfect arc, lands on the mouse, pinning it down with his front feet.

Vocalizations are harsh barks and yaps, which often sound very similar to the coyote. Grey Foxes mate for life, but go through a yearly courtship to renew their bond. The mated pair make a den in a hollow tree, under a wind-fall, in an abandoned badger hole or sometimes up in a tree. A man with whom I work was surprised to discover that a Grey Fox had made its home in a tree in his back yard.....20 feet up!! Unfortunately, when the fox realized that its den was being observed by the man, the animal vacated the den, and he never returned. After a gestation period of 63 days, from 3-5 pups are born. The young are born black, but gradually lighten as they grow up. The male helps in feeding, protecting and training the young, which are weaned at six weeks, and by three months they are able to hunt with their parents. By late summer or fall, the young foxes go off on their own and by Springtime they will be starting families of their own.

Because their fur is coarse and not as colorful as their beautiful cousin the Red Fox, they are seldom hunted or trapped for their pelts. However, because of their insatiable curiosity, they often get caught in traps meant for the Red Fox.

Since I spend so much time observing the wildlife in the canyon near my home, I have seen deer, bobcats, coyotes, possums, skunks, rabbits, raccoons and a wide variety of birds, but I have yet to see a Grey Fox. I am looking forward to the time when I may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one of these elusive little animals, and also hearing any personal experiences any of you Docents may have had with the Grey Fox.

June



SLIDE PROGRAMS: THE STATE OF THE ART

by Hank Nicol

Did you see News and Views last month? You should have. It had a blow by blow of making a slide program. They used four-track taping with "bouncing sound," a TASCAM-5, a mixing board, a three-quarter-inch U-matic cassette, a dissolve control unit, a computer, and a country and western band. Their methods seem rather archaic. I will show you the modern method of producing programs of this type. I have many qualifications. I am nervous and near-sighted, have a tin ear, and have failed to graduate from three universities, two technical institutes, and the Artillery School.

Taking the photographs is easy. Modern cameras will give you near-perfect exposures no matter how dumb you are. The only problems left are in which direction to point the camera and when to push the button. Unfortunately these two things seem to require the pathfinding ability of Kit Carson and the timing of Muhammad Ali. Ithasbeensaid that enough monkeys, with enough typewriters and enough time, could write King Lear. If you snap the shutter enough times you may end up with 20 or 30 passable slides.

Lay your slides out on a glass with a light underneath. This is much easier than holding each one up to the window and trying to remember that number 17 is the fuzzy fence lizard. Shuffle the slides around until they look to be in a semilogical sequence. Now think up a smart remark to go with each one. Some people say you should write your script first. As a general rule a good writer should do the photography first, and a good photographer should do the script first. Your strong point can cover up your failing that way. If you are neither writer nor photographer.....lotsaluck! In any case write your script neatly. You are going to have to read it yourself.

Now it's time to look for some background music. Unless you are a gifted bassoon player or are related to Henry Mancini, the best policy is to break the copyright laws. Stick to instrumentals... for three reasons: one, the words of a vocal may detract from words of your story; two, the jurors may not know Jean Pierre Rampal from James Galway, but they'll sure know Pavarotti when they hear him; three, the police have perfected voice prints. They are a little behind on flute prints. Nevertheless, steal nothing but the best. The penalty for using Itzhak Perlman is the same as for using King Kong and the Hairy Apes. The music can be on record or tape. Cassettes are all right, but it's a slow miserable job trying to find the exact spot you want on an eight-track cartridge. Discs are easier than either, because you can see exactly what's happening.

Now it's time to record. Put your 15 dollar recorder down in front of your FedMart hi-fi. Lay your script out on the floor. You don't want to record the shuffling of papers. Get your last cough out of the way, and push the record and play buttons on your tape recorder. Get your record going just as the cassette leader runs out. Tricky. Begin reading your script.... Finish reading your script. Congratulations! You made it all the way through without a sneeze or a burp. But you stumbled all over the word "fabulous" six times, and the record was several decibels too loud. Try again. And again. On the fifth try you've finally made a passable tape.

Now you have to put the clicks on the tape to make the whole thing

automatic. The tape player that we use to give the programs is rigged up to put a beep on the second track of the tape. You can't hear the beep, but the thingamagummy that's hooked up to the slide projector can hear it. Set the machine to make the beeps, put your reel of slides on the projector, turn everything on, and push the go button. Whenever you want a slide to change, push the beep button. It helps to be re-reading the script while you are re-listening to your voice. That way you know what's coming. I like to put red "X" marks wherever I think the slide should change. After you've finished, give your product a try. If it works, fine. If it doesn't, you can re-do the beep making, or, sometimes, you can fix things up by rejiggering a few slides.

See? Now you too can make a slide show using all the latest. If you still can't, you can always go back to the tried and true, "This is Aunt Betsy standing in front of Half Dome. This is...."

Hank



With the coming of the new STAR WARS movie to our local theatres, I thought that excerpts of this article by Lowell Ponte in the May 1983 issue of Reader's Digest would be appropriate.

The Force is not only with Luke Skywalker, but also with plants as they battle for survival with secret chemical weapons and strange alliances in GARDEN WARS! Researchers in the emerging science of allelopathy, the study of how plants use chemicals against other plants, are finding that the battle is quite sophisticated...Among these chemicals are phytotoxins (plant poisons) that kill or weaken predators. Oak and pine trees load their leaves with tannins which make the leaves hard to digest... Other plants attack the central nervous system of those that feast on them...But in the wild a plant must do more than kill, stun or repel enemies. It must be also able to reproduce. Many plants emit scents identical to insect pheromones that signal odors that female insects use to lure males for mating. By imitating such a scent, a plant's flower can attract an insect which will then carry the plant's pollen to others of its own kind...

Beyond the threat posed by bacteria and fungi, seeds face the great menace of established plants and trees...In the American Southwest, the spring air is pungent with the sweet scent of chaparral & sage. That scent is the odor of chemical warfare. The leaves of chaparral & sage give off volatile terpene fumes that inhibit the growth of any nearby seed that might sprout to compete with them for soil moisture and nutrients...

Scientists are also finding that cooperation is just as important as conflict in the green jungle...Studies have been conducted that indicate that when certain trees are attacked by webworms and caterpillars, the trees give off a chemical that somehow alerts every other tree of their kind within yards to prepare for attack. These trees respond by changing their internal chemistry, pumping more tannin into their leaves & tissues to deter the hungry bugs. Still other trees produce insect-growth hormones that disrupt the reproductive cycle of these foes.

Due to space limitations, I wasn't able to share all of the article with you. But since it is one of the most interesting articles of its kind that I have read, I am ordering reprints from Reader's Digest to hand out at the next meeting.

Judy

Docent Doings

Judy Schulman was guest speaker at the May meeting of the Pacific Beach Historical Society. The topic was her research on Camp Callan, the WW2 Army anti-aircraft artillery replacement training center that used to be adjacent to our park.

June Warburton's Animal Talk Fold-a-letters are now on sale at the Docent desk.

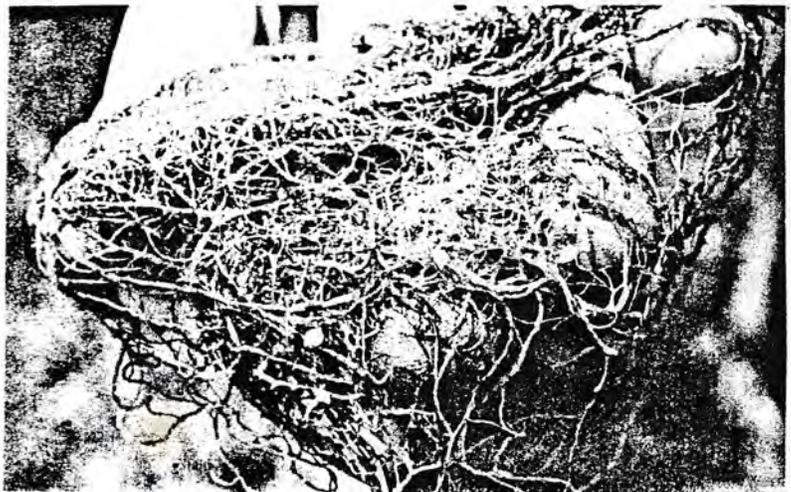
Judy and Tom Carlstrom recently performed at the San Diego Folk Festival which was taped by radio station KPBS. One of the portions that was aired on April 30th was a set by our musical docent and her noteworthy husband. For those of you who didn't hear them on the radio or at our Christmas party, you're in for a treat. They can be heard playing monthly at "Drowsy Maggie's".

Does the following answer Judy Carlstrom's question of last month about the sliminess of seaweeds? (Information found in Salt Marsh Vegetation Examples from the Tijuana Estuary, by Dr. Joy B. Zedler.

How can algae stand to dry out during long periods of exposure?

Our bodies don't dry out rapidly because we have a protective layer of skin on the outside. Most algae are too simple in their design for this type of protection – the whole plant may be only one cell or one layer of cells. But these simple cells are capable of producing jelly-like material which acts like a protective skin. If you touch the blackish algal mats that live on the soil surface, they will feel slimy because of their jelly-like secretions. Rather than to repel your touch, its purpose is to slow the drying process!

Many of the green algae that live in the salt marsh develop only in pools or float on the channel surface. Most of them die when rafted at high water mark.



TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
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Deadline for Torreyana copy
the 25th of each month.
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Poetry Corner

THE CALL OF THE WILD

Let us probe the silent places
Let us seek what luck betides us;
Let us journey to a lonely land I know.
There's a whisper on the night wind,
There's a star agleam to guide us,
And the wild is calling, calling...let us go.

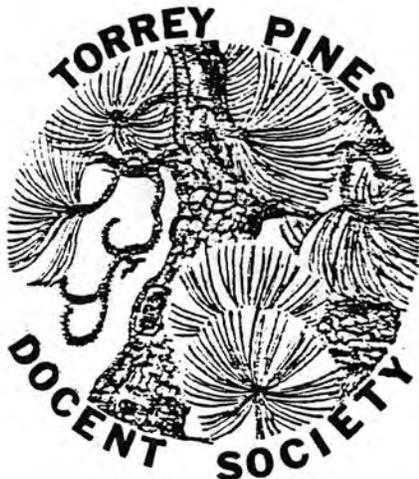
-Robert Service
(1874-1958)

JUDY ON DUTY



.....and the odor you smell is coming from
those little flowers over there called the....
Prickly Skunk Flower.

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