



# TORREYANA

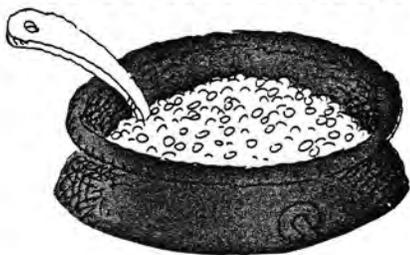
Published for Members of the  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

No. 109

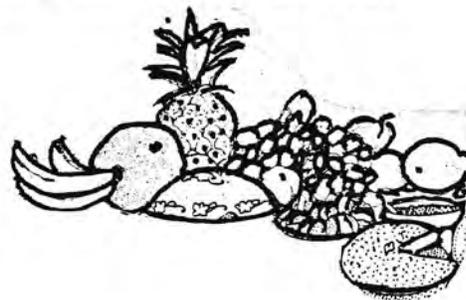
July 1984

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m., Potluck, North Parking Lot

It's beach party time again featuring our typically outstanding potluck. Bring your favorite dish and meet at the picnic tables in the north parking lot at 10 a.m. One of us will guard the food while the rest take off to explore the lagoon region under the guidance of our naturalist Hank Nicol. Besides the potluck and nature hike, our party will feature educational fun and games--an event not to be missed.



SEE  
YOU  
THERE  
!!!



## ***Getting to Know You*** by Jo Kiernan

It was about a year ago that I returned to Torrey Pines after a 15-year absence. Not that any REALLY good reasons kept me away other than work, school, and other forms of distraction.

Last year when the workload at the District Attorney's office lessened somewhat, I decided it was time to get to know the Reserve again. As it happened, my extra time and your 1983 training program coincided nicely. After some procrastination, my checklist was completed last month.

Although now a lawyer, I have a somewhat outdated Masters degree in Plant Pathology, which comes in handy now and again. The law stuff only comes in handy in reporting "off-trail" visitors to the Rangers.

It's been a pleasure meeting new friends and renewing an old acquaintanceship with the Reserve. Looks like I'm here to stay.

**Secretary's Notes** by Jo Kiernan  
(substituting for Betty Andrews)



The regular meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society was held on Saturday, June 16, 1984, at the Lodge, with President Glenn Dunham presiding. Glenn reminded members to sign up for duty in July.

Vice President Judy Carlstrom awarded certificates of merit to those docents-in-training who had completed this spring's training program: Bernard Dambron, Karen Dusek, Virginia Hunt, Elsie Johnstone, Wolfgang Koessler, Irene Stiller, and Jeanne Vanderhoof. Docent Joan Jollett also completed the training classes. Special awards were presented to those trainees who finished the take-home exam in the allotted time: Bernard Dambron, Wolfgang Koessler, Karen Dusek, Irene Stiller, and Irina Gronborg (not present).

The meeting adjourned and Ranger Randy Hawley, formerly with Torrey Pines State Reserve and currently assigned to Border Field State Park, led an informative walk on the geology of the Reserve and environs, to Red Butte, past Razor Point, and down to Flat Rock.

Upon return to the Lodge, all enjoyed refreshments organized by Joan Jollett, including a luscious carrot cake with Torrey pine decoration made by Judy Carlstrom to welcome the new docents.

**Poetry Corner**



The summer's flower is to the summer  
sweet,  
Though to itself it only live and die.  
**William Shakespeare**

Summertime  
And the livin' is easy.  
**Ira Gershwin**

Excerpt from  
*Song of Myself*

You sea! I resign myself to you  
also—I guess  
    what you mean;  
I behold from the beach your  
crooked inviting fingers;  
I believe you refuse to go back  
without feeling of me;  
We must have a turn together—I  
undress—hurry me out of sight  
of the land;  
Cushion me soft, rock me in billowy  
drowse;  
Dash me with amorous wet—I can  
repay you.  
Sea of stretch'd ground-swells!  
Sea breathing broad and convulsive  
breaths!  
Sea of the brine of life! sea of  
unshovell'd yet  
    always-ready graves!  
Howler and scooper of storms!  
capricious  
    and dainty sea!  
I am integral with you—I too am of  
one phase,  
    and of all phases.

*Walt Whitman*

*Notes from the Naturalist* by Hank Nicol

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Along my route to work I see this unbelievably ugly building. Out in front of it is a pile of very large, orange pipes which are, apparently, supposed to pass for sculpture. One day I peeled off for a closer look. There were several more smaller unbelievably ugly buildings. Down among them there seemed to be greenery.

A few days later I turned in again. I parked and walked toward the greenery. I found a large Japanese garden. There were three buildings which could have come straight out of postcards of Kyoto. One building was a restaurant. The other two were a sports club. There were several tennis courts still surrounded by the Japanese garden.

This brings to words something that has been bouncing around in my mind for a long time. Why do we despoil a major part of our world and then try to ease our environmental consciences by putting in a minor garden or by leaving a minor wild place? I know that people need places to work. I also know that people need places where they can play, and hike, or just stroll. People need places where they can rest their eyes on the ocean and on the trees, and where they can admire a sunset.

I live in a suburb which has been in existence for 14 years. In the pages of history that amounts to nothing. But in 14 years the few wild canyons have been thoroughly messed up with litter, garden trash, and muck that should have gone into the sewer. In 14 years kids have been born and grown right past Little League age. Do they have a decent place to play ball?

The area is naturally flat. When the Powers finally put in a park they filled it with artificial hills. Did they leave a place to throw a ball? Did they leave room to go out for a long one? That wouldn't have been artistic. We can't even do an unnatural place right.

Why can't we make, or preserve, aesthetic and recreational places first? Why can't we fit the houses, factories, and offices in afterwards? Why can't we make our cities like parks with places to live and work? Why must we desperately try to squeeze parks, playgrounds, and open space into the places we've already overbuilt? Must the human race always do things in reverse gear?

*Hank*



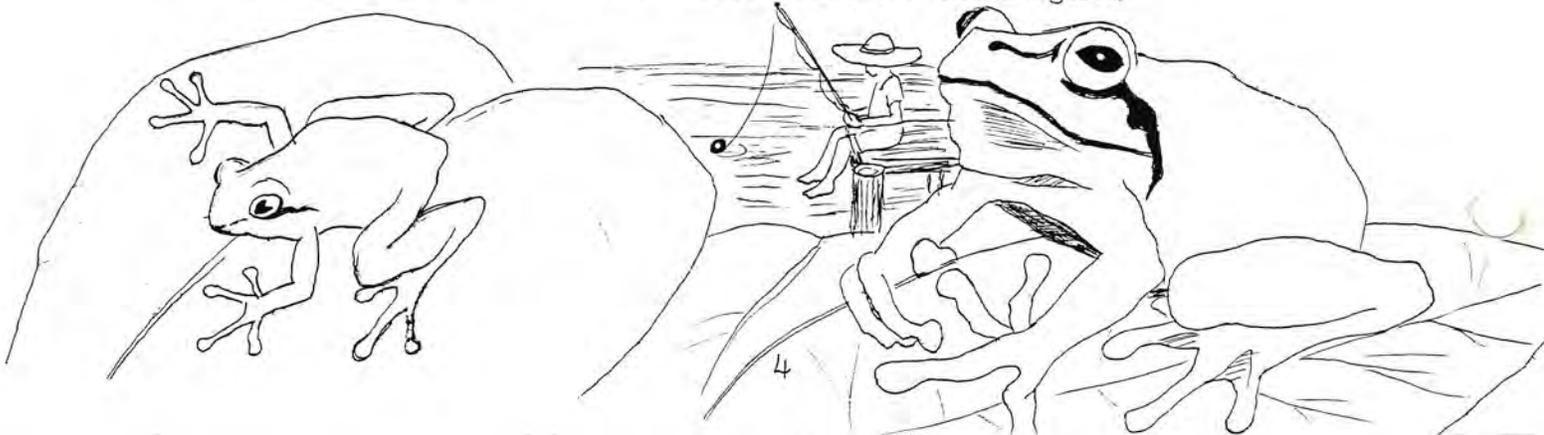


As a child, while growing up on the east coast, I remember many times when my friends and I would try to catch frogs near ponds or streambeds, but I never even heard of a tree frog until coming to California. I'll never forget the first time I saw one.

One morning, a hummingbird on our patio was putting up a terrible fuss, and kept it up for so long that my husband Don and I peeked outside to see what the problem was. The hummy was perched on the rope from which his feeder was hanging and was very agitated about something. We looked all around expecting to see another hummy trying to feed from his bottle, but the angry bird seemed to be all alone. When we finally spotted the object of the bird's wrath, we could hardly control our laughter, for.....moving along at a slow but steady pace, was a tiny, (3/4 inch) tree frog. Since the frog was going in the direction of the feeder, the hummy assumed that the frog was going to drink his sugar water. Of course the frog, who is an insect eater, didn't have the slightest interest in the feeder but was only using the rope as a bridge to get to the eucalyptus tree to which the rope was tied. When the bird's loud scolding failed to turn back the trespasser, the hummy went into a hilarious variety of threatening poses, with puffed up feathers, bulging eyes, and wings stretched up and out like a miniature Dracula. The little frog was totally....."underwhelmed", in fact, he would have marched right over the bird if the hummy hadn't become airborne at the very last second. The frog finally got to the end of the rope, hopped onto the tree, and then disappeared into a nearby bush. Even though the intruder was now gone, the hummy was still pretty upset, and flew down to take a "long stiff drink" from his feeder to cool his wrath, and soothe his wounded ego.

Tree frogs are interesting little creatures, with sticky, disc-like toes that act as suction cups, enabling them to walk up vertical surfaces, and to leap onto slippery leaves. In the springtime, a mother frog lays thousands of eggs that are no bigger than the head of a pin. The eggs are always laid under water, for that's where her offspring must begin their lives. The little forms that hatch from the eggs look nothing like frogs, but are small fish-like creatures with a long tail for swimming and gills for breathing under water. In time, through a process called metamorphosis, the babies' (called tadpoles) bodies begin to absorb their own tails, until they are completely gone, and at the same time, legs and lungs develop, enabling them to walk and breathe out of water. As tadpoles, they were vegetarians, but now they will become insect eaters, catching their prey with a long sticky tongue. Strangely enough, although frogs spend much of their lives around water, they cannot "drink" water, but must get the moisture they need by absorbing it through their skin. Tree frogs are very strong for their size, and are able to leap two feet in the air. If a human were to attempt a comparable feat, he would have to leap 70 feet in the air. Tree frogs have been called, "weather forecasters", because they sing loudly before a storm.

A chorus of frogs, singing on a warm summer night, is a lovely nostalgic sound to many people, bringing back memories of childhood fun on a farm or a summer camp. Next time you smell rain in the air, step outside and listen for the sound of frogs, and for a little while.....be a child again.



## News and Notes

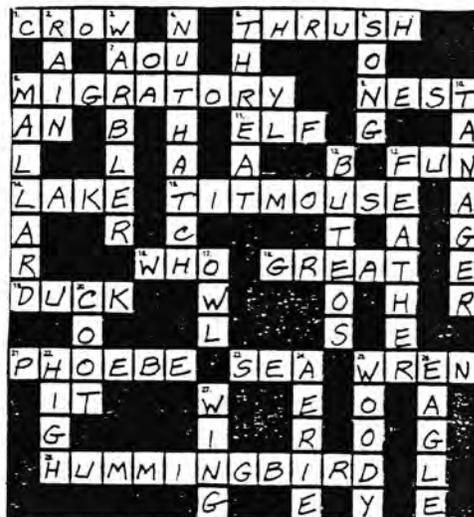
Only two persons responded to the Birdwatcher's Crossword Puzzle (June '84 Torreyana). The first person, Judy Carlstrom, had all of the words correct--100%! A supporting member from Michigan sent in her solution but missed the "stickler," number 5 down. The solution to the puzzle is shown below.

Judy's prize was a packet of June Warburton's note paper--the beautiful, hand-colored scrub jay variety. Congratulations, Judy!

I wonder why more docents didn't try the puzzle?



M. H.



### ACROSS

1. smaller than a raven
3. family that includes the robin
5. American Ornithological Union
7. to move with the seasons
9. a spring activity; home
11. fairy-tale forest dweller; type of sparrow
13. birdwatching on a sunny day
14. wet habitat
15. small grey bird with pointed crest
16. the sound of an owl
18. \_\_\_\_\_ blue heron
19. may be a diving bird
21. grey bird without distinctive markings
23. saltwater habitat
25. very small brown bird, bobs a lot
27. fast moving and colorful

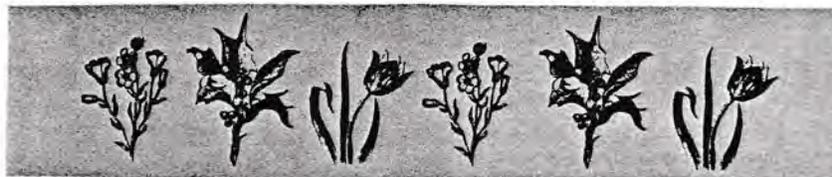
### DOWN:

2. needed to sustain life
3. songbird, perhaps most numerous in species
4. found searching for insects, winks up and down trees
5. pesticides
6. communication
8. courts in the fall
10. brightly colored western bird
12. broad winged hawk
13. quill pen is made from this hollow structure
17. night hunter, comes in many sizes
20. not a duck, but found in similar places
22. eagles soar here
24. eagles nest here
25. a favorite woodpecker
26. our national bird
27. used for flying

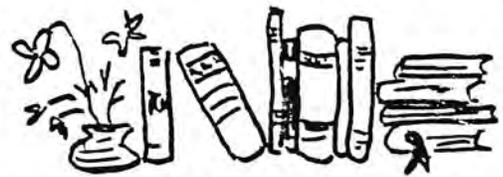
## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS

When does it "pay" to be a volunteer? Perhaps when you are figuring out your personal income taxes! Volunteers may deduct out-of-pocket expenses incurred while doing volunteer work for groups approved by the IRS (501(c)(3) groups such as the TPDS qualify). Types of expenditures you may deduct are: gifts of money, auto expenses and mileage (9¢ per mile), bus/cab expenses, uniforms, telephone bills, travel expenses, tickets to charity benefits (above intrinsic value), and costs of meals/lodging if away overnight.

Save those receipts for your next tax return. A journal is an acceptable method of keeping mileage and activity logs--and it makes fun reading in January. You may be amazed at just how much you did volunteer!



DESCRIBING PLANTS by Helen Chamlee



On those occasions when you wish to describe a plant, when more needs to be said than, "that bush with pink flowers," how do you go about it?

It may be that you have seen and admired a certain plant and want to buy one for yourself. If you don't know its name you'll have to describe it to the nurseryman and hope that he can follow your description. Or you've photographed a wildflower that is new to you and you try to describe it to a botanist over the telephone, or try to trace it through the fine print in a book in order to get it identified.

It's a good idea for anyone interested in plants to learn to describe them. This calls for some thoughtful looking. So what do you look at? What do you look for?

It's a little, but not exactly, like ogling the bikini-clad girls on the beach. You get an idea of their general shape, then study the details. So with plants--get the general outline in mind, then go on from there.

The girls are thoroughly looked over, shall we say, from top to bottom? With plants it's the other way; you start at the bottom and work up. Botanically and horticulturally a plant is described from the ground up: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits.

When you look up a plant in a catalogue or a book you'll find that right up front in the description will be a few words telling something about its habit, in phrases like prostrate annual, evergreen tree, bulb, clinging vine, low border plant. In the language of horticulture, the habit of a plant is its general appearance, or the way it grows. Is it erect, sprawling, prostrate, rounded, trailing, or otherwise? Is it a shrub, vine, tree, bushy perennial, other? The vocabulary here is extensive, with many overlappings and many inexact meanings. One reason for this is that plants are so indefinite in shape. A lizard has four legs, a spider has eight, but how many branches does a rose bush have? How many leaves? How many flowers?

Describing the plant's habit is actually telling something about its stem or stems. Roots usually aren't mentioned unless they're out of the ordinary (bulbs, tubers, corms, rhizomes, and a few others). Of course we don't dig up a rose or a pine tree to examine its root system, but in the case of an onion or an iris, knowing what it is like underground helps in identifying it.

Ask a nurseryman (probably using hands as well as words) for a "plant that comes from a brown bulb, grows about a foot high, has narrow grayish leaves and yellow trumpet flowers" and you'll come closer to getting a daffodil than with a mumbled "we-ell, it has yellow flowers."

That takes care of roots and stems (general appearance). Now, about leaves. It is worthwhile to learn to look at leaves attentively and to learn the descriptive terms. Leaves are always present on an evergreen plant and most of the time on a deciduous one.

Think how many kinds of trees and other plants you recognize without ever thinking about their flowers. You probably know a sycamore when you see it, but do you know what its flowers look like? How about asparagus? Dichondra? Or lettuce, for that matter? Surely there's a plant known by its leaves. (Flowers of head lettuce are yellow, in case you care to know.)

Note how a plant's leaves are arranged on its stem (alternate, opposite, whorled). Some whole families of plants (maples and olives, to name two) have opposite leaves. Note whether the leaves are simple or compound; note their size, their shape, their color if they are not plain everyday green.

### Leaf Arrangements



Alternate



Opposite



Whorled

A practical way to familiarize yourself with the words that tell everything you need to know about leaves is to take a leaf from a plant that you do know, a geranium, say, or a coast live oak, look it up in a manual or flora or garden encyclopedia, then follow through the description with the leaf in front of you.

Starting with a plant you never saw before can be too discouraging unless or until you've had enough experience to enjoy the challenge. What page would you start on?

You'll need a magnifier to see those stellate hairs on your oak leaf, and while you're about it you'll likely be amazed to see how grubby your supposedly clean fingernails are.

Some descriptive terms are in common usage; others you'll have to look up in the glossary. I do it too; that's why the glossary pages are the most frazzled in my copy of "A California Flora."

The vocabularies of flowers and fruit characters are equally extensive--one reason for having botany courses in school.

Learning to look at a plant so you'll recognize it when you meet it again or so you can accurately describe its charms to someone else can easily become one of the minor pleasures of your life.

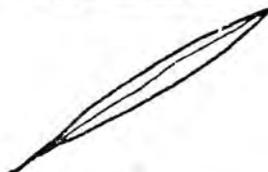
### Leaf Shapes



Ovate



Lanceolate



Linear



Deltoid



Heart-shaped

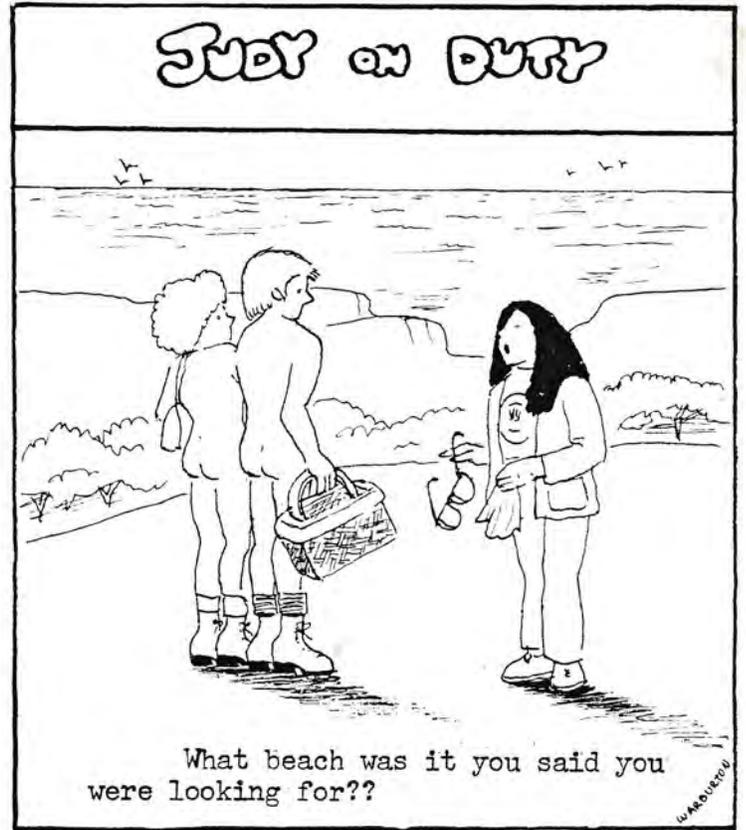
**TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY**  
 President: Glenn Dunham  
 Deadline for Torreyana copy  
 is the 25th of each month.  
 Send contributions to:  
 Isabel Buechler, Editor  
 3702 Oleander Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92106  
 Phone: 222-7016

I'm extremely grateful to Mil-  
 licent Horger for taking over  
 her old job as Torreyana Edi-  
 tor again while I went on va-  
 cation for a month. Two grad-  
 uations and a silver wedding  
 anniversary kept me moving to  
 Colorado, Wyoming, and Nevada.  
 Sincere thanks, Milli!

*Isabel*



HAPPY  
 FOURTH  
 TO ALL



Torrey Pines Docent Society  
 C/o Torrey Pines State Reserve  
 2680 Carlsbad Boulevard  
 Carlsbad, CA 92008

FOR

