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TORREYANA

Published for Members of the
Torrey Pines Docent Society

No. 116

February 1985

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m., Visitor Center

Tom Demere, paleontologist from the Museum of Natural History, will present a slide and lecture program on the prehistoric life of this area. It has been several years since we've had a lecture on this topic, so it should be of interest to all of us.

Since February is the month for our annual meeting, we'll also be electing officers for 1985. A slate is being prepared by the nominating committee (Mary Miller and Julie Marine), and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Nominees must provide their consent either in writing or verbally at the meeting. Only full voting members are qualified to hold office. This means members who have paid their dues for 1985 and completed all prescribed training requirements for full membership.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting, and there will be a Board meeting at 11:30.

Following is a list of offices to be filled, along with a brief description of the duties of each:

President: Presides over the general meetings, annual meeting, and Executive Board meetings; may co-sign checks of the Society; may aid the Executive Secretary (Bob Wohl) in carrying out the business of the Society.

Vice President: Acts in the absence of the President and coordinates the program planning for general meetings and training sessions.

Treasurer: Is responsible for administering the finances of the Society; receives and disburses monies from dues, donations, and sales; keeps the Society books and records; submits an annual financial report; may co-sign checks of the Society.

Recording Secretary: Keeps the minutes of Executive Board meetings, the annual meeting, and business portions of general meetings; may prepare official correspondence of the Society in cooperation with the Executive Secretary.

(Continued on next page)



Publications Chairman: Produces the Society journal "Torreyana" and seeks favorable publicity for the Torrey Pines State Reserve and the Society.



Duty Coordinator: Maintains the duty schedule for Society members performing public service work at the Reserve.



Let's have a good turnout at this important meeting.

News and Notes

TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION MEETING: Docents are invited and encouraged to attend the annual meeting of the Torrey Pines Association on Thursday, February 14, at 2:30 in the Lodge. The Association, established in 1950, has been instrumental in acquiring and protecting land for TPSR as well as in contributing in numerous ways to the Reserve. Bob Wohl will review events of the past year, and Mitch Beauchamp will discuss a prescribed burn in the Extension. Try to attend.

TRAINING SESSIONS: The March Torreyana will give details of the Spring training sessions, which will begin April 13 and run through May 11. Old as well as new members are encouraged to attend. You can always review important information and pick up interesting new facts. Attendance is required, of course, for those who are working to become full docents.

WELCOME TO OLD FRIENDS: It's good to see Greg Hackett, Chris Platis, and Jim Bittner back at TPSR. Ranger Greg has had previous assignments here; Chris formerly was associated with the YCC here and is now a Ranger, taking the place of Brooks Collom who was originally scheduled to come; and Jim is one of our favorite Park Aides, bird expert, and contributor to the Torreyana.

DUTY SIGN-UP: If you aren't able to attend a regular monthly meeting to sign up for duty, be sure to call Janet Humphreys at 942-9631 to select a time that's agreeable to you. We need everyone's help to fill duty spots.



Getting to Know You by Janet Humphreys

Great changes took place in my life in September of '82. My husband, Dick, and I sold our home in Cupertino, California, and moved to Encinitas--to begin our "Golden Years."

What a wonderful idea it turned out to be! Here, in North County, close to the ocean, lagoons, and canyons, I feel in harmony with Nature and my life. There is so much to learn, experience, and enjoy, and days are full of sunshine.

Fortune favored me when my path crossed with Ruth Hand's. I was invited to the Docent Society Christmas Party at Torrey Pines State Reserve, and the rest is history. I am so happy to be of service to one of the most beautiful parks in the world, and to be a member of the Torrey Pines Docent Society.

Secretary's Notes

by Judy Carlstrom
(substituting for Betty Andrews)

The regular monthly meeting of the Docent Society was held on January 19 at 9 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Vice President Judy Carlstrom (acting in the absence of President Glenn Dunham) announced the upcoming Docent Appreciation Week, sponsored by the Docent League of San Diego County, to be held February 11-17. During that time docents have free admission to museums. It was noted that the Museum of Man, the Aerospace Museum, and the Museum of Photographic Arts have ongoing free admission to docents wearing their badges.

A nominating committee of two was appointed for the Board elections to be held in February. They are Mary Miller and Julie Marine. Parking stickers were passed out to docents who needed them and who have paid 1985 dues. A letter from Torrey Lystra of Wilderness Gardens Preserve was passed around, in which he thanked us for our gift of a Mat print which we sent him in appreciation of his contribution to our wilderness weekend. Judy Carlstrom presented us with a trash can for under the docent desk (do not remove!).

Speakers for the February and March meetings were announced. Tom Demere of the Natural History Museum will speak on paleontology (fossils) at the February meeting, and Roberta Fleming of the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center will be with us in March to talk about creating museum displays for children and doing nature programs with children.

The annual training session will begin on April 13.

Two upcoming classes were announced. Richard Carrico, archeologist, will give a six-week class on the Indians of our area at the Serra Museum on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 beginning February 2. Cost is \$30. Larry Beck will teach a class on edible and useful plants of Peñasquitos Canyon through ACCESS to Learning. Call 296-6219 for further information.

Members present at the meeting voted to allow Helen Matsumoto, widow of Mat, to have access to the docent roster to enable her to send us personal invitations to a showing of her late husband's work to be held March 2-30 at the San Diego Public Library downtown. (The March Torreyana will have additional information.)

Pam Van Atta presented us with a list of housekeeping jobs that we can perform, if we wish, while on duty at the Lodge. The list was passed around and will be posted near the docent desk. Cleaning supplies will be provided and further details will be presented at next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments. After refreshments we were led on an informative tour of the grounds during which Bob Wohl and Hank Nicol instructed us on proper pruning techniques and trail maintenance. Stored along with our cleaning supplies will be "docent" tools which, after first consulting with Bob or Hank, we can use for pruning plants along the trails.



California Quail

BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Pamela Van Atta

A board meeting was held at the Lodge on January 19, 1985, after the general meeting. Present were Judy Carlstrom, Bob Wohl, Isabel Buechler, Rowdy James, Janet Humphreys, and Pamela Van Atta. The agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Hank Nicol's Book, Beyond the Trees. Upon a motion, it was agreed to accept the bid of Mission Graphics for printing the book for the price of \$1059 for 500 copies, or \$1870 for 1000 copies. Two photographs will cost an additional \$9. The proceeds from the book will benefit our organization.

2. The 1985 Docent Training Session. The option of holding the training session in the fall instead of in the spring was discussed and rejected for these reasons: it would conflict with the Canyoners' training session, which is held in the fall; the wildflowers are much more abundant and therefore accessible to study in the spring; and the influx of new members in the spring better enables us to staff the Lodge during the hectic summer season which follows. Upon a motion, it was agreed to structure the first meeting of the training session as an informative experience, and to proceed with the actual instructional part of the session in the following meetings. It was also agreed that a Training Session Committee should be formed to take some of the load off of Judy's shoulders, although she will still be presiding over the entire program.

3. Roster. In an effort to minimize confusion in regard to payment of yearly dues, membership applications are to be given to Pamela Van Atta, either personally or by placing the application in the mail slot/holder on the wall in the Docent Library with her name on it (in large letters). If, while you are on duty, someone pays dues to you, put the money in the till, write out a receipt for the amount with the person's name on it, and note the date paid on the application (if a new member). Pamela will keep Isabel up to date regarding names, addresses, and status (i.e., whether or not dues have been paid) for the Torreyana mailing list.

4. Docent Duty. The policy of signing up for Lodge duty during monthly meetings has been working out quite well; however, those who don't attend a meeting need to call Janet Humphreys, Duty Coordinator (942-9631), each time they miss a meeting so that she can put them on the calendar for times of their choice. This is imperative! In addition, a list of expanded functions for docents will be posted in the Docent Library in the near future. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



MEMORIAL GIFT

A memorial gift to the Torrey Pines Docent Society in honor of their aunt, Mary McClintock, has been made by Millicent Horger, Docent, and Mary Jane Raymond, Supporting Member. Mrs. McClintock died recently in Santa Cruz at the age of 102. She was a former schoolteacher in the San Diego area and for many years resided in Mission Hills.

Report from the Ranger (OR That Park Aide Again) by Jim Bittner

ODDS AND ENDS...

I Love a Mystery: Hank walks into the office and describes a bird he has observed near the lagoon. About the size of a towhee, perhaps slimmer, brownish on top (couldn't see the underside), and hovering a few feet above the ground. And maybe catching insects.

All right. Hovering. Not all birds hover. In fact, not many manage it at all. If you want to get technical, the hummingbirds are the only "true" hoverers, able to maintain their position in perfectly still air. Other birds, like the American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, and Black-Shouldered Kite (my favorite bird!) require some sort of a breeze in order to hover. Kinglets and a few warblers sometimes hover in front of a leaf to reach an insect, but they do not have the muscles necessary to hold for more than a few seconds.



Say's Phoebe

Back to our bird. Nothing jumped out of the field guides and said, "Hank, I'm the one you saw," so we filed it under "Unknown Species." (But you know, it just might have been a Say's Phoebe....)

Book Review: A marvelous book that I'm certain any docent would enjoy is Gerald Durrell's A Practical Guide for the Amateur Naturalist. Organized by habitat, the book introduces the reader to the ecology and inhabitants, plant and animal, of our natural world. A delight to read, beautifully illustrated, and chock-full of fascinating information.

Report Published: The Los Peñasquitos Foundation commissioned a survey of the lagoon birdlife, conducted from March through July 1984. The study recorded 164 species, of which 40 nested in the area. Eight sensitive species were given particular attention; however, only five were observed: Belding's Savannah Sparrow, California Brown Pelican, Snowy Plover, Cactus Wren, and the California Least Tern.

Jim

An item from the Evening Tribune of Friday, January 25, 1985--

Burn to benefit pines

Firefighters yesterday conducted their second controlled burn within a year on the Torrey Pines State Reserve, hoping to pave the way there for younger trees.

Using blow torches, they set fire to 1.5 acres of ground cover and brush in a canyon east of North Torrey Pines Road. The billowing black smoke caused concern among several passers-by and residents in the surrounding area, firefighters said.

The trees are considered the rarest pines in western North America and grow naturally only along eight miles of coast here and on Santa Rosa Island, off Santa Barbara.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GLENN DUNHAM

The Docent Appreciation Week program announced at the last meeting by Judy Carlstrom for February 11-17 will feature special events and tours at several museums as well as free admission. I encourage all docents to participate and show that we appreciate being appreciated.

Free admission for the week now includes the San Diego Museum of Art, Museum of Man, Natural History Museum, Aerospace Museum, Museum of Photographic Arts, Serra Museum, and Villa Montezuma. Torrey Pines State Reserve will also admit docents free of charge all week.

You MUST have your docent badge to be admitted to the museums and special events.

First event is the kickoff meeting at the Natural History Museum auditorium Monday, February 11, at 10:30 a.m. There will be refreshments, door prizes, and speakers. To help plan refreshments, reservations are required, so please call me or leave word at the lodge as soon as possible.

Several behind-the-scenes tours are being offered:

- Tuesday, February 12, at 2 p.m., a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of Man, which is reported to be very interesting. We must RSVP this one also.
- Tuesday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m., a tour of Scripps Aquarium.
- The Museum of Photographic Arts is offering behind-the-scenes tours but no particular day is specified. The museum is open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.
- The Aerospace Museum is offering special films from 10:00 a.m. until noon each day, and there will be refreshments.

Door prizes and refreshments are being offered at several other museums also. I hope to see our members enjoying these events and celebrating Docent Appreciation Week.

NATIVE PLANTS DONATED TO TPSR

Just before the January Docent Society meeting got under way in the Lodge, members assembled outside to witness a presentation of native plants to the Reserve. One of our docents, Irina Gronborg, and Dale Ward, both of whom are members of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, made the presentation. They are part of a subgroup that is interested in using native plants in landscaping. The gift plants were left over from a sale held last October, and they were divided between two San Diego area Reserves: Torrey Pines and Wilderness Gardens. In TPSR they will be used in the interpretive gardens in front of the Lodge and at the head of the Parry Grove Trail.

We've been admiring some of Irina's lovely pencil sketches that are on display in the Lodge and expect to see others from time to time. Meanwhile her plant "portraits" are appearing monthly in San Diego Home and Garden. Congratulations, Irina, and our thanks to you and the Native Plant Society for your donation.



Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

SACRED TREES

My first visit to Japan was in winter. Among the many things I thought strange were trees wrapped in straw. The trunks were covered from bottom to top in the same way a roof would be thatched.

I was mildly interested, but I wasn't able to indulge my curiosity. I was just passing through. I was young and strong and stupid, and there was a war that needed my attention.



I didn't see many trees in Korea..., maybe some trunks, a few limbs, never a leaf. The artillery of both sides seemed to regard anything green as insulting. I've met some recent visitors to the land I knew as "Frozen Chosen." They've told me that trees are now sacred in Korea. People do value things that are in short supply. There are strong forestry and tree planting movements, and the bare hills that I fought over are a green paradise for wildlife. The Army expression was, "I didn't lose my dog tags," meaning "I don't have to go back to look for anything." I've never been back to Korea. I've been back to Japan several times.

I finally found out about the thatched trees. A deciduous tree shouldn't need protection from the cold. It was designed for cold. It's not the deep winter that hurts the tree. It's a too early spring. The sap begins to flow. Then the weather backs up two months, and the tree's cells freeze, expand, then rupture. My father, who grew up in Ontario, Canada, told me about a spring when the apple trees froze. He said he could hear the loud cracks of tree trunks exploding all night.

On another winter visit to Japan, I saw tall evergreens guyed by many ropes arranged symmetrically all around. On one tree the lines were pure white. This one was lighted at night. It looked a lot like Sea World's Sky Tower at Christmas. I thought it must have been decorated for some celebration. It turned out that it was a famous old tree, and the ropes were to help it in case of a heavy storm. The Japanese couldn't see any reason why they shouldn't do the job artistically. The Torrey pine, collectively, is a famous tree. What better symbol for San Diego? Of course we give each and every Torrey pine all the protection possible.

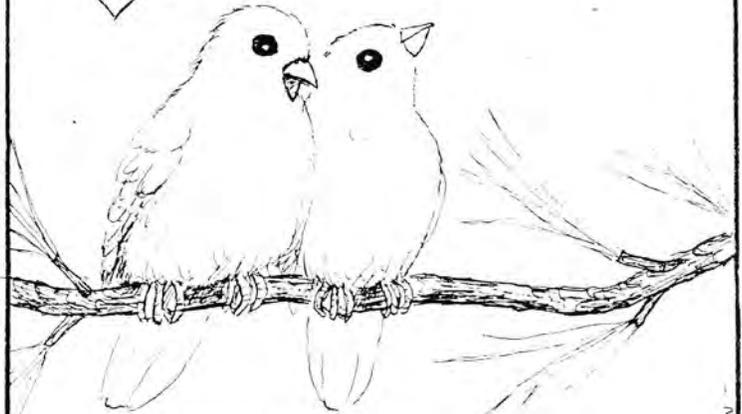
A very large Torrey pine grows a few feet east of the park road. It's about a quarter mile up the hill from the entrance. The tree isn't all that old, about 80 years. In 1930 it wasn't big enough for Guy Fleming to give it a special name on his map. Today it's very special. It's one of the biggest trees in the Reserve. It's the first and most impressive tree most visitors see. The tree has put out a west-bound root which has made a bump in the pavement. One day an engineer came to Torrey Pines. He marked places in the road that need fixing. Right by the bump he used red spray paint to write three big letters..., "C U T"!

Hank

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

President: Glenn Dunham
Deadline for Torreyana copy
is the 25th of each month.
Send contributions to:
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Torrey Titters



Now that we know all about
the bees, shall we explore
the sweet mystery of... "the
birds"?

— L. W. B. S. T. D. W. —

Poetry Corner

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I;
But when the trees bow down
their heads,
The wind is passing by.
Christina Rossetti

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