

file



TORREYANA

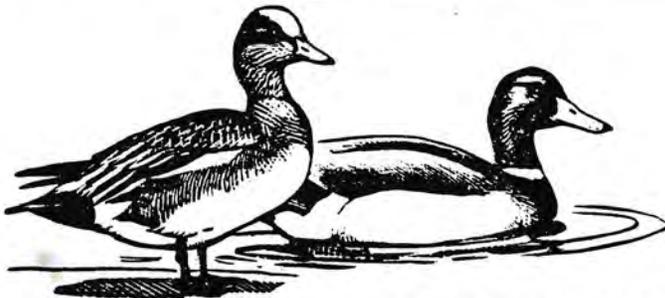
Published for Members of the
Torrey Pines Docent Society

No. 117

March 1985

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

Speaker at the March meeting will be Roberta Fleming, who has been active in establishing children's museums. She will show slides and talk about setting up a museum, with particular emphasis on ideas pertinent to children visiting our own museum. She was founder of the first children's museum in Ohio, which is now called the Lake Erie Nature Center, and still serves as consultant. She was also involved in establishing the first children's museum in the nation in Brooklyn, N.Y. More recently she was concerned with the restoration of the Johnson Adobe in Peñasquitos Canyon, where she gives guided walks and nature programs. She also offers nature programs at area schools.



SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRICITY LAGOON PROPERTY IS PRIORITY #1

on the State Bond Issue list. However, there are many other parcels listed as Priority #1. Competition for the funds is great.

Therefore, send letters to or phone your local legislators. Or write them: The Honorable _____ State Capitol Building
Sacramento CA 95814

also

Send copies of your letters, or originals, to William Briner, Director, Parks & Recreation Dept., P.O. Box 2390, CA 95811

Remember.....the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

For further information, Call Jim Whitehead 755-0826

PLEASE be sure to ask friends to help....scores of letters and postcards are needed.

Secretary's Notes by Betty Andrews

The Torrey Pines Docent Society met on February 16, 1985, with President Glenn Dunham presiding.

Judy Carlstrom, Vice President, announced that the scheduled speaker was unable to appear and will be rescheduled at a later date. Instead, Hank Nicol and Bob Wohl will lead the docents on an off-trail hike to the Big Basin and beach areas.

Judy informed us that training sessions for new docents are set and the schedule will be published in the Torreyana. She suggested that regular members also attend. Judy also introduced us to the duty roster and explained it to the group. Each person is to be sure everything he or she does is recorded. It is essential that it be as complete as possible because much of the information goes as far as the state offices. The roster will hang in the docent lounge.

Isabel Buechler announced that Hank Nicol's new book is at the printers and should be delivered in about two weeks. The 1000 copies will cost about \$1800.

Wolfgang Koessler has purchased the tools for trail clearing decided upon by the board. They are in the docent lounge and are ready to be used.

Isabel Buechler and Milli Horger attended some of the different museums that offered tours during Docent Appreciation Week.

Bob Wohl reported on the Torrey Pines Association meeting. The controlled burns in May 1984 and January 1985 took place in order to reduce the amount of ground fuel and to give falling pine nuts a chance to reach the ground and germinate. It is felt that the burns were not too successful and perhaps other methods may be studied for use in the future.

He reported that 12 animals to be used in museum cases are at the taxidermist, and that Carolyn Anderson may do some more dioramas for use in their display. This work is mostly paid for by the Torrey Pines Association.

Bob said that en-route or one-night camping is coming to the north parking lot, perhaps in 1987 or 1988. At that time the restroom and shower facilities will be replaced. He also informed us that work will probably begin soon to place all utilities coming into the park underground.

The nominating committee, Mary Miller and Julie Marine, presented the slate of officers for the coming year:

President: Glenn Dunham
Vide President: Judy Carlstrom
Treasurer: Elizabeth Nicoloff
Secretary: Betty Andrews
Torreyana: Isabel Buechler
Duty Coordinator: Janet Humphreys

This slate was accepted by the group.

Glenn Dunham asked for volunteers to aid Rowdy James with the book store and Isabel Buechler with the Torreyana.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and nature walks.

Report from the Ranger

In addition to subjects reported in the minutes of the last TPDS meeting, Ranger Bob Wohl's annual report covered the following events of the past year:

1. Accidental fire in the Extension
2. Homicide of a 13-year-old-girl
3. Rape, and capture of the rapist
4. Staff changes
5. TV show made by Bob at Hearst Castle, shown nationwide on PBS and awarded first prize in the National Parks and Recreation Association category.
6. Bob's move into the Guy Fleming residence.
7. Twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of TPSR on May 6, 1984
8. Formation of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, and opening of the lagoon
9. Construction progress in North City West
10. Death of the bullet train
11. Removal of exotic plants from the Reserve
12. Publication of a new bird list
13. Passage of the Park Bond Act
14. Moving of Torrey pine trees at La Jolla Cancer Research
15. Placement of more ceramic plaques in the Whitaker Garden

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by Glenn Dunham

In this month's article I would like to thank everyone for agreeing to put up with me for another year, and to thank the members for their support. Whenever we needed help someone came through and volunteered. This year it looks like we can count on you again. Jo Kiernan has volunteered to be our backup person for Rowdy, Karen Dusek volunteered to be Isabel's backup, and Jeanne Vanderhoof volunteered for publicity for the training class. Thanks to you all. One position, the host/hostess, was left vacant, and Jeanne suggested that several members could share the job. She volunteered and got Irene Stiller and Margaret Bardwick to do the same, so that will be our hostess committee. They will be asking members to help by bringing goodies each month, so please give them as much support as you can.

Next item is the annual Docent Council meeting that I mentioned in our meeting. We have received additional information and reservation forms since the meeting. The program is being put on by the San Diego Historical Society and will be on April 29, 1985. The program will start with an 8:45 a.m. sign-in and will end at 12 noon, when there will be a luncheon at the House of Hospitality. The three different locations of the Historical Society will be visited, and buses will take participants from one facility to another. The cost will be \$1.50 for the bus only or \$8.50 for the bus and the lunch. Richard R. Esparza, Executive Director of the Society, will be the speaker at the luncheon; his topic will be "How to Start a Museum." I will put copies of the program in the lodge for your review. Please let me know if you will be going.

Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol



AN EXPERIMENT IN PSEUDOSCIENCE

Nobody seems to have a very good idea of how the Torrey pine got to Santa Rosa Island. During the last ice age much of the world's water was tied up in ice. The water level was much lower than it is now. You couldn't have walked, or waded, over from Santa Barbara, but the gap wouldn't have been much of a test for a channel swimmer. I can't think of any mammals, ancient or modern, that would be likely to carry seeds across. A scrub jay probably wouldn't go to the trouble, but nuthatches have been seen carrying seeds for many miles and across water.

The seed couldn't swim over by itself. Well, maybe it could. Good Torrey pine seeds don't float, but cones do. I decided to make an experiment. Since I am an intellectual, not noted for strength, prowess, or adventurous spirit, I recruited a lifeguard. He waded out into the surf and bailed up a bucket of water. He brought it up to the Visitor Center. I hid it out in the garage.

I found three cones that looked as though they might have some viable seeds. Just to make sure, I stuffed in some more seeds which had already passed the float test. They had sunk nicely. That is not an absolute guarantee of goodness, but it is an indication that there is still something inside. I dropped the cones into the salt water. That was on November 20, 1984. When I came in on Monday morning, November 26, I found that one cone had already sunk. It had gone down in somewhat less than six days. Things didn't seem to be going well, but two cones were still afloat.



I let the cones dry for almost a month. The seeds weren't falling out. On January 4 I hurried affairs along with a large screwdriver. I pried out over 80 seeds from the three cones.

I gave them the float test once more; 75 sank. I wanted to give these seeds every opportunity, so, in case the bath in cold sea water hadn't broken the dormancy, I packed them in damp potting soil. Then I put them in the refrigerator. The big word for this is "stratification."

On February 8 I caught an out-of-state visitor roaming around where he shouldn't have been. He was looking for a Torrey pine cone. I explained the no-souvenirs policy. He wanted some seeds to plant back home. He seemed like a nice guy, so I gave him four of the seeds. Besides, it tickled me to think of Torrey pine seeds floating all the way to North Carolina. If seeds had floated only to Santa Rosa it seems more likely that a whole tree would have been caught in a flood and washed ashore on the island. An entire tree would float longer than just a cone. Some of the cones might even be held up out of the water. Afterwards the seeds could be spread around in the usual ways..., squirrels, woodrats, and jays.

On February 14 I gave my wife her annual box of Almond Roca. Then I came to work and took the rest of the seeds out of the park fridge. Now I'll just have to wait and see if some, or many, germinate.

Hank



MAT'S ART OF THE PINE

Retrospective Exhibit Of Drawings
At The San Diego Public Library Downtown
March 2 - 30, 1985

"You must have such patience," remarked many a curious onlooker as Mat painstakingly completed a sketch of a pine tree growing beside a hiking trail. "It doesn't take patience to do what you love," Mat calmly replied, "just passion." That he had, enough to draw each pine tree, needle by needle. His medium was simple-- lead pencils on paper-- and his subject was constant-- pine trees. But, he portrayed each tree, like a person, as a magnificent, uniquely different creation of God. These portraits in black and white display the strength and dignity of each tree, surviving nature's whims, and aging gracefully for hundreds of years as we briefly pass by.

The exhibit is a retrospective look at Mat's fourteen year study of the pine tree, beginning with his earliest sketches in 1968 of the majestic black pines surrounding the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, and ending with the invitingly intimate pathways in Torrey Pines State Park, San Diego. The highlight of the show is a six-panel drawing (30"x 120") titled "Lord I Have Loved The Habitation Of Thy House And The Place Where Thine Honor Dwelleth." Its sweeping, panoramic view of High Point Trail captures the unspoiled, pristine beauty of Torrey Pines State Park. Its scale is large and dramatic, like Japanese byohu, the paintings on folding screens that have traditionally decorated the palaces of Japan.

Mat was a self-taught artist, born in Japan and naturalized a U.S. citizen in 1948. He began drawing the pine shortly before his retirement from the U.S. Navy in 1969. He drew them almost exclusively for fourteen years until his death in 1982. Perhaps because his last name Matsumoto means "Root of the Pine" in Japanese, he felt a particular kinship with these trees. After retiring to New York in 1969, he continued drawing pines as he toured New England. In 1973 he moved to San Diego, lured by the mild climate and beautiful Torrey pines. The rarest of the pine species, the Torrey pine grows only in San Diego and the Santa Rosa Islands.

Mat had planned to hold this exhibit in 1985 to commemorate two events-- the 300th birthday of Johan Sebastian Bach, his favorite composer, and the 400th birthday of the oldest Torrey pine in the state park, a tree at the top of High Point Trail which he affectionately referred to as Mary. Frequently, when completing a drawing at home, Mat glided his pencil on paper in rhythm to Bach's music playing on the stereo.

Mat has held nine previous one-man shows of drawings, including two others at the San Diego Public Library.

Mat has won the following awards:

1971 - Sumi-e Society of America First Prize, Non-sumi-e Division

1972 - Sumi-e Society of America President's Award

1976 - La Jolla Art Association Purchase Award

Mat's work can be seen regularly at Mat Gallery, 1113 Wall Street, La Jolla. Also, on permanent display at the San Diego City Council Chambers is the triptych titled "Then Shall All The Trees Of The World Sing Out," which Mat donated to the city in 1974. Private collections in many parts of the world exhibit his work, and he has done special commissions for the La Jolla Cancer Society, and the State of California.

(Exhibit Hours: Mon-Fri 10 A.M.-9 P.M. Sat 9:30 A.M.- 5:30 P.M.)

About
Mat
and
Torrey
Pines

CONTROL BURNING - TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE
JANUARY 17, 1985

by R. Mitchel Beauchamp



This statement is the result of a field trip to Torrey Pines State Reserve with Dr. Whitaker, Mrs. Harriet Allen, and State Park Personnel to assess the effects of controlled burning in a designated area of the Reserve.

After the field trip, I had the opportunity to discuss this technique with another control burn person, seeking his ideas on this question. He attended the California Native Plant Society meeting following the field trip. This person confirmed some of the ideas I had about the practice. The major impact of fire under the Torrey pine trees seems to be the burning of pine needle litter. The heat generated by slow burning seems to affect root systems distributed near the surface. It must be determined prior to burning, usually by visual inspection, where the roots are located in terms of depth. A good example were two trees of similar age, height, and exposure to surface burns. The two trees were about one foot apart, one dead, one living. The tree that died may have had roots near the surface, or a greater accumulation of leaf and pine needle litter in the immediate vicinity of the roots.

The chaparral vegetation which surrounds and engulfs the association of Torrey pines groves must be burned occasionally to lower fuel load and to stimulate regrowth of the associated resprouting and obligate reseeding plants.

For control burns to be effective, special care must be taken to avoid killing the Torrey pine trees. A large senescent grove of trees is not desirable, nor is a single-age class stand such as you would have if you burned the whole grove and seedlings came up. That would create an even-age class. A desirable result would be a stratified association of age classes because of mortality, pollination, seed-bearing ages, etc.

I recommend that the Torrey Pines Association cooperate with the control burning program in the Torrey Pines State Reserve. The burns should be relatively small (not more than several acres in extent at one period). Burning should be scheduled at appropriate times, with fire trucks standing by.

Modification of the present procedure should involve production of fuel breaks by hand-clearing of vegetation, making sure there is no disturbance of the soil profile. This may require some light raking of leaf litter but should not involve any disturbance of soil.

Secondly, burning in the understory of the tree canopy should require the reduction of the heat from the duff. This can be achieved in two ways. First, burning should be done after rain when lower portions of duff are quite moist. This would inhibit combustion. Second, and more realistically, the upper part of the litter should be removed by hand raking. That section of the duff which has not yet decomposed should be removed, and such material should be distributed into the chaparral and scattered around in the area to be burned. It would be burned with the chaparral, thus reducing the fuel load under the trees.

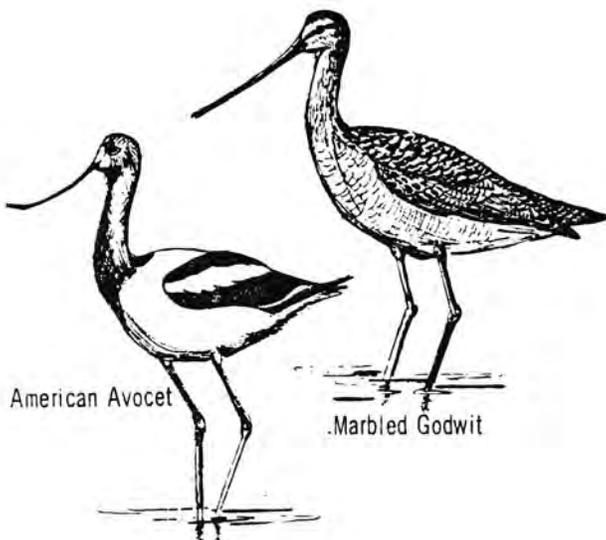
Using this approach, fire as a destructive factor in the understory of the Torrey pines woodland would be minimized. Destructive heat would be restricted to the outer chaparral area. The interface between Torrey pines and chaparral is a difficult area because of the possibility that the duff may catch fire. There would have to be some hand-clearing of the duff at this point.

Thus, probably the most difficult aspect would be the interface where the chaparral would burn into the pine forest. But I think the removal of duff by hand, though this is a costly affair, would be good. I did not see, from McMasters' thesis, any correlation between burning down to mineral soil and good regrowth of seedlings. Torrey pine seeds seem to be as well adapted to germinating in leaf litter and decomposed needle litter (i.e., with the proper sunlight) as in mineral soil. I believe even more so in the litters.

These, therefore, are my recommendations. In light of past arsonists and wildfires caused by children (which will become more frequent because of the increased number of children visiting from housing development in the area), we have to look at burn as a reality, and it is best to choose the time and place of a controlled burn. Wildfires during a Santa Ana when the forest is tinder dry would be devastating.

After reviewing the tape that was just produced, I would like to add some further comments, that is, on the involvement of limbs and their interception of heat. There will, of course, be some die-back of limbs at the lower level due to heat, but from what I have observed and from further investigation of literature, it does not appear that this is a major factor. The laddering of flames through from the chaparral interface areas into the canopy, of course, is a potential. Trees that have limbs going down into the chaparral vegetation area should be pruned up or limbed off to a suitable height to prevent laddering effects. But, contrary to my initial comments in the field, it does not appear that these branches cause too much trauma on the plant by being overheated and killed.

Of course, major fuel buildups and huge thermal plumes going up the tree can kill the canopy. However, if the fuel is removed from the base of the trees by duff removal, and if there is some selective clearing of chaparral vegetation right up against the canopy, I think the canopy shock could be eliminated.



Peñasquitos
Lagoon is
Priority
No. 1

Help
obtain
Bond Act
funding



Getting to Know You by Wolfgang D. Koessler

I was born in Strasbourg, France, one month after the World War I Armistice. The location and time of my birth make me one of the select few French "Wolfgangs."

The following year, my family arrived as refugees from the Alsace on the shores of Lake Constance in Germany. We migrated to California in 1924. During 1931-1934 I again found myself on Lake Constance. This time, I was enrolled in a boarding school called Salem. I finished secondary school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This was followed by a B.A. from U.C.L.A. and the events of World War II.

During the war, I served as an aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps. After my first tour overseas, I was assigned to Flight Test. A serious crash caused me to be retired for disability in the grade of Major.

My return to U.C.L.A. for an M.A. in German literature led to a wonderful marriage to my wife, Hilde, two terrific daughters, and thirty-two years of teaching German at the high school level.

Now retired from teaching, I pursue my hobbies of fishing and skiing. I am delighted to be taken into the Torrey Pines Docent Society. All the people in the group who are so willing to serve others make it a really great organization.



Book Report by Judy Schulman

Annoyance is my usual response towards people who don't return books to their proper shelf location in a library. Several weeks ago appreciation took the place of my usual ire when I found a botany book in the anthropology section. (Oh, well, the letters "A" and "B" are right next to each other. The person was at least considerate enough not to put it into the zoology section.)

Compiled by John West, Botany of San Diego County was published in 1980 by the San Diego State University Library. The book is an excellent reference source for those of us involved in teaching and studying natural history. It is not a text book, as the name might imply, but rather an annotated bibliography of journal and magazine articles focussing on local botany. There is a subject index and an author index. Each entry includes a brief description of the article and its call number for the library at SDSU. Of special interest to us will be the 23 listings of articles about Torrey pines. Below is an example of one such entry:

Cornell, Ralph D.

"His views on conservation, parks and open space,"
edited by Elisabeth and George Marshall, *California Horticultural Journal*, v. 33, no. 4, pp. 150-154. Oct. 1972.
SB 403 C352.

Special issue devoted to late Ralph D. Cornell. On pp. 153-154 he discusses torrey pines.

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

Poetry Corner

Nature doth thus kindly heal
every wound. By the
mediation of a thousand little
mosses and fungi, the most
unsightly objects become
radiant of beauty.

Henry David Thoreau

JUDY ON DUTY



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

FOR

