



TORREYANA

Published for Members of the
Torrey Pines Docent Society
and the Torrey Pines Association

No. 138

December 1986

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER



It's time for the traditional Torrey Pines Docent Society Christmas Brunch. Be there promptly at 9:00 a.m. for the brief meeting, which will be followed by our annual awards ceremony.

Docents of the class of '86 will be preparing a festive setting at the Lodge as well as entertainment for the docents and their families. We ask that all members bring a dish to share for this potluck brunch. It's always a joyous event.



THERE WILL BE NO TORREYANA IN JANUARY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 9:00 A.M. IN THE VISITOR CENTER

For our first meeting of the New Year, our speaker will be Brad Burkhart of Weber California Native Nursery of Encinitas. Mr. Burkhart has a degree in Horticulture as well as a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Upon becoming manager of Weber Nursery, he developed it into the one nursery in San Diego County that specializes in California native flora. He will speak to us on native plants of the area. After our coffee break, there will be a walk led by Mr. Burkhart.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY Janet Humphreys

In the busy days ahead you will have one more event to think about. February 21 is the date of our annual meeting. At this time we elect a new board of officers. I have asked Marc Gittelsohn, Melba Kooyman, and Patsy Klipstein to serve on the nominating committee. The slate of candidates will be published in the February Torreyana (there will be no Torreyana in January).

If you wish, or are willing, to become a board member, I encourage you to let the committee know. It will make their job easier. If you should become an officer it will increase your enjoyment of our outstanding Docent Society--believe me, I speak from experience!

Getting to Know You by Georgia Tarwater



I was first aware of the Torrey pine trees in the 1920s because of my mother's pleasure and comments on them when we drove to San Diego, or Mexico, from Los Angeles. After my marriage, before WWII, and graduation from UCLA (English major), I lived many places far from Southern California, often returning "home," i.e., to Southern California. Most interesting were the five years living in Asia, Korea, Hongkong, Taiwan, and Malaysia. By 1972 we came home to Southern California and have lived in La Jolla these past 14 years, giving me many opportunities to visit and take my guests to Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Before we moved to La Jolla, one of our favorite pastimes was being led down Fat Man's Misery by our young grandchildren who then lived in La Jolla. By now those grandchildren have grown and no longer live in La Jolla. Now another daughter lives in La Jolla. Her four children, and another daughter living in Del Mar with her family, offer us much enjoyment. We now have seven grandchildren, ages 21 months to 21 years, and another is expected soon.



President Janet Humphreys convened the monthly meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society on Saturday, November 15, at 8:50 a.m. on the steps of the Lodge. She announced the names of the nominating committee for the 1987 officers: Marc Gittelsohn (chair), Patsy Klipstein, and Melba Kooyman.

Janet stated that talented docent Judy Carlstrom and her husband Tom would again be playing and singing at the Old Time Cafe in Leucadia on Wednesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Ranger Bob Wohl showed members the newly completed exterior wall on the east side of the Lodge adjacent to the office. That wall was part of the original adobe building and had worn away. Another phase of the general building restoration, the work with new adobe bricks was carried out under the direction of the Office of the State Architect.

The meeting then adjourned as members carpoled down to the Vaughan Aquarium of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where 39 members of TPDS were greeted by Barbara Moore. Barbara, a supporting member of our Docent Society, is also a long-time instructor at the Aquarium. A native of California's great Central Valley, Barbara grew up in LeGrand and was graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a BA in Child Development. She has taught in the Los Angeles area and in North County where she now conducts the popular natural history classes with the San Dieguito Adult School (see November 1986 Torreyana, p. 3).

First, Barbara settled us in a classroom, told us something about Scripps, and showed a movie. We then saw examples of marine life that might be found in the tide pools of the Torrey Pines State Beach. Among those creatures were the giant keyhole limpet, the wavy top shell, the common sea cucumber, the cowry, and the sea hare. Our tour of the Aquarium proper included a behind-the-scenes visit to the area in back of the tanks where we could get a closer view of how the fish were tended. Our informative visit concluded with a walk to the end of the historic Scripps pier (soon to be replaced). Barbara described how water for many of the Aquarium's tanks was drawn directly through the pier and how tide and weather measurements were taken from it. The outstanding perspective of the coast from the pier was a first for many of us and capped an unusual meeting

In Memoriam

MARGARET FLEMING ALLEN

Docents, Torrey Pines Association members, and Reserve staff were saddened by news of the death on November 3 of Margaret Fleming Allen. Daughter of Guy Fleming, Margaret shared her father's dedication to the preservation of the Torrey pines. She will be remembered for her invaluable and tireless efforts on behalf of our organizations.



Most people remember James Whitehead as the superlative "parks person," due to his endless enthusiasm and innovation on behalf of the state parks here in California. It was Jim Whitehead the birdwatcher, however, that I was fortunate enough to know. We would regularly compare notes on birds we had recently seen, or just ramble on about something we had very much in common-- a genuine admiration for our feathered friends. Mr. Whitehead would call over to the Reserve to let us know about the first arrivals of this duck, or that loon. His home adjacent to Peñasquitos Lagoon was ideal for winter water-fowl study. I miss sitting in the office at Torrey and listening to Mr. Whitehead talk about birding in Alaska, or simply about an egret he had watched here in our lagoon.

With winter now upon us, I felt it would be a good idea to take you (figuratively) down to the marsh. On a chill morning, a short walk onto the sandbar at North Beach will reveal an abundance of activity. Plovers are pacing the shore, terns are diving into the water, and ducks are dabbling for breakfast. The northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) is one of the more conspicuous of the duck species, with its long and pointed tail held aloft at an angle above the water. An abundant winter visitor, great numbers of pintails may be spotted along the San Diego County coastline on both fresh and saltwater.



Besides the perky tail, look for the male's brown head and contrasting white neck. The female lacks the white neck, and the tail is not quite as long. Being "puddle ducks," pintails feed by tipping forward and dunking their heads under the surface, leaving their feet kicking in the air. And what are they looking for? Almost 90% of their meals are vegetal, chiefly seeds of sedges, grasses, and pondweeds. They also enjoy snails, crabs, and crayfish.

Nesting in the tundra of the far north, pintails will build a platform of sticks, leaves, and grass, lined with down feathers. Six to nine cream-colored eggs are laid, and the female will incubate for about 25 days.

While pintails breed primarily in Canada and the northern United States, they may spend the winter months in the Pacific states, on inland ponds and marshes, along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts--even Hawaii. Some five million of these ducks winter in the United States, with three million of them using the Pacific Flyway. This makes the pintail the second most abundant duck species in the Northern Hemisphere--only the mallard is more numerous.

And while most folks like to think ducks go "quack," the pintail prefers to go "geeee" in a nasal tone!

To all my docent friends, have a merry Christmas.



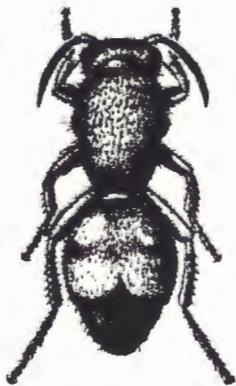
STINGS (III)



If you're really allergic to bee and wasp stings, you'd better get your body down to the nearest emergency ward. Allergy is a lot more than burning and itching. It can be shock. It can be vomiting. It can be passing out. The allergy is not to the venom but to the bee itself. Extract from the head or body of a bee will bring as much of a reaction as the venom. Some people can be made totally immune by the injection of gradually increasing doses of ground-up bee. Even people who are not cured completely will have much greater resistance. Again, the ABC and XYZ of Beekeeping: "Does protection against the sting of the honeybee result in protection against the sting of the bumblebee, wasp, or hornet? In most cases yes, in some cases apparently not."

When we worry about allergy we usually think of bee and wasp stings. I met a man who told me that he had gone into shock after being stung by ants. This allergy could be a distinct handicap in his line of work. He's an infantry officer.

When I was talking to entomologist Dave Faulkner I asked if all species of bees and wasps sting. He said, "No," but he also said that every species around here does. A bee can sting only once. Its stinger has barbs that hold it firmly in the victim. The stinger keeps on pumping venom until it's cut off. Shave the stinger off with a sharp knife..., or a dull one. Don't pull it out. You'll squeeze more venom into the wound when you pinch the stinger. An ant often stings only once too. The victim, a human victim anyway, usually squishes the critter. Other animals can't fight back so effectively. A wasp can sting again and again.



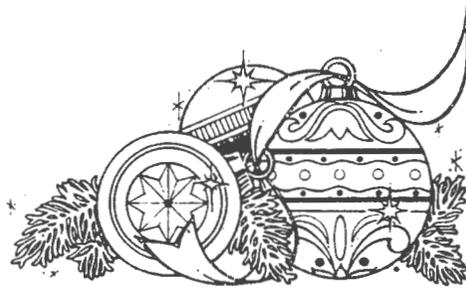
VELVET ANT

I've never given it a test, but velvet ants are supposed to have the ultimate in stings. Velvet ants, contrary to their name, are wasps. The females look a bit like big, fuzzy ants because they have no wings. Some are dirty white. Others are Coast Guard orange. Once I was able to track one of the orange ones dragging a beetle twice as big as itself. It went across a trail, through some grass, and over a bush until it disappeared under a scruffy sagebrush.

Wasps have their phasers set on stun. They sting to paralyze, not to kill. A wasp female, of course, drugs a beetle, or a bug, with venom. Then it hauls the victim off to a nest where it lays an egg, or eggs, in its prey. When the larvae hatch they have fresh, because it's alive, meat.

While we're on the subject of stings, I know you've thought of fire ants and killer bees. So far neither is a subject of concern for Southern California. Leave us hope things stay that way.





Docent Doings

WELCOME TO NEW DOCENTS

We have four new docents-in-training! They are Hugh Cavanaugh, Robert Rigby, Susann Speckman, and Carolyn Whitney.

We ask that members assist them in learning our procedures so that they can be gaining experience as associate docents even before they've had the benefit of the training class, which starts in April.

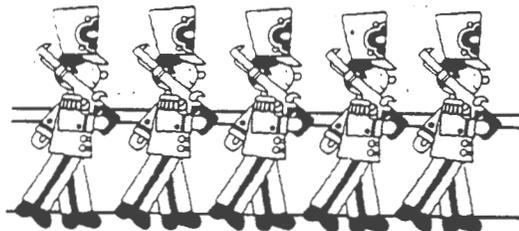
For the benefit of new members (and as a reminder to all others), regular docent meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Lodge. Exceptions occur only for special events that cannot be scheduled for our regular meeting time, and these occasions are advertised well in advance.

DOCENT APPRECIATION WEEK

The Docent League of San Diego County has set February 9-15 as Docent Appreciation Week. At its October 20 meeting, the Council approved a bus trip to Quail Gardens, Torrey Pines State Reserve, and Scripps Aquarium for one day during that week. The cost will be \$10 per person, including a box lunch. Watch the docent bulletin board and the February Torreyana for more information on this trip and on other special events to be held during Docent Appreciation Week.

A THANK YOU FOR BARBARA MOORE

Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society who participated in the November meeting at Scripps Aquarium had a most interesting and informative session. On behalf of TPDS, Vice President Grace Martin extends thanks to the Scripps Aquarium Docent Society and in particular to Barbara Moore for giving of her time and talent.





Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
P.O. Box 866 Cardiff, CA 92007

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie La Grange

The regular meeting on November 26 brought discussion of correspondence received during the month. The most important issue was the Carmel Valley Facilities Plan, which was described by Steve Zimmer. This would establish a committee consisting of a representative from each public agency, as well as private groups concerned with the development of the Carmel Valley area or junction of the stream, the road, I-5 freeway, City of San Diego water and sewer facilities, and other services. This would include developers, transportation systems, sedimentation engineers, water and sewer specialists, and others involved in physical changes at this critical intersection. The proposed coordination of planning received total agreement and support of the Lagoon Foundation board members.

The third Lagoon Monitoring Report was discussed; it included more detail of the plant and animal die-off as described in last month's report. On November 4 the County Health Department opened the Lagoon at 1:30 p.m. because of the rapidly increasing mosquito count as described by Jack Noble. Channel improvements and removal of inland spoil piles were accomplished on November 12, 13, and 14 by machine work that pushed this material into the outgoing falling tides. On November 22, the mouth of the Lagoon closed again during the neap tides. Lee La Grange reported that machine work would once more place a dam across the Lagoon entrance on November 28 to protect the inner channels from sand intrusion anticipated during the 7.6' - 7.7' tides of the first week of December.

There will be no Lagoon Foundation meeting in December.

The next meeting will be: Wednesday, January 14, 1987
7 p.m.
Great American Building, Via de la Valle
Public Meeting Room
Big Bear Shopping Center



TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

President: Janet Humphreys

Deadline for Torreyana copy is the 25th of each month. Send contributions to the editor:

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Poetry Corner

To know someone here or there with whom you can feel there is an understanding in spite of distances or thoughts unexpressed—that can make of this earth a garden.

Goethe



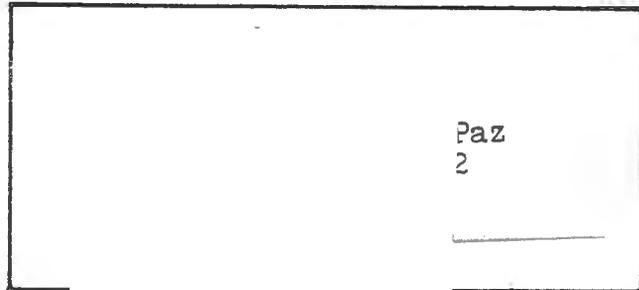
"This one costs more because it comes from the woods"



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