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TORREYANA

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

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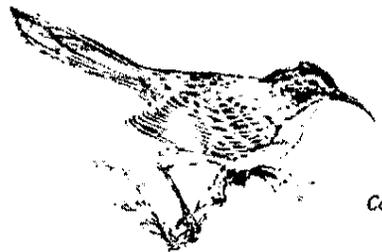
January 1987
January/February

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

Election time is here! Besides the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, you have the privilege of nominating from the floor, recognizing, of course, that you can place in nomination only a full docent and one who has agreed to serve in whatever capacity the nomination might be.

AND, then the real treat in our annual walk led by Bob Wohl to one of his secret and always highly interesting spots on the Reserve. Don't miss this once a year highlight.



California Thrasher by David Stump

Getting to Know You by Jared Aldern

I moved to the San Diego area in the fall of 1982, which, I know, doesn't exactly qualify me as a California native. I hail from South Dakota, by way of Ithaca, New York, where I earned a degree in physics from Cornell University. I briefly attended graduate school at UCSD, but soon decided physics wasn't for me after all. After working in the laser industry for about a year, I was able to translate a longtime interest in filmmaking into a paying job. I am presently the technical coordinator for the graduate film and video program at UCSD.

I live in Encinitas with my wife, Sherry (from New Hampshire), and my almost-two-year-old daughter, Natalie, a California native. I have thoroughly enjoyed my short time in the Docent Society, and I look forward in particular to learning more about the animal life and the archaeology of the Reserve.

Secretary's Notes by Marc Gittelsohn

President Janet Humphreys brought 1987's first monthly meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Lodge. Over 40 members and guests signed in. Janet reminded us that dues for 1987 are now payable. She also pointed out that we are now selling annual day-use passes for \$40.00 each. The rules for selling these passes remain the same: docents are only to sell the first pass to a visitor (with the Society realizing \$10.00 for each sale). A second-vehicle pass must be procured directly from the rangers. Visitors should be told they must come in with two auto registrations for the same address and should call the Reserve (755-2063) before coming to make certain a ranger is available.

Bob Wohl responded to a series of questions from members. There is a senior citizen rate for day use but not for annual passes; fee increases may be in the offing.

Hank Nicol showed samples of the new tiles for labels identifying flora on the Guy Fleming Trail. He noted that our Docent Society funded the signs.

Your secretary, as chair of the 1987 Nominating Committee (consisting of Patsy Klipstein and Melba Kooyman), announced the slate of 1987 elective officers: President, Grace Martin; Vice President, Parker Foster; Secretary, Joan Jollett; Treasurer, Elizabeth Nicoloff; Duty Coordinator, Maurie Brown; and Torreyana Editor, Isabel Buechler. He thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve. The election will be held at the February 21 meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Maurie Brown briefly discussed the status of the Peñasquitos Lagoon. She urged members to communicate with the San Diego City Council regarding the 6.6-acre proposed development west of the Del Mar German Car Service, which, if it takes place, will seriously impact the Lagoon.

The secretary pointed out that Supporting Member Barbara Moore's natural history classes will again be offered (see page 8 for particulars), and she will also give three classes ("Walks on the Wild Side") through Mira Costa Community College this spring. For details call Barbara at 755-7133 or check the new MCCC schedule.

Our meeting topic was on the use of native plants in both parks and home gardens. Our speaker, Brad Burkhart, was for the past 3-1/2 years the manager of Weber Native Plant Nursery in Encinitas. He holds two degrees from Ann Arbor and has also studied at San Francisco City College. He has had wide experience in landscape design and nursery work.

Brad drew an important distinction between native plant landscaping built around specific local ecosystems and the more pragmatic drought-resistant plant landscaping which uses plants from regions with some climatic similarities to our own. He distinguished between California natives and natives of the San Diego coastal zone. He made a plea for the appropriate use of natives such as laurel sumac, lemonadeberry, and toyon. He also gave a series of good pointers on native plants in home gardens--what, where, and how to plant in this area, and he offered good ideas on plant propagation and cuttings of natives for the home. He recommended the following books:

1. Coate, Barrie D., California Native Plants in Color (Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, 1980).
2. Lenz, Lee W., California Native Trees and Shrubs (Claremont, CA, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1981).

3. Perry, Bob, Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes (San Dimas, CA, Land Design C o., 1981).

Brad will be giving a course on Native Plant Landscaping at the Oceanside campus of Mira Costa Community College on Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, from February 21 to April 11.

After Brad's memorable talk, there was the customary break for refreshments. Our thanks to Glen and Jeanne Dunham, Margaret and Pete Bardwick, Grace Martin, and Judy and Charles Morrow for bringing them. The meeting ended with a walk in the Reserve led by Brad in which he illustrated many of his thoughts about native plants.

OUR GALA CHRISTMAS PARTY

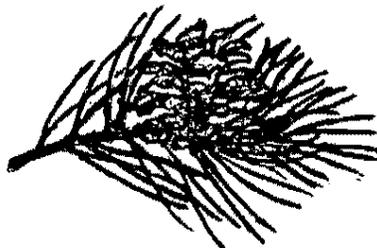
That the rain was especially fierce did not daunt the Torrey Pines Docent Society from holding one of its finest Christmas parties ever. Over 60 docents, associates, staff, and their "relevant others" gathered on Saturday, December 20, 1986, in the Lodge for this festive occasion. President Janet Humphreys opened the meeting with short announcements (the dates of the events have already passed).

Hank Nicol passed out Torrey pine seeds that had been refrigerated for two months and were ready for planting.

Patsy Klipstein, chair of the arrangements for the Christmas party, thanked the class of 1986 for their hard work on the event, with special praise for her co-chair Jan Taylor. Those who worked so hard and effectively on decorations and pre- and post-cleanup included Jared Aldern, Alan Bierman, Maurie Brown, Georgette Camporini, Aura Gartland, Pam Higgins, Jim Nortman, and Georgia Tarwater. Gratitude was expressed to Parker Foster for bringing a fine tree from Northern California, and a card of thanks went to the Brownie troop in Poway for so beautifully decorating it. On behalf of her class, Patsy presented board members with lovely arrangements of living herbal plants.

Janet then recognized outstanding contributions by members. Docent of the Year 1986 award went to Jeanne Dunham for her effective and meticulous work as social chair and for keeping the society informed of developments in the Penasquitos Canyon. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to Marion Dixon for docent with most duty hours and for her excellent articles on Reserve staff; to Milli Horger for fine and productive work as membership chair; and to W. J. Morrison ("Rookie of the Year") for being the new docent with most hours of service.

All of us thereupon descended upon a fabulously delicious brunch with delicacies brought by ourselves. The Carlstrom family then treated us to a concert of Christmas carols and folksongs. We all joined in the music, warmed by a crackling fire. We concluded with a joyous round dance in which all found seasonal delight.



Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

TRYING TO SEE THE LIGHT

One morning I woke up and about half understood the principle of light. I had a pencil and some paper right beside my bed but I just couldn't get it into words. Being mathematically handicapped, I couldn't put into numbers either. As the day grew brighter my brain grew dimmer. The knowledge disappeared before my first caffeine fix. A couple of mornings down the line I understood the subject even better. Again my understanding faded. Maybe my insight at dawn was an illusion. Then, maybe it was a flash of memory, something I learned in a high school physics class a few lifetimes ago in the Mephitis cluster. I tried to work it out. I dug out my not very old astronomy book

Light can be treated as waves. Ocean waves travel through water. Sound waves move in air. But physics has done away with "the aether." How can waves of light move through nothing? Waves account for the optical effects of light from rainbows to Kodachrome. It is customary nowadays to believe that light is made up of particles. This explains how it can travel through a vacuum. These particles have zero mass, no electrical charge, and an indefinite lifetime. These small chunks of something (or nothing) are called photons.

Photons move at the speed of light. Naturally! They have no low gear. Photons may lose energy but never speed. A photon kicks out another photon at the same speed. This does not fit common sense. A ball slows down as it bounces. Photons travel in straight lines. One thing bothers me (Colombo said). Are photons allowed to go around curves in fiber optics?

Photons are the basis for the new optical communications technology. You can't carry them around in a bucket. I doubt that anyone will ever tote them around the way Mr. Chekov did in Star Trek IV. But they don't get as crowded up as do electrons on a copper wire. They can even pass through each other without a bump. In the future, optical computers using photons instead of electrons will crunch numbers with super efficiency.

The sun manufactures photons near its center. They start out as gamma rays. These have a very short wavelength and are highly energetic. They are measured by the several hundred thousands of electron volts. They bounce around and work their way to the surface. It takes a long time.

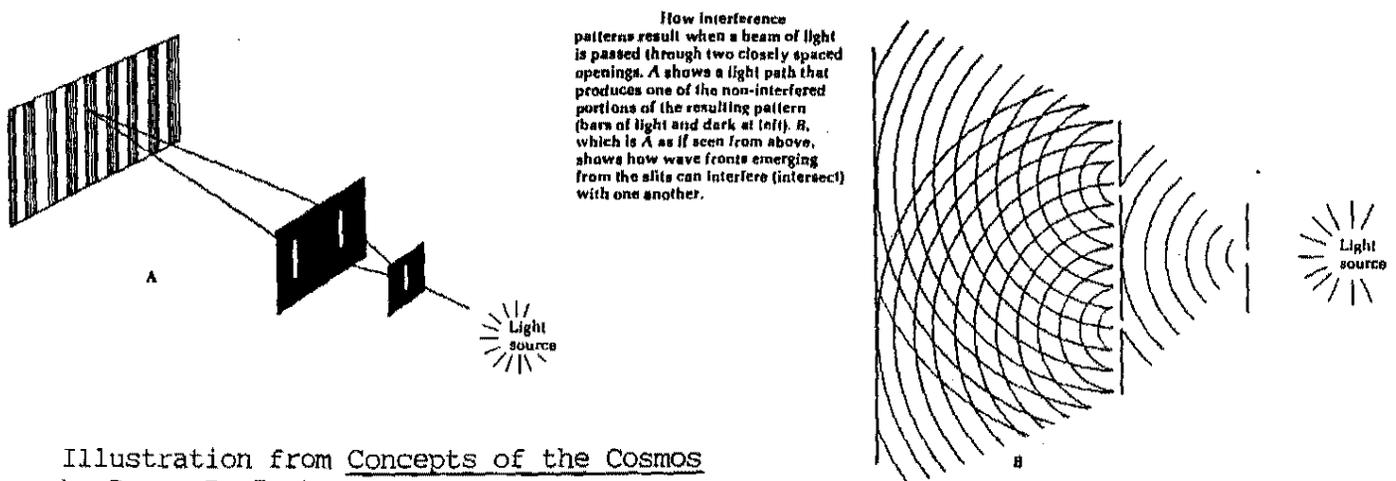


Illustration from Concepts of the Cosmos
by Barry R. Parker.

The photon that lights up your life is not the gamma ray that started out near the center of the sun. That is a very good thing. Gamma rays do unpleasant things to your body. The gamma-photons are absorbed. Others are emitted. It is a relay race, not a marathon. The photons lose energy. They become X rays, ultraviolet, visible light, infrared, microwaves, radio waves, and beyond. The extreme ends of the scale are cosmic rays at the high energy end and electricity at the low. The best explanation I've seen is in a kids' book. (I never claimed I was smart.) In X Rays and Gamma Rays, Daniel Halsey, Jr., says, "Waves generated in alternating current ... are longer than 1,000 miles. Some radio broadcasts are a mile long; television waves about one yard. Radar waves are much shorter, some of them being about an inch in length.... The colors we see [have] waves ... as short as bacteria, far less than one-thousandth of an inch. Ultraviolet waves are about one millionth of an inch long. All of these are long, however, when compared to 'hard' radiation: X rays are only a billionth of an inch long and gamma rays only a trillionth."

Cosmic rays may or may not be included in the spectrum. Their wavelengths are so short as to be nonexistent. Whatever we call these waves, and whatever their wavelength, they are still moving at the same speed as when they started out, some 186,000 plus miles per second. Even so, it takes, maybe, ten million years for light to reach the surface of the sun. The rest of the trip here can be measured in seconds.

I'm not through yet. There's more coming.

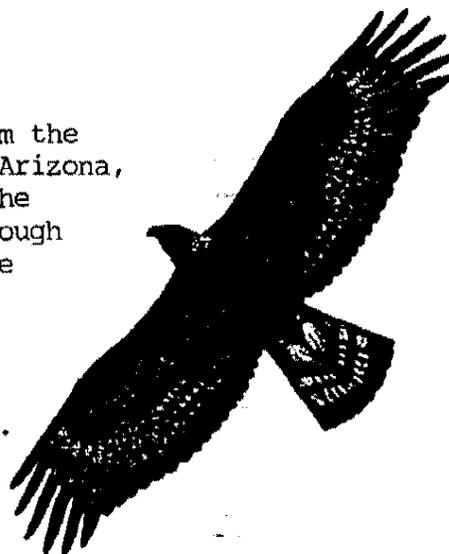
Hank

In Huysman's Pets Kate Wilhelm has a character say, "Who cares if physicists call the things they work with waves or particles? They admit they don't even exist except as probabilities and then only when you go looking for them. So they can tunnel through impenetrable barriers. What does that mean if they don't exist anyway."

THE BIRD-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB by Jim Bittner

Howdy, y'all! I'm spending my time off from the Reserve hopping around the Southwest, primarily Arizona, studying birds and enjoying the open vistas of the "wild West." I've watched a snowstorm float through the Grand Canyon, and golden eagles soar over the Anasazi ruins of Wupatki. Quite a change from the golden beaches of Southern California! More details will be coming in next month's article, as well as information on the birds you should see arriving for spring breeding at Torrey Pines. In the meantime..."Happy trails to you."

Jim



Docent Doings

TIME TO PAY DUES

It's time to pay 1987 dues, as we were reminded at the January meeting. Dues for regular and associate docents are \$7.00, and for supporting members \$15.00. The deadline for payment is February 21, the date of our next meeting.

Please make your check payable to the Torrey Pines Docent Society and indicate on the check that it is for 1987 dues. Checks may be left in the cash drawer at the Lodge or mailed to the treasurer, Elizabeth Nicoloff, 7608 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, CA 92037. If you leave cash in the drawer, be sure to make out a sales slip on which you give your name and indicate that the money is for dues.

BOOKS DONATED BY RUTH HAND

The Docent Society is grateful to Ruth Hand for her recent donation of books to our library. We thank you, Ruth.



DOCENT BUS TOUR

The Docent Council of San Diego County invites you to join them for a bus tour of Quail Gardens, Torrey Pines State Reserve, and Scripps Aquarium-Museum on Monday, February 9, 1987. Sign-in is at 8:45 a.m. at the parking lot of Kellogg Park in La Jolla Shores, where coffee and doughnuts will be served. Buses depart at 9:00 and return to Kellogg Park at 12:00 for a box lunch prepared by "The Picnic People" of San Diego. There will be a surprise in every box lunch, and information will be given about Docent Appreciation Week. The cost is \$10.00 per person, including lunch and bus fare.

Torrey Pines docents are urged to join the tour group. In view of the short notice, Janet Humphreys has arranged to phone in our reservations on February 3, so call her on Monday evening between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. to let her know if you are going. And send the coupon below, with your check for \$10.00, to Millie Spiller. Janet's phone number is 942-9631. This should be a fun outing giving us an opportunity to meet docents from other organizations.

RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 2 (see item above)

I want to take to the road with the Docent Council of San Diego County

Enclosed is my check for ____ (number of people) at \$10.00 each.

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make check payable to: Millie Spiller and send to her at
6773 Caminito del Greco, San Diego 92120



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

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jesse LaGrange

The meeting on January 14, 1987, was attended at the new location, Great American Bank Public Meeting Room, Via de la Valle, Del Mar.

Correspondence included the Coastal Conservancy contract renewal with the Lagoon Foundation for one year. The executive officer of the Conservancy had also approved a subcontract between the foundation and Hagopian Associates, who are to provide accounting services in connection with watershed developer escrow accounts, as required by Coastal Conservancy contract.

Also received on January 10 was the revised Environmental Impact Report from the Beau Soleil project developer. The January 20 hearing was postponed after requests were heard from Del Mar Terrace Conservancy, Torrey Pines Association, and others who explained that the response time allotted for this environmentally important issue was insufficient. The hearing is now scheduled for February 17.

Action at the lagoon was described by Lee LaGrange. On December 29, a group of volunteers assembled with shovels and picks at the south end of the highway bridge to dig a channel under the bridge extending east toward the channels that had been excavated previously by machine, in preparation for winter rains. The ditch west across the beach berm was through varying amounts of rock, which was dispersed by a heavy surf and closed by the next day. However, the east ditch remained to serve as a "pouring spout" for the basin which filled gently with rain on January 4. At this time, a park ranger reestablished the beach berm ditch by shovel digging. Early Monday morning, January 5, the lagoon had risen by a foot and opened, through the spout, into the beach (berm) ditch with a sufficient volume of water to accomplish erosive flow. Approximately half of the stock-piled dam material was carried to sea by this storm. The lagoon has remained tidal since this event. Further machine work has been approved and scheduled for the last week in January.

A dedication ceremony for the transfer of the SDG&E acreage to the State is being planned for the afternoon of March 6. Pardee Developers have offered \$2500.00 to hire a firm to coordinate the event. Specific details will be announced in February.

The next meeting of the Lagoon Foundation will be:

February 11, 1987, 7:00 p.m.
Great American Bank Meeting Room
Big Bear Shopping Center, Via de la Valle
Del Mar

Jesse LaGrange

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY

President: Janet Humphreys

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

Isabel Buechler
3702 Oleander Drive
San Diego, CA 92106
Phone: 222-7016

BARBARA MOORE'S CLASSES



THE NATURAL HISTORY AND RECOGNITION OF THE COMMON BIRDS OF THE SAN DIEGUITO AREA

Moore 1st mtg \$10 + Tu 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Glen Park \$2.50 fee Starts Jan. 27
Cardiff new students

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF CHAPARRAL PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Moore 1st mtg \$10 W 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Glen Park Starts Jan. 28
Cardiff

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SHORE

Moore 1st mtg \$10 W 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Glen Park Starts Jan. 28
Cardiff

NATURE WALKS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND THEIR PARENTS

Parents of youngsters can discover and learn about our natural areas together. Adventure, learning, exercise, sharing and closer relationships are all attributes of this course as the parents and children explore the local parks and wild areas together. Parents should carry a drink and snack for the youngsters.

Moore 1st mtg \$10 Th 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Glen Park Starts Jan.
Cardiff

If you missed the first session, call Barbara at 755-7133 to learn location of next class.



"He's going past the big rock and heading south."

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

FOR

