

TORREYANA

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

No. 141

April 1987

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

The regular monthly meeting is one of the highlights of the Docent Training Program and features the early inhabitants of Torrey Pines. Our speaker will be Ken Hedges, Curator of Indian Artifacts at the Museum of Man and well known expert on Indian rock art.

A nature walk following the meeting will cover the front garden and High Point.



DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS

The 1987 Docent Training Program began on March 28 with an orientation meeting and a nature walk on the Guy Fleming Trail. For the remaining sessions, Vice President Parker Foster has planned a comprehensive series of meetings, all of which begin at 9:00 a.m. Present docents are urged to attend as many as possible. Here are the highlights for the remaining meetings.

- April 4 Plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve; nature walk (Bill Brothers)
- April 11 History of the development of the Reserve, and Lodge birds and animals; nature walk (Jim Bittner)
- April 18 Monthly meeting of TPDS; pre-history of the area; early inhabitants of Torrey Pines (K. Hedges of The Museum of Man); nature walk
- April 25 Interpretive techniques (Bob Wohl and Melba Kooyman); small-group walks
- May 2 Geology of the Reserve (Dr. Richard Phillips, USD); nature walk

Secretary's Notes by Joan Jollett



The Torrey Pines Docent Society general meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. at the Lodge on Saturday, March 21, with 32 docents and guests present.

President Grace Martin reported the death of Betty Andrews' daughter, Judy Andrews. Betty is a former TPDS secretary. A message of sympathy will be sent.

Jan Taylor has offered to take charge of the docent bulletin board. Items of interest can be left in the basket in the docent room.

A notebook titled "Timely Trail Topics" will be left at the desk so docents can log interesting items after trail walks or include questions brought up.

Judy Schulman reported on the recent conference of docents and California state, county, and city park rangers, which she attended in Ventura.

Rowdy James announced the acquisition of two new books and pointed out that docents are entitled to a 20% discount on books, but not on Mat notecards.

Jim Nortman attended the San Diego Docent Council meeting and announced that the annual meeting will be on May 11 (more later).

Speaking for duty coordinator Maurie Brown, Grace requested that a docent who signs up for duty and finds he or she cannot serve should either call the duty coordinator in advance, or find a substitute and notify the coordinator or the Ranger. Maurie has a duplicate calendar and needs to be informed. A list of persons who can be called upon in an emergency is available. Grace also said that parking stickers are issued to fully trained docents, and TPSR patches can be purchased for \$1.00.

Ranger Bob Wohl gave an update on repair work at the Lodge. He also made suggestions for docents to consider in the brainstorming sessions in today's meeting. These involved docent trail patrol, eradication of non-native plants, organization of historical materials and research, and feasibility of a word processor purchase.

After the small-group sessions, the respective leaders reported the main priorities of the groups, chief among which were improvement of audio-visual equipment, and availability of postcards and notecards of Torrey Pines Reserve. Other topics were identifying garb for trail patrol, walkie-talkie, safety concerns at High Point, CPR classes, maps for the Extension, posting of Board meeting minutes, a system of retraining veteran docents, more time for questions at meetings, short walks around the Lodge area. Docents who volunteered for specific tasks included Judy Carlstrom, who will talk to Irina Gronborg regarding wildflower notecards; Bill Anderson and Jared Aldern, who will report on audio-visual systems; Jo Kiernan, who will work on upgrading the Extension map; Patsy Klipstein, who will renew the bird exhibit; Marion Dixon, who will work with Judy Schulman on Torrey Pines postcards; and Jeanne Dunham, who will investigate various types of distinctive garb for docents.

Refreshments were served thanks to the efforts of Jeanne Dunham, Elizabeth Nicoloff, Paul Ross, Luana Wells, Bill Anderson, Rowdy James, and Pete and Margaret Bardwick. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

We of the Board were delighted at the response from the membership at our brainstorming session, and you can be sure we will be following up on the suggestions at our Board meetings.

One innovation (adopted through the suggestion of Gene Barber, a former president of the Society) is having a notebook in which docents can list outstanding events for the rest of us to share such as the first of a flowering plant as the seasons move along, questions you may have been asked but could not answer or that may have occurred to you, comments of any kind. The notebook, labeled TIMELY TRAIL TOPICS, is on the docent's desk, and we ask your cooperation in using it.

Volunteers have already agreed to look into the following projects, all originated at our discussion meeting: Torrey Pines note cards and postcards for sale in the book store; purchase of better or additional projection equipment; maps to serve as guides on the trail; upgrading and making available to the public trail maps for the Extension; replacement of the faded bird pictures on display in the Visitor Center; selection of identifying apparel for use by the docents on the trail; participation in the project under way by the Staff for removal of non-native plants.

Parker Foster is hard at work on the training sessions which began March 28, as well as a schedule for regular monthly meetings during the coming year. I speak from experience when I say that planning these activities is a very large job and leaves little time for planning extra outings as the Society has sometimes had in the past, such as the Wilderness Weekend or day trips at times other than the regularly scheduled monthly meetings. If any of you have the time and are willing to take on such a project, please let either Parker or me know.

REPORT ON THE CSPRA-PRAC-LEAGUE CONFERENCE by Judy Schulman

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA), the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC), and the League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations (League) cosponsored a four-day conference in Ventura on March 12-15. The League was happy to act as a cosponsor because it means that we have recognition as a legitimate organization.

The three main focuses of talks were Resource Management, Volunteerism, and Native American Interpretation. Presentations on Resource Management included The Greatest National Park in America, Is an Open Mouth Policy a Good Policy for Lagoons?, Rare and Endangered Species Management, Flight of the Condor, and Resource Protection of a Developing Coast. The Volunteerism focus involved Fiscal Management of California Volunteer Organizations, Liability and Non-Profit Volunteer Organizations, and Volunteers and Professionals Working Together. The topics for Native American Interpretation were the Human Side of Native American Archaeology, Prominent Native American Historical Leaders, Interpreting Chumash Culture at La Purisima State Historic Park, Utilitarian and Survival Skills, and the Regional Indian Museum Concept.

The conference also offered tours of the area, which included living history reenactments, archaeological digs, museum tours, a visit to the Channel Islands NP Visitor Center, and boat excursions to Anacapa Island and an oil platform. Another enjoyable "extra" was an informal get-together called Park Tall Tales and Story Telling. This gave us all a chance to share some of our more interesting or humorous experiences that happened to us while working in our parks.

THE PINNACLES

PART I EASTERN APPROACH

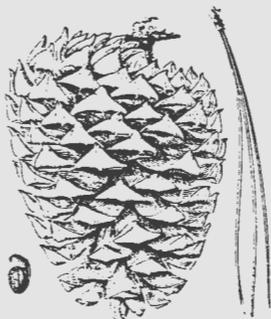
The expedition started because I saw a map that showed Coulter pines growing in the coast mountains along the line between Fresno and San Benito counties..., basically nowhere. The Coulter pine is a close relative of the Torrey Pine. It's one of my favorite trees. I was curious. I loaded up some spare socks and my son, Surat. We headed north. We turned west at Coalinga. We drove over the first row of hills (and the San Andreas Fault) to Peach Tree Valley. We didn't see a Coulter pine. We didn't see a peach tree either. The Coulter pines, if they existed, were along dirt roads away from this "main highway." We did see lots of Digger pines. The Digger is even more sparse in appearance than the Torrey but has three-needle clusters like the Coulter. The Digger has a cone midway between the moderately round and relatively smoothish Torrey and the monster cones with the wicked hooks of the Coulter.

I've been in most of California's odd corners. One I had missed: the Pinnacles. Now was my chance. We kept going north. The area was labeled on the map as "San Andreas Rift Zone." I didn't feel a thing. Some miles short of Hollister we turned off toward Pinnacles National Monument. We passed Pinnacles Campground Inc. That was outside the monument boundary. Whether the National Parks leased it out or never had it, I don't know. I forgot to ask.

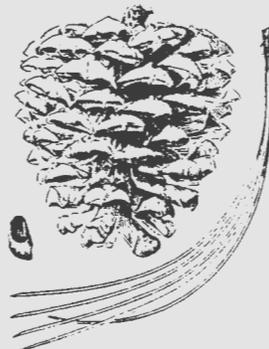
At the Monument entrance we paid our one dollar entry fee. That was a real bargain, and the ticket was good for five days! I was told that next year the price was going up to three dollars, but it would still be for five days. The attendant gave me a colored brochure and map. It was much fancier than our Hank-made affairs. A couple more miles and we came to the Bear Gulch Visitor Center. It's a cozy little building. It was built of large green pumice blocks by the C.C.C. Recently, the inside walls had been paneled in unfinished wood. There were some displays explaining the geology and the biology of the area. There were books for sale. All of them were strictly on the subject of the Pinnacles region. I bought one on botany.

The sky looked dark and wet, but I thought we'd chance a short hike. We started up the Condor Gulch Trail. The brochure called this route "strenuous." It was not. The grade was hardly noticeable. The hill was steep, but the trail followed the contour lines. There, like here, I could see signs of the clowns who just have to take short cuts.

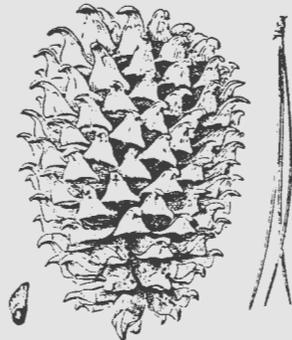
The Pinnacles were high above us. The place is ideal for rock climbers. I have a galloping case of acrophobia. I stick to the trails. The Pinnacles are the remains of a volcano which was active about 23 million years ago. I should



Pinus sabiniàna Dougl. Digger Pine.



Pinus torreyàna Parry. Torrey Pine.



Pinus coulteri D. Don. Coulter or Big Cone Pine.

say they are a piece of the remains. The San Andreas Fault cut the mountain in two. The western half drifted north almost 200 miles. The rest is still back near Lancaster. It's called the Neenach formation. Geologic formations are often named for some nearby wide spot in the road, but I couldn't find a Neenach on any map I owned. During and/or after the great removal, the softer sides eroded away. The hard center of the volcano stood clear. Today it stands out as the Pinnacles.

Several of the plants along the trail looked a lot like ones we have at Torrey Pines. It turned out that some of them were exactly the same species. Others were so closely related that they were easy to figure out. One of the buckwheats, Eriogonum fasciculatum, is the same as ours but, where we have one other species, they have five. They have three species of yerba santa to our one. Eriodictyon crassifolium is the same as ours, but it grows much taller there. They have three species of tall oaks to our one short oak. One grass is of at least minor interest because of its name, Melica torreyana.

Halfway up Condor Gulch I saw about the biggest, fattest scrub jay ever. A pair of rufous towhees flitted around a Digger pine maybe 20 feet off the ground. That's about as high as they go. There seemed to be coveys of quail here, there, and everywhere. The bird books say that yellow-billed magpies are common. They seemed to be at the Pinnacles, but, to my knowledge, I had never seen one until a couple of hours earlier. Back in Peachtree Valley I'd seen dozens hanging out in a Digger pine. By the time we made the almost-mile to an overlook, the birds were hiding out. A drizzle had started. The view was murky, but I took a picture of a Digger pine growing from a rock outcrop. It had such a windblown look that I should be able to pass it off as a picture of a Torrey pine. The rain was light, and we got back to Grizzly Gulch without getting very wet. (Continued next month)

Hank



Getting to Know You by Patsy Klipstein

From the open spaces of a New Jersey farm with no visible neighbors to the open spaces of San Diego in which you cannot live was a revelation to me when I arrived in this area four years ago. It took me a while to understand why people need to live in such close proximity: the economics of a dry climate!

My life before California was mainly as chief coordinator, director, and maintenance engineer of a large family and home. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College I soon began this career and along with it the typical volunteer activities one does to contribute to one's community.

The joy, solace, and mainstay of my life has been the natural world. Birds came into the picture when at the age of twelve I discovered on my grandfather's bookshelves a wonderful set of National Geographic books enabling me to identify them. My other great interest has been art. I switched from drawing and painting a few years ago to pottery, which I have pursued here in San Diego at Clay Associates.

When I discovered Torrey Pines Reserve nearby I knew that had to be the answer to my need for immediate open space. You can't go to the mountains every week, and anyway you don't get dolphins cavorting in the ocean there in the chaparral. I am constantly thankful for the work of the farseeing people who were responsible for saving this precious bit of California coastline and feel very lucky to be a part of maintaining that effort now.

THE TAXONOMISTS' PLOT AGAINST BIRDERS by Philip R. Pryde*

(The author teaches courses in birding from time to time under the aegis of the San Diego Audubon Society.)



It's a well-known fact that all taxonomists are sadists who enjoy driving beginning birders crazy. They have three main ways of doing this: naming birds after their least conspicuous feature, combining two familiar species into one, and totally misnaming birds.

The following are some birds occurring locally that provide examples of taxonomists' tricks:

"Try and Find It" Department: These birds almost never show the feature (or it is inconspicuous) for which they are named:



Double-crested cormorant
Orange-crowned warbler
Pink-footed shearwater
Yellow-bellied sapsucker
White-faced ibis
Semi-palmated plover
Sharp-shinned hawk

Ruby-crowned kinglet
Short-billed dowitcher
Short-eared owl
Hairy woodpecker
White-fronted goose
Ring-necked duck



(Spotted sandpiper has no spots in winter)

Re-grouped and Disappeared: If you have an old bird guide, some names will differ from those in recent editions.

Former Names

New Combined Name

Red-shafted flicker)
Yellow-shafted flicker)
Gilded flicker)

Common flicker



Audubon warbler)
Myrtle warbler)



Yellow-rumped warbler

Bullock's oriole)
Baltimore oriole)

Northern oriole

Oregon junco)
Slate-colored junco)
White-winged junco)

Northern junco



Completely Misnamed



Bald eagle (headfeathers are white)
Purple finch (it's very rosy)
Meadowlark (it's not a lark)
Wrentit (it's not a wren or a tit)
New world robins are thrushes; old world robins are flycatchers

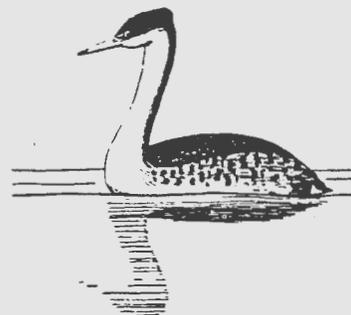


*This article was submitted by Docent Marion Dixon, who has been a student in the author's class and has received his permission to share his findings with members of TPDS.

"We found this hurt bird on the beach. Can you help it?" I looked down at the ten-year-old boy with the cardboard box in his hands. He had that look on his face, the one children get when it comes to injured animals--something like curiosity, with equal parts concern and genuine sadness. "Well, let's take a look," I offered.

Inside the grubby box was a likewise grubby Western Grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis). Covered with sand and looking the worse for wear, this was hardly the graceful waterbird I watched each winter on the lagoons and coastal waters of San Diego. Yet the grebe took a healthy lunge at my finger and let out a loud squawk. "He'll be fine," I said. "Probably just tired." The boy was satisfied and ran off to rejoin his family. Now I had a bird-in-the-box.

"What to do with you?" I pondered. Normally the Torrey Pines staff relies on the folks at Project Wildlife for the care of hurt critters. But somehow I felt I could nurse this one through to recovery. I brushed the sand off, keeping my fingers a cautious distance from the ever-moving bill. The grebe had real fire in those red eyes--he wanted those fingers!



Western Grebe

Off to the lagoon. Down to the sandbar. Set still breathing at least. His eyes were closed tight and the beak wasn't snapping. I could still call Project Wildlife. I had one idea left. I placed the grebe in the water and stepped back. Nothing. I talked to him (good thing no visitors were nearby). And then I took my tripod and eased the floating bird into slightly deeper water, but still within reach. Perhaps a little of his environment would bring him around.

"SQUAWK!" His eyes were open, wings flapping, legs kicking, and what a racket! I was almost embarrassed, knowing that I had caused all of this. I took photos, and then watched my new-found friend swim to mid-lagoon, dive, and come up with a small fish.

"I think you'll be alright." There I stood, talking to the bird again. Sometimes I wonder about myself.

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Grebes are an interesting bunch. A worldwide group of 20 species, 6 are found in North America. They are swimming and diving birds that at first glance resemble small ducks, but with bills that are slender and pointed, never flat. Adapted to life on and under water, the grebes have lobed toes, partially webbed, for excellent propulsion. They chase after aquatic insects and small fish, staying under for no more than 30 seconds. When alarmed, grebes dive so swiftly they have been called "hell-diver" and "water witch."

Not only do grebes spend their time feeding, sleeping, and courting on water, they carry their young on their backs piggyback style!. Both the male and the female help in nest building, a dry or sodden mound of plants anchored to the submerged roots of bulrushes. The Western Grebe in particular breeds from the Central Valley of California northeastward through the Rocky Mountain states to Canada. A spectacular aspect of the courtship ritual is "rushing," a display in which the pair moves rapidly across water side by side, kicking their feet so fast that their bodies are completely out of the water, with their bills pointed to the sky. You have to see it to believe it. (Continued)

(Continued)

Wintering along the Pacific coast on salt water, and occasionally inland freshwater lakes, the Western Grebe with its striking black and white plumage, yellow bill, and bright red eyes is a regular visitor to Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. I hear it sometimes feigns sickness to get at the fingers of would-be good samaritans.

Jim

Report from the Ranger

Ranger Bob Wohl recently presented his 1986 annual summary report to the Torrey Pines Association. Major events were the death of Margaret Fleming Allen last November; acquisition of additional land for the Reserve through purchase of SDG&E property and other acreage by the State Coastal Conservancy; formation of the Del Mar Terrace Conservancy to battle the Beau Soleil development at North Beach; efforts by the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation to re-open the mouth of the lagoon at North Beach; acquisition of new museum exhibits; fining of the City of San Diego for sewage spills at Pump Station 64; commencement of the \$250,000 Lodge rehabilitation project in October; controlled burn studies; and increases in car burglaries, indecent exposures, and late night gang activity at North Beach, making 1986 one of the worst years for crime in the Reserve.

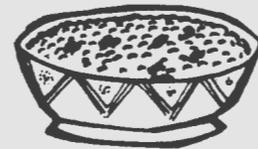
Events that received less attention were the transplanting of a rare beach lotus, archaeological digs within the Reserve, and trail rehabilitation preparations. (Perhaps these can be the subject of later Reports from the Ranger.)

DEDICATION CEREMONY AT LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON

A 240-acre land parcel in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon was dedicated on March 20, 1987, in a ceremony marking the new acquisition as permanent state parkland. The land was purchased by the State of California, through the Coastal Conservancy and the City of San Diego, from SDG&E. "This acquisition fulfills one of the major goals of the enhancement program for the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon," said Joan Jackson, chairperson of the Lagoon Foundation. "It is comforting to see that concerns about the preservation of our natural environment are being addressed." An official sign designates the new property as the "Los Peñasquitos Marsh and Nature Preserve."

News and Notes

SOCIAL CHAIR NOTES



Jeanne Dunham expresses thanks to Bill Brothers for his donation of blueberry muffins from Dudley's bakery, which he brought to the first training session on March 28. Also, she is grateful to Georgette Camporini for donating a creamer and sugar bowl for the docent room.

MEMORIAL GIFT

A generous contribution has been received by TPDS from Bill and Jo McClintock (supporting members) in memory of Earl Johnson, father of their close friend, Shiela Johnson. The docents are grateful to the McClintocks for their contribution and convey their thanks.



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

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie LaGrange

At the March 11 meeting, it was reported that the City of San Diego has informed the Foundation that the \$100,000 fine resulting from sewage spills, imposed by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board, had been sent to the Coastal Conservancy. The funds are to be held in a separate account to be used only for Los Peñasquitos Lagoon enhancement within a one-year period. There was unanimous approval to comply with specifications regarding use of the funds and periodic progress reports of ongoing enhancement procedures and projects.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$13,564. Expenses for the month were \$2,650.

Mr. Noble of the County Health Department introduced Nancy Scarduzio as a new Vectrol Officer for San Diego County.

Since the massive sewage spill of March 5, it has been decided that the City of San Diego will partially fund machine work provided by contract equipment authorized by the Lagoon Foundation. The week of March 23 through March 27 was scheduled for this action.

The Technical Advisory Committee met in February to discuss the lagoon monitoring plan. It has been suggested that additional vegetation transects be included in the future. A recommendation has been made that lagoon opening and maintenance should advance from the initial "low cost" to the "moderate cost" technique. Aerial photos have also been suggested for overall study.

Glenn Greenwald submitted his final Biological Monitoring Report for the 1986-1987 year. He emphasized that the monitoring of the aquatic stations should remain as the top priority for assessment of health in the lagoon and wetlands.

Don Coppock and Carol Arnold of Coastal Conservancy explained proposed changes in the structure of the Lagoon Foundation. The present board was selected by the State and is now considered to be a well established satellite. It has been considered politically advantageous to the board to function independently while remaining under contract to the Coastal Conservancy. Two months have been allotted to study this issue. A committee has been appointed to consider the matter and return with recommendations to the board.

Mr. Vane, an attorney for a Sorrento Hills client, brought photos of illegal bulldozing of five acres of land in the immediate area of the lagoon. The potential for damaging siltation in the lagoon appeared to be obvious. All agencies concerned will be notified.

The next meeting of the Lagoon Foundation will be:

Wednesday, April 8, 1987, 7:00 p.m.
Great American Bank, Big Bear Shopping Center
Via de la Valle, Solana Beach

Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Grace Martin

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

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Poetry Corner

We do not see nature with
our eyes, but with our under-
standings and our hearts.

William Hazlitt



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