



TORREYANA

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

No. 148

November 1987

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1987, AT THE VISITOR CENTER

Are you looking for a chance to improve your trail-walking skills? Then be sure to attend the November meeting and learn all about "Ferns and Other Seedless Plants." We have a number of these species in the Reserve, and many of us know little about them.

Dr. Philip Kern of San Diego State University has graciously agreed to provide our program for the day. Let's give him a big turnout of enthusiastic docents.

Start planning now for the December Christmas party. We are looking to the 1987 docent-trainees to provide us with a fine holiday program on that day.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

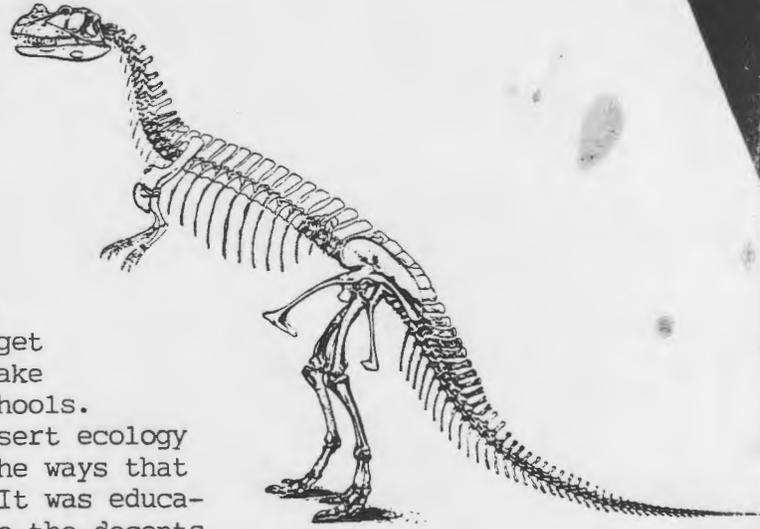
The annual San Diego Docent League Workshop on November 9 (details appear elsewhere in the Torreyana) sounds interesting and several of us will be going. Everyone is welcome. If you want to carpool, give me a call and we can no doubt work out something.

Because we don't have too much time to chat casually, it is possible that some of you would like to participate in the Docent Society to a greater extent than the six hours of duty each month. In November I will be announcing the Nominating Committee who will be working on the slate for our year beginning in February. Please let us know if you expect to have the time, interest, and willingness to consider serving as an officer.

Secretary's Notes by Joan Jollett

On October 17, 1987, the Docent Society met at the Natural History Museum at the redwood slab display that wasn't there! A Museum docent told us later that the display and bench had to be removed as a hazard because they were termite-ridden. So much for the belief that redwood doesn't harbor termites.

Bill Anderson had arranged for us to be given tours in small groups by Museum docents, and we were treated to some behind-the-scenes activities of the docents. We also had an opportunity to get acquainted with docent "carts" used to take exhibits outside the Museum, e.g., to schools. We toured some of the new exhibits on desert ecology and dinosaurs and learned something of the ways that artifacts are preserved or reproduced. It was educational and gratifying because of the time the docents spent with us informing and answering questions.



We then met at the Cafe del Rey Moro patio for a delicious luncheon.

News and Notes

CPR CLASSES FOR DOCENTS

Ranger Greg Hackett announces that he will be teaching a beginning course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to interested docents. Two 3-hour sessions will be held at the Lodge:

Monday, November 9	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 12	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing. All materials will be provided.

Everyone should be able to perform this lifesaving skill. As Greg says, "The life you save may be someone you love."

Please leave your name at the office if you plan to attend. Let's have a large turnout.

LOST YOUR BADGE?

Badges have a way of disappearing from time to time, and since it's important to wear one when attending docent functions, replacement badges must be ordered. An order is to be placed about the time you receive this Torreyana, so if you are in need of a replacement please contact Isabel Buechler or Milli Horger immediately. You can reach Milli at 481-9554; Isabel's number is 222-7016. The more we order at one time, the less the cost.

DOCENT LEAGUE WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 9

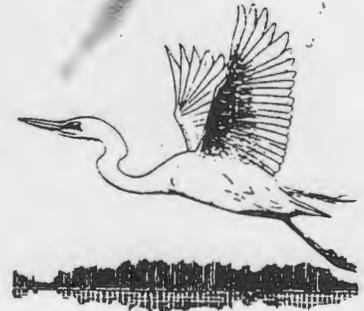
The San Diego Docent League invites Torrey Pines docents to attend the workshop to be held November 9, 1987, in the Natural History Museum Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The League believes the quality of the docent/volunteer depends upon the quality of training provided to that person. The well-trained volunteer is a valuable asset to an institution, and the investment in that person is repaid many times over. At the workshop, docents will share their organizations' procedures, weaknesses, strengths, and goals.

The workshop is open to all docents. If you would like to attend, call Grace Martin at 452-1176. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS NOVEMBER 4.

FAST FOOD AT THE LAGOON

Recent changes in the water in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, which caused stunned and dying fish, brought a tremendous influx of birds. Most noticeable were the showy great egrets. Isabel Buechler counted 60 of the large white creatures before losing track, and Greg Hackett estimated there were 200 one day! (See Jessie La Grange's "Lagoon Foundation Report" on page 6.)



SARGE IS FEELING BETTER

Two recent phone calls to the Torreyana editor indicate that Sarge Walker is feeling more like his old self. Although he still has health problems, he's feeling stronger as time goes by, gets out oftener, and tries to walk and otherwise get light exercise.

Sarge was surprised and pleased by the great number of cards and notes he received from docents, and he wanted to express his thanks to the individuals as well as the Docent Society as a whole for their thoughtfulness.

Again, we send sincere good wishes for his continued recovery.



TO ALL THE FRIENDS OF TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE,
BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING

THE RUSSIANS STICK IT TO US

As I heard the story, the Slivkoffs were members of an obscure sect of dissenters called Molikans. The established Orthodox Church and the Russian government had no use for these primitive Christians whose churches had neither ikons nor cross. The persecution became so bad that the Molikons moved across the border into Turkey. Even there they were not safe from raiding Cossack cavalry. Eventually they sailed for America. The Slivkoffs were still fresh off the boat when their son was born in East L.A. (sounds like a movie title in there). They called the boy "Vasily," but they also wanted to be American. The name that went on the birth certificate was "William." That was wrong. "Bill" has been grateful ever since. Vasily really translates as Basil, a name he hates. At the age of six Bill spoke Russian, some Yiddish, and a little Spanish, but he had to study English before he could go to school. He learned very well. During the Great Depression the Slivkoffs did exactly the same as the Nicols. They moved to the San Joaquin Valley and became cotton farmers. In high school Bill became my very good friend. When international affairs were not going well one of his favorite expressions was, "Them dirty Russians!" I thought of Bill while I was digging up some of "them dirty Russian thistles."

I'd like to give you something definitive on Russian weeds, but, on short notice, legend will have to do. Legends are more fun than facts, anyway. If I go too far astray, one of my readers will straighten me out, and I will have learned something. Russian thistle is not a thistle. It's in the goosefoot family, but it's prickly enough. The seeds are supposed to have been imported into South Dakota in Russian flax seed during the 1880's. *Salsola kali* has also been called *Salsola Iberica*. That would make it Spanish thistle. Whatever. Some thistle plants grow into six-foot balls. When an old plant breaks loose the wind can roll it for miles. Along the way it scatters its hundred thousand or so seeds. Everyone remembers the Sons of the Pioneers singing, "... pledging their love to the ground." The tumbling tumbleweeds spread rapidly and became characteristic of the West and an essential ingredient in horse operas. A lot of Russian thistle grew in the desert between Shafter and Bakersfield. After a big storm thousands of tumbleweeds hit the fence on the north side of Seventh Standard Road. They were slowed just enough for the fence on the south side to snag them. You couldn't drive around them. You couldn't see over them. The road was closed for days.

During my very early youthdom, my father, who liked to be correct in all things, pointed out that Russian thistles were not really tumbleweeds. The real tumbleweed is an amaranth. *Amaranthus albus* doesn't grow as big as Russian thistle. It doesn't tumble very well, but it rolls well enough to have spread from Central America to most of Mexico, 48 states, and large chunks of Canada. But, even though it is even more widespread than Russian thistle, the Sons of the Pioneers never sang about it.



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Going barefoot in the summertime is the God-given right of subteenage boys everywhere. Not where I grew up. The reason was another Russian invasion, *Tribulus terrestris*. We called it "bull head," because that's what the seeds looked like. A more common name was "puncture vine" because of what the bull's horns did to bare feet and bike tires. More classically educated people called it "caltrop" for the spiky Roman booby trap. This weed was brought in with wheat seed from Russia. It stayed close to Ducor, California (near Fresno), for many years. Then came cars. Cars had rubber tires. It didn't take long before the puncture vine was in Texas. Now it grows in most of the U.S., Mexico, and even into British Columbia. A few years ago the Department of Agriculture brought in some insects to control puncture vine. For awhile it almost disappeared, but it's coming back. I found a puncture vine at the edge of the parking lot one day. Must have been brought in by the tires of a tourist from Kern County. There was a sandbur growing right beside it.

Hank

Poetry Corner



Where'er there's a thistle to feed a linnets
And linnets are plenty, thistles rife--
Or an acorn-cup to catch dew-drops in it
There's ample promise of further life.

Tom Hood (1835-1874), Poets and Linnets



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

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie La Grange

At the meeting on October 14, 1987, correspondence included an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) submitted for Del Mar Village, a development consisting of 103 dwelling units in North City West. A response will be prepared following study of the report.

The City of Del Mar has sent an EIR describing the Sunset Del Mar project. This proposed development is located at the southeast corner of Camino Del Mar and Carmel Valley Road. The restaurant, office space, parking garage, and outdoor parking facility will receive careful evaluation since they border the North Beach Torrey Pines Reserve boundary.

Photographer Reed Kaestner provided a three-minute slide and film presentation made especially for the San Diego City Council Appeal Hearing of the Beau Soleil rezoning issue. This excellent production was funded by Del Mar Terrace Conservancy. The Foundation would like to obtain a videotape for future use, if possible, and will pursue this matter.

There was informal consensus of opinion that Senator Craven had greatly benefited the community by adding his amendment to Senate Bill 1508 that will provide \$1.55 million for purchase of the land. With the Governor's signature, the bill has become law, and Torrey Pines will soon acquire the critically located 6.6 acres at the entrance to the North Beach area.

The Turrini-Brink firm has been hired by property owners of Carmel Valley to prepare a coordinated plan for developers of the valley. Two representatives presented in booklet form a large body of information titled, "Amendments to the Land Use Element of North City Coastal Plan." This involves the Biological Impact Mitigation and the Transportation and Drainage Improvement projects. Since we have become aware of some of the practical difficulties encountered during attempted "mitigation" efforts, we look forward to discussion at the November meeting of issues presented by this firm.

A report from Lagoon Monitor Walt Duggan on the conditions in the water since the rains of October 11-12 indicated the start of a die-off of fish with the inflow of fresh water. The changes had become rapid and dramatic with the water color changing from light tea to dark brown or black in a matter of two or three days. The immediate increase in bird population occurred as it did last year when the introduction of fresh water presented stunned and dying fish to the birds as an easy meal at a fast-food outlet. Observers of this phenomenon were quick to note the rapidly deteriorating changes in water and air quality.

Lee La Grange reported that the lagoon opening had been scheduled for October 21 or 22. The machine work had been planned for this time, and funded by fines levied against the City of San Diego. The "Spring tides" and small
(Continued on next page)

Torrey Pines Association



As a follow-up to last month's item from Torrey Pines Association regarding acquisition of the Beau Soleil acreage, President Sally Spiess has submitted the letter reproduced below.

C O P Y

October 2, 1987

William Craven, Senator
38th District
California State Legislature

Honorable Senator Craven:

News of your timely amendment to the McCorquodale Bill SB1508 that has added funding for addition of the 6.6 "Beau Soleil" acreage to the Torrey Pines State Reserve has been very well received by all concerned.

We once again have cause to be elated and reassured by your continuing and consistent support for issues that promote and preserve the integrity of Torrey Pines Reserve.

Thank you for meeting, listening, and most important, acting on behalf of a community that is totally appreciative of your achievement in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jessie La Grange for
Sally Spiess
President, Torrey Pines Association

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT (Continued)

surf provided excellent opening conditions with good tidal flushing results since October 22. Follow-up work on a large scale is planned for November.

A committee has been named to discuss a membership plan for the Lagoon Foundation. A brochure has been suggested for general information.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 1987, at 7:00 p.m. at the Great American Savings meeting room in the 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.
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ROSTER UPDATE

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