



TORREYANA

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Torrey Pines Docent Society
and the Torrey Pines Association

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January 1988

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1988, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

Our next meeting will feature Mr. Tom Demere of the San Diego Natural History Museum. He will discuss the geology of the area and lead us on a walk to broaden our understanding of this interesting and complex subject. We are very appreciative of the time donated to us by the several "outside" speakers this year, and this can best be expressed by our regular attendance at the monthly sessions.

Best wishes for a good '88 to all the docents and staff.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

Greetings for '88! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. Now it's time to settle in and get back to routine things. But along with the routine, we have exciting times ahead for the Docent Society.

By July we hope to have our new museum plan, and you will be hearing more about that from time to time at our regular meetings.

We now have a better idea of what is being provided for our Visitor Center, and no changes in the slide show room are included. It is my hope that the Society will use some of their funds to purchase new seating for that room. If you have any input in that direction, please tell one of the officers so that when it is discussed at the Board meeting we will have the benefit of your opinions. There should also be a good opportunity to talk about these matters at the February general meeting. Since the January meeting features an outside speaker, we'd like to take advantage of his expertise without getting too involved in Society business. For that reason, discussion in January will be more limited.

The pictures for the postcards are being taken, and it is expected that the project will soon go to the printer.



Secretary's Notes by Joan Jollett

The Torrey Pines Docent Society held its annual Christmas potluck party in the Lodge on December 19, 1987. The festive event was arranged by the new docents under the leadership of Bonnie Violi.

President Grace Martin made a few brief announcements, and Ranger Bob Wolh reported on work in progress on ideas for the museum exhibits. Exhibits are expected to place more emphasis on the botany of the Reserve, and there will be more educational and hands-on types of displays. These will be discussed at greater length in a future meeting.

Grace handed out certificates of appreciation to the following docents:

Marge and Bob Amann for their work especially on the trails.

Isabel Buechler for willingness to supply information and assistance whenever needed, and for obtaining T-shirt transfers.

Marion Dixon for performing many extra duties and for her special Torreyana articles and assistance to the editor.

Marc Gittelsohn for his work in setting up the docent library.

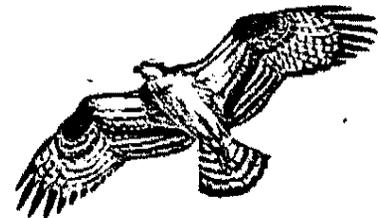
Ten-year awards, beautiful onyx paperweights with brass plaques, were presented to Millicent Horger, Rowdy James, and Judy Schulman. Millicent, past editor of the Torreyana, originated the wildflower maps, currently serves as membership chairman, and fills in at the desk in emergencies. Rowdy enhances the TPDS treasury through his tremendous job as storekeeper. Judy, former TPDS president and current historian, represents Torrey Pines docents in the League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations and serves as editor of the League newsletter.

The Docent-of-the-Year award was given to Elizabeth Nicoloff, who has been treasurer of TPDS for several years. Elizabeth is a trail expert who pulls all sorts of useful information from her famous bag. She is also a member of the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Congratulations, Elizabeth! It is a well-deserved honor.

After partaking of the bountiful and delicious dishes provided by docents, we were entertained by Judy Carlstrom playing the hammer dulcimer, and all joined in singing Christmas carols.

THE AWESOME OSPREY

A strikingly beautiful osprey was added to the exhibits in the Lodge in December, a \$245 gift from the Docent Society. Ranger Jay Cowan of the Lake Wohlford Ranger Station found the dead bird on the road November 15, 1985. Taxidermists Lyons and O'Haver in La Mesa stuffed and mounted it in a life-like pose.



Bird watchers who want to see live ospreys have a good chance of doing so at San Dieguito Lagoon, where the birds sometimes watch for their fishy prey from the telephone poles.

Fire and Erosion

After the big Palomar fire of October '87, a TV reporter did a standup in the rain. He told how the fire was causing the terrible mud slide behind him. I could see the unmistakable signs of tire tracks in the slop. I wanted to shout, "Look around! There is no erosion after a fire! There is erosion after a fire truck! There is erosion after a bulldozer!"

After I made that rash statement to myself, I repeated it to some other people. I thought I'd better check up on it before I got too loud. I went up to Palomar Mountain a couple or three good rains after the fire. The fire must have been scary. It had burned a huge horseshoe in the national firest and around and into the state park. In some ways it wasn't all that bad. There were signs of fire right up to the fire lookout tower. Brush was charred right across the road from the park entrance and up to the back door of the ranger's residence. This was only the result of back-firing. I didn't see any erosion except in fire breaks and in other disturbed places. That seemed to square with what I'd seen after fires around and about Torrey Pines. I felt satisfied. I felt vindicated. I felt all that stuff. I got home and took the beagle for a walk. I got into a conversation with a guy who was tossing a Frisbee to his Irish setter. I mentioned mud slides. He said he was from Glendora. Oh oh! After a fire in the early seventies a mud slide slurped out of a canyon and wiped out a couple dozen houses in Glendora. I had known about it, too. Not only that, I had remembered a great mud slide in a canyon in the San Dimas Experimental Forest not far away. Had bulldozers caused the slides? I don't know.

Two weeks, or two months, after a fire the roots of brush and trees are still in the ground. Some are already producing new top growth. The few that were killed by the heat are not yet decayed. Light, feathery seeds are blowing in from everywhere. These will sprout with the first rains. I have a hard time believing that many landslides are the result of fire.

Some people have a hard time believing that nature can take care of itself. The Forest Service is planting ryegrass in their area of the Palomar burn. I heard that the state park was going to sow plantago. I was happy to find that the rumor was false. The state park will remain unplanted. We can learn about natural regeneration only when we let nature regenerate. Planting seeds from Oregon after a fire in California doesn't seem quite the right thing to do anyway.



FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH

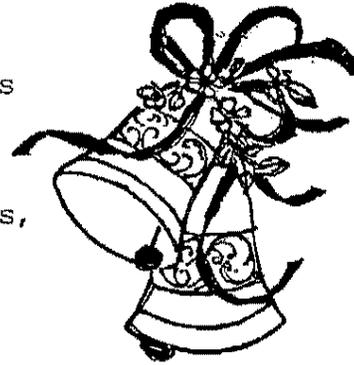
TIME TO PAY DUES

The new year means it's time to pay annual dues. In case you've forgotten, dues for regular and associate docents are \$7.00, for supporting members \$15.00.

Please make your check payable to Torrey Pines Docent Society and indicate that it is for 1988 dues. Mail it to Membership Chairman Millicent Horger, 13130 Carousel Lane, Del Mar, CA 92014, or give it to Millicent at the January meeting. Don't be late!

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

More romance at Torrey Pines: Ranger Chris Platis has just announced his engagement to Doreen Russell, daughter of Martha Russell, former Park Aide. The wedding is scheduled for May 7 at the Greek Orthodox Church on Park Boulevard in San Diego. Congratulations, Chris and Doreen.

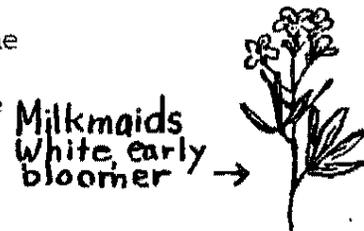


SARGE IS OUT OF THE HOSPITAL

A recent phone call from Sarge Walker brought the good news that he's now home from the hospital. He says he's still not feeling very chipper but he's happier and more comfortable with the new arrangement whereby he goes to a clinic twice a week for dialysis treatments. Best wishes to you, Sarge.

KEEPING UP WITH THE FLOWERS

The latest flower flashes are now appearing on the new "white board" on the Lodge porch by the Rangers' office. On December 12 no less than 14 varieties were listed, and recent rains should add to that number. The Rangers promise more elaborate (illustrated?) announcements once their colored markers arrive.



THE INTERPRETIVE ROOM

Foggy about a flower? Hazy about Reserve history? Searching for slides about local nature to entertain and educate your child's class?

Find your answers and plenty of information in the "Interpretive Room," the one behind the Docents' quarters in the Lodge. The large grey file contains 53 slide-out frames stacked with hundreds of slides which you can examine in front of the lighted slide viewer, also part of the file. Subjects covered by the slides include land and marine mammals, birds, flowers, Torrey pines, land and marine invertebrates, reptiles, whales, earth sciences, children's drawings after visiting the Reserve, and history. Slides aren't limited to our local area but include some from as far afield as Santa Barbara and Arizona on relevant subjects.

Slides can be checked out with the Ranger's office, but don't remove them from the frames without first learning the procedure to follow.

More scientific information is in the wooden herbarium file next to the slides. Here plant specimens from algae, lichens, and moss up through the botanical chain are mounted and labeled with both common and scientific names. Location in Torrey Pines State Reserve is also noted.

And for those disbelievers who thought the number of Torrey pines in the Reserve was an estimate, check the 1973 trail map on top of the wooden file. Each little "x" on it stands for a pine tree. You can count them yourself. And then have faith that somebody has kept track of every tree that has sprouted since.



WILDFLOWER CALENDAR

Guess which area is listed first in Elna Bakker's "Southern California Nature Calendar" for 1988? Torrey Pines State Reserve, and for these reasons (it says in the calendar): early wildflowers, good view spots for whale watching, and fewer people. "Fewer" than where or when isn't stated, but fewer anyway than the freeway and shopping centers.

The calendar highlights the natural seasonal attractions of several places each month, along with a map to locate the area. The author has also selected a bird and flower for each month--for January, the sora rail and milkmaids. No colored pictures except for a gorgeous lemon lily on the cover, but many attractive drawings of flowers are scattered throughout.

Rowdy James added the calendars to our bookshop offerings in mid-December, and several were still available a week ago. At \$7.35, they're a bargain (and of course, the price is discounted for docents). If our supply is gone, write to The Theodore Payne Foundation, 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley, CA 91352.



THROW ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE

A fireside is a great opiate.--Leigh Hunt

Tuesday, December 29, early afternoon at Torrey Pines Reserve: down came the rain, in came the people. Quickly the Lodge filled up inside and the holiday crowd overflowed until the veranda was full, too.

Docents Maurie Brown and Patsy Klipstein found themselves hostessing a cheerful Dickensian group of adults and children. No grumbling about the weather, no complaints about interrupted walks. Instead, adults and children alike seemed to enjoy being thrown together. The docents switched slide shows from time to time to provide entertainment and answered a record number of questions.

"People said it was so homey and cozy here," said Maurie. "They'd never seen a State park lodge with a fireplace. Everybody was having a good time."

Which suggests that you don't need spirits or even coffee to achieve camaraderie on a rainy day. Just a crackling fire, friendly people, and--of course--some inspiring slide shows, musically enhanced, of Torrey Pines Reserve.

PEOPLE ASK. . . .

(To help docents answer some of the questions, both routine and unusual, that visitors ask, information from current publications or experts will be carried in a corner of the Torreyana when available. Contributions welcome.)

How much is the sea level changing?--"According to the study released this summer by the National Academy of Sciences, earth's atmosphere is warming as a result of the greenhouse effect, a prism condition created largely by the release of carbon monoxide from the burning of fossil fuels. That causes an increased melting of icebergs and an expansion of the ocean due to increased water temperature.

"The result is a predicted sea rise of between two and five feet over the next hundred years, twice to five times the rate over the last 100 years."

--L.A. Times, I, 16, 1/1/88

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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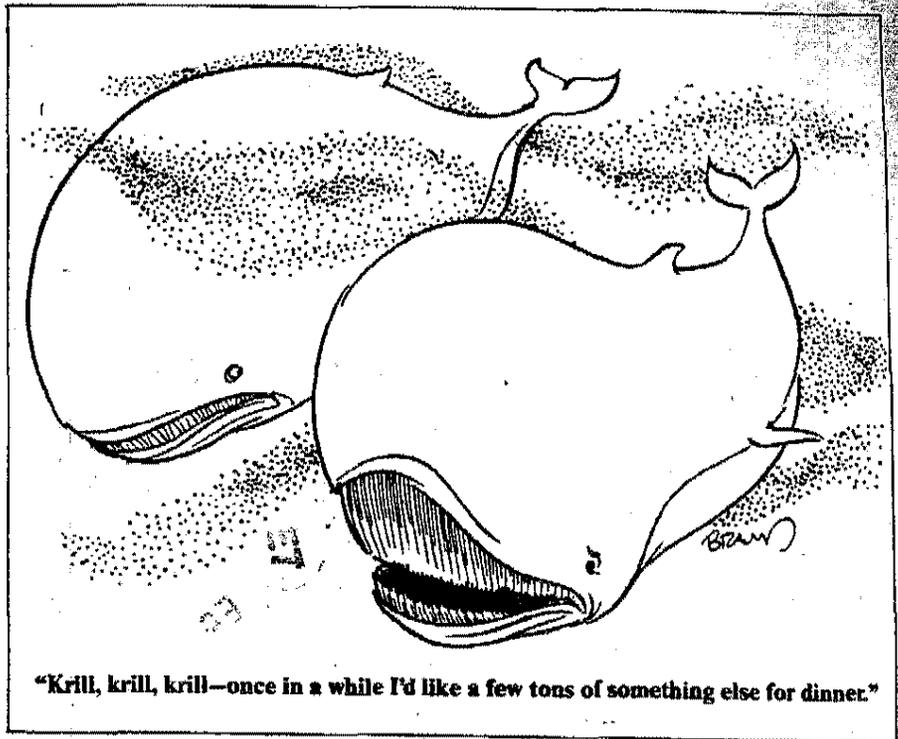
Asst. Editor: Marion Dixon

ROSTER UPDATE

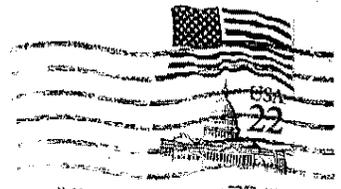
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