



# TORREYANA

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

No. 151

February 1988

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

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

Be sure to attend the February meeting. Ranger Bob Wohl has agreed to, once again, take us on a walk to an "unknown" section of the Reserve. Also, we will vote on the new slate of docent officers for 1988-89. See you then--and, in the meantime, HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1988-89 (TO BE VOTED ON AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING)

Your Nominating Committee proposes the following officers for the year to come:

President: Parker Foster  
Vice President: Michael Fox  
Secretary: Patricia Buckley Foster  
Treasurer: Elizabeth Nicoloff  
Publications Chairman: Marion Dixon  
Duty Coordinator: Maurie Brown



Immediately following the trail walk the new board will convene to begin discussion on the many issues facing the Docent Society during the coming year.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

By the 20th of this month you will have a new president, so this will be my last opportunity to communicate with you through the President's Notes in the Torreyan. Consequently, I will take this opportunity to thank you for the great cooperation extended to me by the membership, and all the fine help which made it such a pleasant Torrey Pines year for me.

I will look forward to helping out in any miscellaneous ways that present themselves in the future as well as fulfilling my regular duty commitment, and I hope that all of you will be doing the same.

THANKS SO MUCH!

## ***Secretary's Notes*** by Joan Jollett

The Torrey Pines Docent Society met at the Lodge on January 16 at 9:00 a.m. President Grace Martin reminded docents that annual state park passes are \$40.00. Ranger Bob Wohl asked us to be sure to keep the numbers in sequence and reminded us that passes for a second car should only be sold by rangers.

Maurie Brown, Duty Coordinator, requested help for the long weekends.

Millicent Horger, Membership Chairman, announced that 1988 dues are now payable (see notice below).

Storekeeper Rowdy James announced new books: Amphibians of San Diego County, Field Guide to Gray Whales, and National Geographic Bird Book.

Grace announced the candidates for election selected by the Nominating Committee (see page 1). The election will be held at the February 20 meeting. Members may nominate other persons for office; nominations should be in writing, and the candidates consent should be obtained first.

Parker Foster introduced the speaker for the day, Tom Deméré, paleontologist with the San Diego Natural History Museum. He explained the basics of the geology of the area around Torrey Pines State Reserve. His talk was followed by a slide show and a short walking tour to view the various aspects of the local geology.

Before the walk, docents were treated to refreshments provided by Jeanne Dunham's team of Glenn Dunham, Marion Dixon, Millicent Horger, Joan Jollett, and Judy Schulman.

---

### DOCENT DUES: FINAL NOTICE

(This notice does NOT apply to members of Torrey Pines Association. Members of TPA please refer to page 2.)

Docents are requested to pay 1988 dues by February 20 (the date of our next meeting). After that date, we'll have to discontinue sending the Torreyana, so please pay promptly if you haven't already done so. Make your check payable to the Torrey Pines Docent Society and indicate that it is for dues (\$7.00 for regular and associate docents, \$15.00 for supporting members). Mail it to Millicent Horger, 13130 Carousel Lane, Del Mar, CA 92014, or bring it to the meeting on the 20th. WE WANT YOU!

---

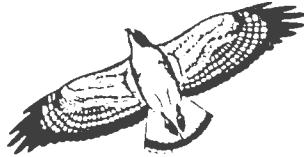
### TIME TO SAY THANK YOU by Isabel Buechler

Serving as editor of the Torreyana has been a rewarding experience. Keeping you informed of changes and new developments in the Reserve has sometimes been a challenge. Working with staff and other docents has always been a pleasure. And learning more about the Torrey Pines Association and Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation has shown the importance of their (and our) dedication to preserving the beautiful Torrey Pines environment.

After four years, though, I'm ready for a change. I'll still be around, giving time and effort to other docent projects. A warm and sincere THANK YOU for your splendid cooperation, contributions, and support. And special thanks to Marion Dixon for her many interesting and beautifully written articles.



NOW HEAR THIS! DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS TO BEGIN IN APRIL



The Docent Training Program for Spring 1988 will commence on Saturday, April 9. As in the past, it will continue for six consecutive Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. New associate docents who have not yet attended training sessions will be expected to attend. Other interested persons should sign up at the Ranger's office or at either of the next two docents meetings, on February 20 or March 19. For more information, please call the Ranger's office at 755-2063.

---

## News and Notes

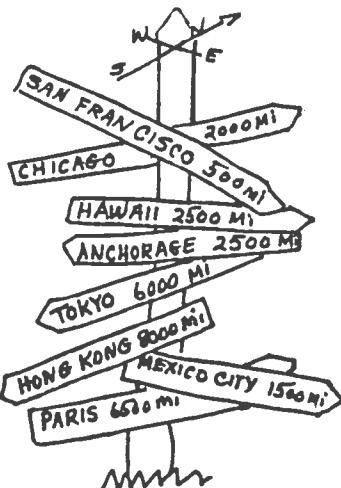
### WE GET LETTERS

Former docent Mary Miller writes from Penn Valley, California: "It is winter here--no doubt about it! We haven't had snow in Penn Valley, but last week it was just five miles up the road. We have had some frosty mornings and plenty of rain, about 16" so far. . . . I have titmice and juncos at my bird feeder and occasionally purple finches. . . . There is an eagle that cruises by, an immature one so I can't readily identify it. A fairly large flock of Canada geese are wintering on the lake, sometimes noisily. . . . Our house is coming along; I think the end is in sight." Mary is maintaining a supporting membership in the Docent Society "to keep the Torreyana coming my way" and "to touch base with some positive aspects of Southern California life."

### HOW ABOUT A SIGNPOST?

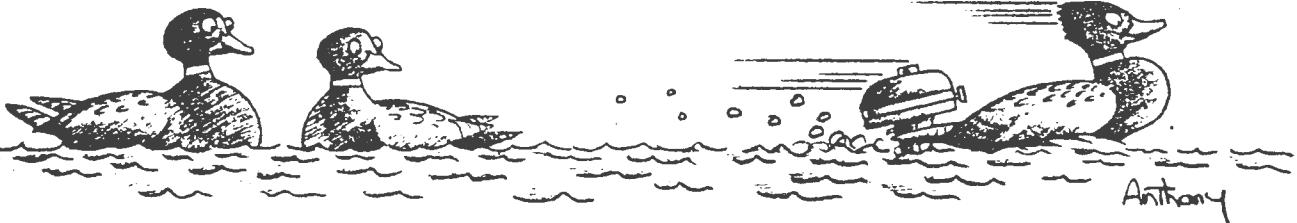
A note and this sketch accompanied supporting member Jane Vogel's dues check sent to Millicent Horger recently. Her note said she had always been interested in signposts and thinks one would be of interest to Torrey Pines visitors. She wrote, "I would like to see one at Torrey Pines, with mileages correct, and arrows pointed in the right direction." What do you think?

Jane added a postscript: "My wager is that if this is passed around at the Board Meeting, the comments will be: 'The mileage is wrong' -- 'The arrow points the wrong way' -- 'My home town isn't here' -- a very thought-provoking gimmick."



### GET-WELL WISHES FOR RUTH HAND

Honorary docent Ruth Hand has recently undergone serious surgery and is recuperating in a nursing home. Friends who want to send their good wishes should address cards and notes to Ruth at Casa Palmera Care Center, 14750 El Camino Real, Del Mar, CA 92014.



REMEMBERING EARLY DAYS IN THE PARK by Marion Dixon

If your introduction to this area had been a barbecue at the Guy Fleming adobe house atop Torrey Pines Park, wouldn't that have helped to persuade you that this was one of the finest places in the world to live?

And, indeed, such hospitality on the part of the park's custodian at this exceptional viewpoint did convince young Miriam Fox, who came here as a bride in 1932, that she had made a good choice.

Denis, a noted marine biochemist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, had made friends with the Flemings soon after his arrival here a year before. It was a friendship that lasted a lifetime.

"Guy was a wonderful, sociable person," recalls Miriam, "and he loved to cook. His wife--whom we knew as Peggy--was so supportive to people."

The Foxes' relationship with the Flemings included renting a house from them on Bon Air Street once. You might guess which house the Flemings owned: it has a huge Torrey pine in front, dominating the house and almost the entire street.

Through the years the Foxes spent many hours in the park with their family of three boys and one girl. "There was no charge to get in, and we all thought of it as our park," says Miriam. "We picnicked on the tables up on the mesa or spread a blanket out somewhere. And we hiked all over. It was very wild, lots of brush and trees."

And animals? While not an eyewitness to any larger than a ground squirrel, Miriam often heard coyotes howling in the area. There was evidence of mountain lions, too, attested to by a small skin given to them by a friend who had killed its bearer locally. (Possible extinction of the species wasn't considered a problem then.)

Food was still being served at the Lodge when the Foxes first arrived. "We often ate there. The meals were very good, and the fireplace made it so cozy." The new "101" was just being put through, there was no golf course, no "Black's Beach," and no surfers; the area seemed more like the back yard of the residents than a playground for visitors.

The Foxes were one of the early faculty families at the Oceanographic Institute who became active members of Torrey Pines Association shortly after its incorporation in 1950. Denis Fox, who died in 1983, specialized in keratinoid pigments, a subject on which he wrote two books. His research included the effect of diet on the color of the pink flamingos who make such a spectacular entrance picture at the San Diego Zoo. Original paintings of a flamingo and other subjects done for the books still hang on Miriam's walls.

Denis's research also took the Foxes to many international meetings as well as to England on a Rockefeller Fellowship from 1938 to 1939. Their stay had a dramatic finale when they traveled home in early September of 1939 on the Queen Mary just after the S.S. Athenia had been torpedoed by an enemy submarine. "We zigzagged all over to avoid subs," recalls Miriam. "Everybody was sick."

They were all relieved to land safely, and the Foxes returned to their haven in La Jolla. Miriam has been active in a number of local organizations, including the La Jolla Welfare League and the auxiliary of Scripps Memorial Hospital.

(continued on p. 6)

## NOTES FROM THE NATURALIST

by Hank Nicol

*When I was in the second grade I won a pencil box in the form of a wooden soldier. I wish I had managed to keep that soldier with his red coat and yellow pants, because I have never won anything since. This essay is my entry in a contest. With my won-lost record I figured I would put it into the Torreyana. That may be the only way it will ever see the light of day.*



### No Man's Land

During the Korean war the artillery of both sides seemed to think it an insult if anything green sprouted on an enemy hill. I cannot recall a single living tree within miles of the front. There were only a few snags and very little grass. "I didn't lose my dog tags," as the saying goes. I have never been back to look for dog tags or anything else. The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) has recovered, so I am told. It has recovered so well that the mountains are heavily forested, and the valleys are green. Marshes have formed in the bottom lands. The farmers have not returned. Wild life has. The ring-necked pheasant has taken back some of its ancient territory. The endangered Manchurian crane is recovering with the DMZ as a base. I have not heard that the tigers are back. Rumor said they had lived in Korea until driven out by the war.

The example of the No-Man's-Land across Korea shows how nature can recover, and how fast, when people leave things alone. There is something about the human animal that just doesn't want to leave things as they are. Whatever Nature has given us, we have to "improve." All the definitions of the word are upbeat and positive. They should not be. One common usage is synonymous with "develop." A better definition would be "destroy." We rip out brush which has been serving nature's purpose for thousands of years. A drainage system did exactly what it was supposed to do, but we know better. We re-grade it. We cut down trees that would slow down construction. Afterward we plant new trees, some suitable, some not. We ruin the land beyond any possibility of restoration. We build houses of questionable quality, and even more questionable beauty, over the land we have spoiled. We say we have made "improvements." Are we, the human race, arrogant or what?

You have seen the ads. Rolling hills, grass, oak trees, and the caption, "You can own a piece of this." A prospective buyer would be pretty stupid to believe that beautiful landscape will still be there when the subdivider is through. There are a lot of pretty stupid prospective buyers.

San Diego Magazine featured four people because they made millions buying and selling land. . . , quickly. Making heroes of those who destroy open space seems going a bit far even for a booster magazine. I say "open space." That is the "in" word. Open space can be forest, chaparral, or desert. It can be farms, ranchland, and golf courses. Developers drive out farms and ranches, but farmers and ranchers have done their bit. The tule elk was driven out by ranchers. The San Joaquin Valley kit fox was driven out by farmers. Most endangered species were not over-hunted, over-fished, over-picked, and over-logged. They were over-developed. We should save open space, but we must do more.

Former Director Mott caught flak from some park people, among others, because he was acquiring more parkland than the department could "develop." He was marching out in front. More of us should have been with him. We need to set aside as much land as we can. The land does not have to be camped on, picnicked on, and hiked over. It would be for the big things we fuss over: redwood trees, bighorn sheep, cougars. It would also be for the little things that we hardly ever notice: the microscopic life in a vernal pool, the lichens on a rocky outcrop, the invertebrates in a salt marsh. We could save endangered species that we have never seen and never named. We might even save ourselves.

## *Report from the Ranger*

### RANGER CHANGES

Don't look for Chris Platis at the Reserve until after March this year. He has exchanged places with Allyn Kaye, also a Ranger I, who has worked primarily at San Elijo State Beach and South Carlsbad. The locale switching is intended to provide a larger group of Rangers with the opportunity to spend time at Torrey Pines, the plum of the parks hereabouts.

Allyn graduated from Michigan State University in 1977 with a B.S. from the College of Natural Resources with emphasis on parks and recreation administration. She was only the second female to be hired as a Ranger in the Michigan State Parks in 1978. She worked at Van Buren State Park and on the Southern Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan until 1980.

Another new staff member here temporarily, whom you may have met at the entrance kiosk, is Judy Larson, a Park Aide who has also worked at San Elijo.

### STORM DAMAGE IN THE RESERVE

If you had tried to drive up into the Reserve on the days following the January storm, you would have found the road barricaded and covered with debris and the kiosk missing. Ranger Bob Wohl reported that the Reserve was closed to cars for two and a half days, and the only way to get in was on foot. The road had to be cleared and trees had to be removed from the road and parking areas. At least 17 trees were downed. The kiosk was blown (or washed) off the road and demolished. North Beach was covered with kelp and there was some damage in the tunnel. However, the lagoon channel was opened nicely. The South Cardiff parking lot also was demolished.

Among the trees destroyed were three in front of the Lodge, and one about 50 feet from the driveway in front of Bob's house! (In Ocean Beach, an awesome sight was a house at the corner of Narragansett and Bacon, which was completely smashed by a huge Torrey pine. Another Torrey pine on Saratoga Street severely damaged a nearby house and tore up the sidewalk when the tree was uprooted.)

### CARPOBROTUS REMOVERS WANTED

It's time to attack the carpoprotus again, says Claire Brey, the Natural History Museum member who led the battle against this insidious alien last spring. Rains have softened the ground and made other plants supple so that they aren't destroyed as the Hottentot or sea fig around them is pulled out.

In just three days in January Claire and another volunteer, Jane Rauch, removed about 63 large plastic bags of carpoprotus--close to half a ton--from the area just off the road below the Guy Fleming trail.

The battle continues, and Claire would like to have volunteer troops from the Docent Society to assist her--there are acres of the stuff in the Reserve. Please call Claire at 459-5717 for instructions.

### Remembering Early Days (continued)

In fact, she was on duty as a "Pink Lady" at the time Guy Fleming was a patient in the hospital. "It was the last time I saw him," she remembers.

Miriam continues her interest in Torrey Pines Association and in the park, but says, "I'm so glad I knew it in the early days." She still comes up to the Reserve often and agrees with most of us that "There's just no place like it."

## SIGNIFICANT HAPPENINGS AT TPSR IN 1987

- o First half of the year: Historic rehabilitation of the Lodge.
- o Spring and summer: \$4000 project to remove alien plants, chiefly stock and carpobrotus, by herbiciding. Also plant removal by hand by volunteers.
- o March: Dedication of 240 acres in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon as permanent state parkland.
- o June: Bobcat spotted in front of Lodge. Other sightings reported in Reserve at other times.
- o September: Clyde "Sarge" Walker retired after 13 years with the park service.
- o November: Re-routing of some Reserve trails plus lookout platform above Fat Man's Misery and new steps on Beach Trail.
- o Request by Torrey Pines Association for increase in ranger staff to meet demands of increasingly heavy use of park area.

## HANK GETS LETTERS TOO

Dear Mr. Nicholy

I like Torrey Pines  
State reverse be cause  
it has nice scenery.  
It was fun...having...you  
as our tour guide.

I like the lemon juice  
from the lemonade berry.  
I liked the ice Plant and  
You!!

Duane.



## *Poetry Corner*

The item below was contributed by Judy Schulman. It appeared in the Big Tree Bulletin of Nov-Dec 1987 published by the Calaveras Big Trees Association. Judy obtained permission to reprint it in the Torreyana. Thank you, Judy. This beautiful verse was written by the father of CBTA member Geri Bojarski.

On a poster found in the public parks of Spain is this verse.....

### **I AM A TREE**

"Ye who pass by - and would raise your hand against me, hearken ere you harm me. I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights; the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun; and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.

"I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle and the shell of your coffin.

"I am the bread of kindness, and the flower of purity. Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer

"HARM ME NOT!"

## *Next Torrey Pines Association Meeting*

The 38th Annual Meeting of the Torrey Pines Association will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, in the Lodge. Announcements, to be mailed to members prior to the meeting, will contain the agenda, ballot for election of seven Counsellors, and membership renewal form with dues information.



If you have not received the announcement by February 8, please call President Sally Spiess, Secretary Nobie Hopper, or Treasurer John Shelton. Phone numbers are given below, along with the Torrey Pines Association mailing address.

Following a short business meeting and announcement of election results, there will be a progress report on the new Torrey Pines book from the publisher, Don McQuiston, and members will view plans for the proposed new museum display. In addition, Kirk Wallace, Acting Region Four Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation, will bring us up to date on State Parks.

All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

Torrey Pines Association  
P.O. Box 345  
La Jolla, CA 92038

Sally Spiess 453-0373  
Nobie Hopper 259-9053  
John Shelton 459-5442

(PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

---

### TORREY PINES IN PRINT

Two chapters by Margaret Fleming Allen in the recently issued Inside La Jolla, 1887-1987 (La Jolla Historical Society, 1987) tell some of the history of Torrey Pines and her experiences here. They are entitled "The Bug House" (the children's name for the Scripps Biological Station, now the Oceanographic Institute) and "Growing Up Among the Pines." They contain a number of anecdotes that docents can add to their repertoire for rainy--or, more likely, very dry--days.

An article on Torrey Pines also appeared in the Del Mar newspaper, The Citizen on January 13. It may attract more visitors for the nature walks during this season, since it does make the park sound most alluring. However, you may need to correct a statement it makes at the end of the article: "The park offers picnic tables and restrooms atop the mesa." That might lead people to think that the tables are up near the Lodge rather than down near the kiosk.

---

### PEOPLE ASK. . .

#### How did the Delmar, Torrey, and Lindavista formations get their names?

—According to Tom Deméré, Paleontologist from the San Diego Natural History Museum who spoke at the Docent Society meeting January 15, it is the prerogative of the first geologist to map an area to name the discrete layers identified. Marcus Hanna named these three layers in 1926. The Delmar formation predominates in the Del Mar area, hence its name; the source of Torrey is obvious; and the "pretty view" is always from the top, so that was a natural.



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

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie La Grange

Lee La Grange presented a summary of Lagoon clearing activity from November 14 to January 12. The machine action involved channel excavation immediately east of the highway bridge. To drain as much water as possible from the work area, the basin was confined by coffer dams across the two main channels, followed by placement of a dam west of the bridge at the beach berm. It was estimated that from 20,000 to 25,000 cubic yards of beach material and cobble were removed and transported to tidal zones on the beach south of the bridge. A bottom surface elevation of 0.0 (ft) MLLW (mean lower low water) was achieved in the work area, with the beach berm left intact to trap runoff from expected winter rains. This impoundment of storm water did not occur since the predicted storm brought only a trace of moisture, while the surf rose with increasing wave action that breached the beach berm dam on November 21-22. An opening to the Lagoon was then made, resulting in small, erosive flow. A machine was returned to the site on November 24 to improve the channel in the bridge area. Improved tidal flushing of distant inland channels has indicated that the cleared channels near the bridge have been functioning with increased flow. Impoundment of water in December and January again failed to meet expectations when predicted rain did not arrive. However, since our meeting, the tides of January 17-18, along with rain and gale force winds, have brought dramatic action to the entire Southern California coast. The 7.5-ft high tides deposited random debris and wrapped garlands of kelp around the restrooms and created much turbulence in the Lagoon. There is vigorous tidal action at this time.

Bill Tippetts reported on the Resource Department plan to implement the new channel Northwest of the railroad overpass. Work should start in the early Fall of this year. The Coastal Commission has reinforced State Park policy, which excludes machine work during high-use months, April to September. The Lagoon Foundation members favor this procedure.

Bill Fait responded to concerns about commercial clam digging in the Lagoon. A newly established bank of razor clams observed near the railroad trestle has apparently been harvested by a person who has described himself as a commercial gatherer, after being questioned by an observer.

Don Coppock, of Coastal Conservancy, spoke to the group about goals and plans in conjunction with the new by-laws and reorganization in progress. A workshop will be planned this Spring and informational material for the public will be made available.

A further statement regarding Sunset Del Mar development that requested denial of the conditional-use permit was approved to be sent to the January 19 Del Mar City Planning Commission hearing.

The next Lagoon Foundation meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Great American Savings meeting room in the Big Bear Shopping Center, Solana Beach.

Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Grace Martin

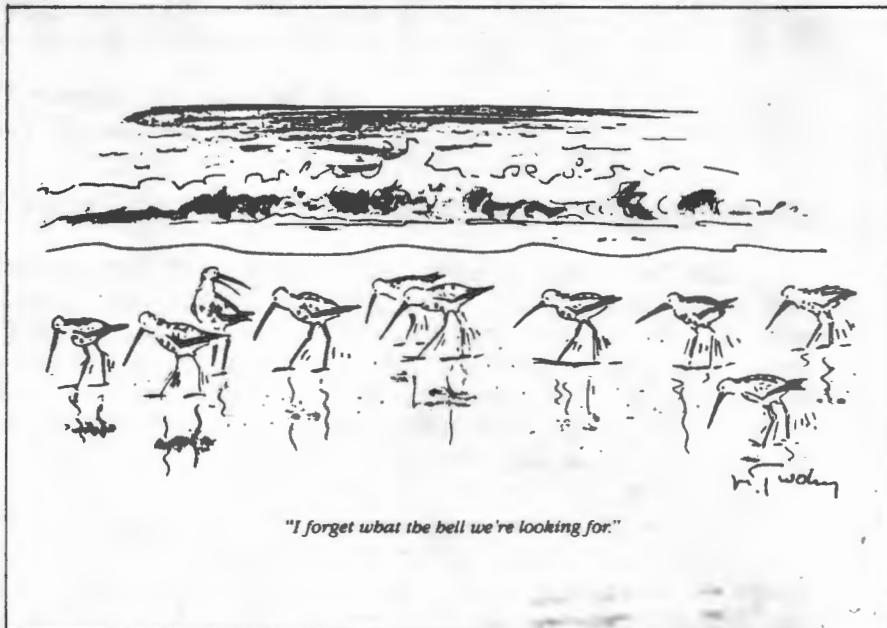
Deadline for Torrevana copy  
is the 25th of each month.  
Send contributions to the  
editor:

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

Asst. Editor: Marion Dixon

Certain environmental re-  
sources deserve to be  
counted as global resources.  
That is, they are part of a  
common heritage in which  
the whole of humankind has  
a stake. An obvious ex-  
ample is the great whales:  
they appeal to people in  
lands around the world and  
their decline impoverishes  
everybody.

--Norman Myers



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



FOR

XXXXXX XXXXXXXX  
4055 748 R XXXXXXXX  
San Diego, CA 92122  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

