



TORREYANA

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

No. 157

September 1988

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

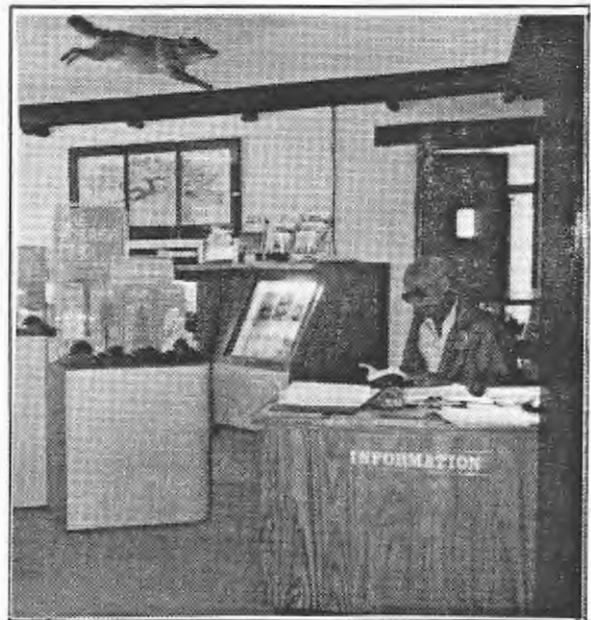
A gap in docent training will be filled at the September meeting when Claire Brey informs us about native grasses. Claire, a native San Diegan and long an active member of the San Diego Natural History Museum, will bring sample grasses with her to help us recognize these plants in the Reserve and learn about their characteristics. The talk is well-timed to add to nature walk lore during the period when flowers are fewest. Considerable business is also scheduled for the meeting to catch up after vacation. Be sure to be there!

POSITIVE REACTION TO NEW EXHIBITS

Visitors are lingering longer in the Lodge since the new exhibits have been installed, according to docents on duty there this summer. The room buzzes with conversation as parents point things out to children--and vice versa.

The invitation to touch gets an enthusiastic response, and information on exhibits is carefully perused. Lighting still to be added will enhance the "underground" holes where small creatures are displayed.

Questions may be fewer, and those that are asked are different, such as: "Are those real fish [in the plastic water near the entrance]?" So docents now have new things to learn to respond to the curious.



Docent Pete Bardwick sits at the information desk in new location, while the familiar coyote flies high on beam over sales counter.

Secretary's Notes by Patricia B. Foster

DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING JULY 16, 1988

(Note: Official minutes are posted in the docent room in the Lodge.)

New Exhibits

Chief Ranger Bob Wohl conducted an explanatory tour through the new exhibits that were installed during the past week (see story on exhibits, p. 1).

Trainees Recognized

Following the exhibit tour, President Parker Foster called the meeting to order and recognized the following docent trainees who have completed their requirements to become full docents: Valerie DePrez, Carol Lucic, and Jane Talbert. Valerie and Carol were present to receive their badges and arm patches; Jane was on vacation and will receive hers later.

Announcements

Parker reminded everyone of the August beach party. He also acknowledged Grace Martin's recent illness and welcomed her to the meeting.

Article Distributed

Judy Schulman distributed copies of an article on orienting children to nature that was of interest to the docents.

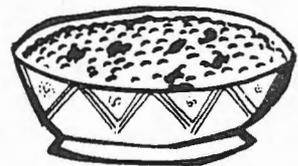
Docent Trip Planned for '89

Parker announced preliminary plans for a docent trip for February or March 1989. Destinations suggested were Scammon's Lagoon in Baja California and Copper Canyon on the Mexican mainland. Balloting of the members resulted in an even division between these two locations, plus a number of responses suggesting Santa Rosa Island. Parker and Patricia Foster will work out a proposal and present it at the September or October meeting (see article, p. 3).

Talk on Insects

Michael Fox introduced the speaker, Robert Love of the San Diego Natural History Museum. Mr. Love presented a talk on insects, accompanied by a descriptive hand-out and a series of slides. Following refreshments, the speaker led an insect-oriented walk on the Rim Trail.

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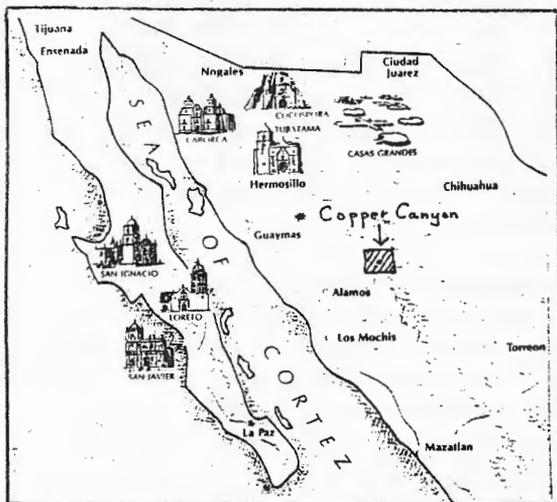
ANNUAL PICNIC, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

About 30 Torrey Pines docents, their guests, and several park personnel gathered under cloudy skies at the North Beach parking lot picnic tables for a bountiful feast on Saturday, August 20. Food and beverages were donated by docents. Later, a few brave souls ventured into the cold surf while others hiked on the beach.

CORRECTION

Gail Di Lalla, a natural history teacher for San Dieguito Adult Education, was the knowledgeable person who annotated the Guy Fleming wildflower maps with the appropriate botanical names. Last month's "Secretary's Notes" credited Marc Gittelsohn with this accomplishment.

DOCENT-SPONSORED TRIP by Parker Foster



At the July meeting of the Docent Society, a proposed group trip for early next year was discussed. Acting on one of the recommendations of the members, your Board has put together an escorted tour to Copper Canyon (*Cañon del Cobre* in Spanish), located midway between Los Mochis and Chihuahua in Northern Mexico. The great earth trench there, larger than our Grand Canyon, is nearly a mile deep and a mile across. The area is also well-known for the Tarahumara Indians and their unusual customs. The tour will encompass several stops in the Copper Canyon area.

The tour departs for seven days and six nights on Friday, March 10, 1989, and will include round trip air fare from Tijuana to Los Mochis, train fare, all hotels, 12 meals, and much more. The cost is \$830 double occupancy or \$1,030 single occupancy. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is payable by November 1 at the latest, preferably sooner.

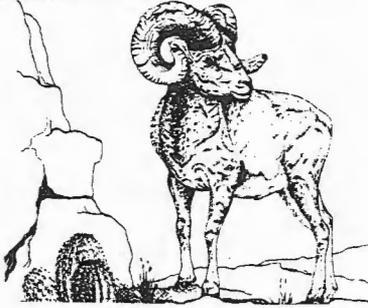
We need to have at least 20 people to make this trip possible. You don't have to be a docent--friends and supporters of Torrey Pines Reserve are welcome. We will give more details at the September general meeting. We hope you will be there and have a reasonably clear idea of your plans regarding probable participation in the trip.

DUTY CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 BARDWICK MARINE	2 NICOLOFF	3 L - SWANSON W - SWANSON L - KOOYMAN W - CARLSTROM
4 L - HUMPHREYS W - ANDERSON L - BARDWICK W - DIXON	5 HOLIDAY L - HUMPHREYS W - JOLLETT L - DUNHAM W - DUNHAM	6 MARTIN	7 MARGULIES	8 MORRISON	9 BARDWICK	10 L - SWANSON W - SWANSON L - BUECHLER W - TAYLOR
11 L - MORRISON W - L - W -	12 GARTLAND KOESSLER	13 MORRISON	14 GITTELSONH	15 MORRISON	16 NICOLOFF	17 L - SCHULMAN W - L - CHENEY W - SCHULMAN
18 L - MORRISON W - JOLLETT L - W - DUNHAM	19 BUECHLER	20 MARTIN	21 MARGULIES	22 MORROW, J.	23 MORROW, C.	24 L - ANDERSON W - KIERNAN L - MORROW, J. W - MORROW, C.
25 L - BARDWICK W - HORGER L - CHENEY W - DIXON	26 GITTELSONH KOESSLER	27 AMANN, B. AMANN, M.	28 FOSTER, P.V.	29 FOSTER, Pat	30 MARINE	

PLEASE NOTE THE NEED FOR HELP ON THE 11TH AND 17TH OF THE MONTH AND CALL ME IF YOU CAN HELP OUT. WEEK-ENDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, SO WE HOPE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET SIGNED UP OR WHO HAVE SPOKEN FOR ONLY 3 HOURS WILL MAKE A COMMITMENT.

Sheep Watching '88 by Hank Nicol



Sleeping under the stars isn't nearly as much fun as it was 40 years ago. The ground is harder. The rocks are bigger. The thorns are sharper. Had a sneaking idea that this would be my last camping trip, but I had kind of promised Mark Jorgensen that I would help him inventory the sheep. Mark is the naturalist at Anza-Borrego State Park, and the sheep are wild desert bighorns.

I was to go back to Hellhole Canyon with the same gang we had last year. Things happen. Two of the students went off to study. That's what students do. The college instructor had inlaw complications. My favorite son got a job cleaning restrooms and picking up garbage at South Carlsbad State Beach. I was alone. Mark teamed me up with the Brothers Olms. Ingo Olms is the younger by two years, but he had been on a sheep count in Hellhole before. He makes tools and equipment for precision injection molding. Randy is a mechanical engineer with a degree in geology. That's better than a naturalist with a degree in history.

Randy drove us to the mouth of Hellhole Canyon in a 4WD pickup. I wouldn't want to endorse a product, but this was the brand that Chad used to beat the Libyan tanks. Randy charged down a dirt road that hadn't been used in years. His skillful maneuvering got us at least half a mile farther in than our base camp of last year. Randy fixed up hamburgers with the works. Ingo would take over as breakfast cook. My turn was lunchtime. That was all right with me. Lunch would be gorp and crackers. Last year I had a time with heat exhaustion. This time to heck with blood pressure. The crackers were the saltiest I could find.

Some coyotes sounded as though they were having a good time. Coyotes always sound as though they're having a good time. We speculated on what it would be like if Jupiter had been big enough to be a second sun. Randy, in addition to his other talents, is an amateur astronomer. We talked of stars and microwaves and the greenhouse effect. We talked of rocks and earthquakes and continental drift. We talked of deserts and forests and chaparral. We carried on semi-intelligent conversation with barely a mention of the *Padres*, the *Chargers*, the *Angels*, or the *Rams* (Ingo lives in Orange County). I did mention my passion for the *Sockers*.

Next morning we took a little too long cooking and eating breakfast. The air was already heating up. We started up the trail for Maidenhair falls. There actually are small waterfalls among the palm trees and maidenhair ferns. We weren't even getting to the hard part of the trail. My left foot was between two granite blocks as I stepped up to another with my right. I heard an ugly snap. It was my left knee. I sat down for a bit. The knee didn't hurt much, so we pressed on. I did all right for a while. Then I began to fall behind. I was having moments of dizziness and briefly losing my balance. I was never exactly a high-wire artist, but this was too much. Ingo was the billy goat of the group. He scrambled ahead and found the lookout site. Randy wasn't far behind. The brothers set up a tarp for shade. A hundred yards short I gave out. I sat in the shade of a rock until the sun spoiled my game. I managed to drag myself up to the outcropping. We each took a sector and looked for bighorns. The air was hot, but not unbearable. A small problem was keeping away from the teddy bear cholla six inches from my left foot. This teddy bear was not huggable. (To be continued)

Hank

(Editor's note: The *Torreyana* regrets the recent departure from TPRS of Hank Nicol, naturalist here since 1977, and hopes to continue carrying his witty and informative nature articles from time to time.)

Docent President's Notes by Parker V. Foster

We are a bit more than halfway through the year now, and perhaps it is time to reflect on our progress. It seems that we have accomplished a few things. Not the least of these are the outstanding new docents who completed the 1988 training, as well as several others in the class who will soon finish the requirements. Michael Fox has already made a significant contribution to the training process for next year by revising and updating the "Docent Training Checklist." Your Board has also worked to clarify and delineate more clearly docent duties and responsibilities. These guidelines will be presented at an early general meeting.

The updating of the physical facilities in the Visitor Center has been the most visible change this year. Your Docent Society has been pleased to provide the new seating and video equipment. These make a fitting complement to the new exhibits designed and provided by the State in July.

It is not too soon to be thinking about people who might provide leadership for the docents next year. I'll be appointing a nominating committee later on this year. Anyone who may be interested in becoming an officer or in serving on the nominating committee should let me know.

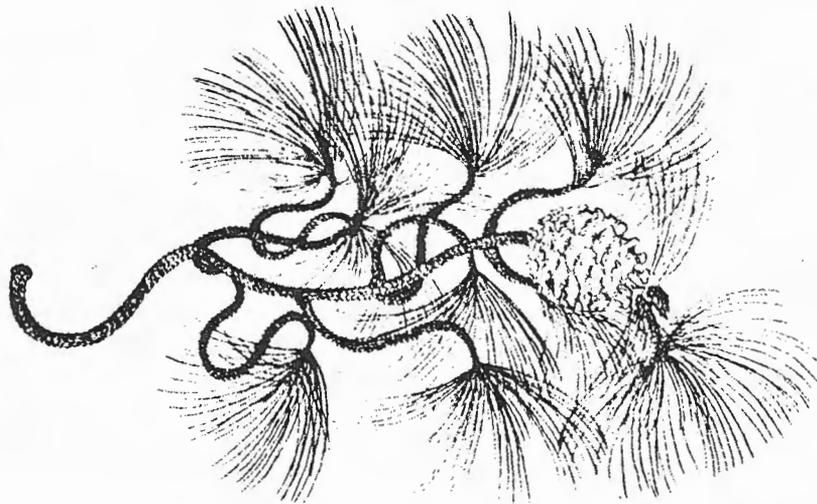
I hope you have all had a pleasant and rewarding summer wherever your vacations may have taken you.

IN MEMORIAM



Clyde "Sarge" Walker, honorary docent, former TPSR employee, and "best friend" of the Docent Society, died Wednesday, August 3, 1988. Services held at the Lemon Grove Lutheran Church and Glen Abbey Memorial Park on Friday, August 5, were attended by Rangers Bob Wohl, Greg Hackett, and Chris Platis, former TPSR Ranger Martha Black, and docent Isabel Buechler. Our deep sympathy is extended to the Walker family.

A tribute to Sarge written by Judy Schulman at the time of his retirement appears in the October 1987 *Torreyana*. In her thank-you note to the Docent Society for the flower arrangement sent for the services, Ramona Walker, Clyde's wife, wrote: "Your group was very special to Clyde and we are grateful for your concern and caring during his long months of illness." Docents will miss him.



WHEN IS A ROSE NOT A ROSE? by Valerie DePrez*

Considerable confusion is often caused by the names of common plants and references to their plant families. What do we mean when we point out the lovely yellow flowers of the rock-rose and add that it is not a true rose, or say that the scarlet pimpernel is in the primrose family, but this is not the same as the evening-primrose family? Why is blue-eyed grass not a grass? An explanation of the fundamental groupings of plants may help clarify the confusion.



The plant kingdom is divided into a series of categories based on genetic relationships and similarities of form and habit. Most important to us is the *family* category, within which are *genera* (singular: *genus*) and *species*. Plant family names all end in "aceae," which is pronounced "ay-say-ee."

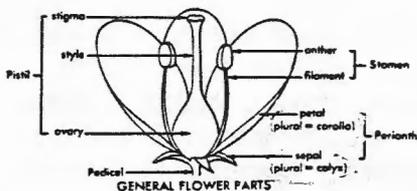
To illustrate this classification scheme, let's look at some familiar plants in the agave family, the *Agavaceae*.

Family:	<i>Agavaceae</i>	<i>Agavaceae</i>	<i>Agavaceae</i>
Genus:	<i>Yucca</i>	<i>Yucca</i>	<i>Agave</i>
Species:	<i>shidigera</i>	<i>whipplei</i>	<i>shawii</i>
Common names:	Mojave yucca Spanish bayonet	Our Lord's candle Quixote plant	Shaw's agave

Note that two different species exist within the genus *Yucca* and the family *Agavaceae*, but Shaw's agave represents not only a different species but a different genus in the same family. There may be several common names for a plant, but only one genus and one species name.

What exactly is a plant family? Why is the rock-rose not a rose (that is, in the rose family), while the toyon is?

Plant families are groups of plants with common ancestry, similar floral parts, and certain similarities in structure. All plants in the rose family (*Rosaceae*) share a common evolutionary lineage. Its members all have 5 petal-like structures called sepals, 5 (if any) petals, numerous stamens arising from a floral cup, a pistil (composed of ovary, style and stigma) originating either above or below the sepals and petals, and fruit developing into one of five fruit types. Their leaves may be arranged either alternately or oppositely



along the stems. Look carefully at a toyon, and you will see that it fits this combination of characteristics. Plants in the rock-rose family, on the other hand, have a different ancestry than those in the rose family and have the following characteristics: 3-5 sepals, 5 petals, numerous stamens, pistil arising from above the sepals and petals, fruit that is a leathery or woody capsule, and opposite leaves.

Let's look at another example. Black sage and Cleveland sage are in the mint family (*Lamiaceae*, formerly *Labiatae*). California sagebrush, however, is in the sunflower, or aster, family (*Asteraceae*, formerly *Compositae*). These two families are quite different. *Asteraceae* flowers may be symmetrical (disc) or asymmetrical; *Lamiaceae* flowers are always asymmetrical. So, with two asymmetrical flowers, how do you tell them apart? *Asteraceae* have 5 stamens, *Lamiaceae* only 2 or 4. The fruit of the aster family



(continued on p. 7)

WHEN IS A ROSE NOT A ROSE? (continued from p.6)

is dry and thin-walled, while the fruit of the mint family is dry and thick-walled. Mint family stems are quadrangular, while aster family stems are usually round. These are some of the major differences, though there are others.

A general feel for plant families comes with practice and observation. If you see a plant with flowers and leaves similar to your garden tomato, you may have a clue that it's a *Solanaceae* and may be one of the nightshades-- plants you do not want to eat! Many plants in this family, such as purple nightshade, contain harmful alkaloids, which produce hallucinogenic and/or lethal effects if ingested.



Recognizing monkey flower (*Mimulus puniceus*) and twining snapdragon (*Antirrhinum kelloggii*) as being in the same family (*Schrophulariaceae*) can lead to some good observational activities with a group: "Can anyone find similarities between these two plants?" They--or you--may point out that both have 5 small petal-like structures under the showier petals and the flowers on both seem to have two lips, with 4 fertile stamens.

Knowing the background of lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) can lead to some attention-getter comments: "Did you know that the fruit of this bush is in the same family as poison-oak, poison-ivy, and poison sumac?" In case anyone has tasted the berries, better add that lemonadeberry is not poisonous, nor does its fruit have chemical irritants similar to some of its relatives.

Pointing out that bushrue (*Cneoridium dumosum*) shares family ties with citrus fruit we buy regularly can help the visitor relate to the plant: "Take a look at these tiny globes. They are like miniature oranges and have a similar pitted skin."

A note about those intimidating scientific names. As weird as they look and sound, Latin names have the advantage of being standardized and consistent. Common names, on the other hand, may vary from region to region and are often misleading--to wit, our bushrue, which we also call spicebush, is entirely different from and unrelated to a shrub called spicebush in the eastern United States. Although usually it is inappropriate to use a lot of scientific names when leading a public hike, an awareness of the Latin can be a helpful backup: "This plant is chamise? I always thought it was greasewood." You can then explain that these are two common names for the same plant, but it has one scientific name, *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, which refers to the way the leaves are fascicled, or bundled, together.

If you don't happen to remember a plant's name, scientific or common, it may comfort you to recall Shakespeare's line, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Appreciation of a plant is worth more than all the scientific jargon in the world.

(*Valerie DePrez is an interpretive naturalist, who arrived here this March with her husband, David, and baby daughter, Amy. Valerie immediately joined the docent training class, a natural sequel to her past education and training: B.A. in botany and M.S. in forestry, both from the University of Illinois. In between degrees, she was active in naturalist work in two nature centers in Champaign County. After earning her MS, she worked as a seasonal naturalist for the Vermilion County Conservation District for four years, then as naturalist program coordinator for Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria, Illinois. Valerie recently completed her requirements to become a full docent.)

News and Notes



VISITORS GIVE A HOOT FOR OWL by Isabel Buechler

A great horned owl proved to be the star attraction at the Lodge on Saturday, July 30, when it was discovered in a Torrey pine near the back of the building. The bird obligingly remained in the same spot, sleeping or barely moving by occasionally turning its head and blinking, while visitors flocked to a vantage point to observe. Toward late afternoon the owl showed signs of becoming more alert, probably in preparation for a night of hunting. (Docents on duty wondered if a stuffed owl, strategically placed, would elicit the same interest.)

NEWS FROM MAURIE BROWN

Maurie Brown sent a card from Bullard's Bay, Maine, in July with the following note: "Hello to all my friends at the park! I miss seeing you regularly! Busy teaching art and painting and trekking around the wide open spaces of New England and Nova Scotia. Been camping in National Parks and Provincial Parks across the continent. The fresh seafood is plentiful and wide variety. Am relieved to find out for myself much of the country is not paved over. See you in October." We look forward to having Maurie back with us.

IMPROVED RESERVE MAP

A new road and trail map of Torrey Pines State Reserve has been made available this summer. Based on aerial photos (adjusted to show recent variances in trails), the maps include the following improvements over their predecessors: larger printing, description and lengths of trails, entrance at bottom and Pacific Ocean bordering left edge to help orient newcomers, clearly marked restrooms, and a cautionary note about the beach trail, "Final beach entry very narrow and precipitous." Rules are clearly outlined on the back. Docents on trails should carry a map to assist them in pointing out infractions of the rules to careless visitors.

"WHITE BOARD" AT LODGE ADDS LOTS OF COLOR

Cindy Dobler, Park Aide at TPSR, has a way with those colored marking pens. The list of flowers in bloom in the Reserve that has been a feature of the Lodge porch recently sparkles with bright illustrations that bear out the brief but accurate descriptions. And in August, as the number of plants in bloom dwindled, Cindy changed the display by listing and answering the most frequently asked questions. See if you can guess what the questions are--and add to Cindy's list if you know others.

THANK-YOU LETTERS TO GREG HACKETT



--I enjoyed being a Cailforina grey whale with ten inches of blubber. (I had a great time.) Emily Lukarvsky

--I learned that sea fig is not ice plant. Kevin Dennis.

--Thanks for the tour of Torrey Pines Reserve. Wow, 1 tree can really be 125 years old. I didn't know there was 2 kinds of erotion. I love your sense of humor. Thanks.

Tobie Whitman



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

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie LaGrange

Plant and animal losses caused by fluctuating water quality were documented in the final report by "Lagoon Monitors" presented at the July 13 meeting of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation. The report was a physical-chemical-biological evaluation by Jordan Covin and Chris Nordby of the Biology Department of SDSU. On the positive side, the regionally rare salt marsh daisy was reported as healthy and in higher density than in 1987.

The losses led to the following recommendations: maintain the mouth opening of the lagoon; control fresh water from Carmel Creek to avoid impoundment of water behind berms in the east end of the lagoon; restore degraded areas of marsh. A committee will be formed to make decisions on channelizing Carmel Creek and removing the sewer berm.

At the August meeting Chris Nordby presented slides comparing the wetlands of Tijuana Estuary and Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, physically similar areas which have suffered an influx of raw sewage in recent years. Increased efforts to save these irreplaceable resources were noted and actively discussed. A "Wetlands Symposium" will be held at Chula Vista Interpretive Center November 4, 3:00 P.M.

"Friends of Los Peñasquitos" membership letters mailed by Secretary Lynn Robinson have had a very good response: \$600 was received within a week of the first mailing.

A letter from Cal-Trans requesting mitigating suggestions for the planned intersection of Interstate 5 and 805 at Carmel Valley Road was discussed. Since the "Environmental Impact Statement" is not available, no input is possible at this time. There was also discussion of the flood plain fringe, which brought out the concern that the proposal by the City of San Diego would allow road building to occur in the Reserve. Further study of this issue is planned.

Chuck Spinks of the Technical Advisory Committee announced that Poway has been authorized to sell secondary treated waste water for irrigation. Most will be sold during the summer; any surplus will be released into dry streambeds.

A visitor, Jim Carnick, an Encinitas-based video producer, has offered to film a story on Los Peñasquitos Lagoon for local presentation.

Next meeting: September 14, Great American Savings public meeting room, Big Bear Shopping Center, Solana Beach.



*We must learn anew that we belong to the earth
and not the earth to us. --G. Tyler Miller, Jr.*

Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Parker Foster

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

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"As I walk the trail, the forest is making tracks upon me that will not be easily erased."

— Joseph Meeker
Wilderness

FOR

