



TORREYANA

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

No. 159

November 1988

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER



The November meeting of the Docent Society will feature the annual walk led by Chief Ranger Bob Wohl, following the business meeting and refreshments. Bob always provides special insights into places, plants, and activities on the Reserve that add to docents' background. After the walk, the committee planning the Christmas party will meet in the Lodge.

NEW BROCHURE PLANNED TO DESCRIBE TORREY PINES VOLUNTEER GROUPS

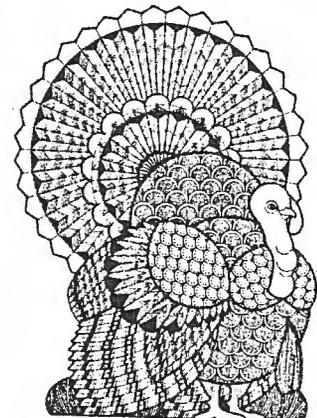
At an October meeting convened by Sally Spiess, president of Torrey Pines Association, representatives of the three volunteer groups actively concerned with Torrey Pines State Reserve discussed ways of clarifying some of the confusion currently existing about the groups' various purposes and activities. Representatives present, in addition to Sally, were: Parker Foster, president of Torrey Pines Docent Society; Lynn Robinson, Executive Secretary of Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation; and Frances Armstrong, vice president of TPA and Board member of the Foundation.

As a result of their discussion, a brochure will be prepared describing the focus of each group and including an application for membership in any one or all three of the groups. This brochure will be available to the public at the Lodge in the near future.

(For other news of Torrey Pines Association, see p.7 .)

HAVE A HAPPY

THANKSGIVING





Secretary's Notes by Patricia B. Foster

DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING OCTOBER 15, 1988

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

President's Announcements

President Parker Foster made the following announcements:

1. Docent trainee Jim Jackson has completed requirements to become a full-fledged docent.
2. The nominating committee to select next year's officers is: Ruth Cheney, Bob Amann, and Bill Anderson.
3. Maurie Brown has returned from a 4-months' leave of absence and will resume her position as duty coordinator in November.
4. Park Aide Cindy Dobler, assisted by Docent Judy Schulman, assembled the exhibit in the left northern corner of the Lodge. Cindy is also responsible for the outdoor board description of flowers and current park trivia.
5. Docents were reminded to consult the bulletin board in the docent room for announcements pertinent to business and social activities.
6. Thanks to Jared Aldern for the well-functioning video equipment.
7. Docents are welcome to attend the annual meeting of the All-Docent League Tuesday, November 15, 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the Maritime Museum.
8. Parker met with representative from Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation and Torrey Pines Association (see article, p.1).
9. Reservations for the Copper Canyon trip are coming in slowly.*

Other Announcements

Grace Martin asked for suggestions from docents for the committee planning the re-design of the sales area. She also reminded docents to wear green jackets on trail walks; a supply is available in the docent room closet or individual jackets may be purchased for \$13.65.

Judy Schulman reported the death of Joyce Evans, who was one of the original Lodge attendants in the late 1960's. Donations in her memory may be sent to the U. N. Association in Balboa Park.

Michael Fox reminded docents of upcoming Christmas party, which is traditionally hosted by new docents.

Program

Chris Platis spoke in place of Bob Wohl, who is on vacation (see article, p.6). He also emphasized that no bicycles should be allowed on the trail.

Claire Brey returned to give an excellent talk on the "Ecological Value of Retaining Native Plant Species," and led a walk to contrast conditions on the Parry Grove trail, where carpobrotus has taken over from native plants, with the Guy Fleming trail. Docents collected 14 bags of carpobrotus from the beginning right side of the Guy Fleming trail.

*REMINDER: LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR COPPER CANYON TRIP. CALL TODAY--453-7054.

Getting to Know You

DEL ROBERTS

After leaving Manhattan in 1972, Bob Margulies and I traveled for two years in a motor home across Canada, western United States, and Mexico looking for a better life-style. We found it in Del Mar. What a change for two advertising executives immersed in the pressures of city living! Since then, we've hiked trails around the world, soaking up nature. But Torrey Pines State Reserve remains our favorite retreat. Through Bob's three-year docent service, I came to know and appreciate how exceptional the Torrey Pines staff and docents are in their commitment to the Reserve. Now, as an official docent, my "tip-of-the-iceberg" knowledge is growing slowly, enriching each visit to the Reserve.

Besides enjoying Torrey Pines for the past 14 years, I spent four years as Community Relations Coordinator of the San Diego Blood Bank, then returned to Mira Costa College for my journalism degree. As a feature writer, I've been published in the *San Diego Union and Tribune*, and the *North County Explorer for San Diego Magazine*, reviewing restaurants. Right now I'm writing a book, *Camping Soviet Style*, about our experiences motor-homing through the Soviet Union.

* * * * *

DR. ELBERTA FLEMING

After 32 years as founder-director of the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Ohio,* I retired; and with my husband moved to San Diego to be near our two sons and their families. Retirement here meant a complete change, not only in life-style and housing, but also in the natural environment. It was a new world: the chaparral, mountains, desert, and the Pacific Ocean.

The first year here I worked as a graphics illustrator for the Cleveland National Forest. Also, since my first love is the marine environment, I led groups at Scripps Aquarium and gave talks in schools. Then I decided to return to college for an Associate Degree in art, which had been my college minor. After years of experience as a scientific illustrator, I was re-introduced to the field of fine art and art history.

An introduction to the beautiful and pristine Los Peñasquitos Canyon "Preserve" in 1978 led me to devote the past ten years towards saving this unique historical San Diego legacy. (Today the preserve's beauty is tarnished, as bulldozers destroy much of the natural environment and historical integrity.)

Under a California Council of Humanities Grant, I have developed a slide presentation on local history for fourth grade social studies in five communities. This involves a class presentation as well as a field trip in Los Peñasquitos Canyon.

Fortunately, Torrey Pines State Reserve has been saved by the foresight of Ellen Browning Scripps and many other individuals. I hope I will be able to convey my appreciation of this rare environment to our visitors from far and near.

*(In 1976 Elberta was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the College of Wooster, Ohio, in recognition of her development of this Center. In presenting her degree, the college president said, "Those who help the minds of children emerge in curiosity, in creativity, may shape the nation and direct our culture more than the senates and boards and the vast hurrah of orators.")



A WONDERFUL BIRD by Hank Nicol



I have been requested to make excerpts from some of my older stuff for the enlightenment of some of you newer docents. This is part of something I wrote in May, 1982.



We often see a line of pelicans cruising along the coast. They skim along riding the updrafts pushed ahead of the waves. The pelicans glide along until a wave breaks. Then each bird flaps its six or seven foot wings and drops back to catch the next wave. It's surfing without getting wet. Sometimes pelicans travel by catching the upcurrents along the cliffs. One day, when I was sitting in the park pickup, a pelican caught an updraft off the truck to help it along its way. When pelicans migrate, they soar to several thousand feet and glide from thermal to thermal to their destination.

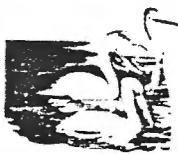
I speak, of course, about brown pelicans. There are from six to eleven other species, depending on which ornithologist you listen to. All other species fish while swimming along the surface of the water. It's sort of an aquatic rabbit drive. Brown pelicans dive for fish from 20 or 30 feet. The birds survive their dive bombing tactics by having air sacs under the skin to soften the blow. The sacs also help a pelican pop to the surface like a cork. Even a near miss can stun the prey. The pelican uses its pouch like a dip net to suck in the fish. The bird must surface, squeeze the water out of its pouch, then flip the the fish up to its bill to be swallowed. At this moment a Heerman's gull may try to steal the fish. These small gulls often settle in the water right next to pelicans. The gulls are gutsy thieves that even steal food from sea otters.



Courting pelicans don't put on a big show. A male stakes out some territory. He raises his wings and clacks his bill at an approaching female. If she doesn't retreat, he gets friendly. Then he flies away and comes back with some nesting material. If she accepts the gift, they are engaged. They show affection by touching wings and sparring with their long bills. They may mate in the water or at the nest site.

The male brings in sticks, and the female builds the nest in brush or on the ground. A nest may be from a foot and a half to two feet in diameter and four or five inches high. Construction takes about a week. The female lays two or three chalky white eggs which are somewhat larger than the average AA Large. The pair take turns sitting on the nest. The first egg hatches in about 30 days. The chick has no feathers and is the color of dried blood. The parents have to shade their naked offspring from the sun. The young pelican is too weak to hold up its head. It grunts, barks, and screams for food. It will probably never talk again. The red skin gradually turns black, and, on the third day, the chick's eyes open. In a week it is strong enough to sit up. In two weeks it develops pin feathers and begins to look like a pelican. In another week it will, at last, have a coat of down.

The Louisiana coat of arms has a pelican pecking its breast so that its young can feed on the blood. Heroic, but it doesn't work that way. A chick must take its food from its parent's pouch. Each chick needs about four pounds of fish a day. Since there are usually two or three young, the parents have a hard job supplying their offspring with regurgitated fish. A third chick will probably starve. In hard times even the second may not make it. A chick will puff up bigger than its parents before it can fly. A young pelican begins growing flight feathers at about three and a half weeks. At five weeks it can get out of the nest and move around. It makes its first attempts to fly when it's around ten weeks old. Its first takeoffs are clumsy, and its landings are belly flops. Before the season is over it will show the skills that almost make me believe the ornithologists who classify pelicans as cousins of the magnificent frigate bird.



Hank

Docent President's Notes by Parker Foster

It is that time of year again when we think of recognizing Torrey Pines docents who have done a particularly good job during the past several months. The top honor has always been "Docent of the Year," awarded to the volunteer who, in the Board's judgement, has contributed the most significant service during the year ending in December. We have had eleven people so honored in the past, nine of whom are still working with us and continuing to perform with distinction.

In addition to "Docent of the Year" we expect to recognize a few others who have made unusually fine contributions to the goals of the organization. Please let me know if you are aware of a deserving docent, since the unique work of some often goes unnoticed by many of the rest of us.

Thanks, and best wishes for the happy holiday season which is fast approaching. (New docents, don't forget to plan for the Christmas party in December!)



TUMBLEWEED A TASTY TREAT FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER?

Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*), better known as tumbleweed, exists in the Reserve, much to the dislike of many. It can be seen in its pre-tumble stage right now along the ocean side of the Guy Fleming trail, for one. It's a nasty nuisance when it dries into a prickly grey ball and rolls along roads and fields, spreading seeds as it goes. But if picked when young and tender, it has many edible possibilities. (Maybe you could get permission to remove some from the Reserve, as recommended by last month's speaker, Claire Brey.)

The Indians boiled and ate the early shoots chopped raw in salads or with butter. Tender branch tips can be clipped from older plants and used, too. Russian thistle is related to spinach and may be made into soups and added to other dishes, as you might do with celery. So says Charlotte Clarke, author of *Edible and Useful Plants of California* (U. CA. Press, Berkeley, 1977). She offers the following recipe, which should make your dinner guests sit up and take notice, if not second helpings:

Creamed Tumbleweed

1/4 c. butter or bacon fat	1/2 c boiling water
2 qts tender tumbleweed stems and leaves, cut up	1/2 c light cream or half and half
1 tsp salt	1/8 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp basil leaves	

Heat butter or bacon fat in skillet or heavy saucepan, add tumbleweed, salt, basil, and boiling water. Cover and cook until tender. Add cream and pepper and serve at once. Serves 4-6.

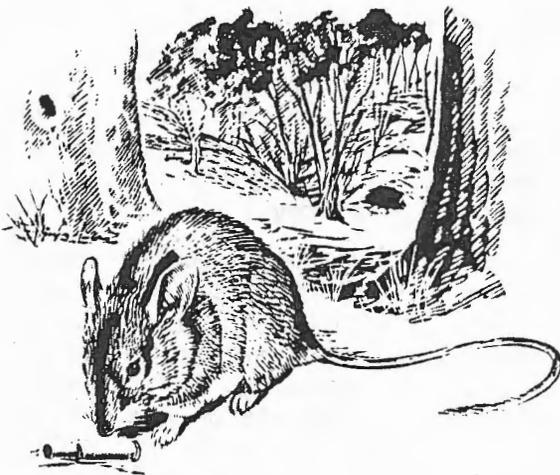


Report from the Ranger

Where is the highest point in the State Park system? What are the three largest State Parks? Where is the longest trail in a unit of the State Park system? These and 119 other questions (and their answers) appear in a booklet, *Super Trivia about the California State Park System*, which Ranger Chris Platis described to the docents at their last general meeting. The booklet was prepared by Jim Woodward and published in 1985 by the California State Park Rangers Association, P.O. 283666, Sacramento, CA 95828. (If you can't wait to get a copy, see p.8 of the *Torreyana* for answers to the three questions above.)

Other background information about programs, groups, and equipment associated with State Parks is in another booklet entitled *Bear Facts: A Field Guide to Interpretation*, which was compiled by the State Park Interpretive Committee (\$2.00 from the Office of Interpretive Services, 1280 Terminal, West Sacramento, CA 95691). Among the facts is an outline of the park docent program and a definition of docents: "non-paid interpreters of cultural, natural, and recreational resources"--just in case you didn't know. Also listed are "Gimmicks and Gadgets for a Naturalist's Knapsack," including a waterproof notebook, twine or string for geologic time lines and size comparisons of large animals like whales, large plastic garbage or litter bags, and penlight or flashlight for probing tree and rock cavities and animal burrows.

Local trivia: Park Aide Laurie Hollis, who arrived this summer, will be here weekends this winter fulfilling duties formerly handled by the late "Sarge" Walker. . . . Jim Serpa has developed a new slide show focusing on general orientation to Torrey Pines State Reserve. It should be ready to show to the public soon. . . . Also a supply of the new trail maps is on order and should be available soon.



WOOD RAT FOILS ROBBERS

Have you heard the story about the wood rat in Torrey Pines Extension who took the shiny spoils hidden by jewel thieves--apparently not too well--in that area? Someone investigating the rat's nest discovered the jewels and turned them over to the police. The price ticket was estimated at \$10,000. . . .What we don't know is: did the wood rat get a reward or a replacement for the glittering items that were *stolen* from him?

The day becomes more solemn and serene
 When noon is past--there is a harmony
 In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,
 Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
 As if it could not be, as if it had not been!
 --Shelley

TPA Topics

Peter Lucic, Torrey Pines Association membership chairman, is preparing a membership brochure for this organization. This will be separate from the new brochure describing the three volunteer groups associated with the Reserve. . . . Marc Gittelsohn has agreed to be TPA correspondent. . . . John Shelton, treasurer and head of the Book Committee, recently brought the group up to date on the progress of the "coffee table" book describing the Reserve in pictures and text that the Association is preparing. More news will be forthcoming as the book progresses. . . . Counselors of TPA will meet in the Lodge docent room at 9:30 a.m. Friday, November 11--please note the new meeting time.



News and Notes

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Bill and Denise Brothers became parents in October. A boy, Kevin Andrew, arrived at 4:20 a.m. Friday, October 7. He weighed in at 8 lbs 12 oz. Herewith an invitation to the Christmas party so all the docents can have a peek.



* * * * *

NOTE FROM THE NORTH

Valerie DePrez writes from Klamath Falls, where she and her husband moved last month to take advantage of a good job offer for him: "I do regret having to leave the Docent Society when I was just getting into the swing of things and making friends. I am grateful, though, for the time I did have with all of you--not to mention the wonderful experience getting to 'know' the chaparral and coastal sage scrub and the beautiful Torrey pines. . . . I'm getting used to life in a desert escarpment town. It's very pretty, with rugged mountains to the west and dry foothills to the east. Quite different from anything I experienced in central Illinois or southern California."

* * * * *

THANKS FOR GOOD FOOD

In this month of Thanksgiving, Georgette Camporini, hospitality chairman, feels it is appropriate to say thanks to all the docents who have contributed breads, cookies, cakes, and other goodies to the refreshments at our monthly meetings. (Don't worry if you haven't been asked yet--you will be!) Contributors to date are: Marge and Bob Amann, Margaret and Pete Bardwick, Patricia Bransford, Bill Brothers, Maurie Brown, Isabel Buechler, Judy Carlstrom, Ruth Cheney, Joan and Jack Cannon, Valerie DePrez, Walter Desmond, Christine Dittmar, Jeanne and Glenn Dunham, Pat and Parker Foster, Marc Gittelsohn, Millie Horger, Joan Jollett, Wolfgang Koessler, Jo Kiernan, Grace Martin, Deborah Mauro, W. J. Morrison, Elizabeth Nicoloff, Judy Schulman, Jean and Herb Swanson, Jane and Bob Talbert.

Special thanks also goes to Hank Nicol, who sent over two very large, delicious homemade apple pies for the September meeting.



INTERPRETING TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE FOR THE NATION



What do visitors from Alaska, Hawaii, the East coast, and the Middle West want to know when they visit Torrey Pines State Reserve? Forty members of the National Association of Interpreters from all parts of the United States came for three hours Wednesday, October 26, to look, listen, and ask questions that varied a little from those asked by local residents.

Probably the most frequently-asked question (after you-know-what) was: "How much rain do you have a year?" They also wanted to know what other units in the California park system were categorized as reserves and for what reasons, as well as the more usual questions about our famous and unique tree. Answering their questions were Ranger Chris Platis, who welcomed the group; Docent President Parker Foster, who prepared coffee for them; Docent Jane Talbert, who supervised the Lodge during their visit; and three docents who led separate walks in the Reserve: Elberta Fleming on the favorite trail to Razor Point; Bob Talbert in Parry Grove; and Marion Dixon on the Guy Fleming Trail. The effects of our drought didn't seem to diminish the visitors' enthusiasm for the beauties of the area. The Razor Point group were especially thrilled by long sightings of an osprey, a kestrel, and several red-tailed hawks, and a glimpse of a migrating hermit thrush. Everyone was treated to the unusual spectacle of a flock of robins passing overhead at the Lodge while introductions were going on.

The visitors also saw the first showing of the new slide show prepared by Park Aide Jim Serpa, which is an excellent orientation to the Reserve and will shortly be available to the general public, perhaps with some introductory additions.

Members of the Interpreters organization include teachers, museum staff, rangers, volunteers, historians, naturalists, and interpretive consultants. Six hundred of them congregated in San Diego for a three-day workshop, of which the Wednesday program listed 12 different field trips, following lectures and discussions the two previous days on all facets of interpretation.

ANSWERS TO "TRIVIA" QUESTIONS (p. 6)

1. San Jacinto peak, 10,804 feet, in Mount San Jacinto State Park.
2. Anza-Borrego Desert (550,000 acres); Henry W. Coe (67,000 acres); Humboldt Redwoods (51,000 acres).
3. Anza Sky Trail over Anza-Borrego State Park, about 170 miles long.



After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on--have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear--what remains? Nature remains.

--Walt Whitman



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

LOS PENASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie LaGrange

At the meeting October 13, Emily Durbin presented Proposition "B", the Sensitive Lands and Growth Control Measure which will affect unincorporated areas of San Diego County. Emily urged the Lagoon Foundation Board to favor this measure, which has been approved by county supervisors and which will be more easily and quickly implemented than Proposition "D," which is similar but may encounter numerous legislative delays. A motion was passed approving a public statement of support for Proposition "B" by the Lagoon Foundation Board.*

Pending lagoon enhancement plans were described by Joan Jackson and members of the Technical Advisory Committee. Following a committee meeting in September, a work schedule was prepared for opening the lagoon mouth beginning the week of October 24.

Next Lagoon Foundation meeting: 7:00 P.M., November 9, 1988, at Great American Savings, Big Bear shopping center, Solana Beach.

(*Torrey Pines Docent Society as a state supported organization does not take political stands.)

DUTY CALENDAR

HOURS: WEEKDAYS, 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. WEEKENDS: LODGE, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. & 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
WALK, 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. & 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER

DUTY COORDINATOR, MAURIE BROWN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 MORRISON	2 MARGULIES	3 GITTELSON	4 HUMPHREYS	5 L - KIERNAN W - ROBERTS L - VIOLI W -
6 L - ANDERSON W - JOLLETT L - CARLSTROM W - HORGER	7 TALBERT, J. TALBERT, B	8 MARTIN	9 MARGULIES	10 HUMPHREYS	11 NICOLOFF	12 L - SWANSON W - SWANSON L - KOOYMAN W - TAYLOR
13 L - SCHULMAN W - L - W - DIXON	14	15 BARDWICK	16 FOSTER, P.V.	17 GITTELSON	18 NICOLOFF	19 L - KIERNAN W - ROBERTS L - LUCIC W - SCHULMAN
20 L - MORRISON W - ANDERSON L - W -	21 TALBERT, J. TALBERT, B	22 MARTIN	23 MARGULIES	24 HOLIDAY L - LUCIC 11-2 PM L - 1-4 PM	25 L - 11-2PM L - 1-4 PM	26 L - W - CARLSTROM L - W - VIOLI
27 L - MORRISON W - FLEMING L - W - DIXON	28 AMMAN, B. AMMAN, M.	29 MORRISON	30 FOSTER, Pat	The telephone number for Maurie Brown should be 755-0602, but at the time the Torreyana had to be printed, the phone was not yet installed. If you have any difficulty getting through to that number, please call Grace at 452-1176.		

Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Parker Foster

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

Marion Dixon
2355 Avenida de la Playa
La Jolla, CA 92037
Phone: 454-5511

Staff: Isabel Buechler,
Georgette Camporini, Grace
Martin.

The Bird Guide Was No Help

Branches gray-frame
White bird
Stalking water still unmisted.
Quiet, quick, I
Raise the glass and--
Gone! down the long pond,
mystery, wonder,
grace unlisted.

--B. C. Auchincloss

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



FOR

