



# TORREYANA

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

No. 164

April 1989

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

This meeting combines our monthly general meeting with the second training session for new docents. Dick Edwards, our regional interpretive specialist, will be the featured speaker. After refreshments, docents are asked to share their own nature walk techniques in the following categories: (1) visual aids or equipment used to accompany walks (e.g., magnifying glass, bird cards--please bring whatever you use); (2) your favorite places to stop on the trail and why (e.g., the overlook on Parry Grove trail, a good place to rest and talk about seashore life); (3) stops that are especially appealing to children (e.g., harlequin bugs on bladder pods); (4) anecdotes about unexpected happenings on the trail and how you handled them; (5) anything else you think is relevant to walks not covered above--Lodge interpretation will be covered in the last training session. Judy Carlstrom, vice president in charge of programs, urges docents to come and contribute their ideas and knowledge. (See p. 7 for training session schedule.)

## *Docent President's Notes* by Michael Fox

Thank you all for the great turnout for our March outing. I must say that my first meeting as president was a moving experience! I'm very glad the day turned out so well--the Borrego docents were fantastic hosts. I look forward to our hosting their group here at Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Next month we will have an opportunity to meet and greet our newest class of docent trainees, who will be enjoying their second training session. At this writing we have 16 people signed up for the 1989 class and at least four others expected to attend.

Please consider bringing some ideas or suggestions with you to the April meeting that you would like addressed by the Board of Directors. I think that our experience in Borrego may have helped provide some interesting observations of a very well organized and dedicated docent group.

DOCENTS NEEDED FOR DUTY IN APRIL, ESPECIALLY SUNDAYS. CHECK CALENDAR, p. 7!!!!!!!

## News and Notes

### WILDFLOWER HOT LINE

Want to know what's blooming where in California? You can call the wildflower hot line (818-768-3533) at the Theodore Payne Foundation, 10459 Tuxford Street in Sun Valley, California, 24 hours a day from March through May. Torrey Pines is included in the list of parks and other wildflower sites covered by the message. This Foundation is the organization that publishes the informative wildflower calendar carried last year in the TPDS shop. The Foundation also maintains a 21-acre facility with a nursery selling nearly 500 species of native shrubs, trees, and flowers; a library, bookstore, seed room, picnic ground, and walking trails.



### APRIL DAYS TO REMEMBER

Observe a moment of silence on April 21, the birthday in 1838 of the great naturalist, John Muir. Born in Dunbar, Scotland, John came to the United States (Wisconsin) with his parents in 1849. . . . On April 8, pause to appreciate a poppy, because this is "Poppy Day," in honor of California's golden bloom (not the red poppy which used to be sold to commemorate veterans' day). A special celebration of Poppy Day is held at the Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, CA (see above).

### PUBLICITY BRINGS VISITORS

If you've been asked by recent visitors to the Reserve where the burn was along Broken Hill Trail, you can be sure they've been reading the March issue of *Sunset* magazine. The March issue described wildflower walks throughout California, including Torrey Pines (p. 94). Some readers mistook photos of flower-covered sites accompanying the article for spots in the Reserve and were disappointed that the blooms weren't as profuse as pictured. Perhaps late March showers will produce more satisfying April flowers.

### NOTES FROM TPA MEMBERS IN INDIANA

Dottie Hammel writes from Bloomington, Indiana, that she and her husband, Ted, long-time Torrey Pines Association members, continue to read the *Torreyana* "with much interest and happy memories of Torrey Pines Park. It was our retreat into nature for twenty years." She observes--correctly--that "the docents, park rangers, and Association must have to work even harder to maintain the Torrey area as a natural setting (so many more people, too much smog!)" . . . . Lest readers think San Diego is the only place where one could have a beautiful natural setting, Dottie writes, "We're happy in retirement in Southern Indiana. Lots of green trees (100' high) and 50 species of wildflowers in our own back yard!"

### TORREY PINES LODGE IN LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAY

Photographs of San Diego History displayed on the meeting room walls of La Jolla's attractive new library on Draper Avenue include one of Torrey Pines Lodge circa 1930. The building looks sun-drenched and stark, with only one tree peeking out in the background and a minimum of plantings in front--so as to leave lots of room for the buses? What a surprise today's tree-hidden building with its frontage of native shrubbery and cacti will be for those who have seen only this picture before visiting the real thing.

*Sign on an ecology T-shirt: Urban sprawl is the forest's prime evil.*

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT BORREGO SPRINGS



*Observing giant skull*

Highlight of the Torrey Pines Docent Society visit March 18 to the Anza-Borrego State Park was the visit to the Stout Paleontology Laboratory, hitherto unknown to most of us. Docents were awe-struck by the sight of a 1500-pound skull of a mammoth and its 11½ foot tusk. The skull, estimated to be from 300,000 to 500,000 years old, was found a year ago and required a helicopter to lift it from its original site to the lab.

The lab was donated to the Park by Betty and Charles Stout, who moved to the area in 1968. Betty now volunteers with the paleontologists who go on digs in the Borrego "Bad Lands," and she spoke briefly to our group. She told us that deer, camel, giant horses, wolves, sloths, and beaver "as tall as a man" were among the animals once roaming the then-rainy valley since covered by sediment formed by a delta of the Colorado River.

Mark Jorgensen, park naturalist, also spoke to the group in the Daniel Lab at the Visitor Center, where an additional assortment of animal artefacts is on display, including the skull of a giant zebra. Mark noted that Guy Fleming was among those responsible for the original concept of a state park in the desert. Anza-Borrego was established in 1933 and now covers 600,000 acres. The Visitor Center alone has 120,000 visitors a year. The "borrego," which is the name for the bighorn sheep native to the area, has been reduced to about 500 individuals in the United States, but the Park is making efforts to prevent their elimination. Among the reasons for preserving the unique ecosystem in Anza-Borrego is the fact that it is home to over 200 species of birds (among them the rare Bell's vireo), as well as to mountain lions, their presence mainly indicated by kills of sheep and deer. Evidence of prehistoric animal life goes back hundreds of thousands of years, but humans have been documented in the area for only 12,000 years so far.

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### *Report from the Ranger*

Glen Omvig is back at TPRS to continue with exotic plant removal. Docents are asked to help Glen on a one-to-one basis. Time spent in this activity will count toward monthly duty requirements. . . . Maury Morningstar finished his month of field work at the Reserve in March and will be replaced in April by Mary Gann, former Park Aide. Both Maury and Mary are recent ranger academy graduates working through their training requirement of a month at each district park. . . . Things should look a little brighter in the Visitor Center soon. Forty-two track lights had been installed by Easter Sunday and were due to go into operation shortly.



*In April Rome was founded; Shakespeare died;  
The shot whose sound rang out from Concord town  
And brought an avalanche of echoes down  
Shaking all thrones of tyranny and pride  
Was fired in April; Sumter far and wide  
Lifted a voice the years will never drown;  
'Twas April when they laid the martyr's crown  
on Lincoln's brow.*

--Samuel Cole



NOTES FROM A NURSERMAN (continued from p.5)

Julian, Pine Valley, and Palomar mountain, but they make their own neighborhoods look like deserts or rural slums. They don't have to, and trees are the answer. Another of my neighbors has eight Canary Island pines in his ordinary-sized front yard. Among them he has a magnificent California sycamore. It sounds crowded, but it looks as though he were living out in the woods. We could all have houses that look as if they belonged in Julian.

Plant trees!

Hank



*Editor's note: Hank's advice used to be followed every April on Arbor Day, celebrated on different dates throughout the country. It was first observed on April 10 in Nebraska and is a legal holiday there on April 22 and in Utah on the last Friday in April. Lately on the local scene tree-planting for Arbor Day has either diminished or been less publicized, but recent articles on the use of trees in climate modification may bring this observance back into popularity. The Los Angeles Times recently noted that many research organizations claim that a large tree can be equivalent to five air conditioning units. Just think how that would lower electricity costs, let alone the obvious enhancement of the landscape. Docents might remind their nature walkers of the value of trees at home as well as on the Reserve.*

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***Along our Bloomin' Trails***

On Easter Sunday the floral display in the Reserve was well worth a look, though not up to standard. However, the Indian paintbrush looks particularly profuse this year, and deerweed seems not to have suffered from the drought. Pearly everlasting and golden yarrow were ready to burst into bloom and should be at their height by mid-April. Some mojave yucca is heavy with cream and purple blooms, and several stands of purple nightshade are trail-stoppers. Miniature forget-me-nots and groundsel look tinier than usual but are carpeting some of the banks. Sierra shooting stars had appeared in their little niche on the north side of the Guy Fleming trail, and bladder pod and bush poppy were bright with yellow blossoms. Sea dahlia and bush sunflower are both doing reasonably well. Brodiaea, ground pinks, four o'clocks, a little lupine and phacelia, and many smaller-than-usual California poppies were all in evidence. Of course, the stock is flowering its head off, making new seeds for further invasion of native plant territory. . . . To add to the joy of a walk on a day when the air was fresh from the rain and the sky a robin's egg blue, a half-grown cottontail bunny appeared by the trail, staying motionless for at least five minutes while a busy squirrel nearby buried something white, ate some chicory leaves, and in a flash chewed the heads off two poppies. And we thought squirrels existed chiefly on nuts!

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CALLING ALL READERS

Do you have any experiences with mockingbirds you'd like to share? April and May are the months when these songsters shatter sleep with their musical outbursts. They will also be nesting and becoming feistily protective of their young. In the *Torreyana* for May 1988 we told you about the mockingbirds' behavior and characteristics in general. Now we'd like to hear your particulars and print them in a future issue. Send them to the editor (address last page).



NOTES FROM A NURSERMAN by Hank Nicol

It's a good thing I'm not working on a commission. I always thought I could sell something I really believed in. I believe in deciduous trees. I like them because they shade my house all summer and because they drop their leaves and let the sun warm my house in the winter. But can I sell deciduous trees? Everybody seems to want a tree that doesn't lose its leaves. They don't want to rake leaves. In vain I tell people that evergreens lose their leaves too. A bristlecone pine may hold its needles for 30 years, but it does lose them. Pines drop whatever leaves they are going to lose for the year all at once during some summer storm. Broad-leaf evergreens dribble leaves all summer long. Talk about raking leaves! One of my regular morning chores as a ranger at Benicia Capitol State Historic Park was to rake up under a 100-year-old magnolia. Evergreen elm, ash, and pear are not evergreen at all. You could call them "briefly deciduous"--and then only in mild climates like ours.

The next thing people state on their list of wants and desires after evergreens is for something that is always in flower. I tell them the plastic plants are inside. People seem to want plants to look the same all year long. Personally, I like to see change. I think cottonwoods in transition from dark green summer clothing to winter nakedness are beautiful. To me, Lombardy poplars look more picturesque in winter than in summer.

I don't hike around Torrey Pines much any more. My walks are through the tames of Mira Mesa. It's good for me. It's good for the beagle. I study the un-natural history in front yards. By now, I think I've earned my D.L.A. (Dilettantship in Landscape Architecture), and I've formed a few opinions. Chief among them is that many trees, maybe most, look better when massed. We all know that the Torrey pine looks better in groups. This is also particularly true of the melaleuca known as the "Cajeput" tree. Why this Australian tree has a Malay name is beyond me. One of them alone is nothing much, but a yard with three, or five, or seven is a knockout. Of course, I'm prejudiced. This "paperbark" always reminds me of a very pleasant day with some very pleasant company along the Hawkesbury River just north of Sydney.



One of my neighbors has planted his yard completely full of sweet gums. It looks very woody. A lot of palm trees have been planted around San Diego. The rule seems to be one yard, one tree. Usually it's a top heavy Mexican fan palm towering over the house. I've seen a couple of yards where palms were done right. One is lined with six Mexican fan palms with windmill palms in the middle. Another has one Mexican fan palm about 35 feet high. Right next to it are two more about 20 feet tall. A few feet away the owner has planted a clump of three queen palms. Palms don't throw much shade, but this little oasis shows promise.

Most of the citizens of San Diego seem to hate trees. They love trees that don't reach the eaves of their houses. If a tree should grow taller than the house, it gets topped. Wouldn't want any shade, would we? Most of this topping is paranoia. "The tree might fall on my house." Topping a tree usually invites disease which almost guarantees the tree will break. Some trees are meant to grow straight up, anyway. A beheaded sweet gum never looks right. A topped silk oak is thoroughly uglified. People admire the settings of the houses around

(continued on p. 4)

SERENDIPITY SOUTH OF THE BORDER by Pat and Parker Foster



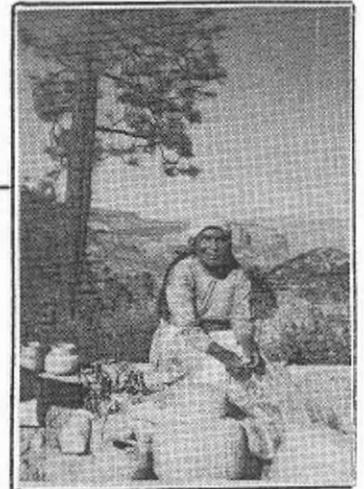
The second week in March was an exciting time for the three Torrey Pines docents who ventured on the long-awaited Copper Canyon trip. Fellow volunteers who made this trip previously will easily understand our enthusiasm for the unique experience it offered. Marion Dixon joined the authors to start their journey at the Tijuana airport March 10, returning there March 16.

The rail trip through the Mexican states of Sinaloa and Chihuahua surely lived up to its reputation as one of the western hemispheres most exciting trail rides. A series of high bridges, long tunnels, and expansive

vistas contributed to an unforgettable experience.

The accommodations arranged for us along the train route were at delightful small hotels at Posada Barrancas and Cerocahui. The latter was in an especially appealing village of fewer than 2,000 people, almost totally isolated from the vicissitudes of the outside world. Cerocahui is set in a small valley dotted with apple and peach trees just starting to bloom and surrounded by the mountain tops of the Sierra Madre range, a bucolic setting of the first magnitude. The occasional periods of being without water or electricity at these hotels were far outweighed by the charm and solitude, and most especially by the genuine friendliness of their Mexican staffs. Speaking of water, we had no problems from drinking it—at least all three of us came home just as healthy as when we left.

The Tarahumara Indian women (although not many men) are in evidence throughout the mountains. Nearly always the woman had a baby strapped to her back and often a small child or two in tow. The Tarahumaras represent an unusual Indian group admired for maintaining their relatively primitive culture virtually intact throughout the generations. They are said to be the last of the cave dwellers. We had the opportunity to visit two of these caves, each built into the limestone rock. One cave was actually directly under a massive boulder. Inside it was dark and musty, but a fire glowed from a crude metal stove where tortillas were being cooked. We were told that 10 children lived in this space which was no larger than a small bedroom in one of our typical development homes. Three of these children less than five years old were playing on the road, totally unconcerned that their play area bordered a sheer drop of a half-mile or more into the canyon.



*A Tarahumara Indian with her baskets of soto.*

The train ride which began at Los Mochis at sea level and went to the upper reaches of the mountains at 7,000 feet or so provided a great opportunity to view a variety of flora, much of it in colorful bloom. The lower altitudes produced a semi-desert plant community. As the altitude increased, the cacti gradually blended into small pine and oak forest and finally into forests with significant stands of ponderosa pines.

Near each of the mountain-top hotels wooded trails provided ample opportunity to expand one's knowledge of plants and birds. Madrone, manzanita, century plant and lupines, among other wildflowers, were in abundance. One walk in particular, close to the Cerocahui hotel (La Misión), made one think of a gigantic Guy Fleming trail with many pine trees (a 4-needle type) approximately the size of small Torrey pines growing out of inhospitable rocky soil. Hawks and vultures were numerous.

The trip was definitely most successful, and we would highly recommend it to anyone ready for a little adventure and a willingness to experience something hard to duplicate anywhere in the world.



DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS, 1989

All sessions will begin at 9:00 A.M. at the Visitor Center in the Reserve.

- I. April 8 Registration and introduction to the State Park System, Chief Ranger Bob Wohl.  
Introduction to docent society, President Michael Fox.  
Refreshments and hike.
- II. April 15 Interpretive techniques, Dick Edwards, regional interpretive specialist.  
  
This training session is combined with the regular monthly meeting of the docent society. Following refreshments, docents will share their individual techniques and equipment used on walks (see meeting announcement, p. 1).
- III. April 22 Plant knowledge, Bill Brothers. Lecture and hike.
- IV. April 29 History of the Reserve from the time of the Indians to the present, Judy Schulman. Lecture and hike.
- V. May 6 Geology of the Reserve, Dr. Richard Phillips, University of San Diego. Lecture and hike.
- VI. May 13 Working the Lodge, Melba Kooyman.  
General wrap-up. Take-home exam.



APRIL DUTY CALENDAR

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<div style="font-size: small;">                     March 1989                      S M T W T F S                      1 2 3 4                      5 6 7 8 9 10 11                      12 13 14 15 16 17 18                      19 20 21 22 23 24 25                      26 27 28 29 30 31                 </div>	<div style="font-size: small;">                     May 1989                      S M T W T F S                      1 2 3 4 5 6                      7 8 9 10 11 12 13                      14 15 16 17 18 19 20                      21 22 23 24 25 26 27                      28 29 30 31                 </div>					1 FOSTER, PV LUCIC BUECHLER HORGER
L W L W	2 LUCIC  DIXON	3 R. TALBERT J. TALBERT	4 MARTIN	5 MARGULIES	6 GITTELSON	7 PAT FOSTER	8 TAYLOR ROBERTS CHENEY TAYLOR
L W L W	9 HORGER	10	11 MARTIN	12 MARGULIES	13 GITTELSON	14 NICOLOFF	15 KIERNAN BROWN SWANSON SWANSON
L W L W	16 MORRISON JOLLETT DUNHAM DUNHAM	17 R. TALBERT J. TALBERT	18 MARTIN	19 MARGULIES	20 GITTELSON	21 GARTLAND	22 SWANSON SWANSON J. MORROW C. MORROW
L W L W	23 MORRISON  BUECHLER DIXON	24 MARINE	25 MORRISON	26	27 M. AMANN B. AMANN	28 NICOLOFF	29 C. MORROW J. MORROW CHENEY ROBERTS

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Note: Georgette Camporini will be away the first half of April., Please call Maurie Brown, 755-0602, with changes or additions.

Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Michael Fox

Deadline for Torreyana copy  
is the 24th of each month.  
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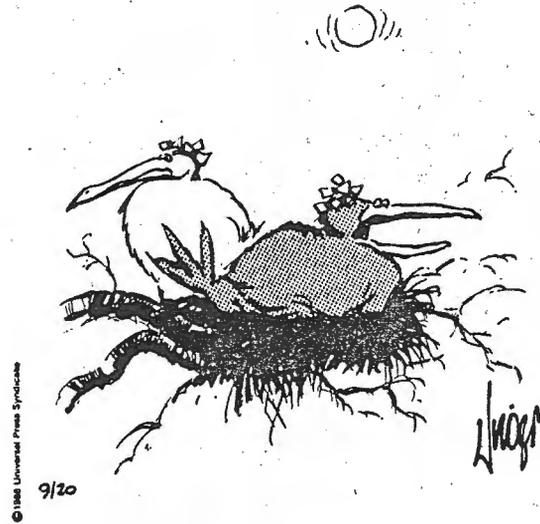
Staff: Isabel Buechler,  
Georgette Camporini, Del.  
Roberts, Bob Marquies.

*Life's sweetest joys are hidden  
In unsubstantial things;  
An April rain, a fragrance,  
A vision of blue wings.*

--May Riley

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
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Carlsbad, CA 92008

**HERMAN** By Unger



"They're all the same. . . . As soon as I laid the  
egg, he was off."

FOR

