



TORREYANA

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

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October 1989

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

In the wake of our concern with decomposable coffee cups, our attentions will be focused on the general problems of recycling. Speaker Robert Opliger will present a slide show and information on "Recycling: A Grass Roots Movement--and How It Helps the Environment." The speaker represents the San Diego Ecology Centre, a non-profit, non-political organization founded in 1971. He will bring brochures, guides, and newsletters to assist you in getting personally involved in helping to solve this global problem. A question and answer period will be included. Following our new program format, the business meeting will start promptly at 9:00 A.M., followed by refreshments and the speaker.

NEW LOOK AT THE LODGE

Visitors seem attracted to the new bookshelves which were installed in September, completing the remodeling of the Lodge information and sales area. Docent Jeanne Heller sits on duty at the desk right inside the front door where persons entering can't miss her. Low top cabinets provide both display and storage space.

The project was funded by the Docent Society, with the exception of the formica finishing material, which matches the other display units and was provided by the State. The former bulky sales and book display furniture was moved to a new home in Old Town.



Docent Doings

NEW FULL DOCENTS

At the September meeting of the Docent Society, President Michael Fox announced that the following trainees had achieved full docent status: Marvin Davis, Kathy Estey, Dorothy Green, Denise Holcomb, Carol Lewis, Sharon Liu, and Diane Sachs. This makes 11 out of the 27 trainees who have completed their training so far this year. (Editor's note: All new full docents who have not yet done so are invited to submit several paragraphs about themselves for the Torreya's "Getting To Know You" section. Call the editor at 454-5511 if you have questions about what to include. Mail to address on back of newsletter.)

CHANGES TO NOTE

The Docent Society has agreed to change its coffee cups from styrofoam to paper, which has an acceptable decomposition rate or perhaps can be recycled. Members preferring to use china mugs can bring their own. Ecological information about how to dispose of various materials and their decomposition rates was made available at the September meeting by Jeanne Dunham. . . . New car stickers identifying members' cars for free parking in the Reserve will replace the pine tree in the center of the sticker with the year of issue. The new stickers will be available on payment of dues in January 1990.

SPECIAL WALKS FOR DOCENTS

President Michael Fox has asked docents who wish additional training to join him on his scheduled walk Saturday, October 7, at 1:30 P.M., which will take place on the Guy Fleming trail. . . . For an update on tidepools, Michael will lead a walk to the Beach and Flat Rock Sunday, November 12, at 1:30 P.M., when the low tide will reach -1.6 feet. Both walks will start at the Lodge.

WALKING SAN DIEGO PUBLISHED THIS MONTH

Supporting docent Barbara Moore announces the publication of *Walking San Diego: Where To Go To Get Away from It All and What To Do When You Get There*, by The Mountaineers Books of Seattle. It took nearly two years for Barbara and her co-author, Lonnie Hewitt, to walk, research, and write the 105 routes described in the 240-page paperback guidebook.



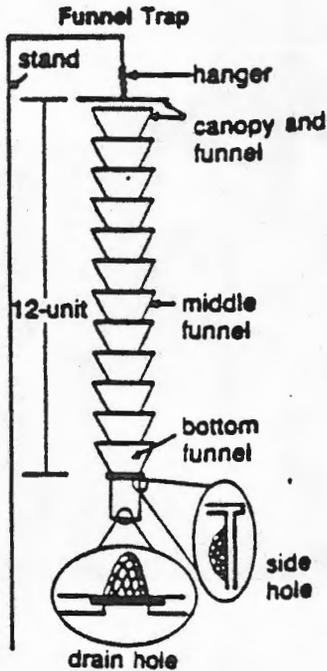
Designed for the casual walker who seeks a quick get-away from the hustle and bustle of urban living, all of the walks are about an hour's drive from downtown San Diego. Many docents have followed Barbara on her nature class walks through the area.

Sections on native plants, San Diego history, tips on what to wear and bring, nature activities, and where to find the best tidepooling, birding, and whalewatching are included. There are 40 maps, 26 line drawings of reptiles and plants, and over 60 photographs.

Of special interest to docents: the "I" in the title is dotted with a monkey flower from the Torreya Pines slide collection, and there is an exclusive photo of a bobcat peeking out of the lemonadeberry bush near the Lodge.

The book will be available at local bookstores, including the one at TPRS.

BARK BEETLES: WHAT TO DO NEXT?



For several weeks, a number of strange black objects consisting of a long series of metal cones hung or stood in several places in the Reserve, inviting more questions from visitors than the location of the rest rooms. These puzzling "sculptures" were actually traps designed to lure bark beetles. The project in our park was directed by Dr. Timothy Paine, an entomologist from the University of California at Riverside, working in cooperation with Bill Tippetts, Regional Resource Ecologist for the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

The traps were baited with two types of pheromones (sex attracting chemicals), one to lure *Ips paraconfusus*, the beetle which has been devastating the Torrey pines, the other to attract *Ips pinii*, another type of bark beetle. Thousands of the former were captured (and killed by an insecticide at the bottom of the traps). No *Ips pinii* were found.

Because the pheromone used for *Ips pinii* is also an anti-attractant for *Ips paraconfusus*, the question under consideration at present is whether to use it to repel the latter from the area, or to use an attractant to reduce the number of these beetles in the area, or a combination of both.

When a decision is reached, we'll let you know what the trapping plan is.

Docent President's Notes by Michael Fox

It was a real pleasure to see the great turnout for our September meeting! Hope to see you all in October.

Quite a few people expressed concern to me that our scheduling of guest speakers may not be considerate to the speaker, since it has appeared as though we keep the person waiting until our business meeting is concluded. I appreciate the suggestions made to me for improving this situation. What I try to do with scheduling the speaker is to allow for at least one hour of business meeting and 20 minutes of refreshment break before the speaker is due. This allows us to carry out the necessary functions of the organization as well as maintain continuity between the talk and any other related function, such as a nature walk. If things go as planned, we get a chance to visit with the guest during the break and many times help to set up special aids as needed for the presentation. Sometimes the speaker prefers to join us for the whole meeting rather than waiting for our break to show up. In any event, I want everyone to know that we are doing the best we can to maintain an orderly, considerate schedule.

But sometimes. . .so go the best laid plans of mice and men--and docents.

Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire.

—Anatole France



VOWS AMID BOUGHS

Dozens of couples are married in Torrey Pines State Reserve each year. Why do they choose this location? One answer was provided in a little speech by the groom at an August 13 ceremony at the Parry Grove overlook.

Ed Barber said that he and his bride, Winnie Willis, chose the Reserve not only because it was a favorite spot but because the harmonious relationship between the pine and the sandstone was symbolic of their relationship.

Appropriately, the bride's bouquet of lilies and roses was nestled in green pine branches—not from the Reserve, she assured us. Like many other couples who are married here, Ed and Winnie chose to wear traditional wedding costumes in spite of the non-traditional setting.



Report from the Ranger

Improving the Lagoon Habitat: In mid-September the California Department of Parks and Recreation installed culvert pipes under the North Beach parking lot access road. This will permit lagoon water to enter a four-acre portion of salt marsh which has been isolated from the main lagoon for many years, thus improving the habitat for salt marsh plants and animals.

TPSR Visitors Increase: Revenues skyrocketed this summer as the attendance at TPSR increased sharply over the past several summers. Our sunny weather may have been partly responsible—1987 and 1988 were relatively cloudy. Or perhaps our crowds merely reflect the increase in the population of San Diego County.

New Student Interns: Two students from San Diego State University have joined the park staff as interns for the fall: Ali Voskay, whose major is outdoor recreation, and Chuck Gross, whose major is geography, will each put in 180 to 250 hours before they leave us in December.

TPSR Extension Needs Monitoring: At the September meeting of the Docent Society, Chief Ranger Bob Wohl asked for assistance from the docents in monitoring the illegal use of the Reserve Extension by bikers and dogs. Bob also said that visitors there sometimes need to be reminded that no picnicking and no seed or cone collecting are allowed. Anyone interested in helping with such monitoring should check with Bob as to the right approach to use.

New Junior Ranger: On September 3 at 10:33 A.M. Evan Michael Platis was ushered into the world. He is the first child of Ranger Chris and Doreen Platis. He weighed five pounds, seven ounces. He is invited to visit a Docent Society meeting as soon as possible.

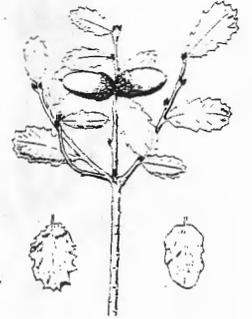


Sunset-Del Mar Tract: The \$1.8 million needed to acquire the Sunset-Del Mar tract adjacent to Torrey Pines State Reserve was included in a bipartisan bill passed by the State legislature in September. The legislation restored money for more than \$40 million in parks projects statewide. It was sponsored by Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonier and Senator William Craven. The governor must take action on the bill by October 15.

LIFE IN THE CHAPARRAL (Part I) by Hank Nicol

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three articles on the chaparral. Parts II and III will appear in following Torreyanas. Some of this material was in the September issue of Zoonooz, which is devoted to special habitats in San Diego County and is recommended to all docents.)

The Holy Expedition of 1769 marched north through the desert toward Alta California. Its goals were to found a mission at San Diego and to rediscover Monterey. Its leaders were Captain-Governor Gaspar de Portola and Franciscan Fathers Junipero Serra and Juan Crespi. The expedition skirted the San Pedro Martir Mountains near where the road between Rosario and San Fernando runs today. Father Serra noticed the *romerillos* (sagebrush) and the general change in vegetation. "It seems the rocks and thorns of California have disappeared. . . . There are flowers in abundance." Father Crespi wrote of "small sized oaks, some dwarf pines, and other shrubs not known to us." The Catalonian Volunteers particularly noticed the scrub oak. It looked a lot like one that grew back home in the hills near Barcelona. They called it by the same name, "*chaparro*." The word is approximately the equivalent of "Shorty." It was a short oak. The Mexican soldiers on the expedition were called "*Soldados de Quero*," Leatherjacket Soldiers. Captain Portola bragged that they were the finest horsemen in the world. He was probably right. The Leatherjackets wore armor made of seven layers of deerskin. This was better protection against obsidian arrowheads than steel. They also wore leather leggings to protect them from the chaparro. The Leatherjacket Company settled in California to become *vaqueros*. And that, my children, is why cowboys wear chaps. If the story isn't true, it should be.



The type of vegetation growing around the Mediterranean is called "*matoral*" in Spain and "*maquis*" in France. Remember the Maquis? During World War II the French guerillas called themselves by the name of the prickly brush of southern France. And maquis is prickly. So is the brush near the southwest coasts of several continents. South Africa, Western Australia, and Chile have similar climates. So does most of California. Many plants have adapted to new homes in other of these "Mediterranean" climates. We grow European olives, grapes, sage, holly oak, and Aleppo pine in our gardens. We grow Australian eucalypts and bottlebrush. We make hedges of Chilean escallonia. We have planted so much of the purple and white South African flower that we call it "freeway daisy." Hottentot fig, which we mis-call "iceplant," is a common ground cover. The real iceplant is a weed near the beaches. These other places have adopted our California poppy, our "wild lilac," and our toyon. A mixed forest of Monterey and Torrey pines grows in the Australian Capital Territory.

The prickly brush we call "chaparral" can grow all the way to the crest of the coastal mountains and beyond. It is made up mostly of sclerophylls. This big word describes twiggy plants which have evergreen leaves with internal bracing like the wing of an airplane. The leaves of chaparral plants will not wilt no matter how dry they are. Summer and winter, they stay ready for any sudden rain. Any moisture the roots manage to collect goes to the leaves and is put to immediate use.

Chaparral can grow very close to the ocean, but near the coast another type of vegetation is more common. Coastal sage scrub contains chaparral plants, but it has more soft-leaved sages, plus sage brush, which gives this habitat its name.

(continued on p.6)

LIFE IN THE CHAPARRAL (continued from p. 5)

The plants of coastal sage scrub tend to lose their leaves during the summer dry spell. They react more slowly to rain because they have to grow new leaves before they can flower. Despite its name, coastal sage scrub can be found a long way inland, right up to the edge of the mountains. Some say that coastal sage scrub is a unique vegetation type. Others say it is chaparral degraded by burning and grazing. Some take the debate seriously. I once went to a seminar on chaparral where two of the leading authorities were invited to speak on successive days so they would not meet and possible commit mutual battery.



Seventy-five percent of the chaparral is chamise. Its alternate common name, greasewood, is in honor of the way it burns. All other plants, even the original scrub oak, seem incidental. A few weak-stemmed plants like the marsh cucumber and the moronel honeysuckle beat the system by climbing over the stiffer brush. We think of chaparral as 100 percent brush, but there are some trees. Coast live oak and Englemann oak grow along the fringes. Sycamore, cottonwood and willows line the stream beds, and pines are scattered here and there. The sparse digger pine is probably the most common. The rare Torrey and Monterey pines are confined to small enclaves, but the typical chaparral pine is the knobcone. The scales on its cones are lumpy rather than pointed. Its dark green needles make it stand out from the grayish shrubs all around. It is a beautiful little tree, but to science it's noted for serotony. This means it hangs on to its seeds until doomsday, or brushfire, whichever comes first. I kept a couple of its cones around for over eight years. They never made a move to crack open even a little bit. This characteristic ensures that when the fire does come there will be plenty of seeds to carry on the species.

Many chaparral plants are resprouters. Chamise will grow back from the base after being burned. This plant, like many others, exudes hormones which keep other plants, even its own young, from growing nearby. The only times I've seen chamise seedlings was after fires so hot they killed the greasewood right down to its roots. The seeds of bush poppies, manzanitas, and *ceanothi* (commonly called California lilacs), and many other plants will not germinate unless they have been scorched in a fire. The seeds of annuals and short-lived perennials hide down below waiting for a fire or some other disturbance to allow them to grow. They are patient. Some can wait over a hundred years.

IN MEMORIAM: Peter Nicoloff

The Docent Society extends sympathy to Elizabeth Nicoloff, whose husband, Peter, died at their home in La Jolla on August 23. Peter was a well-known local resident, having founded the La Jolla Civic Orchestra (now the La Jolla Civic-University Symphony Orchestra) in 1954. He served as its conductor until 1966. He was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, and spent 20 years in China, first as a violinist in Shanghai, then as a professor at the South China National Conservatory. Later, in Taiwan, he conducted the National Symphony for three years. Returning to the mainland, he was caught in the revolution and fled as a refugee to a camp in the Philippines. In 1952 he went to San Francisco, and that year in Berkeley he met and married Elizabeth. A year later they came to La Jolla.

Editor's Corner

The windows of my study where I type the pages of the *Torreyana* look out on a variety of trees and flowers that attract butterflies and birds, among other creatures. About breakfast time one morning recently I saw a chartreuse green female hooded oriole darting rapidly after a small white cabbage butterfly. She made a number of near misses but suddenly had it in her beak. Then she flew to the top of a nearby myoporum tree. As though on signal, a flashy orange and black male oriole appeared by her, quite obviously ready to share the spoils. And did. Just another instance of sending the female in the family out to do the grocery shopping?



DUTY CALENDAR - OCTOBER, 1989

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 L - MORRISON W - FLEMING L - BOUTELLE W - MORROW, C	2 TALBERT, J&B KOESSLER JAMES	3 MARTIN	4 ESTEY	5 BOUTELLE	6 NICOLOFF	7 L - SWANSON, H W - SWANSON, J L - CHENEY W - FOX
8 L - LEWIS W - FOX L - CHENEY W - HELLER	9 GREEN, D KOESSLER JAMES Columbus Day Observed	10 MORRISON	11 MARGULIES	12 NICOLOFF	13 GITTELSOHN	14 L - BUECHLER W - FLEMING L - W -
15 L - MORRISON W - ANDERSON L - KOODYMAN W - ROBERTS	16 TALBERT, J&B JAMES KOESSLER	17 MARTIN	18 BARDWICK	19 GREEN, D	20 BARDWICK	21 L - LIU W - L - SCHULMAN W - LIU
22 L - LEWIS W - SNODGRASS L - SANDERSON W - HORGER	23 AMMAN, B&M JAMES KOESSLER	24 BARDWICK	25 MARGULIES	26 BARDWICK	27 GITTELSOHN	28 L - SWANSON, J W - SWANSON, H L - MARINE, J W - ROBERTS
29 L - MORRISON W - SCHULMAN L - FOSTER, PV W - DIXON	30 TALBERT, J&B JAMES KOESSLER	31 ANDERSON	<u>DUTY HOURS</u> WEEKDAYS: LODGE 11:00 - 2:00 WEEKENDS: LODGE 10:30 - 1:30 1:30 - 4:30 WALK 11:00 - 2:00 1:00 - 4:00		PLEASE CALL IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP OR HAVE TO MAKE A CHANGE. JEANNE HELLER 587-6713	

*Let's just wander here and there. . . .
like leaves floating in the autumn air
and look at common little things. . . .
stones on the beach. . .
flowers turning into berries. . .
. . . from the winds we'll catch a bit
of that wondrous feeling that comes. . .
. . . not from seeing. . . .
but from being part of nature . . .*

--Gwen Frostic

Torrey Pines Docent Society

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HERMAN By Unger



"Freedom."

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FOR

