



TORREYANA

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and the Torrey Pines Association

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January 1990

Next Docent Society Meeting

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



David F. Marriott will speak on "Butterflies of the TPSR Area" at the January meeting (also see his article in this month's *Torreyana*). He will show specimens of all species, as well as slides, photos, videos, and media coverage. Dr. Marriott is currently teaching a course through UCSD Extension on the butterflies of San Diego County, with an emphasis on Monarch migration. He has been studying the butterfly species of the TPSR area during the past five years, and has studied and collected nearly all the species from San Diego County. . . . For information requested for the business part of the meeting, see the Docent President's notes below.

Docent President's Notes by Michael K. Fox

What a great Christmas party! (*pictures, p. 2*) On behalf of the docents and directors of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, I wish to extend compliments and thanks to the class of '89 for a job well done. Thanks to each and every one of you!

Since the new year is upon us, it is time to do a little retrospective analysis --you know, hind-sight. For the January meeting, the Board of Directors would like to have suggestions from the general membership for nominations for "Docent of the Year." Please either mail your choice to me or bring it on a 3x5 card to hand in at the meeting. The announcement will be made at the February meeting.

I would also ask that everyone try to invite a prospective docent trainee to attend one of the next few meetings. We want to get a head start on organizing the class of '90. Word-of-mouth continued to be the best advertisement for us in '88 and '89, and I think the track record will hold for the new year.

Finally, please consider submitting suggestions to the Board for the 1990 agenda. We accomplished a great deal this past year, and if you would like to help us improve, please mail to me or bring in your written ideas. Elections for the

(continued on p.2)

HAVE A HAPPY



NEW YEAR!

HOLIDAY PARTY HAPPENINGS



The Fox and the Lion look over the holiday party crowd.



Dorothy Green displays sea shell decorating fir tree.

Among the 75 or so docents and guests at the holiday party were Gene Barber and his bride of last July, Argelia Medrano from El Salvador (see new address under roster changes) . . . Also being introduced was three-month-old Evan Michael Platis, proudly being displayed by his father, Ranger Chris Platis. . . The charming little fir tree won lots of compliments for its appropriate decorations: pine cones, sea shells, and bundles of cinammon sticks tied on with red ribbons and watched over by a straw angel which had been designed and fashioned by Denise Holcomb as the tree was being decorated. . . .Judy Carlstrom's dulcimer music provided the traditional background of seasonal musicBefore Judy's arrival, a tape recorder provided by the Swansons swelled the decibels and added to the jollity. . . .The usual lavish display of food included not only the favorite barbecue bean dish from Millie Horger but a special English trifle made by trainee Graham Parnell.



Bob Wohl samples goodies from the dessert table.



Allyn Kaye shares the brunch and friendly spirit.



DOCENT PRESIDENT'S NOTES (continued from p.1)

new Board will be held during the February meeting, and it is very helpful if the outgoing Board can present the elected officers with a "wish list" for the new term.

Personally, I would like to thank you all for making 1989 a great year for the Docent Society and a lot of fun for me! I always look forward to seeing all of you, and the support that everyone has given me and the Docent Society has been truly appreciated. I hope you have all had a safe and happy holiday.

News and Notes

CALIFORNIA MISSIONS AND RANCHO DAYS BUS TRIP

The Docent League of San Diego County is sponsoring a bus trip Monday, February 12, to San Luis Rey Mission and Guajome (Frog) Adobe in Oceanside. Reservations must be made by January 26 with Nana Hughs, 644 Via Curvada, Chula Vista, CA 92010 (tel. 421-2712). Cost is \$10 per person. Bus departs promptly at 9:30 A.M. from parking lot behind Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park and returns there at 3:00 P.M. Bring your own bag lunch and beverage and wear comfortable walking shoes.

CARPOBROTUS EXTERMINATION CONTINUES

Volunteer David Economou tallied up his 375th bag of Hottentot and sea fig plants on December 22, his gift to the Reserve. He assisted Glen Omvig for the first 150 bags, then continued on his own. He has now cleaned out the area around the trail up to High Point, as well as the central spot on the top. His next attack site is Parry Grove.

TRAINING WALKS FOR SPECIAL GROUPS

At 3:00 P.M. Friday, January 19, a Brownie troop of about 18 first-graders will be led on a walk at TPSR by Ranger Greg Hackett, starting from the Lodge. The following docents who participated in Greg's training session December 13 on conducting walks for children and other special groups are invited to accompany the Brownies: Norma Boutelle, Walter Desmond, Marion Dixon, Kathy Estey, Dorothy Greene, Denise Holcombe, John Huber, Colleen Lemke, Carol Lucic, Barbara Moore, and Diana Snodgrass.

The training is to prepare docents to give scheduled mid-week walks for special groups, such as school classes, senior citizens, or the handicapped. These walks will be in addition to the Saturday, Sunday, and holiday walks for unscheduled visitors.

TRAINING FOR INTERPRETIVE PATROL

Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl and Ranger Greg Hackett provided instruction in interpretive trail patrol recently for the following docents: Norma Boutelle, Marion Dixon, Parker and Pat Foster, Denise Holcombe, John Huber, Carol Lewis, Gale Lutes, Bob Margulies, Joan Nimick, Del Roberts, Diane Sachs, Jan Taylor. The Rangers stressed the importance of assisting visitors and providing information on such patrols, which are unscheduled. Docents are required to take training before doing patrols.



Greg Hackett discusses interpretive trail patrol with docents Jan Taylor, Pat and Parker Foster

AN INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE PLANT by Hank Nicol

I've always kind of wanted to have a plant named for me. I even have names picked out--*Insignificata nicoli* or, maybe, *Niculum triviata*. There are around 800 species of club moss. Maybe some botanist could find a new one.

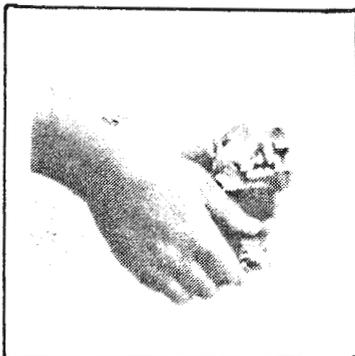
Club mosses are mostly undistinguished and mostly unnoticed. Botanists describe them as "primitive." Many people would describe them as useless. Most people, in fact, don't even see them. Some club mosses, or *Lycophyta*, are tropical epiphytes. Others grow on the floors of temperate forests. One is an aquatic plant. A few are adapted to desert conditions. One of these grows at Torrey Pines. Maybe "grows" is too strong a word. *Selaginella cinerascens* just lies there in bare, rocky places looking like gray ash for most the year. It is also called the "resurrection plant" because, with very little rain, it greens up and reproduces in just a few days.

The club mosses are named for the club-like fruiting structure on some species. Strictly speaking, they don't have fruit. They certainly have no flowers and no seeds. A club moss is, however, a vascular plant. It has a circulatory system of sorts. In these low-level plants the xylem moves water up, and the phloem transports sugar down as they do in dandelions, crab grass, and Torrey pine trees. The part of *selaginella* we notice is called the "sporophyte." That's because it produces spores. Simple. Well, maybe not. The spores are of separate sexes and each can grow into a whole and separate, but very tiny, plant called a "gametophyte." Gametophytes, of course, produce gametes. Are you still with me? The gametes are sex cells, eggs and sperm. This is where the rain storm comes in. The sperm must have water in which to swim to the egg. Just a drop or a thin film will do. The egg then grows into another of the larger, ashy plants we see around the Broken Hill and at Inspiration Point. This is the same basic system as in ferns, which Torrey Pines has, and in horsetails, which it does not. At least, I never saw any around. The non-vascular mosses and liverworts reproduce in somewhat the same way.

So why should anybody care two hoots about a plant that is green two weeks a year--in a good year? Medical science has just given a reason. An old drug used by Chinese herbalists is showing promise in retaining and improving the memories of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease. The medicine, now designated "huperzine A," has been produced from a club moss that grows in China. True, processing a ton of the club moss produces only a fraction of a gram of the medicine. True, simple, practical methods of synthesizing huperzine A have been developed both here and in China. But without the club moss the connection might never have been made. One more reason why we should preserve all species.

Hank

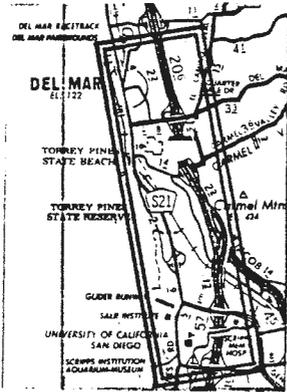
NAME THAT SKULL



Small skull found recently in TPSR appears to be that of a bobcat. It's on display on the "Please touch" table.

BE A BUTTERFLY WATCHER IN TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE by David F. Marriott

(The author will be the speaker at the January docents' meeting. Please see meeting notice for information about him.)



One of nature's gifts to the Torrey Pines State Reserve area (see map) is the consistent element of surprise emanating from the plant and animal kingdoms. The unique variety of living species within this area has always provided us with new information. This uniqueness is vividly displayed in the insect sub-order *Rhopalocera* (butterflies). Nearly all butterfly species seen along the San Diego County coastline are found in the TPSR area. Unfortunately, some of these species need special attention now.

Butterfly conservation has received little attention from the public and sciences. Because of this neglect, many species have recently become extinct. People generally view butterflies as happy-go-lucky insects flying from flower to flower--from one sensual delight to another. Most people believe their lives add nothing to the progress of mankind. Can humanity live without butterflies? Maybe so, but sooner or later the biological food chain on earth could be disturbed enough to affect mankind.

In the TPSR area, 47 documented species of butterflies may be found. Of these, 42 are residents. At least five more species are suspected: two are from an old, questionable record; one may occasionally stray into the area; and two may be residents near their host plant off-trail in the main park. More research is needed for the total species count to reach over 50. This number would represent about half of the species in San Diego County and nearly one-fourth of all butterfly species in California.

The flora and geography in the TPSR area are a haven for some very special butterflies. For example, the coastal climate and supply of Salt Grass (*Distichlis spicata*) in the Sorrento lagoon and Soledad Valley have provided the Wandering Skipper (*Panoquina errans*) with an abundance of larva food plant. This particular butterfly has been under consideration by the Federal Office of Endangered Species since 1974. Fortunately, there is a healthy colony in the described area. Another rare butterfly from this lagoon area is the Columella Hairstreak (*Strymon columella istapa*). This hairstreak is already extinct in Orange County and should be protected here. The larva feeds only on Alkali Mallow (*Sida hederacea*). A small colony of Columella Hairstreaks resides near this plant along the railroad tracks.



Two other uncommon butterflies that inhabit TPSR are the Western Tailed Blue (*Everes amyntula*) and Dusty Metalmark (*Calephelis nemesis californica*). The former may be seen flying in early spring near its foodplant, Rattleweed (*Astragalus ssp.*) in the Extension. This beautiful iridescent blue butterfly is a desired catch by any collector, as is the Dusty Metalmark. The latter has established a colony in the Extension area near its host plant, Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*). The Dusky Metalmark also uses Mule Fat (*Baccharis glutinosa*) as a host plant in Soledad Valley. A large colony of Dusky Metalmarks may be seen there almost all year. Both species are in great need of protection.

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BE A BUTTERFLY WATCHER (continued from p.5)

Several interesting and colorful butterflies migrate through the Reserve during most seasons. These welcome strays come from Baja California and the desert east of here. They are not known to return to their place of origin. Examples are the Cloudless Sulfur (*Phoebis sennae marcellina*), Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*), Nicippe Yellow (*Eurema nicippe*), Becker's White (*Pontia beckerii*), and possibly the Mexican Yellow (*Eurema mexicana*). The Becker's White is our rarest emigrant; it sometimes invades this coastal area in search of its host plant, Bladder Pod (*Isomeris arborea*), and various mustards. All other emigrants are bright yellow or orange and are a special sight to behold.



Becker's White

Probably the most spectacular butterfly to visit this area every year is the Monarch. Every autumn it migrates north through this area and overwinters in selected groves of eucalyptus trees along the San Diego County coastline. Monarchs may have overwintered on Torrey pines before the introduction of the eucalyptus trees in the late nineteenth century. This year a conservative estimate of 1,000 Monarchs per day flew through TPSR in late October and early November. During that time a few hundred in small clusters were seen on the eucalyptus and Torrey pines in the southern Reserve area before sunset and early in the morning. Currently, several miles to the south there are thousands of Monarchs overwintering in the eucalyptus groves on the UCSD campus. It is possible that small colonies may overwinter in TPSR. One of the Monarchs tagged in south TPSR was recaptured nine days later in the same area. At least this particular Monarch's visit lasted longer than a week and may last until February, when all Monarchs begin to leave the coastal area.

Many more species are becoming less common in the TPSR area. The first step in conserving butterfly habitats is to inform the public. People seem to forget that butterfly larvae must eat constantly. If their food plants are removed, there will be no butterflies. Some day these beautiful insects may be seen only in butterfly arboretums—which are already appearing throughout the country.

Beauty is composed of many things and never stands alone. It is part of horizons, blue in the distance, great primeval silences, knowledge of all things of the earth ... It is so fragile it can be destroyed by a sound or thought. It may be infinitesimally small or encompass the universe itself. It comes in a swift conception wherever nature has not been disturbed. --Sigurd Olson



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR DOCENTS AND OTHER NATURE LOVERS

Start the new decade off right:

- * Recycle your Christmas tree. There are drop-off sites throughout the County: for example, Del Mar Highlands Shopping Center, Soledad Park (La Jolla Scenic Drive and Via Capri), and Doyle Community Park (Regents Rd. at Noble and Berino Court). Call 238-1984 for the site nearest you.
- * Recycle your Christmas cards wherever paper is picked up for recycling or check for organizations that use them in hospitals, etc.
- * Plant trees: they provide natural air conditioning.
- * Plant native shrubs: they don't need regular watering.
- * Carry your own shopping bag when you go to the store.
- * Re-use aluminum foil and other kitchen wraps that serve as food covers.
- * Ask fast food and carry-out shops you patronize to avoid styrofoam containers.
- * Look for re-cycled special occasion cards and paper products.

THE NEW YEAR

*A flower unblown; a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested;
A path untrod; a house whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine perfumes;
A landscape whose wide border lies
In silent shade 'neath silent skies;
A wondrous fountain yet unsealed;
A casket with its gifts concealed--
This is the Year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates.*

--Horatio N. Powers

The *Torreyana* is the monthly (except for August) newsletter of the Torrey Pines Docent Society and Torrey Pines Association.

Deadline for contributions is the 24th of each month. Please send to the editor:

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ROSTER CHANGES

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4379 Cto. del Diamante
San Diego 92121



DUTY CALENDAR - JANUARY 1990

FOR DOCENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 L - Greene, B W - Fox L - Morrow, C W - Morrow, J New Year's Day	2 MARTIN	3 MARINE	4 SACHS	5 GITTELSONN	6 L - Morrow, J W - Morrow, C L - Lewis W - Dixon
7 L - Morrison W - Anderson L - Foster, P W - Brown	8 JAMES GREEN, D	9 AMANN, B&M	10 ESTEY	11 BUECHLER	12 NICOLOFF	13 L - Swanson W - Swanson L - Boutelle W - Morrow, C
14 L - Morrison W - L - Richard W - Foster, P	15 TALBERT, B&J JAMES Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 MARTIN	17 LEMKE	18 BUECHLER	19 GITTELSONN	20 L - Boutelle W - Liu L - W - Liu
21 L - Lewis W - Horger L - Heller W - Dixon	22 HUBER JAMES	23 RICHARD	24 LEMKE	25 SACHS	26 NICOLOFF	27 L - Swanson W - Swanson L - Greene, B W - Foster, PV
28 L - Schulman W - Anderson L - Cheney W - Schulman	29 TALBERT, B&J JAMES	30 MARINE	31 GREEN, D		<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

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FOR

