



# TORREYANA

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

No. 173

February 1990

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

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

February is annual meeting month for the Docent Society, when officers for the next year will be elected (see slate below) and the Docent of the Year will be announced. In place of an outside speaker, docents will be given an opportunity to share their questions and suggestions related to the Reserve. If recent visitor queries have stumped you, this is the time to bring them to the attention of your fellow docents, who may have answers. . . . Following refreshments Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl will lead an explanatory tour of our Lodge museum as well as the area immediately surrounding the building.

### SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR DOCENT SOCIETY FOR 1990

The following slate of nominees for officers of the Docent Society for 1990 is presented by the Nominating Committee. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

President:	Michael Fox
Vice President:	Diana Snodgrass
Treasurer:	Glenn Dunham
Secretary:	Robert Talbert
Duty Coordinator:	Jeanne Heller
<i>Torreyana</i> Editor:	Marion Dixon

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. However, nominees must provide their consent to serve, either by signed agreement or by being present at the meeting to accept the floor nomination verbally.

## *Next Torrey Pines Association Meeting*

ANNUAL MEETING OF TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION

Torrey Pines Association will hold its annual meeting in the Visitor Center Thursday, February 8, at 3:00 P.M. Election of officers will take place, and all members are urged to attend.



## *Docent Doings*

### SCHEDULE FOR EXOTIC PLANT REMOVAL

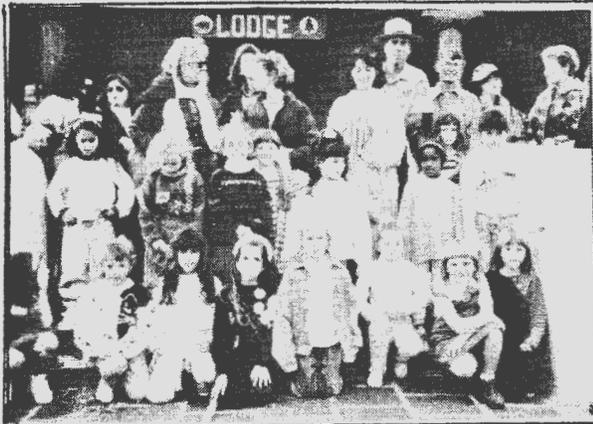
The following dates in February have been scheduled for continuation of exotic plant removal by docents:

Monday, February 16, 9:15 A.M.

Saturday, February 24, 8:00 A.M.

Kathy Estey and/or Diana Snodgrass, who will lead the attack, will meet participants at the Lodge on those days. Don't forget your gloves!

### BROWNIES' TRIP OBSERVED BY TRAINEES



Seventeen bubbling Brownies (and several parents) from La Jolla Country Day School's first grade provided an eager audience for Ranger Greg Hackett's trail walk and talk Friday afternoon, February 19. An auxiliary audience included docent observers on their second training session for leading special groups such as school classes, organizations, and teams. Docents present were Kathy Estey, Dorothy Green, John Huber, Carol Lucic, Joan Nimick, Diana Snodgrass, and Marion Dixon.

Greg noted the importance of leaders checking with the teacher or group supervisor prior to the walk as to the goal for the day and any previous instruction related to the field trip. During the walk he illustrated the use of the Socratic technique of questioning to elicit information from the participants as to reasons for park rules as well as information about plants, animals, and erosion.

Trainees were urged to check scheduled walks for the future which are listed in the Ranger's office and to sign up for any of interest to them. More than one leader was advised for large groups. It was also suggested that trainees accompany other rangers for additional training walks.

### CORRECTION

The names of Nancy Gartland, Carol Lucic, and Marilyn Sanderson were inadvertently omitted from the list of docents who have taken interpretive trail patrol training this year with Bob Wohl or Greg Hackett.

### DOCENT DUES DUE THIS MONTH

*(Please note: This notice refers to members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society only. It does not affect Torrey Pines Association.)*

If you didn't pay your annual Torrey Pines Docent Society dues in January, please do so by the meeting on Saturday, February 17. Dues for full and associate members are \$10; those for supporting members are now \$20, an increase of \$5 over last year. New dated car stickers are available to paid members. Dues will be considered delinquent after the February meeting, and those who have not paid will be dropped from the roster.

Dues can be mailed to Membership Chair Millicent Horger, 13130 Carousel Lane, Del Mar, CA 92014.

## News and Notes

### "IT'S A SMALL WORLD"



Almost everybody has a "small world" story: finding a third cousin at a bed and breakfast inn in England; running into an old friend on the streets of Paris or in the Moscow subway; turning up an ancestor in common with the person next to you in class. Our current anecdote has to do with Ranger Allyn Kaye and Docent President Michael Fox. As they chatted together one day in the Lodge, they found out that they both hailed from the town of Oak Park, Michigan. Not only that: they lived on the same street at the same time—just across the street from each other. But they never met until they both arrived in another park named for another tree. Now the "Do you remember's" and "Did you know's" can start.

### LAGOON LIFE IMPROVES

Docent Maurie Brown, who is also active in the Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, reports that the lagoon is the cleanest it's been since 1981. This has come about as the result of a combination of channel deepening with machines, winter tides, and the recent rain. Bird life has increased considerably, with the long-billed curlew among those making a re-appearance.

### RANGER EXCHANGE

The new face you've noticed in the Lodge office or on the trails this past month has been that of Ranger Sandy Jones, who is here on a three-month rotational assignment (January 1-April 1) from San Elijo State Beach. Her temporary exchange is with Ranger Chris Platis. Sandy, who has been in the ranger program three years, is also a Defensive Tactics Instructor.

### WE'RE IN THE NEWS AGAIN

If you notice larger crowds than usual at the Reserve in the next few weeks, the reason may not simply be that the blooming season is at hand. Local publications have been spreading the word about the Reserve with well-illustrated, prominent stories recently. The result of such publicity is always more visitors to our premises.



Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl noted that all the publicity has been unsolicited, from front page stories in *The Light*--both La Jolla and University City editions--to a four-page spread by Bill Evarts (our postcard photographer) in the winter edition of *Environment West* (published by the San Diego Society of Natural History). As one would expect, Bill's pictures are perfection. (Ed. note: It would be nice to have an enlargement for the Lodge of the snowy egret taking flight from Peñasquitos Lagoon!)

Still to come is a cover story in the February issue of *Ranch and Coast* magazine. If you don't run across a copy of these publications elsewhere, you can usually find one somewhere in the Lodge.

*The first thing that impresses us when we see a living whale is its sheer size. These are truly awe-inspiring creatures, and there is something in this hugeness which humbles us.* --Richard Ellis, *A Sea Change for Leviathan*

### THREE COMMON ANIMALS IN THE RESERVE by Sharyl Massey

(The author is a member of the docent class of '89. She has her B.Sc. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University.)

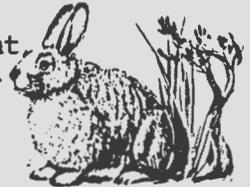
Torrey Pines State Reserve is home to a variety of animal life. Although plants here seem to receive most of our attention because of their reliable presence, the animals add a spark of excitement when we get a glimpse of them. Most mammals in TPSR are rarely seen because they are nocturnal. However, we are reminded of their presence by the clues they leave. Woodrat nests, rabbit pellets, tracks, and scats all remain after their makers have gone. We can point out these clues to our visitors to help them realize there is more to the Reserve than its flora. Following is some information about a few common, even though only occasionally seen, fauna.



*Neotoma fuscipes*

Large stick nests provide ready evidence of the dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*). In spite of the size of the nest, only one woodrat, usually a female, lives in it. Males tend to be more nomadic. Woodrats live an average of four years and have litters of one to three young. The nests are added to generation after generation and can reach two meters in height and width. All the nests I've seen at TPSR are on the ground, but elsewhere they may be found in trees. Woodrats range from western Oregon to northern Baja California. They are generally nocturnal and active year round. Being omnivores, they eat a variety of roots, stems, leaves, seeds, and some invertebrates. They don't drink much water, but during the dry season they are known to eat more fleshy succulent plants to obtain some moisture. An interesting aspect of woodrat behavior is their habit of collecting objects, especially shiny ones, which has led to the nickname "packrat." Because they may exchange an old object for a new one that is more attractive, they have also been called "traderats."

The brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) isn't such a rare sight in the Reserve. (It and the Audubon cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonni*) are the two species of true rabbits here. Black-tailed jackrabbits, which also live here, are actually hares.) Brush rabbits range from western Oregon to southern Baja. They prefer habitats of dense brush through which they have runways. They are never found far from home. They rarely burrow, so the females build nests of plant materials. They give birth to about four kittens per litter. Grasses are their main food, but they also eat many other plants. Most rabbit species don't have very efficient digestive systems, so to get the most out of their food, they eat it twice. This behavior is called "coprophagy." Two types of pellets are excreted: soft, greenish food pellets and hard, brown fecal pellets. The former are eaten immediately and provide nutrients plus vitamin B. Coprophagy occurs during the day and foraging at night, when rabbits are more active. Bobcats, grey foxes, coyotes, long-tailed weasels, various raptors, gopher snakes and rattlesnakes all feed on brush rabbits. Not to worry though: rabbits can produce many litters per year so they are able to withstand heavy predation.



There are two California cat species: mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) and bobcats (*Felis rufus*). Mountain lions have not been sighted in the Reserve for some time, but bobcats are seen occasionally. Bobcats can be found from southern Canada to southern Mexico. In San Diego County they live in rocky habitats with dense vegetation. Rock piles and broken rocky ledges are important denning sites, although brush piles, hollow trees, and

(continued on p. 6 )



*(Part II of this article will be carried in the March issue of the Torreyana.)*

If asked how I would describe the eighties at Torrey Pines State Reserve, I would have to make an adaptation of the three R's—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. My version would be renovation, recognition, and remembrance.

### Renovation

With funds provided by Torrey Pines Association, the Guy Fleming residence was refurbished by January 1981. With a ranger living in the park, its protection increased.

The first Lodge improvement of the eighties was the introduction in October 1981 of facilities for the handicapped, such as special parking places, ramps, easier access to the public bathroom, and a two-level viewing area for the slide show room.

Prior to the end of 1982, Lodge displays were housed in a variety of non-matching cases. By November of that year Torrey Pines Association had given us our first new display cases. Made of cedar bases with plexiglass covers, these four large cases housed a variety of history and nature exhibits.

Between 1986 and 1988, the Lodge went through a two-phase renovation. The first phase involved the historic rehabilitation of the Lodge. The roof was redone; deteriorating adobe bricks were replaced, wooden floors were refinished, and pillars re-enforced. The second phase involved new interpretive displays. We also went high-tech with the introduction of video equipment. With the September 1989 installation of new bookshelves and docent desk, remodeling of the docent sales and information area was completed.

The park itself went through renovation with the building of viewing platforms and the re-routing of trails in November 1987. About 2,000 feet of new trails had been laid out. The new platforms increased visitor access to spectacular views of the canyons.

Heavy storms in January 1988 closed the park for two and a half days to car traffic. Water and debris covered the road leading to the kiosk. The kiosk itself was either blown or washed off the road. A new kiosk was put into place by March.

### Recognition

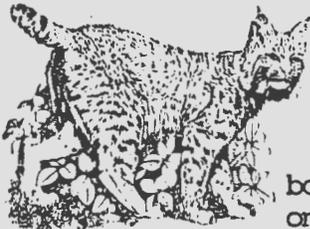
As a result of the latest Lodge renovation projects, TPSR was the recipient of several awards in 1988. Save Our Heritage organization awarded the Lodge its Cultural Resources Conservation Award. The restoration also received a special commendation from Mayor Maureen O'Connor in appreciation for commitment to historic preservation. Our new displays won the National Association of Interpretation's Design Award in the educational/gallery exhibit category.

During the eighties, ten volunteers were honored as Docent of the Year: Judy Schulman (1980), Bill Brothers (1981), Ruth Hand (1982), Isabel Buechler (1983), June Warburton (1984), Judy Carlstrom (1985), Jeanne Dunham (1986), Elizabeth Nicoloff (1987), and Grace Martin (1988). The 1989 winner will be announced at the February meeting.

*(continued on p. 7)*

THREE COMMON ANIMALS IN THE RESERVE (continued from p.4 )

logs are also used. This is also the habitat where their main prey, brush rabbits, lives. Bobcats also eat rodents, birds, and occasionally small deer. Their black-spotted, brown coat helps them to blend in with their habitat, and the ear tufts are thought to aid in hearing, both adaptations of a predator.



Bobcats are solitary animals with a complex social structure. Territories are marked with urine, feces, and gland secretions, as well as scrapes made in the ground and on trees. Vocalizations play little part in their behavior. The breeding season is usually the only time bobcats interact. About two months after a successful mating, one to six kittens are born (three are most common). Their survival rate is fairly high, and populations have remained stable even in the face of human encroachment. The bobcat's ability to survive in the face of urbanization is fortunate not only for the animal but also for the visitors at the Reserve, who may thus have a chance of seeing one of these beautiful animals for years to come.

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SOME POINTS ABOUT ANNUAL PASSES

Sales of annual passes for cars have been heavy already this year and may exceed the 700 sold last year. Docents sold 400 of these at the Lodge; the rest were sold at the North Beach parking lot entrance. For their assistance, the Docent Society receives 25 per cent of the amount of the sales.

Ranger Greg Hackett reminded docents at the January meeting of the following points when selling passes:

- (1) Passes cost \$50 for the first sticker and are good for day use only in all 260+ California state parks. The second sticker costs \$10 and cannot be sold by docents. It applies to a second vehicle registered at the same address as the first and is available only through the Ranger's office. Applicants need to show both vehicle registrations in order to get a second sticker.
- (2) The sticker must be affixed to the lower right corner of the windshield. It cannot be applied with Scotch tape or other material. If the windshield should have to be replaced or the car is sold during the year, the sticker must be removed and brought in (in pieces, if necessary) to the Ranger office for a replacement. ( Note: Razor blade removers or hot air from a hair dryer help to remove stickers.)
- (3) Numbers of passes are sequential and are all recorded in the red book kept in the docent desk. Check to make sure stickers are not stuck together and that the number of the sticker you are selling follows the last number recorded.
- (4) Either cash or a check is acceptable as payment. License numbers for identification purposes may be recorded on the check and/or in the book.
- (5) A sheet of rules that apply to the use of passes is available at the desk, as are maps of the lower half of California showing state parks. New applicants in particular need this information. Be sure to give it to them.

BUTTERFLY DISPLAY DAZZLES



The climax of a presentation on butterflies of the Torrey Pines Reserve area at the January meeting was a mounted display of the 47 species so far documented. Their jewel-like colors and artistic arrangement brought gasps of admiration from the audience. Dr. David Marriott, who has become a local butterfly specialist, aroused the group's interest in relations between butterflies and plants and the role of the former in ecology.

Dr. Marriott's particular interest is the monarch butterfly, a migrant which has been overwintering this year in clusters of hundreds to thousands, mainly on eucalyptus trees, in the area. He announced a recent discovery of a cluster of an estimated 40,000 monarchs in a eucalyptus grove at Camp Pendleton.

He suggested that docents watch the vining milkweed on the Reserve (usually seen on the cliff side of the Guy Fleming Trail) for monarch eggs. Milkweed is the host plant for monarchs. This diet protects them from becoming a meal for a bird, since milkweed is poisonous for birds. A bird that happens to eat a monarch will regurgitate--and never eat an orange butterfly again. This effect thus protects the viceroy butterfly, which mimics the monarch in appearance, and other orange-colored species.

Among other butterflies which Dr. Marriott listed as present on the Reserve is the pygmy blue, the smallest butterfly in the world--worth pointing out to visitors.

THE PAST DECADE AT TORREY PINES (continued from p.5)

In August of 1986 several docents were recognized for ten years of contribution to the society. Each received an engraved onyx paperweight that commemorated the event. The honorees were Bill Brothers, Melba Kooyman, Julie Marine, and Mary Miller. Also recognized for long-term affiliation with the TPDS were supporting members Jack and Joanne Cannon and honorary members Margaret Allen, Joyce Evans, and Ruth Hand. In January 1988 ten-year awards were given to Millicent Horger, Rowdy James, and Judy Schulman.

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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Staff: Isabel Buechler, Pat Foster, Del Roberts, Bob Margulies.

Address changes go to:

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Del Mar, CA 92014



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Tel. 535-1128

Brent Tavernelli (assoc.)  
7460 Daytona St.  
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

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NEW DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS SATURDAY,  
MARCH 24. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!!  
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# DUTY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>INITIAL HOURS</b> WEEKDAYS: LOUNGE 11:00 - 2:00 WEEKENDS: LOUNGE 10:30 - 1:30 1:30 - 4:30 WALK 11:00 - 2:00 1:00 - 4:00				1	2	3
				SACHS	LUCIC	L - HOLCOMBE W - DIXON  L - NORTMAN W - ROBERTS
4 L - HELLER W - BRANSFORD  L - CHENEY W -	5 FOSTER, PV JAMES	6 MARTIN	7 ESTEY	8 TALBERT, B&J	9 NICOLOFF PARNELL	10 L - BUECHLER W - GREENE, B  L - KNIGHT W - ROBERTS
11 L - LEWIS W - BROWN  L - SACHS W - MORGER	12 MARINE JAMES	13 AMANN, B&M	14 MARGULIES	15 GARTLAND	16 GITTELSON	17 L - DUNHAM, G&J W - LIU  L - GREEN, D W - LIU
18 L - LEWIS W - BROWN  L - CHENEY W -	19 TALBERT, B&J JAMES	20 MARTIN GREEN, D	21 HUBER	22 MORRISON	23 NICOLOFF	24 L - GREENE, B W - BARDWICK, M  L - MORROW, J W - MORROW, C
25 L - MORRISON W - DIXON  L - MORROW, J W - MORROW, C	26 FOSTER, P JAMES	27 MORRISON	28 PARNELL		PLEASE CALL IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP OR HAVE TO MAKE A CHANGE.  JEANNE HELLER 587-6713	

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
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 2680 Carlsbad Boulevard  
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## FIRST CLASS

FOR

