



# TORREYANA

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

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February 1991

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

February is annual meeting time for the Docent Society, when officers are elected and annual reports are made summing up the year's activities. The officers' slate, which was announced at the January meeting, is as follows: President, Diana Snodgrass; Vice President for Training, Joan Nimick; Vice President for Programs, Del Roberts; Secretary, Bob Talbert; Treasurer, Glenn Dunham; Duty Coordinator, Kathy Estey; Newsletter Editor, Marion Dixon. Nominations for other candidates (who must have given prior approval) may be made from the floor. . . . Following the business meeting and refreshments, docents will be led on a special walk by Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl. In the past, these walks have included some special places and surprising finds (and one even brought rain). Something to look forward to.

## ALL-OUT ALIEN PLANT REMOVAL EFFORT NEEDED NOW

Docents are urged to take part in the removal of the unwanted exotic plants, carpobrotus and stock, as soon as possible, since later removal may cause damage to tiny seedlings emerging. Diana Snodgrass, who has been active on the plant removal team, reports that California polypody ferns and milkmaids are now visible near the entrance to the Guy Fleming trail, where they were never visible before that area was cleared of the heavy succulents. Also, in "Animal Canyon" the absence of much stock has left room for blue-eyed grass to show up. Further work is needed in the canyon to take out the Hottentot and sea figs which are hanging heavily across some native plants, completely obscuring them and preventing further growth.



The Monday morning following the Docent Society meeting has regularly been the time for plant removal activity, but if that is inconvenient, docents can contact Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl for directions on where to go and equipment to use. Diana also suggests that docents on trail take along some equipment to eliminate the designated intruding plants as you go.

DONATION TO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

At the January meeting of the Docent Society, Treasurer Glenn Dunham announced that the San Diego Museum of Natural History has cut its science staff by a third and the library and science research budget by 80% because of a budget crunch. A Science Fund has been established, and the docents voted to donate \$1000 to it immediately, with an option to consider future donations. Private contributions can be made to the Science Fund, SDMNH, P.O.Box 1390, SD 92112.

NEW LOOK FOR DOCENTS

The new TPDS logo, designed by Pat Foster, can be purchased as a patch at the docent desk by qualified docents for \$2.00 each. Also available are various sized decals to transfer onto shirts and a new docent parking sticker, now a vinyl "91" red dot, guaranteed to stick on your rearview mirror.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Although the new slate of officers will be installed at the February annual meeting, there are still openings for two committee chairs: refreshments and publicity. Volunteers, please call TPDS president.

ANNOUNCING A NEW ADDITION

An eight-pound baby girl, Lillian Rachelle, was born to Ranger Chris and Doreen Platis on January 14. Both mother and baby are doing fine--and so is Chris.

UPDATE ON PARKING FACILITIES

Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl announced at the TPDS January meeting that work on the South parking lot should be finished by mid-May. Also, the automatic parking meters planned for the North parking lot will not be installed, thanks to the Coastal Commission's objection that they would impede access.

TPDS BROCHURE

Maurie Brown is in the process of revising the TPDS brochure describing the functions of the Society and would welcome any input.

TIDEPOOLS CLEAR

Sky blue,  
green seas,  
Sea gulls feeding.  
Snails burrowing.  
Wet sand drenched.

Tides,  
Pushing sea weed,  
Living creatures  
To be lost or reclaimed.

Sky blue,  
green seas  
Glimmering pools.  
Tidepools by moonlight,  
Early morning sun,  
Twilight mist.



--Thomas Parker Emery  
(Reprinted in *Seashore Discoveries*  
by Wesley Farmer)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY AT TPSR?

*(This information will be posted by the telephone at the docent desk.)*

Before Ranger Greg Hackett left for his temporary post at South Carlsbad Beach and San Elijo, he offered docents the following tips on emergency procedures:

BE PREPARED - When on the trail, carry a pencil, small pad, trail maps (to point out locations for visitors), a tide table, and walkie talkie if available.

LOST PERSON OR CRIME - Record the name and phone number of the reporting party (RP) and keep him until a ranger comes. Get a complete description of the lost person: clothing, hair, etc., or of the crime: where, when, how it occurred, specific details.

INJURY OR HEALTH CRISIS - Check extent of the emergency. Send information to the Lodge through the walkie talkie or a volunteer. Give specific information: exact location, extent of the injury or health crisis, if CPR or first aid required, and make the volunteer repeat message to clarify. (Note: First aid supplies are available in the cupboard opposite the ranger's desk in the office.)

LODGE DUTY - Be familiar with the emergency numbers listed on the phone in case a ranger is not available (rangers will attempt to let duty docent know where they will be when not in the Lodge):

Critical health problem	911
Dispatch--noncritical	729-8947
Weekends--kiosk	755-1275
Maintenance shop	755-7114



CPR/RED CROSS CLASSES - Highly recommended.

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**Getting to Know You** by June Brickelmaier

Why become a docent at Torrey Pines State Reserve? . . . .

Probably it grows out of a natural interest that develops over the years. I have lived many places: Indiana (where I grew up), Cape Cod, Virginia, Florida, and San Diego. Wherever I have lived, my activities always included volunteer groups dedicated to preservation and enhancement of our native surroundings.

During the 1970's my husband and I frequently enjoyed the beauty and serenity of the Reserve. At that time I was not aware of any volunteer group here. Upon returning to this area in 1989, I was pleased to see in the Lodge the announcement of a docent training class. I am happy to have completed the requirements now to become a member of Torrey Pines Docent Society.\*

*(\*Other docents who have completed their requirements and have not yet let us "get to know you" through the Torreyana are requested to send a few paragraphs about themselves to the editor as soon as possible.)*

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME LANDSCAPING

The extended drought in Southern California has turned thoughts of home gardeners to the use of native plants in landscaping. Recommendations for some of the easiest wild shrubs, flowers, and ground covers to grow in a tended yard were the focus of a nursery tour for docents Saturday, November 11. Jeanine DeHart, manager of Weber's Nursery in Encinitas, took the docents on an hour-plus tour of her three-quarters of an acre nursery, where she raises approximately 300 different species of native plants.

Many of these plants are raised from seed, which DeHart collects from northern Baja California and the coastal islands, as well as mainland California. (Taking such seeds requires a permit.) Other plants are raised from cuttings. Plants are sold in one-gallon, five-gallon, and fifteen-gallon sizes. Some plants don't tolerate water well (golden yarrow, for example); and some may need protection (a wire cage will do) from snails, rabbits, or squirrels until their stalks are woody (tree mallow, for example). Whatever the plant, instructions for its planting and care are included with the purchase.

Some of the native plants recommended for local gardens are:

- lemonade berry: can take a fair amount of water, even on its leaves. can be shaped as it grows.
- laurel sumac: grows fast, tolerates both water and drought. Can be shaped.
- San Diego mountain mahogany: easy to grow. Once established, doesn't need water but will tolerate it.
- sages: Cleveland sage makes a 3½' shrub if not overwatered, which causes it to become lanky; a groundcover form of black sage; and others.
- saltbush: she recommends *Lentiformis var. brewerii* as the prettiest for yards. Birds like its seeds, and quail will live under it. It is good for erosion and as a fire retardant, but needs room.

In addition to the shrubs and groundcovers, perennial flowers that are available include sea dahlia, monkey flower, live forever, beach aster, and sunrose. (Ed. note: The latter is the one most docents call "rock rose"--*Helianthemum scoparium*. DeHart says that, strictly speaking, this is a misnomer, and the term "sunrose" should be used.)

And, of course, there are Torrey pines: \$5 for one-gallon, \$13.50 for five-gallon, and \$65 for a 15-gallon specimen.

For additional information about the nursery and plants, you can ask one of the docents who went on the field trip (see picture to right) or call the nursery (753-1661).

DeHart (r.) shows native plants to visiting docents, l. to r.: Pat Foster, visitor, Parker Foster, Georgette Camporini, Marc Gittelsohn, Angela Holm, Eva Armi.



PINE NEEDLES HELP TIE THE KNOT



At its January meeting, the Docent Society presented outgoing president and groom-to-be Michael Fox with baskets handmade from Torrey pine needles. Some had been specially designed and crafted for the occasion by "Karen" (whose work is exhibited in Fallbrook). One had lacy hearts entwined in the bottom, particularly suitable for the wedding. Michael promised to share the baskets and the accompanying bottle of champagne with his bride-to-be, docent Cindy Millsap. "I can't think of a more appropriate present," said Michael, who has devoted many hours among the pines, both as docent trainer and as president.

A SUNSET TO REMEMBER by Del Roberts

Off-duty docents and rangers left their uniforms behind and dressed in their finest to help President Michael Fox and Associate Member Cindy Millsap celebrate their wedding vows Sunday, January 20, at Torrey Pines State Reserve. It was a whole new look and behavior. There was absolute silence as the bride and groom marched down the sandy aisle-- obviously making them very nervous.

Before Rabbi Aaron Gottesman officially married the couple at sunset on the Torrey Pines overlook, with the cloudy sky as the chupuh (canopy over the bride and groom) and the incomparable view as a backdrop, he asked the guests to join hands in love and peace for a better world. A sip of sacramental wine, the breaking of a crystal glass (wrapped in cloth), a kiss, then another kiss for the photographers as the sun broke through the clouds, and the marriage became official. The glowing couple moved toward the feast prepared at the Lodge as the red ball of sun disappeared below the horizon.

Out-of-town friends and family came from as far away as Michigan and Alaska. Cindy's maid of honor and best friend, Susan Killen, has been her jogging buddy for six years. (They had to be in good shape to withstand the cool breezes in very beautiful but thin gowns.) Michael's best man, Dennis Flowers, offered a champagne toast, "As his oldest and dearest friend, I gladly relinquish that title to the bride."



Michael, his mother, and Cindy drank champagne out of the crystal glasses from his parents' wedding. . . only three left. The chocolate three-tiered wedding cake, decorated with fresh flowers, was baked by pastry chef Cindy's instructor.

Another good friend described the couple as two people who are like flowers. "Together they make a beautiful bouquet." Add to that two other flowers, Cindy's sons Jacob, eleven, and David, seven, and you have a worthy Torrey Pines family.

←The Wohl family, Bob, Shayna, and Robin, add their smiles to the happy occasion.



*Photos by John Huber*



A COLOR SPECTACULAR OF SEA CREATURES by Del Roberts

Who would believe that a sea creature less than three inches long would photograph in exquisite color, eliciting oh's and ah's from the docents at their January meeting. But Dr. Wesley Farmer's slide presentation did just that.

Although Farmer's introductory slide of seashore treasures described him as "(a scientist)" he jumped out of the parentheses during his presentation and expanded his profession to sculptor, illustrator and photographer. A graduate of San Diego State University with an M.S. in Zoology from Arizona State University and a Ph.D from Columbia Pacific University, Dr. Farmer's interest in fish began as a child, growing up in San Diego.

Still fascinated by tide pools, Farmer not only writes books about them, but participates in teaching expeditions at Bahia de Los Angeles. He supplemented his extremely colorful slides of these sea creatures, particularly Nudibranchs--elusive snails that have no shells in their adult life--with sculptures of a sea-slug encased in clear plastic, along with a mother and baby gray whale, complete with barnacles.

To add a little spice to his illustrations of sea creatures, Farmer included drawings of the sex life of a sting ray, who mates with fluttering wings. His drawings of shells and animals in their natural habitat show different views, eliminating in most cases the need to kill the specimen. But when he found a dead bufflehead duck, he combined his taxidermy knowledge with his talent as a sculptor and produced a magnificent creature to add to his show-and-tell collection.

As the former Curator of Exhibits at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, he was responsible for the creation of their fish and sea life exhibits. And so, when he recently saw that mice had nibbled the feet of the Torrey Pines brown pelican exhibit, he repaired it with his magic plastic.

He hopes his books listed below will inspire readers to identify sea creatures on their own, and perhaps discover new treasures: Seashore Discoveries, Sea-Slug Gastropods, and the new edition of Tidepool Wonders of the Sea of Cortez III.



THE SIDEWALK JUNGLE by Hank Nicol\*

I was out walking the beagle. I glanced down and saw an earthworm crossing the sidewalk. Earthworms are often driven out of waterlogged lawns, but the rain had stopped hours earlier. The concrete was dry. A small, black centipede was following the worm. The centipede started to pass on the left. Suddenly it turned and attacked. This standard-sized earthworm was seven or eight times the length of the centipede, but earthworms are not noted for having much defense. It desperately tried to escape. The centipede hit again and again. It went for the middle. It went for one end. It went for the other. The worm was weakening. A small boy playing with a yo-yo walked by. Always playing the naturalist, I pointed out the struggle. The boy immediately reached down and rescued the worm.

I told him that this was a natural thing and we should just watch. "A lion kills an antelope for dinner, and I'll bet you eat hamburger. Some cow died for that Big Mac." I put the worm back within reach of the predator. I could see the boy still wanted to rescue the worm. He said he didn't like to see fighting. "Then," I told him, "I bet you didn't like *Batman* last summer." He admitted that he'd liked *Batman*. He put the yo-yo on the concrete and settled down to watch with me.

A centipede injects poison with the claws on its front pair of legs. This poison can be a problem if you mess with one. I've never done any experiments along these lines, but experts tell me it won't kill you. The worm got weaker. The centipede got a hold on the head end. I guess it was the head end. I'm not too sure of those things, and I wasn't wearing my glasses. The centipede let go and moved over to a weed growing through a crack in the pavement. The worm tried to crawl away. The centipede rushed back and gave it a few more nips. When its victim finally lay still, the centipede started tunneling through the weed, which it seemed to regard as a forest. It was not an inch high and, maybe, four inches long and two inches across. The centipede went back and tried to drag the worm over to the tunnel. The load was heavy and it was slow going. It tried to drag the worm from the end. Then it tried pulling from the side. Then the centipede ran into another problem. It had forgotten where it had made the tunnel. Centipedes are not real heavy thinkers.

A real naturalist would have watched this thing out if it took hours, or days. I looked over at the beagle. He was in a perfect, dog-show "sit." He was totally uninterested. After 25 minutes of watching the not very bright centipede, I gave in and helped things along. I had a weeder in my back pocket. I clipped off a larger weed growing from a sidewalk crack. The boy set it over near the centipede. It accepted the invitation. It disappeared. "What's it doing in there?"

Sharp young eyes found out. The centipede was attacking another earthworm. This one was a little more its size, but what the centipede was going to do with two earthworms just doubled the mystery. Like I said. . . a real naturalist would have waited it out. I had pedaled six miles to work. I had done my eight hours. My tennis elbow was hurting (how I came down with that I'll never know). I had been rained on several times. I had pedaled six miles home. My feet were still wet. It was dinner time. I know! I know! Excuses! But I gave it up and went home. The boy kept watching, for how long I don't know. A couple of hours later the dog and I went back. It was getting dark, and I missed the spot on the first try. On the way home I found it. I turned on my powerful, guaranteed-to-shine-a-quarter-of-a-mile flashlight at a range of six inches. Nothing was happening. I picked up the weed I had cut and turned it over. There was the centipede sound asleep. There was no sign of either earthworm. The centipede couldn't possibly have consumed even the smaller one without exploding. Did the boy remove them?

(Continued on p.8)

SEA MAMMALS AWASH IN THE LIBRARY (Library Subject List #2) by Marc Gittelsohn

(This is the second of a continuing series of book lists on special topics now available in the Torrey Pines Docent Society library.)

- Carter, Samuel III, *The happy dolphins* (Pocket Books, 1972).
- Daugherty, Anita E., *Marine mammals of California*. Third Ed. (California Dept. of Fish & Game, 1979).
- Galbraith, Robert, *Subtidal marine biology of California with emphasis on the South*. (Naturegraph, 1974).
- Gawain, Elizabeth, *The dolphin's gift* (Whatever Publishing, 1981).
- Ingles, Lloyd Glenn, *Mammals of California and its coastal waters* (Stanford University Press, 1954).
- Miller, Tom, *The world of the California gray whale* (Baja Trail Publications, 1975).
- Orr, Robert T., *Marine mammals of California*. Rev. Ed. (U.C.Press, California Natural History Guide no. 29, 1989).
- Scammon, Charles Melville, *The marine mammals of the north-western coast of North America described and illustrated*. . . (Dover Reprints, 1968).
- Valencic, Jon, *The complete whale watcher's guide* (Quest Marine Research, no date).
- Walker, Theodore J., *Whale primer, with special attention to the California gray whale*. Rev. Ed. (Cabrillo Historical Association, 1979).




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THE SIDEWALK JUNGLE (continued from p.7)

The centipedes I've seen at Torrey Pines have all been brown, not black, and much bigger than this one. "Centipede" means "hundred feet." "Everybody knows" they don't really have a hundred. Only some of them do. One order can have anywhere from 30 to 354 legs. Thirty is a more common number. They all walk with a ripple with only one leg in eight on the ground. That doesn't seem like much traction, but the fastest of the centipedes can move 20 inches in one second. I haven't been able to go that fast in years.

Centipedes seem to be humorless critters. No wonder. They don't have much fun. The male puts a blob of sperm on a web. The female comes along and picks it up. In two of the orders the female buries one egg at a time in the dirt. Then she goes on her way. In the other two orders the female lays all her eggs in one place. She cleans them carefully to protect them from fungi. She also grooms her offspring for a short time.

Nature study can be carried on anywhere, even on concrete. Before this incident, I had never wondered what centipedes eat. I dug out the animal encyclopedia. It told me about the attack with poison claws, and that centipedes usually eat invertebrates. So far, so good. Then it told me that centipede poison was not powerful enough to immobilize its prey. This little critter had immobilized a veritable Moby Earthworm. I didn't do an autopsy, but that worm looked pretty seriously dead to me. Then the book told me that centipedes are "mainly nocturnal." This one was not. Well, it also said that there are 2,750 species of centipedes. I guess this makes room for one that's non-nocturnal.

(Hank Nicol was formerly the naturalist at Torrey Pines State Reserve.)



## DUTY CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DUTY HOURS:</b> <b>MONDAY &amp; FRIDAY</b> 10:00 - 1:00 1:00 - 4:00 <b>TUES., WED., &amp; THURS.</b> 11:00 - 2:00					1 10-1 Gittelsohn 1-4 Watson	2 L - L - W - Nimick L - L - W - Dunham, G
3 L - L - W - Roberts L - Hulme L - W - Dixon	4 10-1 Talbert, J&B James 1-4 Huber	5 Martin	6 Margulies	7 Estey	8 10-1 Nicoloff 1-4	9 L - Bransford L - Foster, Pat W - Massey L - Bransford L - W -
10 L - Lewis L - Buechler W - L - Foster, PV L - Cheney W - Greene, B	11 10-1 Marine James 1-4 Green, J	12 Amann, B&M	13 Snodgrass	14 Green, D	15 10-1 Gittelsohn 1-4 Watson	16 <b>DOCENT MTG.</b> L - Liu L - Cheney W - Massey L - L - W - Liu
17 L - Lewis L - W - Roberts L - L - W - Dixon	18 10-1 Talbert, J&B James 1-4	19 Martin	20 Margulies	21 Armi	22 10-1 Nicoloff 1-4	23 L - Heller L - W - Horger L - L - W -
24 L - Holm L - W - L - Armi L - W - Greene, B	25 10-1 Huber James 1-4 Green, J	26 Foster, PV	27 Marine	28 Green, D	PLEASE CALL IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP OR HAVE TO MAKE A CHANGE. JEANNE HELLER 587-6713	



Torrey Pines Docent Society  
 c/o Torrey Pines State Reserve  
 2680 Carlsbad Boulevard  
 Carlsbad, CA 92008

FIRST CLASS

FOR

