



# TORREYANA

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Torrey Pines Docent Society  
and the Torrey Pines Association

No. 197

April 1992

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER**

Please note that the regular Docent Society meeting is on the fourth Saturday in April instead of the third, to avoid conflict with the usual crowds on the Easter holiday weekend. Also, this will be the first regular meeting with this year's trainees in attendance. "Oldtimers" should make a point of introducing themselves to the newcomers and making them feel welcome. Following the regular business meeting and refreshments, Docent Sharyl Massey, who teaches at the Palomar Outdoor School, will present slides and information about the animals on the Reserve, as well as those on exhibit in the Lodge. She will lead a walk after her talk.

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED



## **WORKSHOP ON NATURE FOR CHILDREN SCHEDULED FOR MAY**

On Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., the Docent Society will sponsor a workshop at the Lodge given by the Sharing Nature Foundation of Nevada City, California, on how to lead nature walks for children's groups. Registration for the workshop is limited to 50, with space for 25 docents. Remaining participants will come from other local nature groups who have expressed an interest in the program and who will share the cost. TPDS will cover the cost for the docents, with the requirement that they will then lead a certain number of children's groups from schools and other organizations.

With the current reduced and overloaded ranger staff, many requests for children's walks have had to be met with only a brief introduction at the Lodge, with the walks led occasionally by docents or otherwise by parents and teachers. As everyone is aware, the approach and focus for juveniles differ considerably from that for adults, and special training is a must. A handful of docents received training earlier from Ranger Greg Hackett. However,

*(continued on p. 3)*

A STAR IS BORN

She looked like an old hand at TV appearances. Joan Nimick, who continues as the vice president in charge of docent training this year, was featured on TV Channel 10 at 5:00 P.M. Thursday, March 19, and again at 7:00 A.M. Friday. Clips showed a relaxed, smiling Joan talking to a group on the trail in her usual confident, friendly manner. In the background, in addition to the flowery scenery, was Jan Taylor, who later taped the program for docent viewing at their March meeting. Information on this show as well as on KABC radio about the docent training program is expected to draw a larger than usual number of volunteers this year.

AND ALSO IN THE NEWS

The fourth grade class from Solana Highlands Elementary School visited San Elijo Lagoon Monday, March 23, as part of a study program called CLAM (Coastal Lagoons and Me). The program was initiated by Barbara Moore, a supporting docent, and Gail De Lalla, both of whom are well known local naturalists.

The program, which was described in the San Diego Union-Tribune for March 24, covers "everything from endangered species to the importance of recycling to how to make a marsh mud pie. Students will illustrate and write reports and poems about the wildlife they discover."

Congratulations to Barbara and Gail (who have taught many docents in their nature classes) for their creative contribution to public education, and to the schools for following through on this worthwhile and far-sighted project.

ATTACK ON ALIENS CONTINUES

Now is the time for all good docents to come to the aid of the alien attack. High priority is being given to removal of stock before it reseeds and to Russian thistle while it is young and soft. Willing docents can contact Kathy Estey for group pulling dates or request materials and sites from the rangers.

DOCENT HELP WANTED

Kathy Watson, who is in charge of refreshments for the 1992 trainee program, needs one or two people to help with the food Saturdays April 4, May 2, and May 9. Time will be credited to your required duty hours. Please call Kathy for details as soon as possible (481-8948).

TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two docents are needed to man an exhibit and information table for the Reserve for the Earth Fest, which is being held Saturday, April 25, in Mission Valley Center. The hours are from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M., giving plenty of time to get to the Center after the regular docent meeting that day. For details, please telephone Ranger Bob Wohl (755-2063).

TPDS REP TO ATTEND REGIONAL MEETING

A representative from the Docent Society will attend the annual meeting of the Central Coast Region of the League of California State Parks Non-Profit Organizations May 2 and 3. The meeting will be hosted by the Monterey Bay Natural History Association at Seacliff State Beach at Aptos.

TWO WISH LIST ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED

The Docent Society Executive Board in March voted funds for the purchase of a copy machine for the Lodge and a rain gauge for the Reserve. Both items were on a ranger "wish list" recently presented to the Docent Society.

BON VOYAGE TO TWO DOCENTS

Del Roberts and Bob Margulies said "au revoir" to docent friends at the March meeting for a year. We look forward to reports of their adventures in exotic ports of call.

## *News and Notes*

### BUDGET CUTS WILL AFFECT PARKS

Cuts in California's budget for 1992 amounting to almost 23 million dollars out of 170 million are expected to affect all state agencies. The Wilson administration ordered departments to plan for cuts of up to 15 percent because of the continuing recession.

Staff layoffs and district consolidations are being planned for the Department of Parks and Recreation (soon to be known as the California Park Service). The number of districts, for example, will probably be reduced from 56 to 24, eliminating a number of supervisory positions as well as positions at all levels, and adding to the load of those retained. A new "mega" district, known as San Diego Coast and stretching from the Mexican border to San Onofre, will be formed.

While some positions will be eliminated, others are expected to be added in the areas of resource management and interpretation. The new emphasis will be on ecology, resource technology, and interpretive programs.

Implementation of the cuts is expected later this year. What the effect will be at the Reserve is not yet known. The number of summer park aides has been reduced from six to five, as well.

At their March meeting docents recognized that staff reductions and/or increased loads could possibly result in greater demands on volunteer time. With appreciation for the difficult transition period for staff members, some docents suggested--not entirely jokingly--that a new bumper sticker be printed, "Have you hugged a ranger today?"

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### TWO TRIPS TO DESERT

April 11: A "desert ecology" trip is planned by the California Native Plant Society, leaving the Natural History Museum Saturday, April 11, at 7:00 A.M. and returning at 5:30 P.M. To register, call the Museum Education Department, 232-3821, X203.

April 14: A Sierra Club trip to the desert leaves Tuesday, April 14, at 8:30 A.M. and returns at 6:00 P.M. For details, call 486-4025.

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### NATURE FOR CHILDREN *(continued from p.1)*

more docents are needed to meet the demand and also so that the larger groups can be divided into manageable units. New trainees will be urged to prepare themselves for leading children's groups, and the date of the nature workshop has been planned for after the training program.

Docents who wish to register for the program should get in touch with President Diana Snodgrass.

## *Report from the Ranger*

### STATE RECOGNITION FOR BOB WOHL

Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl was recently presented with a certificate of recognition by Deirdre Alpert, assemblywoman for the 75th district, for the protection and preservation of Torrey Pines State Reserve and Penasquitos Lagoon for 1991. This adds another justly deserved award received over the years at Torrey Pines as a result of the first-class staff and operation at the Reserve.

Incidentally, the recent political redistricting in California because of population shifts will switch the Reserve from being totally in the 75th district to having the main part of the Reserve in the 78th district, the Extension in the 74th, and Peñasquitos Lagoon in the 76th. Legislators who will be running in the November election as incumbents in those districts are: Bob Frazee, 74th; Deirdre Alpert, 78th; and Mike Gotch, 76th.

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### WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE RAIN MAKES!

During February and March of this year, Diana Estrella and Michael Mitchell, both students in Dr. John Boland's General Ecology class at UCSD, made a study of the differences in Torrey pines in drought areas and at an irrigated site on North Torrey Pines Road. What they discovered will confirm your suspicions: there are more pine cones and more branches on trees in the irrigated areas than on trees left to nature in the Reserve. (The drought site showed a smaller proportion of small cones and a greater proportion of old, large cones compared to trees at the irrigated site.) Needles of irrigated trees were also longer. However, the researchers pointed out that the "difference between total branches and mean needle length may not reflect the amount of irrigation a site receives... [but rather] the difference in environmental conditions." They suggested that the shorter needles in the Reserve pines might be attributed to the pruning effects of offshore winds.

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### WILDFLOWERS NEWSWORTHY THIS YEAR

Color photos of an assortment of wildflowers (and also of Bob Wohl) illustrated a front page spread on the Reserve in the "Accent" section of the *Oceanside Blade Citizen* on Friday, March 20. You may find some visitors from that area who will be confused about a couple of the flowers which were misidentified; but with four dozen species to check out at that time, who can blame a reporter who hasn't had decent training for getting a couple mixed up? After all, it's taken most of us years to get most of the flowers straightened out!

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### COREOPSIS ABLOOM IN THE PARKING LOT



If you get a chance to take your eyes off the road as you drive in or out of the main entrance to the park, notice the coreopsis that has sprung up along the banks. This is the first blooming of the native plants seeded after the remodeling of the entrance. More should be appearing soon. Meanwhile, 25 volunteers from Bishop's School under the direction of Docent Betty Vale have pulled unwanted grasses from the landscaped area (as well as considerable stock and Hottentot fig at other sites).

## STALKING THE YELLOW VIOLET



*Viola pedunculata*

For five years the little California golden violet, also known as Johnny-jump-up, has been in hiding. It takes a lot of moisture to make the tiny seed burst its hard brown shell. This year's welcome rains did the job, and the perky, brown-veined yellow blossoms are visible in several clumps near North Overlook on the ocean side of the Guy Fleming Trail. Docent Maurie Brown, who keeps close track of this flower (among others in her detailed record book), announced the violet's arrival in mid-March. One clump had not yet bloomed, so chances are some blossoms will still be showing in early April.

The violet adds its fragile beauty to that of about 46 other plants that Docent Marc Gittelsohn listed on a trip around this trail the day before spring arrived officially. Some of the growth looks as though it had been fed a magic potion--which, of course, rain is in this area. The twining snapdragons and wild cucumber are running rampant over and through any plant they can invade, making a confusing mixture of leaves and blooms for the novice. Even miner's lettuce, that shy little ground hugger with the unique design, is spilling all over its shady spot between North Overlook and the scrub oak. Some redberry bushes are covered so thickly with their miniature, easy-to-miss chartreuse flowers that the stems are hardly visible. Giant coreopsis is living up to its name, and here and there a usually demure plant like pearly everlasting or Douglas wallflower has headed enthusiastically for the sky.

The hillsides resemble an impressionist painting, with their carpet of rosy ground pinks, white popcorn flower (or forget-me-not), yellow groundsel and sun cups. Our State flower, the orange-centered yellow poppy, is bigger and more widespread than usual. Purple nightshade has popped up in a number of new places. Some plants, like the delicate maroon jewel flower and the dainty pink and white milkmaids, have bloomed early and are already disappearing. Some, like the magenta four o'clock, the blue phacelia, and the blue and mauve wild hyacinth, are just beginning to come into their own. And some, like the prickly pear and yarrow, show promise of profuse blooms in a month or so.

A patch of shooting stars, which always look as though a strong wind had reversed their petals, has sprung up in its usual location by the "sphinx" formation. (For a breathtaking display of this member of the primrose family, try the Broken Hills Trail, where meadow slopes are--or were--sprinkled with hundreds of them. Broken Hills, in fact, is competing strongly in the floral show this year, in both varieties and number. And it has a few specialties of its own, such as the fuschia-flowered gooseberry bush marking a turn in the path before it joins the Beach Trail. The footing in Broken Hills is a little the worse for the rain, so walkers need to be forewarned.)

In this season even a walk along the road is rewarding. As one visitor remarked, recalling our dry, dusty periods, "It's a pleasure just to see the leaves on the bushes so glossy and green."

What a splendid year for trainees to be introduced to this wildflower wonderland!

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*A health unto the happy!  
A fig for him who frets!--  
It is not raining rain to me,  
It's raining violets.*

--Robert Loveman

PLEASE DON'T EAT THE NATIVE PLANTS—UNLESS YOU GROW THEM



While listing the many native plants that are edible or otherwise usable, Professor Steve Crouthamel, an expert in American Indian studies at Palomar College, advised docents at their March meeting to caution visitors against digging up plants from the wild for a tasty meal or a collection. He was chagrined to learn that students from his classes had exploited plants around the college area, eliminating soap plant and chocolate lily and making inroads on others, such as white sage. He recommended photography as the best way today to make a botanical collection.

Steve also noted that environmental changes have made it risky to sample native plants for food. Some may now be growing in areas polluted by toxic groundwater and are contaminated. He pointed out, too, that plants used by the Indians, as reported by Delfina Cuero in her autobiography, reflected Hispanic and Anglo input as well as other Indian locations. For example, the tuna cactus (labeled as "native" in the Reserve plant list) was originally brought up from the South, where it had been used by the Incas. Trading food was a common practice. (In answer to a question from a docent, Steve said it was possible that Torrey pine seeds had reached Santa Rosa Island through trading.)

Indians, said Crouthamel, made much greater use of plants than of animals. Their diets were heavy in fiber and calcium, and they consumed 400% of today's required daily amount of the latter. Seeds were an important element in diet; they were processed in metates, while acorns were ground in mortars.

Steve provided a list of plant uses by the Ipai and Tipai ("pai" means "people") from Torrey Pines and the nearby coastal environs: nine plants for tools and building materials, 21 for foods, and 20 for medicine and ceremonial rites. His talk was illustrated with slides of the plants and peppered with interesting sidelights. He told us that California Indians made the tightest and aesthetically most pleasing baskets in the world. *Juncus* [which grows in the lagoon area] was a favorite basketry fibre.

As sources for native plant uses, he recommended *Delfina Cuero: Her Autobiography* (Florence Shipek, Ballena Press, 1970 and rev. ed. 1991); and the chapters on the Ipai and Tipai in *The Handbook of North American Indians* (William C. Sturtevant, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., 1978. (Both books are available in the docent library.)



BIRDING IN VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL

Docent Joan Nimick and her husband, Webb, will present a free slide program open to the public at 7:00 P.M., Friday, May 1 at the La Jolla Recreation Center featuring birds in Venezuela and Brazil which they photographed on their recent trip there. Docents will recall the superb photography in the Nimick's previous slide show of animals in Africa.

*The bluebird carries the sky on his back.*

--Henry David Thoreau

EXCITEMENT ON THE TRAIL by Bob Amann

Coastal scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*) may now be among the rarest of the shrub oaks (according to *Oaks of California*, Pavlik et al), and TPSR may have a good percentage of what remains. As reported earlier, now reinforced with additional observations, there seem to be two varieties in the Red Butte area rather than simple variations.

The "new" variety, not described in the literature, has softer, toothless leaves on the entire plant as well as much narrower acorns. The standard variety has fat acorns and sharp-toothed stiff leaves that dare you to grab a handful. The area around Red Butte has a considerable number of plants of this Type 2 scrub oak and merits an organized inventory.

Acorns of both varieties were planted in a nursery environment. The toothed variety produced eight vigorous seedlings out of ten, while the toothless variety appears to have been back-crossed with the dominant variety and produced four out of ten smaller, toothed seedlings. Since the environmental site is densely crowded with both types, the timing of the pollen cloud may have favored the toothed variety.

Obviously, a statistically more significant number of acorns must be obtained and sprouted to make Type 2 worthy of being considered as a consistent variety.

(Meanwhile, down at trail's end, what has been a hedge of dead sticks for two years has become a jumping, growling mass of resurrected wolfberry.)




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*Docent President's Notes* by Diana Snodgrass

On Tuesday, March 17, Ranger Carol Provost and I attended two workshops at the conference of the California State Park Rangers Association held at The Inn, Anaheim.

The first workshop focused on the rapidly increasing list of endangered species of plants and animals in California and the problems related to defining, identifying, and protecting them. The California Department of Fish and Game operates a Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB). This consists of a constantly updated, computerized inventory of location of special animals and plants and natural communities. The blueprint used to set up the NDDB was developed by the Nature Conservatory. I have asked Marc Gittelsohn, our librarian, to put on file in the docent room the information package I brought back with me. This includes a list of the plants and animals currently on the endangered list as well as the status of many others. There is increasing need for the public to be aware of how fragile our environment is, and it is important for us as docents to be informed about the huge cross section of endangered species.

Dick Zembell from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave a brief slide show on some of the endangered birds in the region. His special interest is the clapper rail. Currently only 237 pairs are left; locally, five pairs are at San Elijo Lagoon. The Reserve book refers to the fact that clapper rails can be seen in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. Lack of chord grass has made it more unlikely that birds can be seen there today. If anyone should spot them, please inform Ranger Bob.

(continued on p.8)

**THE LIBRARY AT SEA** (Library Subject List #13) by Marc Gittelsohn

*(The Pacific is right out there, and you will want to know what the docent library has on oceanography. I have not duplicated titles given on the tide-pools and seashore list--see Torreyana, February 1992, p.3.)*

Angel, Martin, *Ocean life* (Octopus Books, 1974).

Carson, Rachel, *Under the sea wind; a naturalist's picture of ocean life* (New American Library, 1941).

De Santis, Marie, *California currents; an exploration of the ocean's pleasures, mysteries and dilemmas* (Presidio Press, 1988). Gift of Peggy Haskell, 1991.

Galbraith, Robert, *Subtidal marine biology of California with emphasis on the south* (Naturegraph, 1974).

Hull, Seabrook, *The bountiful sea* (Prentice Hall, 1965).

Kuhn, Gerald G. and Shepard, Francis P., *Sea cliffs, beaches and coastal valleys of San Diego County; some amazing histories and implications* (Univ. of Calif. Press, 1984).

Marx, Wesley, *The frail ocean* (Coward McCann, 1967).

Ricketts, Edward Flanders et al, *Between Pacific tides*. 5th ed. (Stanford University Press, 1985). Added to the collection in 1992.

Silverberg, Robert, *The world within the ocean wave* (Weybright and Talley, 1972).

Torchio, Menico, *The world beneath the sea* (Crown, World of Nature Series, 1973).

Turekian, Karl R., *Oceans*. 2nd ed. (Prentice Hall, 1976).

Ward, Ritchie, *Into the ocean world; the biology of the sea* (Knopf, 1974).

Zottoli, Robert, *Introduction to marine environments* (Mosby, 1973).

**DOCENT PRESIDENT'S NOTES** (continued from p.7)

The second CSPRA workshop was entitled "Trunk of Junk." Linda Roth had put together an interesting collection of common household objects that could be used to illustrate plant and animal adaptations. For instance, she used two different sizes of funnels to demonstrate how animal ears are adapted to pick up sounds, and pieces of colored cellophane to demonstrate visual differences. If anyone has ideas for inexpensive ways to use aids to interpret nature, we might put together a box of tricks similar to the one Ms. Roth used. And if anyone would like to make a box with lots of little compartments, please contact me.

*The learn'd is happy nature to explore,  
The fool is happy that he knows no more.*

--Alexander Pope

TPA ELECTS OFFICERS

At its meeting on Saturday, March 14, Torrey Pines Association elected the following officers.

President: George Beardsley  
 1st Vice President: Maurie Brown  
 2nd Vice President: John Fleming  
 Secretary: Victoria Bradshaw  
 Treasurer: John Shelton

TYPEWRITER NEEDED AT LODGE

Do you have a typewriter you no longer use or are trading in on a new model or a computer? The Docent Society would like to have your old one for use at the Lodge. An electric machine is preferable, but a manual in good shape would be acceptable. Among others who do work in the docent room, the librarian needs a typewriter for cards and records.

Please let Diana Snodgrass know if you can supply a machine.

*One impulse from a vernal wood  
 May teach you more of man,  
 Of moral, evil and of good,  
 Than all the sages can.*

--William Wordsworth

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

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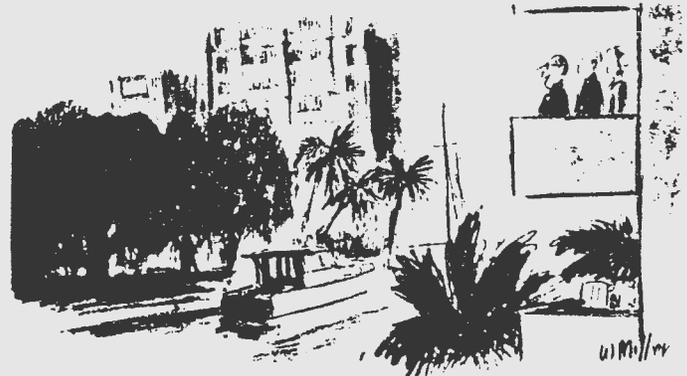
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for TPDS--Mary Lou Wasden  
 Membership Chair  
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ROSTER UPDATEAddress changes for docents:

Lou Wasden  
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 Solana Beach, CA 92075

Jane Vogel  
 16916 Hierba Dr. #107  
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"This area has a long and rich history. First, the Indians lived here, then it was a plantation with slaves, then poor people lived here, and now it's a magnificent condo complex."

**APRIL DUTY CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Lodge—Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 10-1 1-4 Hours: Tues/Wed/Thurs 11-2 Walks—Sat/Sun 11-2 1-4			1 L—Bardwicks	2 L—Buechler	3 L—Gittelson --- L—Vale	4 L—Parnell W—Cassell --- L—Green W—Stiegler
5 L—Holm W—Marley --- L—Morrow W—Camporini	6 L—Green --- L—Huber	7 L—Martin	8 L—Moran	9 L—Estey	10 L—Watson --- L—Vale	11 L—Bardwick W—Bardwick --- L—Brickelmaier W—Dixon
12 L—Heller W—Marley --- L—Morrow W—Osisek	13 L—Bardwicks --- L—Marine	14 L—Talberts	15 L—Ferguson	16 L—Wasden	17 L—Gittelson --- L—Green	18 L—Marine W—Dunham --- L—Stone W—Massey
19 L—Parnell W—Ferguson --- L—Schulman Antrim W—Dixon	20 L—Green --- L—Stiegler	21 L—Martin	22 L—Wasden	23 L—Amann	24 L—Watson --- L—Brickelmaier	25 MEETING L— W—Estey --- L—Stone W—Cooper
26 L—Heller W—Cassell --- L—Osisek W—	27 L—Snodgrass --- L—Huber	28 L—Talberts	29 L—Moran	30 L—Buechler		

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