



# TORREYANA

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

No. 198

May 1992

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

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

A special treat is in store for docents in May. Following the regular meeting at the Lodge at 9:00 A.M., the group will car pool to the Chula Vista Nature Interpretive Center, where they will be given a guided tour by Barbara Moore, who is the coordinator of volunteer and public programs there. Barbara is well known to us as a supporting docent and to many as their teacher in local nature classes. She is also co-author (with Lonnie Hewitt) of the book, *Walking San Diego* (1989). Docents from the Interpretive Center will join us that day, providing a unique opportunity to share experiences and knowledge. A catered lunch from the Soup Exchange will be provided at the Center for \$6.50 per person, payable in advance to Jim Cassell, vice president of programs for TPDS. There is also a 50¢ charge for the shuttle bus which takes visitors from the parking lot to the Center. Directions to the parking lot are available at the Lodge or at the meeting.

Be sure to bring your binoculars!

## THE RESERVE AS CLASSROOM

*For education is, Making Men;  
So is it now, so was it when  
Mark Hopkins sat on one end of a log  
And James Garfield sat on the other. (A. Guiterman)*



There was more than one teacher and one student, but the classroom was the outdoors, as it was for Hopkins and Garfield, when 120 eighth graders from Bishop's School of La Jolla participated in an interdisciplinary workshop Friday, April 10, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. at four separate sites at the Reserve. The workshop was planned by Betty Vale, a docent and mother of two girls who attend Bishop's, and Kristin Drucker, a teacher there.

The workshop dealt with various approaches to nature: history, botany, geology, art, and writing. The group split it into four units  
(continued on p. 3)

## *Docent Doings*

### VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP FOR NATURE WORKSHOP



Docents have indicated their interest in interpreting nature for children's groups by signing up promptly for the workshop being given by the Sharing Nature Foundation of Nevada City, California, at the Reserve Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The Docent Society is underwriting the workshop for approximately 15 docents. They will be joined by members of the Chula Vista Interpretive Society. Anyone who is interested and has not yet signed up should get in touch with Diana Snodgrass (481-2354).

### SCHEDULING GROUPS FOR WALKS

Any docent on duty in the Lodge who takes a request to schedule a group walk should write a note, sign it, and leave it on the Rangers' desk. Docents should also let people know that no group walks can be scheduled for Saturdays or Sundays. However, small groups can join the regularly scheduled walks on those days.

### RECORD CROWD LEARNS ABOUT RESERVE ANIMALS

Docent Sharyl Massey, who teaches at the Palomar Outdoor School, outlined the common animals at the Reserve for a record crowd of 60 docents and trainees at the Docent Society meeting April 25. Following the evolutionary ladder, Sharyl gave pertinent facts about lizards, snakes, birds, marine mammals, and land mammals, showing slides mainly from the Lodge collection to illustrate each species. [These slides are available to docents for educational purposes with the permission of the staff.]

Sharyl noted that the mountain lion, while not exactly common in this area, apparently still exists here, according to evidence found from time to time. However, the lion is not listed in the official booklet for the Reserve.

Among the facts she pointed out that may round out docents' nature talks on trails were:

- Lizards have eyelids and external ears; snakes don't.
- The rosy boa is a protected snake; you can't take one for a pet.
- Snakes flick out their tongues to help them find their prey. They also have extra bones in their jaws to permit them to open wide to swallow prey.
- Birds of flight have hollow bones; birds do not have teeth.
- The best way to tell a raven from a crow is by the shape of the tail in flight: ravens' tails are wedge or V-shaped; crows' are straight.
- The red dot on the bill of many species of gulls is a sign stimulus for the babies to peck at, causing the mother to regurgitate food.
- Opossums have litters twice a year and may have 13 per litter-- a couple of reasons why they are not endangered.
- Raccoons wash their food to make it moist, not to get it clean.

## RESERVE AS CLASSROOM (continued from p. 1)

which circulated to the various classroom sites. At Red Bluff, Docent President Diana Snodgrass took the students on a geological walk through time with the aid of hand-held fossils and rocks plus the surroundings; at a trail overlook, Historian Judy Schulman (who is also an ex-president), held forth on history and anthropology, including music and dance of local Native Americans, their arrows and baskets; at another trail clearing, Vice President of Training Joan Nimick, assisted by Kathy Estey, made the field of ethnobotany come alive with the aid of various indigenous plants; and on the Rim Trail bridge overlooking the canyon, Betty Vale supervised the final session, which was a reflection on the students' experience at the Reserve translated into sketches and writing.

Meanwhile, in the background, Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl took polaroid shots which he later compiled with explanatory notes into an illustrated record of the workshop, available to staff and docents in the Lodge.

The workshop was considered an outstanding success by rangers, teachers, docents, and students and will probably serve as a model for other educational programs. In appreciation of the cooperation and leadership of the docents, Bishop's School made a donation of \$200 to the Docent Society.

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## WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME AT TPSR



The verdant and flowery landscape at the Reserve acts like a magnet in the spring for groups seeking a pleasant and sometimes educational outing.

On the afternoon of April 25, friends of the La Jolla Civic University Symphony were treated to a tour by the knowledgeable Elizabeth Nicoloff, whose late husband, Peter Nicoloff, was the founder of the La Jolla Symphony. Elizabeth was assisted by Walter Desmond, who sings tenor with the symphony chorus. The tour is a continuing offering each year by Elizabeth for her musical friends.

Other groups expected to come to the park will include some inner-city and physically disabled youths under the sponsorship of the San Diego branch of the Sierra Club. These visits are subsidized by the Nissan Company, which provides a grant of \$70,000 to ten U.S. cities for such purposes. San Diego receives \$4800 of this money to provide a variety of field trips for the youngsters.

And of course the regular school and club organizations are flocking in as usual. Docents interested in leading groups on the trail should check in with the Rangers' office.

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*To enjoy scenery you should ramble amidst it; let the feelings to which it gives rise mingle with other thoughts; look round upon it in intervals of reading; and not go to it as one goes to see the lions fed at a fair. The beautiful is not to be stared at, but to be lived with.*

--Thomas Babington Macaulay

## News and Notes

### PACK-RAT NESTS HELPING TO WRITE HISTORY



"From the well-preserved contents of [pack-rat] middens scientists using radiocarbon dating can peer thousands of years into the past to discern when climates changed, why civilizations withered and how plants and animals migrated." (*Time*, April 6, 1992, p.61, courtesy Jim Cassell).

According to this article, globs of crystallized pack-rat urine found in arid regions of North and Central America contain debris collected by the rats that provide "a snapshot of the flora and fauna existing within about 164 ft. of the midden at the time it was accumulating." Specimens from a range of years up to 40,000 provide answers to such questions as why an Anasazi Indian community was abandoned 800 years ago. (They had depleted all the surrounding pine trees for their dwellings and firewood and consequently the farmland vital to their survival was also eroded.)

Anyone interested in pursuing this subject can do so in a recent volume, *Packrat Middens*, published by the University of Arizona.

Perhaps a paleontologist (one who studies old nests) should be invited to examine the contents of an abandoned pack-rat nest in the Reserve to see what secrets it contains.

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### BEEBLE TRAPS STILL FUNCTIONING

Pheromones in the black and white beetle traps hanging in the Reserve are still active and continuing to attract *ips paraconfusus*. For the edification of the docents, a plastic, well-sealed bag of frozen bark beetles was displayed at the April meeting. The little critters are black and about 1/4" long. Small but devastating.

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### TPSR DOCENT CONTRIBUTES HIS TALENT TO SAN ELIJO

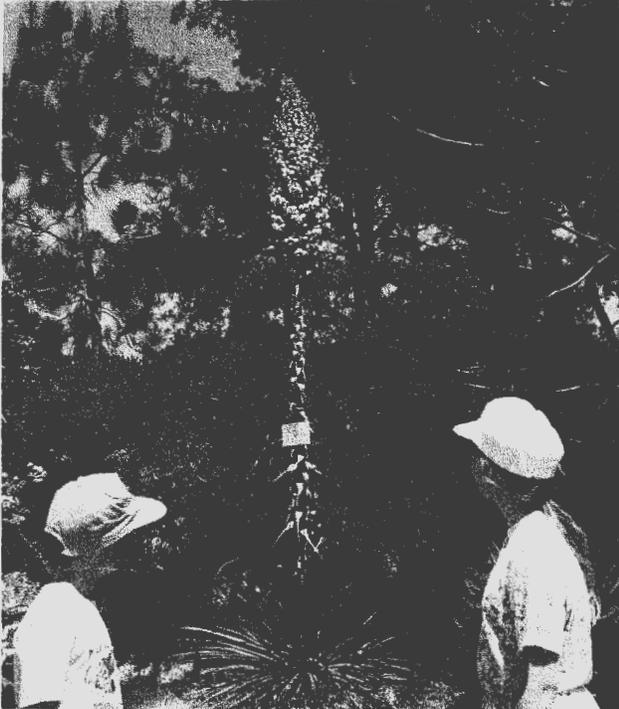
Our docents have many talents. Among them is Pete Bardwick, who recently created a sign for the new visitor center at San Elijo State Park. It was greatly appreciated, as indicated by a letter from Supervising Ranger Greg Hackett (formerly on the staff at TPSR). Greg wrote: "It is a beautiful piece of work and will surely encourage our camping park visitors to enjoy the new visitor center."

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### LEARN ABOUT SHOREBIRDS

One of the many courses being offered this summer by the San Diego Natural History Museum that may have particular appeal to docents is "Shorebirds in Summer." The instructor is Phil Unitt, and the course includes a lecture Wednesday, July 29, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and two field trips, Saturdays August 1 and 8, 7:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The course fills quickly, so register as soon as possible. For more information or a registration form, call the Museum's Education Department, 232-3821, X203.

## NEW SPORT: WATCH THE YUCCA WHIPPLEI GROWING



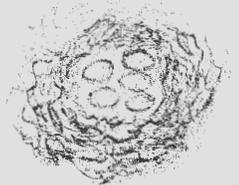
Out in Iowa they say you can hear the corn growing. Here at the Reserve, we listen for the *Yucca whipplei*, also known as "Our Lord's Candle." Or we should, considering the phenomenal rate of growth displayed by the yucca in the garden in front of the Lodge this April. Ranger Allyn Kaye started measuring it on April 3. It was 44" tall. By April 17, it had grown to 116", which translates into a little more than 5" per day.

By the time these two visitors looked at it, the plant had more or less stopped its upward movement and was concentrating on producing hundreds of cream and pink blossoms. Allyn labeled the plant, just in case anyone walking by was unaware of the unusual feat of nature that had just been accomplished.

Some candle!

## FINCH FINDS FINE NESTING PLACE

In the *Field Guide to the Nest, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds* (Colin Harrison, Stephen Greene Press, 1984), the author notes that the house finch "breeds in cultivated areas and around buildings . . . in a variety of sites, where a raised ledge or cavity is available." The perfect spot for a house finch at the Reserve proved to be just inside the swing-out window in the Lodge bathroom. It's well-protected from the elements, though not from the indoor creatures who make use of the facilities. At last count, there were five eggs in the nest, which is an average number--and it didn't look as though there were space for any more. A protective screen on the inside of the window was being considered to give the female privacy to tend her nestlings. The eggs are bluish white, with a little dark speckling. The field guide notes that incubation is by the female alone for 12-14 days, during which time she is fed by the male. The young leave the nest at 14-16 days, providing ample opportunity for all docents to observe the site--unless forbidden to do so for the birds' protection. Please follow any posted directions.



*For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the  
singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is  
heard in our land.*

--Song of Solomon 2:10

**FOSSILS IN BOOKS** (Library Subject List #12) by Marc Gittelsohn

(Most of the books in the docent library on paleontology are given below. Serious readers will also wish to consult our closely related geology materials-- see *Torreyana* for January 1992, p. 6. Upcoming lists will be on field guides limited to San Diego County, interpretation of natural history, and other relevant fields.)

Clark, David L., *Fossils, paleontology and evolution* (Brown, 1971).

Fenton, Carroll Lane, *The fossil book; a record of prehistoric life* (Doubleday, 1958).

Goldring, William, *Handbook of paleontology for beginners and amateurs*.  
Part I: *the fossils* (New York Museum Handbook no. 9, 1969).

Moore, Ellen J., *Fossil mollusks of San Diego County* (San Diego Society of Natural History, 1968). Added to the collection in 1991.

Murray, Marian, *Hunting for fossils; a guide to finding and collecting fossils in all fifty states* (Macmillan, 1969).

**FUNGUS IN THE PARK AND IN BOOKS**

While not pretending to compete with the Wisconsin-Michigan "humongous fungus" (as described by *Time*, April 6), Torrey Pines has its share of fungi. The midwest giant has spread over 37 acres and is said to weigh at least as much as a blue whale. Our production is puny by comparison but interesting, nonetheless. Bob Amann discovered a large (by our standards) chanterelle mushroom, about 5" across the top, growing out by the woodpile behind the Lodge recently. Others, such as puffballs, also pop up here and there. Both the chanterelles and the puffballs are edible varieties, though Charlotte Clarke, author of *Edible and Useful Plants of California*, states that "American Indians seldom ate the fungi, perhaps because of the difficulty in differentiating the poisonous from the edible."

Keeping up with the current interest in mycology, Librarian Marc Gittelsohn recently added three books to our collection on this subject. They were purchased through a gift from Millicent and Donald Horger in memory of Lester Raymond, as indicated by the bookplate in each. The titles are:

*A Field Guide to Western Mushrooms* (Alexander H. Smith, Univ. of Michigan Press, 1975);

*Mushrooms* (Kent and Vera McKnight, Peterson Field Guides, 1987); and

*Mushrooms of North America* (Roger Phillips, Little, Brown & Co., 1991).

(The single holding on mycology in our collection prior to this purchase was *Mushrooms of Southern California* by Robert Orr.)

*A nature lover is a person who, when treed by a bear, enjoys the view.*

--Anon.

## TRAINEE CLASS FOR 1992 ALREADY HELPING OUT

An enthusiastic group of 28 trainees, many of whom came with considerable knowledge about plant life in the Reserve, has been cramming assorted nature facts into notebooks in the past few weeks. Those who registered are: Josh Baur, John Carson, Lilla Clark, Renny Dowling, Dinna Estrella, Joanne Felice, Tammy Grogan, Ruth Ganeless, Jane Gary, Claudia Glaser, Karen Griebe, Charles Herzfeld, Marty Blake Jacobson, Carol Jorgensen, Richard Lighthall, David and Lisa Maynard, Jayne McGowan, Michael McGuerty, Donald E. Miller, Shirley Musser, Becky Polanchak, Charlie Robertson, Elaine Sacks, Carol Schroeder, Theo Tanalski, Mary Knox Weir, Dorothy Wurtzel.

Several trainees have already contributed time and effort to some park maintenance projects. Newcomer Lilla Clark joined regulars Diana Snodgrass and Kathy Estey in trimming up bushes along the Guy Fleming Trail, and Lilla also received special commendation for emptying overflowing trash cans at the trailhead as well as on the beach. Trainees John Carson and Charlie Robertson worked with Ranger Chris Platis, Park Aide Mike Neustein, and Intern Scott Kirshbaum digging post holes and putting up cable along the trail. Another trainee, Josh Bauer, also helped by trimming bushes along the Broken Hills Trail.

Chris Platis is in charge of trail maintenance and is interested in forming a committee to provide continuing maintenance. Anyone who would like to help out should contact Chris. Volunteer assistance is always appreciated and is particularly needed at this busy season.



## HERE COME THE 'ECOCOOPERATIVE' KIDS

Torrey Pines State Reserve was among the local organizations exhibiting at the Earth Fest sponsored by *San Diego Parent Magazine* and held Saturday afternoon, April 25, in the May Company Court in Mission Valley Center. Docent Georgette Camporini drew on the resources of the Lodge to make a display guaranteed to attract the kiddies and help fulfill the festival's aim of teaching them to be "ecocooperative."

Of course, Georgette displayed a Torrey pine cone, along with some needles and a basket made by Judy Schulman, plus some other types of pine cones for comparison. Our brown pelican, California quail, and gray fox stood guard over an assortment of literature and such artefacts as baleen. Photos of the park's various attractions included a spectacular mojave yucca, the cliffs and the sea, the lagoon with some terns. Giant posters behind the exhibit featured a map of the area and other information.

Most tantalizing was the covered basket, which invited the youngsters to put their hands into the hidden space and guess what they were feeling, which included a deer's vertebra, a seal's scapula, tubeworm casings, and shells.

Joan Nimick and Barbara Green both lent a hand for part of the time.

### GUY FLEMING HOUSE TO BE MAINTAINED

A headline on Peter Rowe's column in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* on April 5 stirred up considerable reaction among readers familiar with the Reserve. The line announced, "The lone house on Torrey Pines may soon be gone." This was misleading and not strictly based on information in the article, part of which was the report of an interview with Robin and Bob Wohl, current occupants of the house in question. As Bob explained it to the docents at their April meeting, the house will stay, but the Wohls will be leaving it as of June 1. (The move had not been planned at the time of the interview.) They are moving to a residence in Del Mar convenient to the park and to a school for Shayna. The California Park System plans to keep the adobe house, which was built by Guy Fleming in the twenties and has historic value. It is in need of repair, but will be maintained as a residence for an employee of the Park System.

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### PARRY GROVE TRAIL OPEN

Parry Grove Trail, which was closed temporarily while preparations were being made for a control burn in that vicinity, has been re-opened to the public. The burn has been put off until climate conditions are suitable.

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### *TPA Topics*

#### SCRIPPS SCIENTIST RECEIVES NATIONAL ACADEMY AWARD

Professor Joseph L. Reid, a physical oceanographer at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, was awarded the Alexander Agassiz Gold Medal and \$6,000 by the National Academy of Science on April 27 in Washington, D.C. Reid, whose studies focus on the surface and sub-surface circulation in the Pacific, has led numerous oceanographic expeditions all over the world.

Reid will be the eighth Scripps scientist to receive the Agassiz medal, which is given only every three years. He is the husband of Freda Reid, a Scripps research associate, better known to docents and TPA members as the editor of the third edition (1991) of the official "green" book about Torrey Pines State Reserve.

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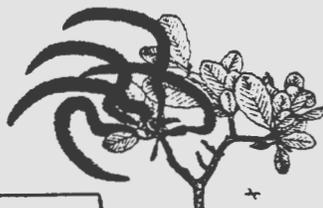
*From nature doth emotion come; and  
moods  
Of calmness equally are Nature's gift:  
This is her glory; these two attributes  
Are sister horns that constitute her  
strength.*

--William Wordsworth

## Editor's Corner

 A four-foot gopher snake slid out onto the road in front of us on our walk Sunday, April 19. It sensed the vibration of an approaching car and made a smooth U-turn that saved its life. Later that day we saw the black tail of another snake disappearing into the bushes by the Guy Fleming Trail water fountain, where it had perhaps been getting a drink from the ground puddle. The two sightings prompted one of the walkers to ask, "Why is the symbol of medicine two serpents twined around that stick?" We didn't know, but in case other visitors at this season of visible snakes should be prompted to ask the same question, we did a little research on the history of the caduceus, as "that stick" is called.

To put a long and complicated story short, it seems that Hippocrates, a 400 B.C. Greek physician regarded as the father of medicine, belonged to a society named for Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine. Asclepius is frequently represented in ancient sculpture with a club-like staff entwined with a serpent, considered to have magical powers. However, a wand with two serpents was carried by Mercury (or Hermes). Somehow, Mercury's wand merged with the association with magic and healing of Asclepius's staff and became the symbol of physicians.... all of which is probably more than your visitor wanted to know.



The *Torreyana* is issued monthly except for August by the Torrey Pines Association and the Torrey Pines Docent Society.

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

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Staff: Glenn Dunham, Elizabeth Nicoloff, Marion Antrim

\* \* \*

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La Jolla, CA 92038

for TPDS--Mary Lou Wasden  
Membership Chair  
527 So. Sierra Ave. #180  
Solana Beach, CA 92075

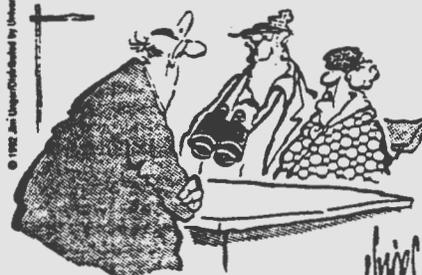
### ROSTER UPDATE

Address change for docent:

Hilda Moran  
661 So. Cedros, Solana Beach, CA 92014  
Tel: 792-6758, or 755-4651 (leave message)

### HERMAN By Unger

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3/88

"He gets overly excited when he's birdwatching."

# MAY DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 L-Parnell W- L- W-Olsiek	Locker--Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 10-1 1-4 Hours: Tues/Wed/Thurs 11-2 Weds--Sat/Sun 11-2 1-4 Joy Cooper 259-1299				1 L-Watson --- L-Marine	2 L-Sachs W-Moran L-Brickelmaier W-Marley
3 L-Heller W-Ferguson L-Sachs W-Moran	4 L-Green	5 L-Martin	6 L-Talberta	7 L-Talberta	8 L-Gittelsohn --- L-Ferguson	9 L-Marine W-Taylor L-Schroeder W-Taylor
10 L-Parnell W-Cassell L-Morrow W-Marley	11 L-Massey --- L-Huber	12 L-Buechler	13 L-Szela	14 L-Amern	15 L-Gittelsohn --- L-	16 MEETING: L-Cooper W-Farmer L- W-
17 W-Cassell L-Morrow W-Schiegler	18 L-Huber	19 L-Martin	20 L-Szela	21 L-Estey	22 L-Snookgrass --- L-Massey	23 L-Szela W- L- W-Schiegler
24 L-Heller W- L- W-	25 L-Brickelmaier W-Cooper L- W-Dixon	26 L-Bardricks	27 L-Morrow	28 L-Buechler	29 L-Szela --- L-	30 L- W- L- W-



**HELP WANTED:** Many positions still available in May for full members to fulfill their volunteer commitment. Weekends preferred. Please call Duty Chair Joy Cooper--259-1299.

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
 c/o Torrey Pines State Reserve  
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