



# TORREYANA

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

No. 200

July-August 1992

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER**

Dr. Albert C. Myrick, wildlife biologist at the Southwest Fisheries Center, will speak at the July docent meeting on "Dolphin stress, population regulation, and the use of zen in scientific research." Those who have heard Dr. Myrick speak before will vouch for his riveting and humorous presentation, which somewhat disguises the fact that he is providing a lot of scholarly information. This time his title alone suggests that he will have something fresh and perhaps surprising to include in his talk. Vice President Jim Cassell will be in charge of the meeting in President Diana Snodgrass's absence on vacation. But there will still be business and refreshments before the speaker!

**DOCENT BEACH PICNIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 10:30 A.M.**

A beach picnic replaces the regular Docent Society meeting in August. The site will be the foot of the staircase opposite the kiosk at the south parking lot. The time is 10:30 A.M. until exhaustion. Picnic tables will be available. As always, this is a potluck affair. Bring what you like--an entree, salad, rolls or bread, fruit or other dessert, enough for eight persons. Family members are welcome if you provide a little extra food. Paper necessities plus beverages will be supplied by the Docent Society. Don't forget the sun screen!



### **VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT FORM FOR DOCENTS**

All docents--full, associate, and supporting--are required by the California State Park System to fill out a volunteer agreement form (form DPR-208) annually. These forms are available in the main office of the Lodge, and should be turned in within the next 30 days. This can be done while you are on duty; or if in another category, please stop in at the Lodge as soon as possible to sign your form.

## ***Docent Doings***

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW DOCENTS**

Vice President of Training Joan Nimick announced at the June Docent Society meeting that the following four docents were the first to complete their requirements for full membership: John Carson, Karen Griebe, Mary Knox Weir, and Theo Tanalski. Joan presented them with their name badges. (Docent patches are also awarded to new docents and may be picked up at the Lodge desk.)

Joan asked that completed take-home exams now be sent to Mary Lou Wasden, membership chair, so that she can order name badges. (Those with questions about procedures to follow in the training can check the information in the green training manual, especially Section I, pp. 7-8.)

The following four docents are expected to finish their training by the July meeting: Carol Schroeder, Elaine Sacks, Donald Miller, and Shirley Musser.

Following Joan's presentation, Mary Knox Weir thanked Joan on behalf of the trainees for her "patience, enthusiasm, good humor, untiring and endless energy, willingly shared knowledge, and ability to teach."

### **VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS IN SEPTEMBER**

The bylaws of Torrey Pines Docent Society are being amended, and the amendments will be voted on at the September meeting. Meanwhile, as soon as a copy is ready, it will be posted on the bulletin board in the docents' room at the Lodge. Please check it before the September meeting.

### **TPSR COLORING BOOK APPROVED**

Talented Park Aide Susan Pelley has filled a gap in the information about TPSR for children by creating a coloring book that covers a typical day's activities in the park. Production of the book was authorized by the executive board of the Docent Society at its June meeting. Susan is donating her effort. Nineteen black and white outline drawings of plants and animals will be accompanied by brief text. One thousand copies were approved for order and are expected to be available in a few months.

### **HANK'S BOOK HERE**

The new issue of *Notes from the Naturalist* by Donald W. (Hank) Nicol has arrived at the Lodge and will go on sale at \$6.50 per copy (tax included). The reprinting and updating were supervised by Publications Chair Judy Schulman, who also organized the original publication in 1981. Several illustrations by Park Aide Susan Pelley were added to the new version, as well as a plastic front over-cover. Both printings were underwritten by the Docent Society.

As Judy says, the *Notes* are "classic Hank." In his introduction to the book, Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl writes, "Hank wrote with apparent ease. But that was an illusion. He loved short, pithy sentences. He wanted people reading his *Notes* to feel that he was having a conversation with them and no one else."

Any docent who doesn't yet own a copy should get one immediately, and then settle down for a couple of hours of learning mixed with chuckles.

(continued on p. 3)

## *Docent Doings* (continued from p. 2)

### SALES SLIPS, PLANT REMOVAL, AND MORE

**The word from Rowdy James:** Please itemize your sales slips and write in ink! It's hard to translate a scribbled note in pencil that says something like "3 bks, 1 crd, 2 nts...\$27.32." The slips are used to keep track of inventory so exactly what's sold must be noted. By the way, extra books are in the rangers' office, except for the "green" book, which is in the back storage room. . . .

**Exotic plant removal** is a continuing activity, and **kids are welcome!** Call Kathy Estey if you don't know when the next date for an alien attack will take place. Also check at the desk for copies of a list of exotic plants compiled by Bob Talbert and printed in the June 1989 *Torreyana*, but be sure the plants you are pulling are on the current list for removal.

**Ranger Allyn Kaye** led a small group on an off-trail hike Thursday, June 18. Docents Jim Cassell, Kathy Watson, Laurilyn Burson, Hilda Moran, and Park Aide Susan Pelley checked out the old Fat Man's Misery Trail and other rugged territory. Their most exciting moment was the discovery of an osprey nest in Big Basin. Incidentally, Allyn has put together a backpack filled with aids for nature hike leaders, including binoculars. Borrow it from the office.

**Other assistance for hikes** or to use for information at the desk: Some reasonably small laminated sheets showing colored pictures of birds and wildflowers, put out by Mac's Field Guides, are available at the desk. They should fit in a backpack.

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### A MESSAGE FROM BOB AND DEL

Docents Del Roberts and Bob Margulies, who left on a year-long trip about two months ago, send greetings from France as follows (dated June 7):

*Hi all: After a wonderful month in our penthouse duplex overlooking the Mediterranean, eating and drinking well, seeing museums, ancient villages, etc., we visited the French grand canyon--spectacular. Now in Evian for music festival with Menuhin, Rampal [and someone undecipherable] et al. Now to Switzerland, a bit of Germany and back to Paris--and the next two months on safari in Africa. Miss you all! Love, Del and Bob.*

[Ed. note: Hard to believe they really have time to miss us!]

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### DIANA'S ZUCCHINI BREAD (requested by many docents at June meeting)

**Ingredients:** 1 lb zucchini (about 4 medium), salt, 1½ tsp baking powder, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1/2 tsp cinnamon, 3 eggs, 1 cup sugar (brown is fine), ½ cup vegetable oil, grated rind and juice of 1 lemon, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, 1 cup chopped fresh dates, ½ cup currants.

**Method:** Wash, trim, and coarsely grate zucchini (or put in food processor); salt, drain, and squeeze dry. Should make 2 cups. Sift together flour, baking powder, soda, cinnamon, and salt. Beat eggs, sugar, and oil, mix in lemon rind, lemon juice, and vanilla. Beat in dry ingredients and stir in the zucchini. Add nuts and dried fruit if you wish. Pour into a greased and floured 9" x 5" loaf pan and bake in a pre-heated 350° oven for 50 to 60 minutes.

(The Portuguese sweet bread recipe also requested is not available. Call Isobel Buechler for more information.)

**PARTIES LIKE FINE WINE—IMPROVE WITH TIME** by Elizabeth Nicoloff

The rangers threw a party for the docents--and what a party! Wednesday, June 3, was the date, the TPSR Lodge the place for their Third Annual Docent Appreciation party.

Fun began as some 100 docents and guests arrived. A picture of some animal, bird, or insect was pinned to the back of each person, who then had to guess the identity of the creature through questions put to other guests. The game lasted through punch and hors d'oeuvres, while graceful rhythms of Mediterranean music played by harpist Lynn Hall entertained us. Then food was brought. But before we fell to, an invocation full of deep feeling was spoken by Melba Kooyman, our docent with the longest service, who was, indeed, one of the original "Lodge Sitters" who evolved into the Docent Society in 1976.

After that it was all Greek--a delicious Greek dinner prepared and served by Ranger Chris Platis's brother Ted and Doreen, Chris's wife, with help from park aides and friends. The rangers, the park aides, the maintenance staff, and this time the docents, too, had all pitched in to make this an affair to enjoy. As we sat at the several tables, we were told to look at the underside of our chairs; one chair at each table bore a mark that entitled the occupant to take home the table decoration, a small cactus garden in a pot. Then, in spite of the absence



*Chris Platis, Barbara Moore, and Kathy Estey display a sample of one of the luscious cakes.*



*New docent Karen Griebe is surprised with birthday cake by husband Richard.*

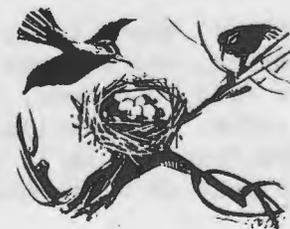
of the professional group which was to have led the folk dancing (they arrived at the Reserve after the gate was closed and could not get in), there was spirited dancing into the night to Greek music on tapes brought by Joan Nimick. And a small, adventurous group led by former TPSR Ranger Greg Hackett, found new beauty walking along the shadowy trails in the dark.

Many, many thanks to the rangers and their helpers for a truly memorable evening.



*With esoteric bills of lading,  
For twigs and feathers, mud and grasses,  
By searching, seizing, plucking, raiding,  
The avian architect amasses  
A fine supply of found material  
For nest on earth or nest aerial.*

Joel Peters, *The Avian Architect*



## ***Docent President's Notes***

by Diana Snodgrass

The last few months have been very busy for the docents at Torrey Pines. Joan Nimick has excelled at tending to the needs of new trainees. Many have qualified as new docents in record time. Congratulations! The newcomers in our midst have adapted so well that they seem like old friends already.

On May 30, a good mix of docents and members of other local educational groups (Chula Vista Nature Interpretive Center, Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Buena Vista Audubon Society, Natural History Canyoneers, Tijuana Estuary Reserve) participated in a "Sharing Nature" workshop. The workshop focused on methods to excite children about nature. Michael Deranja of the Joseph Cornell Sharing Nature Foundation explained techniques for introducing different types of activities to children according to their attention level and needs. Enthusiastic workshop participants joined in the challenge of constructing a tree out of human bodies. This and many other activities are described in the Joseph Cornell *Sharing Nature with Children* book, which is in the docent library. We will also be purchasing a newer book, *Sharing the Joy of Nature*, as well as a video.

The Greek get-together arranged by Ranger Chris Platis was another resounding success. Thanks Chris and everyone else who appreciated the docents! When is the next party?

Thinking about more serious topics, there will be an education committee headed by Joan Nimick and Kathy Estey to plan for docent-led school children activities in 1993. The idea is to be able to offer schools a number of specific dates with pre-planned topics for tours led by docents. Those of you with ideas, good writing skills, and public relations background please contact Kathy Estey (tel: 755-8977).

I wish you all a great summer. I shall be out of town for the July meeting. Jim Cassell will be standing in for me. I know he will do a fine job. See you all August 15 at the beach party!

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## ***News and Notes***

### **NIMICKS' SLIDE SHOW AT LODGE**

They make a great team: Webb Nimick, with his skill in photography, and his wife, Joan, with her enormous knowledge of nature and her ease as a speaker. Together they will present their most recent slide show, "Off the Beaten Track in Venezuela and Brazil" at the TPSR Lodge at 7:00 P.M. Thursday, July 9. Beautiful birds and plants abound in the slides, along with lots of gorgeous scenery. Docents and friends are welcome--of course, it's free.

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### **DOCENT'S HUSBAND ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY**

Wylie Vale, husband of docent Betty Vale, was one of three local researchers elected this year to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Vale, who is head of the Clayton Foundation Laboratories for Peptide Biology at the Salk Institute, is one of the world's leading experts on brain hormones responsible for regulating growth, reproduction, and the body's response to stressful situations.

(continued on p.6 )

## MANY SUCCESSES AT WILD ANIMAL PARK by John Carson

The Docent Society's June guest speaker, Bob Dillon, is one of those lucky people who get paid to work at a place many of us gladly pay to visit: the San Diego Zoo. Currently with the Zoo's Education Department, Bob has taught in the Zoo summer school, worked in the Children's Zoo, and been an elephant keeper. In recognition of 1992 being the twentieth anniversary of the Wild Animal Park, Bob summarized its history for the docents and described some endangered species reproduction programs.

The Wild Animal Park concept originated with Dr. Charles Schroeder, Zoo director in the sixties, who envisioned the Park as a place for breeding endangered species in as natural an environment as possible. Public viewing was a later objective. The Park, located in San Pasqual Valley, has 2200 acres, 700 of which are developed. It contains 3000 animals and 2,000,000 plants. (Docents are thankful all these plant species haven't migrated yet to TPSR.) Over a million people a year visit the Park.

The Park has had spectacular success with reproduction of endangered species. The first test case was the southern white rhino. The pair of rhinos at the zoo in Balboa Park had failed to produce offspring. In the first 13 years at the Wild Animal Park, a group of white rhinos produced 59 young. The Arabian oryx is another success story. This animal was hunted so extensively after WWII that none were left in the wild by the sixties. In 1972 the Park obtained a small number of oryx, which have given birth to 280, some of which have been re-introduced into the Mid-East. The best known program is the joint effort with the Los Angeles Zoo to save the California condor. So far this has produced 27 successful hatchings, and two condors were re-established in the Los Padres National Forest last January. The Park still has challenging programs, however, for to date there have been no births of northern white rhinos or Asian elephants.

Bob also touched on the zoos of the future, noting the trend from housing many animals in small cages to fewer animals in larger enclosures and recently to very large natural settings for just a few animals. Given the increasing loss of habitat, he noted that future zoos may unfortunately end up being living museums.

Bob's talk and great slides found a very receptive audience--which wasn't surprising, for when asked for an indication of how many people belonged to the Zoological Society, practically all raised their hands.

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### *News and Notes (continued from p. 5)*

#### DOCENTS JOIN WINNERS' CIRCLE AT DEL MAR

Just one year and two months ago she was a beginner. Now she's a winner. Judy Schulman, who has organized and participated in several basketry classes at the Lodge, was awarded second prize in the coiled basketry division at this year's Del Mar Fair. Judy's classes were taught by Pat McGillis from the UCSD Craft Center. The most recent class was held on June 28.

Milli Horger walked away with two awards at the Fair--but for Milli this is an old story. Her fine handwoven products are winners every year. This year she won a special award from the Creative Weavers Guild for a table runner as well as a special sewing award for a handwoven baby outfit.

The prizewinning items are on exhibit in the Home Arts Building, and the Fair runs to July 5.

## *Report from the Ranger*

### REVISED TRAIL MAP

A revised trail map for the Reserve is now available. It asks visitors to return their maps for re-use (instead of tossing them in waste cans or by the road). The map itself highlights some areas, and the rules on the back have been clarified. The revision was a joint effort by staff members. The executive Board of the Docent Society approved the purchase of 50,000 copies of the map at its June meeting. Copies in several foreign languages are expected to be available in the near future.

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### SOME ADVICE FOR DOCENTS

**In case the automatic ticket machine breaks down**, docents should give visitors an "education pass." These are kept in the cash drawer in the main office. Stamp the pass with the date, and tell the visitor to put it on the dashboard in lieu of the parking ticket. Do not give out the orange or grey coupons for this purpose. In case the machine fails to give change, take the name and address of the visitor and leave it with a note for the staff including the amount owed. Reimbursement will be made directly to the visitor.

**To clean the Lodge floor**, use the vacuum available in the office. Do not use a broom to sweep because of the dust it raises.

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### NEW EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Thanks to the Docent Society, a copier has been purchased and is now installed in the office. It is available for any uses connected with the park. Park Aide Mike Neustein has also installed the new weather station, which gives temperature and humidity as well as gauging wind and rain. Docents are invited to see how it works.

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### LODGE BREAK-IN

As the result of a break-in at the Lodge the night of June 18 or early morning on June 19, the VCR used for our slide shows was taken. To get in, the intruders broke the glass on a rear Lodge door. Fortunately, the VCR was ready for replacement after several years of service, and no other items were missing or disturbed in the Lodge. However, the window of a car by the maintenance shop was smashed. The executive board of the Docent Society approved the purchase of a new VCR, the type to be based on advice from an expert. Meanwhile, temporary equipment is in place to operate the slide shows.

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*. . . to find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter. . . to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wild flower in spring--these are some of the rewards of the simple life.*

*--John Burroughs (1837-1921)*

**SHARING WHAT WE KNOW** (Library Subject List No. 15) by Marc Gittelsohn

(Here are most of the books specifically on interpretation of natural history and parks now in the docent library. This is the fifteenth in a continuing series of topical lists. Future listings will cover our library's holdings of San Diego field guides and the California Natural History Guide series.)

Carson, Rachel, *The sense of wonder* (Harper & Row, 1965).

Conradson, Diane R., *Parks* (Western Outdoor Environmental Guides, 1971).

Cornell, Joseph B., *Sharing nature with children; a parents' and teachers' awareness guidebook* (Dawn Publications, 1979).

Frome, Michael, *Whose woods these are; the story of the national forests* (Doubleday, 1962).

Grater, Russell K., *The interpreter's handbook* (Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1976).

Hilker, Gordon, *The audience and you; practical dramatics for the park interpreter* (National Park Service, 1974).

Krumbein, William J. Jr., comp., *The interpreter's guide* (California State Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 1977).

O'Neill, Elizabeth Stone, *Mountain sage; the life story of Carl Sharsmith, Yosemite Ranger/Naturalist* (Yosemite Association, 1988). At 89, Sharsmith is still one of the great park interpreters. A 1991 gift of Laurilyn Burson.

Tilden, Freeman, *Interpreting our heritage*, rev. ed. (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1967.)

\_\_\_\_\_, *The national parks: what they mean to you and me* (Knopf, 1965).

**ADDING TO THE LIBRARY COLLECTION**

At the June meeting of the Docent Society, Librarian Marc Gittelsohn urged docents to give him their suggestions for additions to the library. Among recent acquisitions, he mentioned three volumes on animal tracks and one on birds' nests, as well as an upcoming book on caterpillars (in living color). All are in response to needs expressed by docents or visitors.

Marc also acknowledged a gift to the library in memory of Donald Horger, husband of Millicent, from Margaret and Pete Bardwick.

**People Ask**

"What is that high-pitched sound you can hear all over the Reserve now?" More than likely it is the sound of cicadas, either calling to their mates, calling each other together, or in fright. You probably won't see these little insects because they are only 1/2" to 1-1/2" long, but if you did, you would note their large, gauzy wings and black, shiny eyes. The eggs remain underground for five to seven years before hatching (in one eastern species, it's 17 years). They are sometimes called "dog-day locusts."

**Cicadas**

So high these summer mountains  
And the tops of their trees so high  
That, when their insects shrill to each other  
Challenge and reply,  
It is as though cicada-sound  
Were all we have for sky.

--Kakinomoto no Hitomoro  
(681-729)

## NATURE NOTES

This has been the best year in memory for what is possibly the Reserve's rarest plant, dwarf dudleya (*Dudleya blochmanae* ssp. *brevifolia*, according to our native plant list). This special plant requires a very special habitat, known as cryptogamic crust, as explained by Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl at the June Docent Society meeting. A large patch of this miniature reddish species is across the road from the maintenance shop. It was in full bloom in June and may still be evident. Docents who are clearly identified as such are permitted to go off-trail to make a close-up examination. . . .After the failure of the bathroom finches to produce a family, it was heartening to have a pair of black phoebes raise three offspring in a nest tucked inside and under the roof at the back of the Lodge. Before the young ones flew off, the parents were often very visible, sitting in the branches of nearby pines, often with their beaks full of food for their family. . . . Bob Amman is planting several kinds of common grasses in front of the Lodge. Like the rest of his sample plantings, these will be labeled so that docents and visitors can identify at least a few of the kinds of *Poaceae* that are wildly visible this year at the Reserve.

## JIMSON WEED EATS RADIOACTIVE WASTE



The poisonous, hallucinogenic jimson weed (*Datura meteloides*, a member of the nightshade family and listed as a native in the Reserve) "just might turn out to be our friend," according to an article in *The New York Times* (6/18/92), brought to our attention by new docent Mary Knox Weir. The plant has the peculiar ability to digest plutonium and other materials in radioactive waste without killing itself in the process. The discovery was made by Paul Jackson, a biochemist at the U.S. Department of Energy's laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M. Dr. Jackson has also found a way to grow the weed's cells in tanks in his laboratory, so it won't be necessary to plant acres of jimson weed.

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:

Marion Dixon  
2355 Avenida de la Playa  
La Jolla, CA 92037

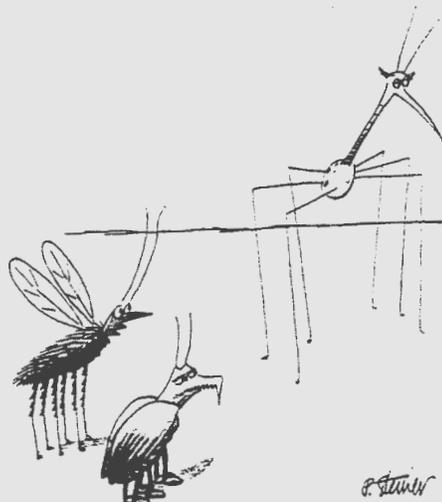
Staff: Glenn Dunham, Elizabeth Nicoloff, John Carson

\* \* \*

Address changes go to:

for TPA--Torrey Pines Association  
P.O. Box 345  
La Jolla, CA 92038

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



"Once, we were all bugs. Now suddenly she's an insect."

## ADD TO TPDS ROSTER

Donna King, associate member  
3071 West Fox Run Way  
San Diego, CA 92111  
278-5549

JULY DUTY CALENDAR

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                                  | TUESDAY          | WEDNESDAY       | THURSDAY            | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Lodge—Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon<br>10-1 1-4<br>Hours: Tues/Wed/Thurs<br>11-2<br>Walks—Sat/Sun<br>11-2<br>1-4 | JOY COOPER<br>Duty Chairman<br>259-1299 |                  | 1<br>L-Tanalski | 2<br>L-Griebe       | 3<br>L-Gittelsohn<br><br>L-Bransford | 4<br>L-Taylor<br>W-Marley<br>L-Burson<br>W-M. Bardwick               |
| 5<br>L-P. Bardwick<br>W-Cassell<br>Estella (T)<br>L-Brickelmaier<br>W-Snodgrass                    | 6<br>L-P. Bardwick<br><br>L-Weir        | 7<br>L-Martin    | 8               | 9<br>L-Brickelmaier | 10<br>L-Watson<br><br>L-Burson       | 11<br>L-Bransford<br>W-Marley<br>L-Sachs<br>W-Osisek<br>Robertson(T) |
| 12<br>L-Heller<br>W-Cassell<br><br>L-Sachs<br>W-Stiegler   | 13<br>L-Cooper<br><br>L-Huber           | 14<br>L-Talberts | 15<br>L-Maynard | 16<br>L-Miller      | 17<br>L-Gittelsohn<br><br>L-D. Green | 18 <u>MEETING</u><br>L-Liu<br>W-Moran<br><br>L-Liu<br>W-Massey       |
| 19<br>L-Wasden<br>Clark (T)<br>W-Dixon<br>L-P. Bardwick<br>W-M. Bardwick                           | 20<br>L-Weir<br><br>L. Green, J.        | 21<br>L-Martin   | 22<br>L-Musser  | 23<br>L-Green, D.   | 24<br>L-Watson<br><br>L-J. Green     | 25<br>L-Moran<br>W-Weir<br>L-Osisek<br>W-Stiegler                    |
| 26<br>L-Heller<br>W-Ferguson<br><br>L-Schulman<br>W-Dixon  | 27<br>L-Maynard<br><br>L-Huber          | 28<br>L-Talberts | 29<br>L-Carson  | 30<br>L-Griebe      | 31<br>L-Tanalski<br><br>L-Amann      |  |

4th of JULY

No *Torreyana* in August. Please check duty calendar in Lodge.

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

BULK RATE  
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