



TORREYANA

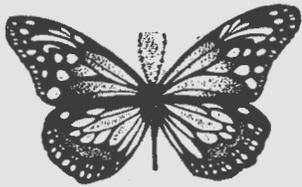
*A monthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 214

November 1993

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1993, 9:00 A.M.



Dr. David Marriott, who is the founder and director of the "Monarch Program," will update us on the butterflies of Torrey Pines State Reserve. He has been recording lepidoptera species in this area since 1984. His slide presentation will cover many of the 62 species he has recorded, and he will give us information about his "Monarch Program." He is also the creator of the beautiful butterfly display in the Lodge....**The Executive Board meeting is at 8:00 A.M. and is open to all docents.** The business meeting and refreshments will precede the guest speaker.

TRAINEES ON TAP FOR DECEMBER PARTY

Traditionally, the trainee class of the current year takes over the arrangements for the December docent holiday party, which replaces the regular meeting. Details will be announced at the November meeting, and volunteers will be requested to do the planning.

For this occasion, the Lodge is decorated with boughs and berries a week in advance of the third Saturday to give the public a chance to enjoy the festive Lodge. All attendees contribute to the morning brunch, which has earned a well-deserved reputation for a lavish display of gourmet food, from hors d'oeuvres to fancy desserts. The party usually starts at 10:00 A.M. instead of 9:00.

TPDS PLANS OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM

The Docent Society at its October meeting agreed to support a proposed pilot program to bring inner city San Diego school children--some of whom have never even been to a beach, let alone a nature preserve--to Torrey Pines State Reserve. The original proposal was made by Walter Desmond (see p.2 re his "Docent of the Month" award), who has been volunteering at Jackson Elementary School. He had high praise for the school's efforts and parent participation but noted that money for field trips and the possibility of private transportation are both very limited. One school bus for a field trip costs \$83 for one half day. The society contemplates working with various classes in a single school for a year, probably including pre-trip visits to the school by docents to help prepare the children for their nature experience.

Details have still to be worked out, and the arrangements for continuing the program beyond the pilot will be considered after an analysis of its effectiveness. Possibilities of outside grant money may be considered at that time.

*Have
a
Happy
Thanksgiving*





Docent of the Month

Service above and beyond the call of duty is Walter Desmond's trademark. For this he was named Docent of the Month in October. In addition to the regular docent duties, Walter is usually the man behind the scenes who arranges the lights and window shades for slide programs at our meetings. Recently he made order out of chaos in the docent closet, where supplies are now neatly arranged on shelves he put up. This spring he donated a valuable book, *The Jepson Manual*, to our library in memory of his mother, a botanist. And at our last meeting, he proposed a new outreach service for the Docent Society: supporting field trips to the Reserve for inner city children. A valuable member indeed.

New Full Docents

The following trainees completed their requirements to become full docents in October: Jane and Hank Baele, Marina Dochtermann, Ann Henrichs, Dick May, and Linda Wolfe. Welcome to the group.

TPDS Hosts LCSPNO

Members from California attending the annual conference of the League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations in San Diego October 15-17 came out to the Reserve for nature walks as part of their program. Docents who led them were Jane and Bob Talbert, Walter Desmond, and Kathy Estey. The walks were highly complimented at the conference later.

Representing the Docent Society at the conference were Margaret Bardwick, Mary Weir, Jim Cassell, and Diana Snodgrass. The focus was on the state parks as schools' resources--right in line with what TPDS is already doing.

Improvements, Improvements

At the last Executive Board meeting the officers approved the purchase of a new "ergonomic" desk chair to replace the present less-than-satisfactory model; additional bookshelves for children's material; and new shelves in the Lodge storage cabinets. Ranger Chris Platis will undertake the latter two projects.



Call for Good Computer Equipment

The Docent Society is considering adding computer and printing equipment to its resources for the use of future newsletter editors as well as for other activities. If anyone has good, usable equipment (especially a laptop computer) which they would consider donating to the Society (think of the tax writeoff!), please get in touch with President Diana Snodgrass (755-7133).

Amendment to Bylaws Passed

At the October docent meeting, the following amendment to Section II of Article V (Fiscal Policy) of our bylaws was passed:

"All new expenditures by the Society that shall exceed the sum of \$3,000 shall be brought to the attention of the general membership for approval and ratification by a majority of voting members at a general meeting. On-going, renewable expenditures that involve the day-to-day practices of the Society and new purchases that do not exceed the sum of \$3,000 shall be approved and authorized by the Executive Board before the Treasurer may make disbursements in these matters."

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer June Brickelmaier presented an updated Treasurer's Report at the October meeting. Copies are available from her for those who did not receive them at the meeting.

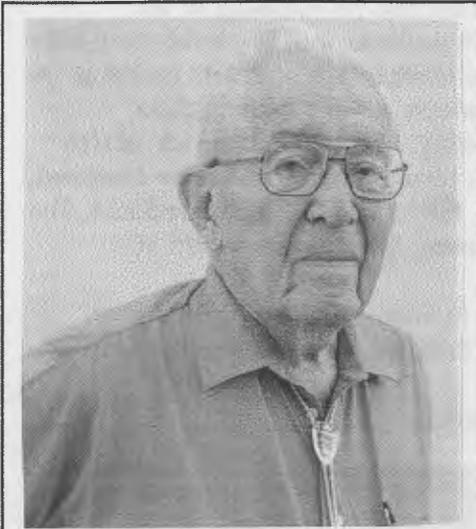
June also pointed out that new liability insurance may become mandatory for the Docent Society under revised park system rules. Currently, all members are covered by the park system. June will continue to keep members updated on this development.

Southward Wings

*The talk in the thicket is all of summer now
how it is fading from the bough.
Birds are pressed by urgencies
of leaves turning red and falling. Song frees
itself of flowers and starts to rise.
Wings shift gold and silver light
southward, leaving more room for light.*

--Helen Harrington

Docent Bios by Del Roberts



One of Rowdy's hobbies is gem and mineral crafting, including making silver jewelry like the tie clasp he's wearing.

Describe **Rowdy James** in superlatives! At 88, not only is he our oldest docent, but one who is the most faithfully active. Since 1973 when then Docent President Gene Barber put him in charge of our book store, he has been ordering new books, keeping track of the inventory, and making weekly deposits in our account with good humor and patience.

The oldest of nine children, he was raised in Bradshaw, a small town in Nebraska at the edge of the prairie. After high school, Rowdy headed for San Francisco, where he met his future wife, Josephine ("Joe") Wixson, a second generation Californian, who was the youngest of seven children. Their family reunions fill an entire motel. They married after both graduated from U.C. Berkeley, and will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary next year.

Rowdy became a commissioned officer in the ROTC while in the Forestry School at UCB. His career as a forest ranger was interrupted in 1940 when Uncle Sam called him for duty at Camp Callan's anti-aircraft school next to Torrey Pines. There he trained troops to fire at targets over the Pacific. "I was too old for combat," he says. But hikes up Torrey Pines cliffs and along Fat Man's Misery to keep the soldiers in shape proved that Rowdy was

never "too old." The Lodge, which was still open at that time, became the site for some good parties.

While at Camp Callan, Rowdy bought a small house in Del Mar for his wife and one-year-old daughter, Marjory, who now lives in Walnut Creek with her husband and son. After the war Rowdy rented the house and returned to the Forestry Service in Northern California. For more than two decades he worked as district ranger, chief fire fighter, and as head of the fire fighters' training program in Reading. After retirement in 1969, he built their present home in Del Mar next to the small house--which the original tenant continued to rent at a bargain rate.

We have a bargain in Rowdy James, who joined the docents because "I've worked in the woods all my life." Little did he know that he would spend the next 20 years tending books. Fortunately for us, he enjoys what he's doing.

News and Notes

SEWAGE SPILLS MAY RESULT IN FINE

Sewage spills in Peñasquitos Lagoon which have resulted in serious pollution and which were not reported by the City of San Diego in a timely fashion are under investigation by the California Regional Water Quality Board. The Board has suggested that the pollution may have exposed beachgoers at Torrey Pines to unsafe conditions. A heavy fine may be imposed on the city for its negligence.

PRESERVING TORREY PINE TREES

Meetings are being held by the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board to discuss revision of their community plan. The Friends of Sea Point, who have opposed removal of trees in their area, including 175 Torrey pines, hope the Board will include in its plan some methods for preservation of Torrey pines outside of the Reserve area. For time and place of meetings in November, please call Opal Trueblood, 481-0763.



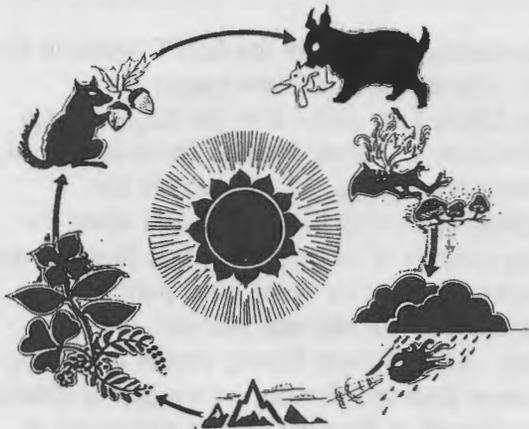
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

Vice President Joan Nimick has prepared packets of information for all docents participating in the Children's Education Program. The packet includes procedures for school walks as well as introductory talks on various subjects and explanation of special techniques for involving the children. A complete packet is available in Joan's box in the docent room. Additional copies may be made by anyone needing them.

The following docents and trainees attended the September training meeting: Margaret Bardwick, Karen Griebe, Theo Tanalski, Mary Weir, Marina Dochtermann, Ann Henrichs, Shami Kanekar, Melanie Martinod, Patty McDonald, Kathie Satterfield, Elsie Shrowder, Nancy Yuchiao Wu, Barbara Wallach, Diane Sachs, Jim Cassell, and Joan Nimick. They are greatly needed: in one week in October, the program served 300 children.

Joan will continue trail training when she returns from her current trip to South America in December. However, anyone can join the program now, either as an observer or, if qualified, as a trail leader. During Joan's absence, Barbara Wallach (259-1390) is in charge of the program.

Below are shown some of the excellent aids available to use in the program.



Above is a reduction of one of Jim Cassell's 12 poster-size drawings for the children's program. This one shows the food chain. TPDS benefits from Jim's 30+ years as a professional graphic artist in Chicago.



Margaret Bardwick, chair of the Indian section of the children's program, is using the above fake artifacts, recently purchased by the Docent society, to make primitive life real for the children. (Using real artifacts is not permitted.)

GARDENS AND GARDENING IN THE LIBRARY (Library Subject List No. 25) by Marc Gittelsohn (Visitors frequently ask us about the possible uses of native plants in their home gardens. Here are some of our docent library's books that may be helpful in responding to their queries. You will also want to consult our earlier subject lists on trees (*Torreyana* 4/91 p.7) and wildflowers (*Torreyana* 10/91 p.4). Items marked with an asterisk (*) were added in 1993.

We are also developing a small collection of current catalogs of nurseries specializing in native plants and seeds. These are kept in the library pamphlet file under: NURSERY CATALOGS (NATIVE PLANTS). Gifts of appropriate catalogs would be most welcome.)

Clarke, Charlotte Bringle, *Edible and useful plants of California* (Univ. of Calif. Press, California Natural History Guide no. 41, 1977).

Kentish, Anna Rae, comp., *Torrey pine trees in English gardens* (1993). A looseleaf binder of letters, brochures, leaflets, and clippings.

Sunset Magazine, *Garden trees* (Lane Publishing Co., 1975).

* _____, *Sunset Western garden book* (Sunset Publishing Corp., 1992). LODGE USE ONLY.

Sweet, Muriel, *Common edible and useful plants of the West* (Naturegraph Publishing, 1976).

*Welsh, Patricia, *Pat Welsh's Southern California gardening; a month-by-month guide* (Chronicle Books, 1992). LODGE USE ONLY.

Wescott, Cynthia, *The gardener's bug book*. Fourth Edition. (Doubleday, 1973).

Report from the Ranger

SLIDE SHOW TRAINING RE-SCHEDULED

The October slide show training program for docents which had to be canceled has been re-scheduled for Friday, November 12, from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Jim Long, an experienced programmer for the kind of equipment recently installed at the Lodge, will conduct the training. Anyone who did not sign up for the program and now wishes to attend the November meeting, or who signed up and now cannot attend, should contact Ranger Allyn Kaye (755-2063).

DOCENTS, TELEPHONES, VCRs AND BOOKS

Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl has requested that docents on Lodge duty serve as "the first line of response" when the telephone rings. Frequently calls are merely to request opening and closing hours at the Reserve or directions for getting here, both questions readily handled by docents. Messages for Rangers when they are not in can be taped to the main desk in their office....Currently, the VCR for the video programs is being operated by the "play" button on the machine rather than by the remote control, which has proved confusing and is no longer available....When copies of books run out on the shelves, check in the wall cabinet by the main entrance to the Rangers' office. If supplies there have also run out, leave a note in the cash box for Rowdy James, our book store manager.



INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PATROLS TO BE RE-VITALIZED

Several years ago a radio communication program by which docents on the trail could contact the Lodge desk was initiated. The purpose was to report any illegal incidents or accidents so that official action could be taken if necessary. The program fell into disuse for a while, but, partly because of the recent increased incidence of indecent exposure in the park, Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl has recommended that the radio equipment be put into service again. The emphasis is on trail safety and assistance to visitors. Interested docents should contact the Rangers' office. Training will be provided.

WELCOME BACK, GREG

Ranger Greg Hackett is once again a staff member at Torrey Pines State Reserve. In January 1991 he left here for an assignment at the campground at San Elijo and South Carlsbad. His re-assignment here brings the Ranger staff back to its previous complement of four full-time members.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

A copy of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Sorrento Hills area east of I-5 is available in the Rangers' office. The wildlife corridor through that area is currently closed by fencing, which has an adverse impact on animals using that corridor. (Many recent sightings of bobcats and some of mountain lions, among others, have been reported in the lagoon surroundings.) This issue is expected to come before San Diego City Council in early November. Individuals may wish to read the report and contact their council members. Further information is available through Mike Wells, resource ecologist, whose office is at the Lodge.

HOW DEEP IS THE DRIP FROM FOG?

The story goes that Torrey pines may have out-survived other trees in this area because a substantial amount of fog drips from their needles to water their roots. Substantiation for this theory may soon come from the new drip fog collector installed on the Lodge roof. It will be attached to the weather machine which will tell researchers just how many inches per year are actually collected.

LOTS MORE TO BIRDS THAN THE NAMES

Some people are plant watchers; some are bird watchers. Barbara Moore is both. At the October Docent Society meeting, she focused on birds, filling her listeners with facts far more interesting than mere species' names. Barbara, who is a supporting docent, is not only the director of volunteers at the Chula Vista Nature Interpretive Center but also teaches birding and other nature classes through the San Dieguito Adult School.

She noted that there are approximately 9,000 species of birds in the world, 450 of which can be seen in San Diego County. Because this area is on the Pacific flyway, many birds migrate through here, some using wetlands as stopping places on the way. However, some birds have been known to fly 11,000 miles without stopping, taking three or four days to do so. According to Barbara, many birds are in the lagoon for about 10 months, then go north to breed. There, because of light for virtually 24 hours a day, there is a round-the-clock supply of insects to feed the young. In fact, voracious nestlings make such constant demands on their parents that the latter sometimes work themselves to death to keep their babies alive.

Birds make identification difficult by changing their plumage from the juvenile stage to the adult, from summer to winter, and during breeding. (Unlike plants, they also fly away at the moment you get your binoculars adjusted.) So instead of identifying a bird, Barbara suggested that you regale your visitors with other avian facts, such as: birds have hollow bones, except for diving ducks and pelicans, which need the weight to go down in the water; birds are primarily visual--a red-tailed hawk can focus from two miles up on a rabbit on the ground; birds have no teeth--except for the egg tooth used to peck their way out of the shell; most birds have crops in which they store their food until they find a safe place to eat it; instead of crops, owls and hawks have gizzards, which grind up their food to make it digestible. The undigested food is regurgitated as a pellet. Such pellets (or boluses) are now often used in schools to replace whole animals in the laboratory. The bones, scales, and skins they contain can be used to put together a skeleton, for example. (Barbara's interest in pellets once earned her an unusual mother's day gift from a daughter: barn owl pellets.)

Most birds have a poor sense of taste and smell. But there are exceptions: "volunteer" vultures, for example, are used to detect gas leaks, and Barbara's pet bird is partial to pasta with pesto sauce but won't eat other kinds.

Bird behavior is also a fascinating topic. For instance, avocets and plovers, who nest on the ground in the summer here, stand over their eggs to shade them and shake water from their wings to cool them. The groups of gulls you see on the beach all facing one direction are turning their breasts to the sun on a cold day to warm themselves; and on a warm day they turn in the opposite direction to shade themselves. Cormorants spread out their wings to dry because, unlike other shore and water birds, they are not waterproof. Those who have a preen oil gland at the base of the tail they use in preening.



Barbara with Tecolote

The birds at the Nature Center are fed "mousecicles"--frozen mice which have been thawed. The monthly requirement at the Center is 177 dozen.

Attractive as they are, wild birds are strictly off limits as pets. To enjoy them, keep your eyes open out on the trail or elsewhere; or go to the zoo or a nature center which is a legitimate holding place.

Barbara brought with her to the meeting three of the resident birds from the Nature Center. These birds have been acquired from Project Wildlife, which has determined that, for various reasons, they are not releasable into the wild. Barbara takes them to meetings and schools as a way of educating the public, especially children, to the birds' beauty and valuable role in our ecology. An 8" screech owl named "Nipper" was making his first public appearance and did a great deal of head swiveling to fasten his intense yellow eyes on his strange surroundings (birds' eyes don't move, so they must move their heads to fix their gaze). Screech owl is a misnomer, said Barbara, because the sound he makes is far from a screech; rather, it is a soft buzz. The other exhibits were a barn owl, "Corazon," and an 8-month-old great horned owl, "Tecolote." All the birds needed handling with gloves and a restraining leash; and handlers, like Barbara, need special training.

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WHAT IS THE STRANGE OBJECT FOUND IN THE LAGOON?

Last month we invited readers to send in their guesses as to what the strange object found in the lagoon might be. Four answers came in, each so original and different from the others that we are printing them all. Here they are:

Joan Nimick

"Serendipity." That is what I call the delightful art piece gracing the docent room. To me, it is certainly an objet d'art--a marvelous blending of nature, imagination, and dexterity.

My only concern is that the artist may have created it as an "on-site" assemblage and may feel that the ambiance of the docent room is not quite that of the lagoon. However, if "they" happen to read this, I would like "them" to know that for one person, at the very least, it creates a very pleasurable feeling each time she sees it. And after all, isn't that what art is all about?

Greg Hackett

Actually, some docents were so inspired by Apache Medicine Woman Kachinas Kutenai's message for greater respect for "Mother Earth," they ran to the lagoon area and constructed this tribute to TPSR and "our mother earth." And that is how it came to be found near Flintkote Road.

Joy Cooper

My interpretation of the "thing": a web made by a giant Charlotte.

Anonymous

Satellite dish for the solar winds. E.T. left it here to transmit messages to his friends.



"...and if you hold it up to your nose, you can smell the sludge."