



TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 215

December 1993

Docent Society Holiday Party **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 10:00 A.M.**

In a Lodge transformed with greenery and seasonal decorations, docents will make merry instead of doing business on Saturday, December 18, beginning at 10:00 A.M. This is a potluck affair, but if you choose to purchase your offering instead of concocting it, it will still be welcome.

Linda Wolfe and a crew of helpers will be decorating the room and a tree on Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4--early, so that visitors can enjoy the festive ambiance. If you can join them or bring some greenery, please come between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon. Don't bring anything bearing fresh berries. Last year's fruit proved to be an invitation to the mice, who don't specially need to be lured inside.

In addition to the food, there will be announcements of the Docent of the Year and other awards. It's also possible that the new slide version of Brent Jones' video about the Reserve will be available for viewing that day.



REPORT OF TPA COUNSELORS' MEETING, NOVEMBER 11, 1993

The counselors were saddened to hear of the passing of Jeffery Frautschy. He was active in the Torrey Pines Association for many years and was a past president. He will be missed by all of us. The counselors will draft a resolution to acknowledge his achievements.



In other news, the TPA, in an ongoing endeavor, is encouraging more than 80 companies on Torrey Pines Mesa to comply with state requirements for dealing with runoff from their properties. This is a concern to the Reserve, as much of this runoff results in over-siltation of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

Finally, a committee has been established to nominate counselors for the upcoming February ballot. If anyone in the membership would like to submit a name for consideration (including their own), please contact the secretary by January 10 at 447-4317. I will forward your suggestions to the committee. --Bob Coats, Secretary

Thanks to Jim Cassell for brightening up our tired-looking cover page with a touch of his skilled pen; and to Milli Horgler and Isabel Buechler for stepping in to take care of the circulation of the newsletter while Elizabeth Nicoloff is on jury duty.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season



Docent of the Month

Not many of us are aware of what it takes behind the scenes to keep the wheels of the Docent Society turning. One essential person is Shirley Musser, who, as membership chair this year, has gone out of her way to give information by phone and by mail to potential docents, and to make newcomers feel welcome. Not only does she keep the record of attendance and dues payments, but she also orders the name badges for newly qualified docents. Every spring when the trainees meet for six or seven Saturdays in a row, Shirley is on hand to keep track of them. After the dues are paid, she hands out the parking cards. As if all that weren't enough to keep her busy, she has joined the Children's Education Committee and is active with the Indian section. It's all done with a smile, too. Congratulations, Shirley; you deserve to be a Docent of the Month.

New Full Docents

Badges were handed out at the November docent meeting to the following trainees who have completed their requirements to become full docents (some several months ago): Jane and Hank Baele, Nelson Brav, Ann Henrichs, Richard May, Helen Oswalt, Kathie Satterfield, and Linda Wolfe. Welcome to the group!

Children's Education Committee

Members of the Children's Education Committee are asked to attend a meeting at 12:15 noon Friday, December 10, at the Lodge. Items on the agenda will be plans for next year as well as the procedure for handling the field trip for Jackson Elementary School, which the Docent Society has agreed to support. **Please bring your lunch.**

Docents interested in joining this committee are invited to come along on the first whale walk of the season from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon on December 10. The information for this section has been enhanced by the addition of two grey whale replicas made by Wes Farmer.

Docents on Lodge duty who receive requests for information about the children's group walks should NOT schedule the walks but should take the name and phone number of the inquirer and put it in the rangers' office. Note: no group walks are scheduled for weekends.

Special Low Tide Walk

Docent Wesley Farmer, an expert on seashore and tidepool life, will lead a walk Sunday, December 12, at 1:30 P.M. starting from the foot of Bird Rock Avenue in La Jolla. On that day the low tide will be -1.8 at 2:50 P.M. so that most of the tidepool creatures will be visible. Docents and their guests are welcome. For further information, call Wesley at 481-6104.

Wildflower Brochure in Final Stages

Just in time for the 1994 blooming season, the Docent Society's color brochure on the most common wildflowers and blooming shrubs is expected to be available by February. Joan Nimick and Eva Armi will be joined by Jim Cassell and incoming docent Vida Fruebis in planning the content and layout.

Why Do Docents Volunteer?

The Docent League of San Diego at its meeting in Balboa Park November 15, which Del Roberts attended as TPDS representative, focused on "Docents and Their Institutions: A Mutual Commitment." The presentation included some answers to why people volunteer: they care, to assist a good cause, to be active in the community, to learn new things, to share their knowledge, for job training, and to meet community service requirements. (Let us know if you have other reasons for joining TPDS.)

Dr. Stephen Neudecker, Executive Director of the Bayfront Conservancy Trust, which manages the Chula Vista Nature Center, also stressed the role of docents as educators and interpreters and ambassadors to the local community and to visitors. On the other side of the coin, he pointed out the institution's responsibility to volunteers and its way of showing appreciation. (TPDS docents shouldn't be surprised that our organization looks pretty ideal from both volunteer and staff viewpoints.)

*Shed no tear--O shed no tear!
The flower will bloom another year,
Weep no more--O weep no more!
Young buds sleep in the root's white core.*
--John Keats

Docent Bios by Del Roberts



Nature has always been an important part of **Eva Armi's** life. She was born in Nyköping, south of Stockholm, Sweden, and spent many happy summers in the countryside exploring plants and butterflies with her father, who captured them on film. Today, Eva is surrounded by Torrey pines, living on the border of the TP Extension in Del Mar with her oceanographer husband, Larry, and two daughters: Osa, who's attending Cornell University and Io, who goes to Fairbanks Country Day School.

Although Eva had been exploring the wonders of Torrey Pines for years, her neighbor, Kathy Estey, invited her to join the docents in 1987. Naturally, she's a member of that stalwart group of docents that Kathy heads, who are committed to removing unwelcome exotic plants. Now she devotes her morning walks to pulling out Hottentot fig and photographing plants and flowers. Her many pictures on our wildflower display board are the result of time, patience, and over 40

rolls of film. She's working with Joan Nimick and Jim Cassell on a four-color brochure on the plants and flowers in Torrey Pines to be published early next year.

Eva's also an artist, using the Chinese brush painting technique to produce the grace and beauty of birds. She's now intent on learning more about our native winged friends. She has experienced many beautiful lands in Switzerland, Austria, the coast of Portugal, Cape Cod, and Colorado. But she considers Torrey Pines unique in its pristine environment. "That's why I believe in removing exotic plants," she says. "We must weed for the next generation to enjoy its beauty."

It looks as though Eva and Larry are doing their part to raise a generation of nature lovers. Not only do they live among the Torrey pines, but this Thanksgiving they had a home-cooked dinner in solitary splendor, complete with china and silver, in the middle of Coyote Canyon in Borrego Springs. Now that's unique!

News and Notes

A GLOWING REPORT ON TORREY PINES

Using a full-size color reprint of Bill Evarts' postcard of a Torrey pine against a glowing orange sunset as a centerpiece, *Footprints*, a newspaper put out by Adventure 16, has published a well-rounded piece on the Reserve in its winter-spring issue. The author is Gary "Red Eye" Roberts, who knows a beautiful place when he sees it, having lived in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Arizona and California. He has done a splendid job of presenting a synopsis of the history of the park as well as describing it in enthusiastic terms. He has even listed the common birds, reptiles, and animals, and given directions for getting here.

He suggests that readers help preserve the park by joining the Torrey Pines Association, and his article includes a TPA membership application form.

Ranger Chris Platis admired the piece to the extent that he had a copy laminated to use as a wall poster. Copies of *Footprints* are available in Adventure 16 outlets, including their store on Cedros in Solana Beach.

A NOTE FROM HANK

In a note to Docent Isabel Buechler from his present home in Eureka, California, former Reserve naturalist Hank Nicol wrote recently (in a style reminiscent of his popular nature notes): "We have ravens up here, too. The one I heard in the neighbor's pine tree this morning used the normal hoarse raven call, but one lives in the next block that caught me off guard. While I was walking the dog, I heard the persistent ring of a telephone. I'm not very smart about electronics...and at first I thought it must be some freakish sound in the wires. It was some time before I realized a raven was making a local call."

Report from the Ranger

WILDFLOWER SLIDE SHOW PLANNED

Ranger Allyn Kaye is putting together a slide show of TPSR wildflowers intended for projection on the new lapse dissolve equipment. Docents who have good flower slides are requested to bring them to Allyn as soon as possible.

Staff and several docents received training on the new slide projection equipment last month from Jim Long, an experienced programmer. Potential shows include a history of the Reserve and an outline of trail maintenance.

HOW ARE PINE SEEDLINGS DOING?

Only about 100 or one percent of the Torrey pine seeds planted last spring have sprouted and are growing. Predation from animals who have not been daunted by the protective netting may be responsible for the greatest damage. However, it should be noted that the survival rate for the planted seeds is approximately the same as that in the normal course of regeneration. Seedlings grown in a nursery are due to be planted shortly.

HERE AND THERE IN THE RESERVE

The much discussed problem of the narrow, crumbling portion of the trail down to Flat Rock is still not solved. A proposal that a cantilevered boardwalk be put in this area was recently turned down by the state. Currently a Torrey Pines work team composed of rangers, lifeguards, and maintenance workers has this and other projects, such as interpretive signs, under consideration.

The long-awaited burn in Parry Grove is still on the docket, as is a prescribed burn for Mussel Rock Mesa. As always, weather and growth conditions must be just right for the burns to take place.

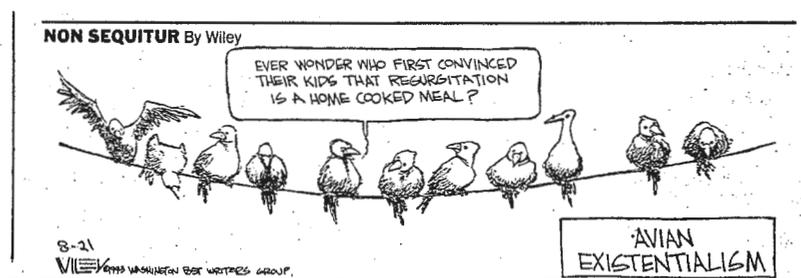
Closure time at the Reserve remains at sunset, even though that is a very early hour in winter months. A stiff fine--\$60 for half an hour overtime--is imposed for those who stay after sunset.

"TEAM AMERICA" HELPS REMOVE EXOTICS

The enemy forces aiming to wipe out Hottentot fig in the Reserve are growing. On November 13, a Bank of America sponsored "Team America" worked on the Guy Fleming Trail to reduce the fig and leave space for our native plants to return. Those on the team were Jackie Jelen, Pam Stevens, Gina Christiansen, Gaynell Mueller, Andy Davis, and Sarah Davis. Ranger Chris Platis saw that they were properly thanked for their help.

CLINT EASTWOOD TO PROMOTE PARKS

With an eye toward raising funds as well as public awareness of California's splendid park system, Director Donald W. Murphy of the Department of Parks and Recreation has made arrangements with actor/director Clint Eastwood to appear in broadcast public service announcements on behalf of the parks, make limited personal appearances, and assist in major fundraising efforts. This is a new publicity venture for the park system. We hope it works.



THE KILLER BEES ARE COMING! by John Carson

Africanized honey bees, popularly called "killer bees," were recently found near Yuma, and it is now likely that next year they will move into our local mountains and then to the coast. So it is time to learn about their behavior and how they may affect docent activities at TPSR.



European
honey bee



Africanized
honey bee

These bees spread by hybridizing with wild European honey bees. The resulting hybrid bees are very similar to the European ones in size, color, amount and type of venom, and behavior in pollinating flowers, but differ in nest behavior. They build nests in a wider variety of locations, split colonies more often to form new nests, and defend their nests much more aggressively. If a person or animal

passes within about 50 feet of a nest, the hybrid bees will often respond within a few seconds with a massive stinging attack on the intruder, especially on the head and neck, and will follow the victim for a quarter mile or more. Since swatting at the bees only intensifies the attack, **the best response is to run to any shelter**, such as a car (bees become disoriented inside an enclosure).

While at TPSR--or anywhere outdoors--docents should watch for bee activity suggesting a nest (a steady movement of bees to and from a site that may be anywhere from the ground to the trees) and stay at least 50 feet from the area. Light colored clothing is recommended because bees are less attracted to light colors. So far there are no insect repellents known to be effective against bees. Individuals with bee sting allergies should check with their doctors regarding kits for treating sting symptoms.

(This information is based on material that Vincent Lazaneo of Urban Horticulture and Pest Management, University of California Extension, presented in a talk at the San Diego Natural History Museum last September.)

NATIVE PLANTS FROM THE NURSERY by Melanie Martinod



The spotlight is on a shrub that is entertaining all year. It has pretty grey-green foliage and grows hip-high with a pleasing shape. The showy yellow flowers can bloom for months; they are followed by puffy pods containing three or four round seeds. If this isn't enough to delight, the plant is host to that striking red and black harlequin bug. The plant's scientific name, *Isomeris arborea*, and popular name, bladderpod, both describe the plant well. The pod is equally (*iso*) divided (*meris*) and the bush is tree-like in some areas.

In re-doing the Whitaker Garden, bladderpod has been my most satisfying plant because it was the first and most vigorous to sprout. Once you get your first mature plant from a nursery, it should be very easy to propagate more. (See the docent library pamphlet file for native plant nurseries.) Bladderpod can be very useful as a border and filler, especially in trouble spots which are dry and hot or where there is a salty ocean breeze. Seeds can be sprouted in a 6" pot, and the plant will be about 6" high in three months or so.

Although bladderpod is a member of the caper family, which includes the capers you put in your salads and pasta, we all know how stinky this plant can be! This might keep people from picking it, but it does not keep garden snails away from eating it for their midnight snacks!

TWO COLORS

*Blue herons on the pond.
So blue. Ashen-blue, almost white;
Not blue at all, really,
Not gray, not blue-gray--
But like ashes.
Blue by courtesy.*

*The American kestrel.
Rufous on its back--
A bar of that orange
That passes for red in the wild.
Tenné, in the language of chivalry--
Fox-red, tenné.*

--David Mamet



AS BUTTERFLIES GO, SO GOES THE WORLD



Photo by T. Schuler
David Marriott examines pupae of anise swallowtail in resting stages on dried fennel

When the butterflies start to disappear, it's a sign that our ecology is messed up, according to Dr. David Marriott, who gave a fascinatingly detailed talk and slide show on butterflies and their life cycles at the November Docent Society meeting. He pointed out that scraping off native plant growth and replacing it with buildings and exotic plants--as has happened more and more frequently lately--destroys the host plants necessary to indigenous species of butterflies, which then die out or depart for other areas.

Happily, Torrey Pines State Reserve remains an undisturbed island of native growth and therefore is home to more species of butterflies per acre than any other spot in California. Along the west coast there are 240 species; in San Diego County alone there are 125; and in the Reserve there are approximately 60. The diversity of habitats, including mountains, deserts, woodlands, and marshes, accounts for the great variety of these winged beauties.

David's particular focus is on the monarch butterfly. Since he spoke to the docents in February 1990, he has developed "The Monarch Program," which provides educational programs, conducts research through tagging migrating species, operates a butterfly vivarium, and arranges expeditions to Baja California as well as to the Sierra Madre mountains 85 miles west of Mexico City. The latter is an overwintering center for millions of monarchs, whose crowded clusters literally turn the green roosting trees to orange. (For more information about "The Monarch Program," call 619-944-7113.)

The monarchs also cluster in this area on both Torrey pines and eucalyptus. It requires a discerning eye to spot them, since their clusters may resemble pine cones or leaves. Camp Pendleton is the site of the largest overwintering group in California, which altogether has 150 major monarch habitats.

David's beautiful color slides traced the miracle of the monarch's metamorphosis from a gold, black, and white striped caterpillar through the green chrysalis stage to the adult winged form. The young chrysalis is amazingly filled only with green liquid for the first ten days or so. Just a few days before emerging, the winged adult form can be seen through a darkening case. (Caterpillar kits, eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults are all available through the Monarch Program for those who would like to see this process for themselves.)

The female monarch lays only one egg at a time, but during her lifetime (six to eight weeks, except for the overwintering group, which live nine to ten months) she will lay 400 to 500 eggs. Of these, only one or two will become adults--fortunately, since otherwise, as David noted, the world would soon become covered with butterflies. The monarch lays its eggs on one of the approximately 55 species of milkweeds, seven of which grow in San Diego County, including the vining variety in the Reserve.

The apparent fragility of this tiny creature is belied by its ability to make a 2,000-mile migration, as one group does from Ontario, Canada, to central Mexico.

The monarch is just one of the local species on exhibit in the Lodge. Before he ended his program, David promised to provide a new identification list for that popular exhibit, which he prepared, in the near future.

*The beauty of a butterfly's wing, the beauty of all things,
is not a slave to purpose, a drudge sold to futurity. It is
excrescence, superabundance, random ebullience, and sheer
delightful waste to be enjoyed in its own high right.*

—Donald Culross Peattie



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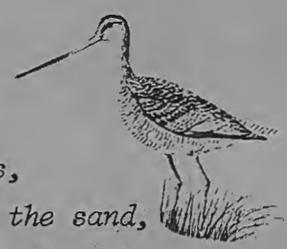
**DOCENT DUES ARE PAYABLE
BY DECEMBER 31, 1993**

Dues for active docents are \$10; for supporting docents are \$25. Please pay by check made out to **Torrey Pines Docent Society**. Mail to Membership Chair Shirley Musser, 336 Glencrest Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075, or leave in cash drawer in an envelope clearly marked "TPDS Dues." Parking placards will be issued when dues are paid.

Please note: This notice does not apply to Torrey Pines Association members.

The Godwits

*The godwits,
ladies of the club,
teeter on their stilt legs,
dig up morsels from the sand,
and run together from the wave.*



--Maryruth Cox

The *Torreyana* is issued monthly except for August by the Torrey Pines Docent society, which gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Torrey Pines Association in its production. Deadline for contributions is the 24th of each month. Please send to the editor:

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Victoria Roberts

"What I don't get is why once we fly south we don't just stay there."



DECEMBER 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 Duty Chm—Joy Cooper 2591299			1 L-Margulies	2 L-Griebe	3 L-Musser --- L-Schroeder	4 L-Ganeless W-Ferguson --- L-Brav W-Stiegler
5 L-Parnell W-Cassell --- L-Heller W-Roberts	6 L-Henrichs James --- L-Huber	7 L-Talberts	8 L-Margulies	9 L-Griebe	10 L-Miller --- L-Amann	11 L-Brickelmaier W-Estrella --- L-Sachs W-Roberts
12 L-Heller W-Ferguson --- L-Satterfield W-Dixon	13 L-Miller James --- L-Huber	14 L-Martin	15 L-Musser	16 L-Marine	17 L-Brickelmaier --- L-Ganeless	18 PARTY 10:00 L-Estrella W-  --- L-Schulman W-Weir
19 L-Weir W-Cassell --- L-Cooper W-Stiegler	20 L-Watson --- L-Schroeder	21 L-Talberts	22 L-Oswalt	23 L-Sacks	24 L-McDonald --- L- 	25 L-Parnell W-  --- L-Carson W- 
26 L-Watson W-Carson --- L-Durham W-Brav	27 L-Cooper --- L-Schroeder	28 L-Henrichs	29 L-  James	30 L-Clark	31 L-May --- L-Gittelshon	

Torrey Pines Docent Society
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