

# TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for  
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 216

March, 1994

## *Next Docent Society Meeting*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 9:00 a.m. AT THE VISITOR CENTER**

The Reserve is teeming with healthy, green plants, so it's an appropriate time to learn how many uses they have. Steve Crouthamel, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at Palomar Community College, will talk at the March meeting about both Indian and current uses of native plants for food and medicine. He will emphasize plants at the Reserve but will also cover others in the Southern California area. His talk will be illustrated with slides. The regular business meeting and refreshments will precede the talk.

## *News and Notes*

### **IT'S A BOY!**

Ranger Allyn delivered her baby at 4:55 a.m. on Sunday, February 20, 1994. She and Miles are proud parents of Kyle, who weighed in at 8 lbs 1 oz and is 21" long, has long blond hair and blue eyes.

**BIRD WALK FOR DOCENTS AT PENASQUITOS LAGOON** given by Hank and Jane Baele.

Meet Hank and Jane at 9 o'clock a.m. Saturday, March 26, at Sorrento Valley Road and Carmel Valley Road, then carpool to Flintkote Ave. Drive through the open gate past the Ranger's residence to the end of the graded road at the trail head. We

will hike to Old Route 101 and back again. Plan on a two - three hour walk and bring binoculars. Wear long pants or slacks and good walking shoes. For more information call Hank at 944-7929.

### **RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN in Claremont (just east of Pomona)**

There will be a meeting after the regular docent meeting of Saturday, March 19, for those of you who signed up for the behind-the-scene tour of this lovely garden, dedicated to California habitats. We will get together for five minutes at the front porch of the Lodge to answer last minute questions, etc. Please call Melanie Martinod (632-5126) if you have space in your car or want a seat in the mini-van.

## *Docent Doings*

### **DOCENT SERVICE IN 1993**

by Elizabeth Nicoloff

Seventy five active docents in 1993 contributed in all 8,027 volunteer hours of service. In addition, several supporting docents and other volunteers contributed 112, making a total of 8,139 hours. Last year's total was 6,099 hours given by 64 docents. Thirty docents gave 100 hours and over, and of those, 8 gave over 200. Here are the eight:

Joan Nimick	433	Melane Martinod	245
June Brickelmaier	378	Dave Economou	238
Jim Cassell	377	Eva Armi	232
Marion Dixon	370	Rowdy James	219

Much of the increase over last year was in our rapidly expanding programs for school groups, an activity that we started only in late 1992. Many hours were spent clearing the Reserve of invasive non-native plants, especially Hottentot Fig, European Stock, and Russian Thistle.

The Whitaker Garden was adopted by a group of this year's new docents, who spent laborious hours cleaning and renovating it. Repair of trails damaged by the winter rains was another activity. All of these activities were in addition to the regular scheduled duty at the visitor desk in the Lodge and in leading nature walks on the trails. We are very proud of our new docent class -- 15 trainees completed the requirements to receive their docent badges, and of these, four had given more than 100 hours before year's end.

## *Minutes of Meetings*

**1994 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION**  
by Sally Spiess, Secretary, pro-tem.



**Counsellors elected during the Torrey Pines Association meeting.**

The 1994 Annual Meeting of the Torrey Pines Association was held on February 10 at the Lodge. Thirty

members attended as well as representatives from the Del Mar City government, Lynn Schenk's office, Ed Navarro, and Pauline desGranges, Chairperson of the State Park Commission. Counsellors were elected for the three-year term. They are George Beardsley, Victoria Bradshaw, Bob Coats, John Shelton and Sally Spiess. Treasurer John Shelton assured us that our bank balance was adequate for our needs. Then, as Chair of the New Book Committee, he unveiled a display of photos and text for the book which is hoped will be ready for sale by this fall.

Opal Trueblood, Chair with Dave Odell of the Environmental Defense Committee, listed the many projects on which our group has made

statements this past year. They include letters to officials concerning vernal pools, erosion of the Mesa caused by grading and lack of control of water runoff, expansion of some facilities, and re-zoning for manufacturing on the Mesa. The committee received our vote of thanks for a difficult job well done.

Our speaker of the day was Mike Wells, Research Ecologist for the State Parks. He presented a talk, illustrated with slides, on the topic "Fire Ecology and the Torrey Pines". Harriet Allen proposed that the Association pursue a project first discussed in 1985 of providing an interpretive center near the Lagoon and Extension. It was decided to continue discussion of that idea at a future meeting. Miss desGranges told the Association that the Commission is always glad to hear from groups such as ours, that we do make a difference, and that we should keep up our good work!

President George Beardsley read resolutions honoring late TPA presidents Dr. Thomas Whitaker and Jeffery Frautschy. Dr. Whitaker's daughter, Beverley Whitaker Rogers, was present and presented blueprints of the original plans for the Whitaker Garden to the Association, as well as a collection of photographs from the time of the Extension campaign.

## **TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

by R. J. Talbert, Secretary

Diana Snodgrass opened the meeting with the award for "Docent of the Month" to Dave Econobou, who in turn remarked that the Guy Fleming Trail was the current site for removal of exotics. Kathy Estey scheduled the next removal for Thursday, Feb. 24 at 08:30 a.m., south overlook, of fig and stock. Docents will plant Torrey Pines at that time.

Melanie Martinod has organized a visit to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for Thursday, March 3, leaving the Birmingham Park and Ride (Cardiff) at 8:45 a.m. Bring lunch for this behind-the-scene tour of vernal pools, coastal, desert and mesa gardens.

The Museum of Man is accepting \$15 reservations for a KUMEYAAAY Curriculum Potluck on Saturday, March 12.

Ranger Bob Wohl reported that 200 Torrey Pine seedlings are already planted out of a total of 513. All are from on-site pine nuts.

Shirley Grain was welcomed as a docent-trainee. Elizabeth Nicoloff presented her annual summary of docent activity. Over 200 hours were booked by 8 docents, 100 - 200 by 22 docents, and 12 served under 72 hours (our pledge is 6 hours/month). She suggested that docents who find 6 hours/month arduous drop to supporting membership, a docent group that makes a significant service contribution in other activities than walks and lodge duty. Ranger Wohl urged docents to book their hours on a regular basis for both on-and off-site duties. The 1993 report will be posted in the Library. Joan Nimick with 433 hours, June Brickelmaier with 378, Jim Cassell with 377, Marion Dixon with 370, Melanie Martinod with 245, Eva Armi with 232, Rowdy James with 219 and Dave Economou with 213 are at the top of the list.

Hank Baele rescheduled the Lagoon Birdwalk of February 5 to the last Saturday in March, the 26th, at 9:00 a.m. We will be car pooling from the South Parking Lot. Ranger Wohl will have the south gate to the lagoon open.

Barbara Wallach has 30 school groups scheduled from now through June 30 of which 25 want docents. The sign-up sheet is on the door of the store room in the Library. Docents are not available for groups on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays (and during the summer time) according to Ranger Wohl, who also urged multiple docents for lodge duty during the months of March, April and May.

The Wild Flower Poster is now ready (just in time for the spring blooming).

Kathy Estey, who chaired nominations for 1994, announced the slate: June Brickelmaier, Treasurer; Kathy Watson, Secretary; Jim Cassell, V.P.-Training; Seth Slater and Yuchiaio Wu, V.P.-Programs; Wes Farmer, Newsletter Editor; Elaine Sacks & Ruth Ganeless, Duty Coordinators. The slate was accepted by all.

Diana Snodgrass will remain President, while Robert and Jane Talbert will co-Chair refreshments.

## *Report from the Ranger*

### **TPSR INTERPRETATION**

#### **Status and Goals**

At the February Docent Society meeting, Ranger Bob Wohl mentioned that the staff had completed a review of current TPSR interpretive activities and had formulated goals in this area for 1994. Highlights from his written summary are presented here.

### **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Education**

During the past year there were over 300 school and other educational reserved group visits to TPSR, with all receiving some combination of welcoming comments, park overview, slide shows, group discussions, guided walks, etc., from the staff and docents. The docents have also been giving special programs on specific topics for reserved visit school groups, with about 25 done so far this year.

#### **Visual Aids**

The Docent Society purchased a multiple projector system that provides a lapse-dissolve slide show. This equipment produces a professional level display and has been well received by visitors. There are plans to sell at the Visitor Center a video of a slide program prepared by commercial artist Brent Jones, who generously donated his labor and copyright for this project.

#### **Publications**

The TPDS wild flower brochure is being printed, with availability expected in time for visitor use this spring. The Torrey Pines Association's book on TPSR is now expected to be out by the end of 1994.

### **1994 PLANS AND GOALS**

#### **Coordinator**

Ranger Greg Hackett is designated Interpretive Coordinator for TPSR.

### History

The staff will work with docent Judy Schulman and others on a book on TPSR history with historical photos.

### Trails

A pamphlet will be prepared for self-guided walks on a still to be determined trail. The numbered posts on the interpretive trail in the Extension will be refurbished, and this trail will be maintained.

### Exhibits

The feasibility of interpretive sign exhibits will be investigated for the beach area, lagoon, and Extension.

### Outreach

The staff will try to increase access for non-traditional groups, and the Rangers and Lifeguards will provide more participation for these group visits.

## Along our Bloomin' Trails

### FLOWERY WORDS FROM THE NURSERY by Melanie Martinod

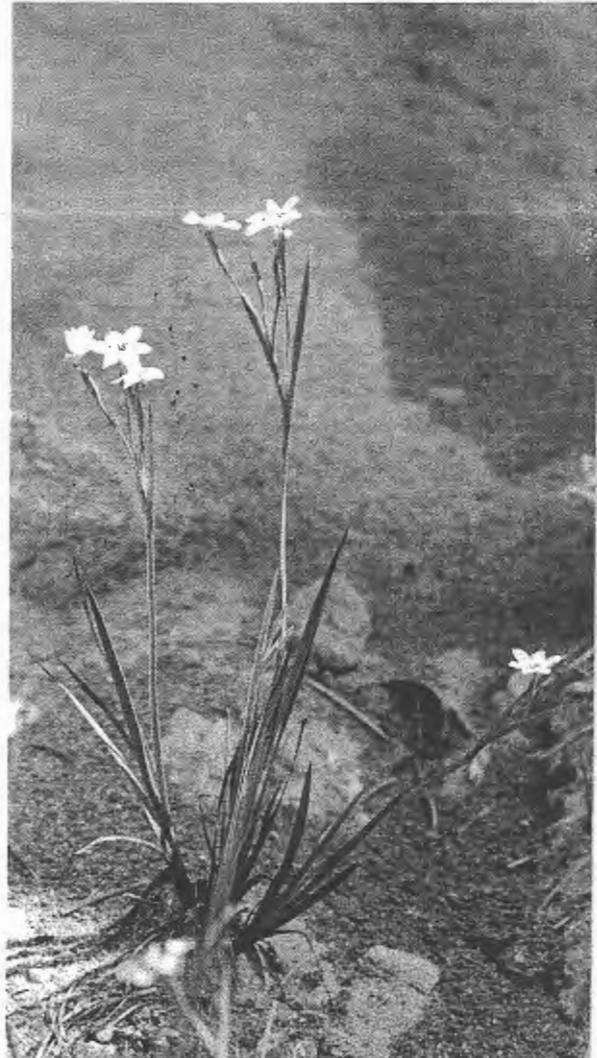
*Sisyrinchium bellum* - this may be the easiest native plant to grow. What good fortune that it is also one of the most loved wildflowers of the chaparral. But, as it is with so many common names, one must always contradict it quickly and say, "but it is not a grass, it's an iris", after identifying a Blue-eyed Grass. It is found in many plant communities throughout the Southern California area to 3000 feet elevation.

When given a place in the sun, and little competition from grass or other plants, a Blue-eyed Grass will come up year after year, multiplying its growth in two ways. First, by its rhizome or corm (a special root for which plant people must have special words) that may be dug up and divided to produce multiple mature plants. Second, after the blooms come the little black, sand-sized seeds which are encased in a compartmented capsule (lately I find myself impatient for the blooms to finish, so that I may find the little treasures so ingeniously wrapped up by their makers). Sprouts from seed will resemble

little round blades of grass so do not discard them - soon they will take on their characteristic blade-shaped leaf.

This blue and yellow beauty needs very little encouragement or water and can grow in a rocky, dry soil. It even does well in containers. Of course, if given all the advantages, it will blossom longer and grow more corms, giving rise to even more blooms next year.

Blue-eyed Grass would be a successful candidate for a child's garden, because it is so exciting and gratifying to watch it emerge. First from the dirt are it's kelly-green leaves, growing in a fan-like fashion. Then the anticipation intensifies as the stock shoots up. Finally comes the sweet little face of the flower - a child-sized iris!





*Nelson Brav, Georgette Camporini, Jim Cassell, Joyce Elaine, Kathy Estey, Wes Farmer photographer, Vida Fruebis, Ruth Ganeless, Kelcey Kemp, Charlie Kerns, Dick Lighthall, Jim Nortman, Patti McDonald, Mary Radley,*

*Alex Rayko, Jackie Rayko, Hilda Renner, Carol Schroeder, Chuck Schroeder, Diana Snodgrass, Theo Tanalski and Bob Wohl with some of the the young Torrey Pine seedlings ready to be planted and being planted.*



**FOSSIL BONE IN THE DEL MAR FORMATION OF TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE by Wes Farmer**

It is an eroded 4 ¼ by 2 inch bone embedded in the blue-green mudstone. The longitudinal eroded section of the bone is mostly marrow, and a thin section of hard cortical bone is seen along one side. A year ago photographs were made to document this fossil site. A copy of the photograph was sent to Dr. Tom Demere, Assistant Curator of Paleontology at the Natural History Museum, here in San Diego. The museum expressed an interest in seeing the fossil site that summer. We had to go on a beach walk during the winter, when the summer sand was washed into the ocean.

Steve Walsh, Lynne Mons, and I searched for the site for an hour this winter near flat rock. Steve continued to look near those numerous rocks while Lynne and I looked farther north. Much farther, near a few ledges of blue-green siltstone, we caught a glimpse of the fossil bone and photographs were made. The bone was

not collected at that time; it is now in the "collecting" permit stage.

The era of mammals began 66 million years ago; the Del Mar Formation is 45 million years old. To me the bone appears to be from the arm (scapula, radius, ulna, humerus) or a leg (tibia, fibula, femur).



*Steve Walsh measuring the fossil bone.*



### TPDS BOARD

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Chris Plantis  
Greg Hackett  
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\* Family Leave

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. Contributions are due by the 24th of each month. Please, send or fax to:

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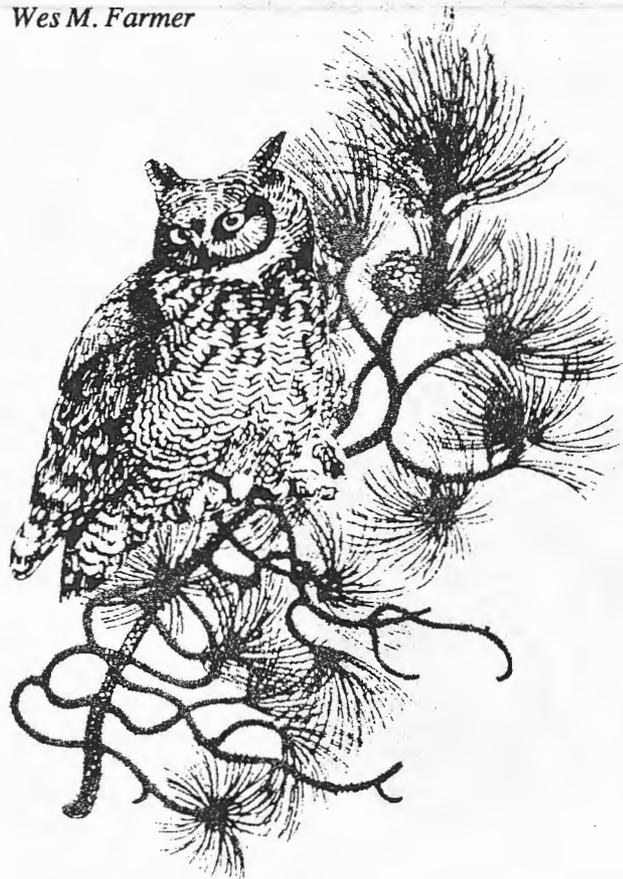
## EDITOR'S CORNER

You just received the first publication from the Electronic Equipment of Lynne Mons. Achieving the beautiful style and content of the newsletter, established during the previous six years by our previous editor, Marion Dixon, will not be easy. I am sure that I will need a lot of support from all of you!

For this issue I am indebted to the editing assistance of Elizabeth Nickoloff and John Carson. I hope to receive more of their invaluable assistance in the future.

Please, mail or fax your articles, news items, illustrations and art to the address given in the box on the other side of this page, or put the news items in the mail box at Torrey Pines, prior to the 24th of the month. And for those of you who have a computer, any pre-typed material (don't put in any formatting), from any word-processing system (IBM or MAC) on 5¼ or 3½ inch floppy, will be gratefully accepted.

*Wes M. Farmer*



755-206

**MARCH  
DUTY CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LODGE HOURS</b> Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 10-1 1-4	<b>LODGE HOURS</b> Tues/Wed/Thurs 11-2	<b>1</b> L - Martin	<b>2</b> L - Amann	<b>3</b> L - Griebe	<b>4</b> L - May  L - Gittelsohn	<b>5</b> L - C. Robertson W - H. Renner  L - Stiegler W - Roberts
<b>6</b> L - Schulman W - Ferguson  L - Schulman W - Hendricks	<b>7</b> L - Miller L - James  L - Oswalt	<b>8</b> L - Talberts	<b>9</b> L - Margulies	<b>10</b> L - Griebe	<b>11</b> L - Martinod  L - Ganeless	<b>12</b> L - Satterfield W - <del>Dixon</del> <i>Sacks?</i>  L - Watson W - Roberts
<b>13</b> L - Heller W - Ferguson  L - Desmond L - P. Bardwick W - W. Miller	<b>14</b> L - Henricks L - James  L - Marine	<b>15</b> L - Martin	<b>16</b> L - Musser	<b>17</b> L - E. Sacks	<b>18</b> L - May  L - Weir	<b>19 MEETING</b> L - Renner W - Brav  L - Weir W - Brav
<b>20</b> L - Parnell W - Cassell  L - P. Bardwick W - Dixon	<b>21</b> L - Desmond L - James  L - Cooper	<b>22</b> L - Talberts	<b>23</b> L - Margulies	<b>24</b> L - E. Sacks	<b>25</b> L - Jacobson  L - Gittelsohn	<b>26</b> L - Satterfield W - Marley  L - Schroeder W - Stiegler
<b>27</b> L - Heller W - Cassell  L - Carson W - Miller	<b>28</b> L - Schroeder L - James  L - Oswalt	<b>29</b> L - Stephad	<b>30</b> L - Marine	<b>31</b> L - Estey	<b>HOURS FOR WALKS</b>  Saturday/Sunday 11-2 1-4	<b>Duty Coordinator</b>  Elaine Sacks 551-0708

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