TORREYANA

A monthly newsletter for Torrey Pines State Reserve

No. 217 April, 1994

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY, April 16, 9:00 a.m. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

Audubon Society member Jean Meagher will be speaking at the April meeting on birds of the Reserve and also those you might encounter locally and on day trips into the bird-rich wilds. Meagher is a veteran elementary school teacher who now serves local schools as an educational media specialist through the Audubon Society, helping teachers plan programs, organize reference materials, and undertake study trips into the field with their classes.

News and Notes TPA

The Board of Counselors elected officers to serve for the 1994-95 year. John Fleming, the son of TPA founder, Guy L. Fleming, was elected to serve as president. Selected as vice presidents were Sally Spiess and outgoing president, George Beardsley. Bob Coast and John Shelton will stay on for another year as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The board also passed resolutions to honor the many contributions of two past presidents, Thomas W. Whitaker and Jeffery D. Frautschy.

Work continues on the association's book with expectation of a late year release. The finishing touches are being applied now and it should go to the printer in early spring.

Finally, it was decided that the TPA will lend financial support to a new native plant nursery for the Park. Reserve ecologist Mike Wells proposed the idea to start growing indigenous species in order to replant areas that have been cleared of non-native flora.

Docent Doings

Diane Sachs is Docent of the Month for her work with the educational Committee and childrens groups.

Joan Nimick gave badges to new docents Laurel Polarek, Elsie Schrawder, and Diana Wenman, congratulations.

Bob Wohl announced more docents are needed on weekends.

LOS PENASQUITOS LAGOON

For eight years Los Penasquitos Lagoon has had its lagoon-ocean channel deepened, thus allowing a refreshing change of fresh sea water.

Ranger Bob Wohl and John Boland, Biologist of Pacific Estuarine Research Laboratory at San Diego State University make sure of that. The recent dredging is just in time for bird watchers

and summer bathers at Torrey Pines State Beach.

A NEW FOCUS ON KUMEYAAY INDIANS IN SCHOOLS

by Marion Dixon

Schools in the San Diego area are developing curriculums designed to help their students understand and respect the Kumeyaay culture, TPDS docents learned at a day-long seminar on the Kumeyaay sponsored by the San Diego Museum of Man Saturday, March 12. About 100 teachers and museum docents attended, including the following representatives from Torrey Pines: Eva Armi, Margaret Bardwick, Jim Cassell, Marion Dixon, Susan Ferguson, Vida Fruebis, Ann Henrichs, Melanie Martinod, Judy Schulman, Barbara Wallach, and Diana Wenman.

Among the speakers were several Kumeyaay, including Monique LaChappa, who brought her audience up to date on life on the Campo Reservation, where she now lives and counsels on education. (Campo is one of eight reservations where Kumeyaay live in the San Diego area; groups of Kyumeyaay also still live in Baja California.) Monique's presence and counseling on education for reservation children is credited with drastically lowering their drop-out rate from school.

All Kumeyaay speakers emphasized the importance of family life, retention of significant tribal customs, and the value of a strong work ethic. Along with teachers from local schools, they noted the need to get rid of damaging stereotypes of Indians and to recognize and value each individual for his own qualities. Several told stories of recent demeaning treatment of Indian children by both teachers and classmates, as well as horror tales of discrimination no more than 40 or 50 years ago when Indians in some San Diego area schools were forced to use separate bathrooms and fountains and were often whipped for using their own language. As a result of the latter punishment, the Kumeyaay language has been disappearing, although there is a recent attempt to revive it and to preserve some of it on tapes.

Margaret Bardwick, who is in charge of the Indian section of the TPDS Children's Education Program, noted that she would be sharing much of what she had learned at the seminar with all the docents in her section. All docents were pleased to learn that two of our resources, ***Indians of the Oaks*** by Melicent Lee and the autobiography of Delfina Cuero as told by Florence Shipeck, in general present authentic pictures of Kumeyaay life.

DOCENT BIOS

by Del Roberts

Marion Dixon is the quintessential journalist.

After six years as Torreyana editor, she is taking a well-deserved break, handing over the reins to Wes Farmer. But that doesn't mean she'll rest on her laurels. Besides giving those exceptional nature walks she'll carry on with her other volunteer interests as a tutor at UCSD's International Tutoring program, where she worked for 14 years, and as board member of the Action Fund of Planned Parenthood. She also plans to continue her free-lance writing. Her interest in writing was fired by her first grade teacher who encouraged her after reading her first composition. Marion pursued her interest in journalism in high school where she was a reporter on both the school paper and the Sault

Daily Star in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. At the University of Minnesota, she qualified for the writing class given by Nobel Prize author Sinclair Lewis. "He was very kind," she says, "but I prefer facts to fiction."

Besides having writing talent, Marion is a born editor [the best I've had]. After graduating with a BA in English in 1941, she worked in the University's Engineering Department where she edited scientific papers. A short time later she joined the editorial staff of Better Homes and Gardens.

In 1946 Marion married Frank Dixon, whom she had dated in college before he went off to the South Pacific as a Marine during WWII. The ten years spent in Pittsburgh, where Frank was head of the Pathology Department at the University, gave them time to raise a family and enjoy the beauty of the city situated on the confluence of three rivers surrounded by hills. "It's my favorite city," says Marion, "everyone cared about each other." Jonas Salk was one of the first people they met, and their children grew up together. Her son Michael is now the Literary Manager for the Actors Theater in Louisville; Frankie is a contemporary artist and teaches in Santa Ana; and Janet, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois, is also Editor of the American Journal of Anthropology.

In 1961 the family moved to La Jolla when Frank was appointed Director of the Research Foundation of Scripps Clinic. Marion devoted her time to her family, her tutoring, and getting her MA in English at SDSU. One of the Dixons' favorite outings was in Torrey Pines, before it became a Reserve. They would cook breakfast over the coin-operated gas stoves, and then hike Fat Man's Misery. Marion was determined to gain more knowledge about the flowers along the trails after she retired from UCSD, so she joined the Torrey Pines Docent Society in 1985. Well, not only did she learn about the flora and fauna, but she became a champion nature guide, an expert birder, a board member, and editor of the Torreyana. She finds it a great pleasure to work with a group whose joy is learning and sharing their knowledge with the public. But her pleasure has its limits. When former Torreyana editor Isabel Buechler decided that four years was enough, Marion took over, saying, "I certainly am not going to work any four years."

Thanks for the past six years, Marion

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE DOCENT LIBRARY (43 books this past year)

by Marc Gittelsohn

Here are the books newly added to the library since the first of the year. Unless otherwise noted, they are the generous gifts of Rowdy James.

Berger, Wolf H., Walk along the ocean: a guide for beach walkers... (Border Mountain Press, 1976). Copy 2.

Braun, Ernest, Exploring Pacific coast tide pools; photography by Ernest Braun and text by Vinson Brown (Naturegraph Co., 1966).

Leopold, Aldo, A Sand County almanac: with essays on conservation from Round River (Ballantine books, 1966). Purchase.

Mason, Herbert L., A flora of the marshes of California (University of California Press, 1956). Gift of Francis T. Haxo.

Menard, H. William, *ed.*, Oceans: our continuing frontier: a course by newspaper (Publisher's Inc., 1976). 2 vols.

Muir, John, The mountains of California (Dorset Press, 1988).

Pack, Robert, *ed.*, Poems for a small planet: contemporary American nature poetry (Middlebury College Press, A Bread Loaf Anthology, 1993). Purchase.

Readers's Digest Birds: their life, their ways, their world (Reader's Digest Association, 1979).

State of the world, 1993: a Worldwatch Institute report on progress toward a sustainable society, *ed.* by Lester R. Brown (Norton, 1993). Gift of Richard Lighthall.

Sudworth, George B., Forest trees of the Pacific slope (U.S. Forest Service, 1908).

Torrey Pine: research articles, comp. by John Carson (Loose-leaf binder, 1983--). gift of John Carson.

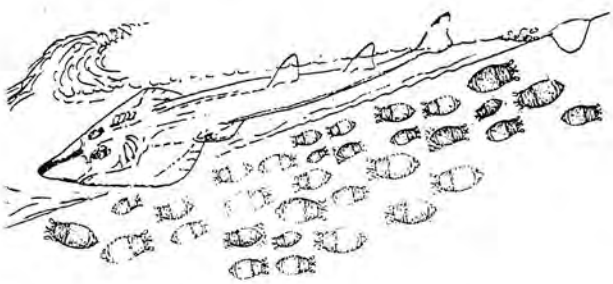
DIMPLES IN THE SAND

by Wes M. Farmer

Let's go on a nature hike and test our abilities of observing mother nature. Just what are these dimples in the sand? The sand is that of the magnificent sandy beach of Torrey Pines State Reserve. This hike may be made best during the morning hours, when the tide is either half ebb or half flood. It is a very good exercise for the body and for the mind. Look for concentrations of the common sand crab *Emerita analoga.* They provide the reason why there may or may not be any dimples in the sand. Walk the beach looking for any clue that an animal may be in the shallow water at the point where the incoming wave washes over the retreating one. It usually is nearly flat with ribbons of oxygen-rich bubbles .

There may be an animal in two or three inches of water causing eddies, thus alerting us to its presence.

A piece of kelp or a fin, that is the question that may come to mind, perhaps a shell or a pebble could be the culprit. They indeed are the three dorsal fins (including the tail) of the Shovelnose Guitarfish, *Rhinobatos productus.* They are feeding on common sand crabs, the result being the dimple in the sand.



Roostertails of water are made by the thin layer of water and sand flowing back to sea from these dimples. The next wave will in one or two microseconds cover any indication of the fish having been there. A small shell or pebble may still be there with each consecutive wave. By the way, these fish grow to five feet in length, though they are dorso-ventrally flattened.

I have seen one of those fish on nearly every beach walk during the summer, spring, and fall. Perhaps you could see one making its way back into the surf and having to wait for the next wave to swim back to the deep sea.

HOTTENTOT FIG BAGGED UP

Aaron Beattie, President, and others of THE INTERACT CLUB of University City High School were sponsored by James Scoffin of the Torrey Pines Rotary Club on the 12th of this month. They were pulling hottentot fig from the roadside up the road from the kiosk. Thanks to that group, for now more native plants will have a place to grow and show their stuff in the future.

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 send to/or place in Torryana box at the lodge.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A PROCLAMATION
by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, throughout California we are blessed with state parks providing countless and varied recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, these 275 parks represent natural, historical, and cultural landmarks of great significance located throughout California; and

WHEREAS, positive recreational experiences in our Golden State contribute to good health, historical preservation, cultural awareness, and enhance the overall quality of life for all people who reside in California; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that attention be focused on the myriad benefits derived from the many activities available in State Parks from Eureka to San Diego;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May, 1994, as State Parks Month in California, and encourage all citizens to take full advantage of the enjoyment and education our State Parks provide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 10th day of February 1994.

Pete Wilson

Governor of California

ATTEST:

March Fong Eu

Secretary of State

APRIL
DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Duty Coordinator Ruth Ganeless 275-1568	**LODGE HOURS : Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 10-1 1-4 Tues/Wed/Thurs 11-2**		**Hours for Walks: Sat/Sun/Holidays: 1-2 1-4**		**1** L - Marine L -Camporini	**2** L -Snodgrass W - Nimick L - Watson W - Dixon
3 L - Schulman - Robertson W - Martinod L - Schulman W - Dixon	**4** L - Schroeder L - James L - Cooper	**5** L - Martin L - Oswalt	**6** L - Miller L - Oswalt	**7** L - Griebe L - Clark	**8** L - Tanalski L -Ganeless	**9** L- Slater W - Dunham L - Dunham W -Stiegler
10 L - Heller W - Carson L - Bardwick W -Roberts	**11** L - Schroeder L - James L - Huber	**12** L - Talbert's	**13** L - Margulies	**14** L - Griebe	**15** L - Jacobson L - Weir	**16 MEETING** L - Renner W - Brav L - Weir Bardwick W - Miller
17 L - Parnell W - Roberts L - Satterfield W - Ferguson	**18** L - Schroeder L - James L - Cooper	**19** L - Martin	**20** L - Amann's	**21** L - Estey	**22** L -Stephan L -Gittlesohn	**23** L - Stephan Slater W - Brav L - Henricks W -Stiegler
24 L - Heller W - Ferguson L - Brickelmaier W - Miller	**25** L - Schroeder L - James L - Huber	**26** L - Talbert's	**27** L - Margulies	**28** L - Clark	**29** L -Jacobson L - Bardwick	**30** L -Watson W -Renner L - May W -Dixon

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