



# TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for  
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 220

July 1994

## **NEXT DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING**

Docents will meet on Saturday, July 16, at 9 a.m.

## **TPA NEWS**

### **Report of TPA Counselor's Meeting, May 14, 1994**



The big news for May concerned the long awaited "book." Assembly of the text, pictures, and other details is complete; it has now been sent to Japan for printing. We will have 3500 softbound and 1500 hardbound copies at the end of the run. Prices have been set at \$17.95 and \$27.95, respectively. Plans are now being made for its debut in fall. The book will be featured at an event at the Natural History Museum to exhibit author Bill Evarts' pictures. Additionally, plans are in the works for a coming-out party at the Lodge, probably in late October. Watch for details in coming months - it should be a lot of fun! Bob Coats, Secretary

## **Last Call**

Although our new publication, *Torrey pines, landscape and legacy* by Bill Evarts, is already at the printer's and first color proofs have been received, we have until late July to add names to the acknowledgments page. Anyone interested in making a contribution to this project (and/or seeing the beautiful proofs) is invited to call TPA Treasurer John Shelton at 459-5442.

## Docent Doings

### Congratulations:

**Pres. Diana Snodgrass** On behalf of TPDS, Jim Cassell presented a gift certificate, redeemable at the Adventure 16 Outdoor & Travel Outfitters, to Diana in recognition of her recent graduation from UCSD with a BA with honors in literature (French and Spanish specialization).

**Vida Fruebis** Vice Pres. of Training Jim Cassell announced that Vida was the first member of the 1994 class to complete all the training requirements. Vida became involved in docent projects before the start of this year's class, helping on the preparation of the wild-flower brochure and participating in the children's education program, so she is already a very active member.

**Hilda Renner** Special congratulations to Hilda and her husband Peter on the recent birth of their son, Andrew Peter.

### Docent of the Month

Jane Talbert received the June award in recognition of her many and varied contributions through the years, most recently coordinating the refreshments part of the 1994 training sessions and doing the same with her husband Bob for the monthly docent meetings. The Docent Society appreciates her years of service, marked by her friendly, harmonious way of working with docents and assisting visitors. Congratulations, Jane.

### TPDS Finances

Treasurer June Brickelmaier presented the Society's financial report covering the first five months of 1994. Expenses exceeded income by a few hundred dollars, caused by completing payment for the printing of the flower brochures. The small deficit will be more than made up by ongoing sales of the brochures, of which 959 had been sold by June 8.

### New Sales Items

Bookmarks are the most recent addition to the Lodge's items for sale to the public. These bookmarks, with pictures of flowers, birds, and other animals, are on the display table next to the docent station and are 4 for \$1, 1 for \$0.30.

A new supply of TPDS patches is now available for docents. The patches are in the cash drawer and cost \$2. The patch was designed three years ago by member Pat Foster, who has contributed her artistic talents to other docent projects as well. The Society ran out of Pat's new design some time ago, so she arranged for the resupply. At the June meeting, Diana Snodgrass conveyed the Society's thanks to Pat.

### TPDS List

The new membership list was distributed at the June meeting. Those who didn't get a copy may do so at the Lodge. Thanks to docent Glenn Dunham for his continuing fine work in updating and preparing this list.

### Lodge Duty Review

On July 9 at 9 a.m., Diana Snodgrass and Jim Cassell will be at the Lodge to review Lodge duty procedures for the trainees. Docents who want a refresher on Lodge operations are also welcome.

### Meeting Refreshments

Bob and Jane Talbert thank all the members who responded to their call for help to provide refreshments for the June meeting. Please remember that another meeting is coming up.

### Basket Class

Docent Judy Schulman, who has become an award-winning maker of Indian baskets, will be having a class on this for docents. Interested members who missed the sign-up list at the June meeting should call Judy for information.

### **Docent Education Activities**

For the 1993-94 school year, docents had two programs for elementary school students, one on specialized topics and the other on the coastal environment at TPSR. Mary Knox-Weir and Margaret Bardwick coordinated talks on whales and the Kumeyaay Indians, respectively, for students from eight schools. At the June meeting, Barbara Wallach summarized the other school program. From Jan. 20 to June 10, there were classes for 2400 children from 43 schools. About 30 docents participated in the group discussions and walks, with docent Theo Tanalski leading at least 20 walks (Theo has remarkable endurance!). During the summer the docents will review the programs to determine ways of improving them. One idea already being considered is a session with teachers prior to school visits in order to acquaint the teachers with the program goals and ways they can better prepare their students for the visits. Barbara also said that docents will be putting together a notebook of reference notes to provide walk leaders with information, ideas, and teaching aids that have been found effective.

Diana Snodgrass thanked all the docents who contributed to these programs and noted that Barbara Wallach and Joan Nimick had devoted much time and effort to ensuring program success.

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### **Environmental Education Workshop**

TPSR rangers Greg Hackett and Allyn Kaye along with docents Barbara Wallach, Mary Knox-Weir, Theo Tanalski, Diana Snodgrass, and Stephanie Smith (trainee) attended a recent two-day workshop in San Diego titled "Environmental Education in Parks." The workshop was part of a series being held in the State with the objective of familiarizing State Parks staff and volunteers with the Dept. of Education's "goals, language, curriculum, and methods used in teaching environmental education." Three books obtained from the workshop have information relevant to our docent programs and are now in the docent library for member use. They are the following:

Ham, S., *Environmental interpretation*, North American Press, 1992.

Wilke, R.J., ed., *Environmental education (teacher resource handbook)*, Kraus International Publications, 1993.

Lingelbach, J., ed., *Hands-on nature*, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 1986.

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### **Docents Head for the Hills**

Docent plant enthusiasts recently made trips to the local mountains to view the spring wildflowers, which have been unusually profuse this year. The Talberts, Jim Cassell, Vida Fruebis, Barbara Wallach, Kathy Estey, and Shirley Grain (trainee) visited the Laguna Mountains and reported that the desert overlook area was excellent. Jim Cassell, the Talberts, Barbara Wallach, Eva Armi, and trainees Shirley Grain and Arnie Shaw explored Doane Valley in Palomar Mountain State Park, where they saw coralroot (orchid family), a relatively rare mountain flower.

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### **TPSR Beach Exploration**

On June 27, docent Helen Oswalt, trainees Joan McNally, Bill Kent, and Molly McConnell, and three guests accompanied docent Wes Farmer on an early morning beach walk from the beach kiosk to past flat rock. Some of the observed shore life included lobsters, several species of crab, pismo and bean clam shells, feathery boa algae, willets, Heermann's gulls, and two bottlenose dolphins.

## The Biology of Dragonflies and Damselflies

Ron Lyons\*

(Note: in some uses the term "dragonflies" also includes damselflies.)

Dragonflies, robust insects ranging in body length from 1 to 4 inches, are excellent flyers often executing rather intricate aerial maneuvers in the search for food and mates. In general they eat flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and other flying insects. They do not bite. They do not attack people, although it may seem that way if one decides to snatch an insect off your person. At rest the wings generally lie flat, at right angles to the body. Some species often rotate and extend their wings forward to help regulate body temperature. In rare circumstances, young dragonflies may fold their wings over their backs. The insect you see flashing along the water's edge spent the early part of its life as a much different sort of creature in fresh water. Damselflies, related to dragonflies, are generally smaller and much less robust. They are weaker flyers, many preferring to move from plant to plant searching for food. They eat smaller prey, some of which may be gleaned from the vegetation. At rest the wings do not lie flat but are folded up over their backs, sometimes in a V shape.

### Life Cycle

The eggs are laid in or near water, often attached to vegetation. In some cases the eggs are just tossed into the water. The female may become totally or partially submerged during the egg-laying process. Temporary and permanent sources of water are used. After the eggs hatch, the dragonfly nymphs compete with other aquatic insects for food and the other necessities of life. Most dragonflies spend more time as nymphs than they do as flying insects we see. The amount of time spent in the water ranges from months to years depending on the species and the conditions (5 years is the maximum I know of).

When the time is right, the aquatic nymph emerges from the water for a resting place (trees, rocks, mud, any sort of vegetation might be used, depending on the species). Under certain conditions, mass emergences may occur. The outer skin of the nymph splits along the back of the thorax, and the young dragonfly emerges. Over the next few hours, various changes such as wing spreading take place, during which time the insect is very vulnerable to predation or disturbance. If all goes well, the insect will undergo its maiden flight, often a short relatively floppy flight away from the water, when both the wings and body have sufficiently hardened. The insects leave the water for a period up to a couple of weeks while they become sexually mature. During this maturation, the males of some species undergo drastic changes in coloration.

Now sexually mature, the insect returns to the water to find a mate. The casual observer will tend to see males since the females are less active, have more cryptic coloration, and remain at or near the water for much shorter periods of time. Mating can take place in the air and be very short lived. During this process, the insects are linked in a "wheel." Following the reproductive phase, there may be a period of wandering. In general, the flying insects we see live from two weeks to three or four months. Species in favorable climates and those that migrate tend to have longer lifespans.

There are no field guides for North American species, although insect books and field guides usually have some information. Useful references are listed below.

Corbet, *The biology of dragonflies.*

Needham and Westfall, *The dragonflies of North America.*

Walker, *The odonata of Canada and Alaska*, three volumes.

\* Ron spoke about this topic at the Feb. 1994 TPDS meeting



**Exotic Plant Removal**

At the June TPDS meeting, Resource Ecologist Mike Wells discussed the procedure that docents are requested to use for recording information on their removal of exotic plants. While we usually have little enthusiasm for yet another form, this one has potential value. In addition to helping the staff keep track of the areas of plant removal and the effectiveness of the methods used, the form will permit documenting the total area cleared and the hours spent by docents and various outside volunteer groups. This information is an integral part of proposals that Mike is submitting for Resource Management Grants to assist in plant removal. The greater the documented volunteer time, the greater the multiplying effect on the grant funds, thus improving the chances of grant approval.

To keep track of the areas that are being cleared, Mike has mounted a large map in his office and requested that docents record their work on the map. For the plant removal forms and map instructions, see Mike or Reserve staff (there may also soon be a supply in the docent room).

Mike Wells thanked the docents for their continuing work on exotic plant removal.

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*Report from the Ranger*

**Cal. State Park Foundation**

There has been some confusion recently about the Foundation pass for admission to state parks. What used to be called a pass is now a membership card, which serves as a pass. If visitors have questions, refer them to the 800 phone number for the Foundation.

**Group Visits on Weekends**

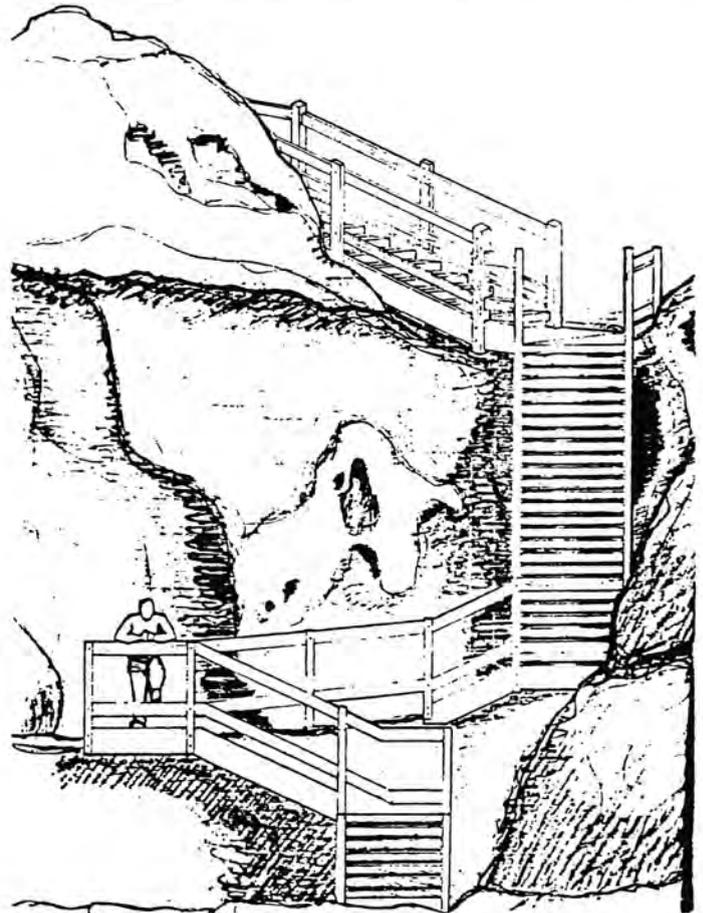
Ranger Bob Wohl said it is Reserve policy not to waive admission fees for organization group visits on weekends.

**Vehicle Security**

With the arrival of summer, we can expect increased problems with vehicle break-ins. Several such incidents have already occurred, including in the Lodge area. Do **NOT** leave any valuables in vehicles, lock all doors and trunks, and consider other security measures.

**Beach Trail Stairway**

The stairway design has been approved, and final drawings are being prepared. The next steps are requests for bids, award of contract, and construction. With luck, construction may be underway by fall. An architect's sketch of the stairway is shown at the right.



### Forty Years Underwater

Jim Stuart, guest speaker at the June meeting, has surely fulfilled the goal of all diving enthusiasts, for he has spent his professional life in underwater projects ranging from off La Jolla shores to the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Jim was the long-time Diving Master at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has made major contributions to programs for diving techniques and safety, and been the member of the Advisory Board for the State Underwater Parks. In his talk he described the underwater canyons off La Jolla and the Indian artifact bowls found there. He also discussed studies in the 1950s on the local kelp beds and the plant and animal life supported by the kelp. Among his slides were fascinating views of the Antarctic, including a great photograph of the emperor penguins.

### Editor's Notes

**Trail Sightings** If docents on TPSR trails encounter any rarely seen animals or spot unusual plants or flowers, please consider preparing a written account for possible future use in the *Torreyana*.

**Acknowledgment** The Editor thanks Walt Desmond for doing the computer-generated Duty Calendar.

#### TPDS BOARD

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**Lodge telephone number: 755-2063**

# JULY DUTY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>31</b> L Carson W L Clark W	Please be sure to arrange for a substitute if you can't do your duty. HOURS Lodge: Fri-Mon, 10-1 & 1-4; Tue-Thu, 11-2 Walk: Sat, Sun, Holidays 11am & 1pm DUTY COORDINATOR: Elaine Sachs 551-0708				<b>1</b> L Ganeless L Brickelmaier	<b>2</b> L James W Dixon L Tanalski W Dunham
<b>3</b> L Parnell W Ferguson L Dunham W Snodgrass	<b>4</b> L Parnell W Carson L Cooper W Tanalski	<b>5</b> L Martin	<b>6</b> L Margulies	<b>7</b> L Amanns	<b>8</b> L Watson L Gittelsohn	<b>9</b> L Brav L Baeles W
<b>10</b> L Heller W Cassell L Roberts	<b>11</b> L James L Oswait	<b>12</b> L Taiberts/ McConnell (trainee)	<b>13</b> L McDonald	<b>14</b> L Miller	<b>15</b> L Weir L Watson	<b>16 Mtg.</b> L James W Brav L Polarek
<b>17</b> L Miller L Ganeless W Stiegler	<b>18</b> L E. Sachs L Oswait	<b>19</b> L Martin	<b>20</b> L McDonald	<b>21</b> L Clark	<b>22</b> L Baeles L Brickelmaier	<b>23</b> L Polarek W Ferguson L Stiegler
<b>24</b> L Heller W Cassell L Dixon	<b>25</b> L Marine L Oswait	<b>26</b> L Taiberts	<b>27</b> L Musser	<b>28</b> L E. Sachs	<b>29</b> L Gittelsohn L Marine	<b>30</b> L Schulman W L Schulman W Miller

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