



TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 230

May 1995

NEXT DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING

Saturday, May 20, 1995, at 9 A.M.

Next to birds, lizards are the most frequently seen animals in TPSR, yet many visitors - and docents - know very little about them. Our lizards are easiest to approach and observe during April to June, so the May meeting is an opportune time to become better acquainted with them. Member John Carson will present a slide-illustrated discussion on the Reserve's species, showing how to identify them and discussing their unusual characteristics. Technical details of concern to specialists will be omitted in favor of information of general interest to docents and, through them, to our visitors. Afterwards, several representatives of the lizard community will be available for close-up meetings with the docents.

State Parks Month

May is State Parks Month, with parks throughout California sponsoring special programs for the public. Here at TPSR, docent Jan Taylor has arranged for the following special docent activities, which will be advertised in area newspapers:

Beach Walk - Sunday, May 7 - Wes Farmer will lead a walk starting at 9 A.M. at the entrance kiosk.

Indian Basketry - May 20 & 21 - Judy Schulman will demonstrate her award-winning basket techniques in front of the Lodge from noon to 3 P.M. on Saturday and from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Sunday.

Reserve Geology - Saturday, May 27 - Don Grine will lead a walk starting at 9:30 A.M. at the Lodge.

Award for Park Aide

Last month TPSR park aide Mickey Meszaros attended a ceremony in Sacramento at which First Lady Gayle Wilson presented Mickey and others from around the state with the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation "Take Pride in California" award. The awards were for their "outstanding efforts to preserve the State's natural and historic resources." Mickey was nominated by ranger Chris Platis, who cited him for his trail maintenance program and outstanding initiative and enthusiasm in working with community groups on these projects. This may be the first time that a TPSR staff person has received this award, so it is noteworthy recognition. Last summer Mickey worked as a seasonal ranger at Crater Lake National Park; he is back at the Reserve as a park aide at least through the summer. Congratulations, Mickey - and welcome back to the Torrey pines!

DOCENT DOINGS

Docent of the Month - Margaret Bardwick received the award for April in recognition of all that she does for the Society, from her continuing work on the Indian part of the children's program to the special things that go beyond the usual volunteer activities, most recently providing a holiday-type dinner for the March meeting speaker, Paipai guests, and several docents. Last December she and her husband, Pete, received their ten-year service awards. The Society is fortunate to have such talented and dedicated volunteers as Margaret, and the members look forward to many more years of Bardwick association.

New Member - Jim Cassell announced that Ted Anasis (1994 trainee) had completed all the training requirements and is now a docent. Welcome to the group, Ted.

1995 Trainee Class - Although over 50 people had expressed interest in becoming docents, the number actually sticking it out in Jim Cassell's course is 28. The trainees are: John Bennett, Angelo Burkett, John Burton, Myrna Burton, Ann Campbell, Claudia Clay, Christina Coats, Ann Gaarder, Irving Hansen, Katrina Hauer, Gail Jeromin, Herb Katz, Nancy Kessler, Betty Marshall, Dene Morin, Monique Murthy, Gail Nelles, Gloria Phillips, Jerry Polansky, Bob Purdy, Mary Rainsford, Susan Robertis, Lawrence Rudolph, Joe Shinnerl, Jennifer Stone, Ken & Diane Vogt, Lana Wilson, and Cindy Wollager.

Library Action - Librarian Marc Gittelsohn is always looking for ways to enhance the value of the library for members. With several hundred books now in the collection, Marc decided it was time to rearrange the books so that subject topics would be easy to find. So he has separated the books into 22 color-coded categories from "animals" to "wetlands" and arranged the books alphabetically by author within categories. There is a self-explanatory guide hanging on the side of the bookcase just to the left of the window. The Society is fortunate to have Marc, a retired UCSD librarian, who believes that a librarian's work is never done.

Mary on the Mend - Docents were glad to hear at the April meeting that Mary Weir is making satisfactory recovery from a fractured hip. We wish her a speedy return to her normal activities, especially here at the Reserve.

TPSR Walks - Joan Nimick encourages members interested in the children's program to sign up for weekday walks in May. The schedule is on the closet door in the docent room.

Also, Joan will be doing a training walk on Sunday, May 21, at 10 A.M. Docents who want to help Joan or just refresh their plant knowledge are invited to join the walk.

(continued on next page)

Docent Doings (continued from p. 2)

Extension Walks - Jan Taylor reports that she and Susan Ferguson had a dozen visitors for the April Extension walk. While none are scheduled for May, Jan is planning on additional walks this summer and fall, which will be announced in the *Torreyana*.

Mission Trails Regional Park - The Docent League of San Diego County will hold its annual meeting at the new visitor center of this park on Monday, May 15, at 10 A.M. After a short meeting, there will be a guided tour of the center, then a sandwich buffet lunch (optional, cost of \$4) at Mission San Diego de Alcala, followed at 1 P.M. (at the Mission) by a discussion on the planned Founders Trail. TPDS members are invited to attend either or both programs. Call Georgette Camporini for further information, and be sure to let her know by May 10 if you wish to attend the sandwich buffet. (The park is located just west off Mission Gorge Rd. about 4 miles north of I-8.)

Trip to a Paipai Village - Eva Armi is coordinating a trip for docents interested in visiting the village in Baja where our March meeting Paipai guests live. The docent group will leave San Diego on May 9 and return on May 11. The village is at 4000-foot elevation, and those going will have to take their own water and food, be prepared for camping, and have vehicles that can handle a 2-hour drive on a dirt road (four-wheel drive is not necessary, but adequate road clearance is needed). While there, the docents will learn about the native uses of plants, will have an opportunity to obtain pottery, and will hear a story teller at night. Mike Wilken, the March guest speaker, will be with the group for discussions and interpreting. The cost will be \$50 per person. Members interested in going should call Eva no later than May 5. Eva also would like to know if there is interest in a similar trip in early summer that would be scheduled for a weekend plus either the Friday before or the Monday after.



Members may have noticed an addition to the animal display in the Lodge - the coyote is chasing a woodrat. This rodent died recently near the Lodge, and Wes Farmer mounted it for display. Unfortunately the Lodge mice are tearing it apart, so it won't last long. A few years ago Wes photographed a live woodrat, shown above, so members can get an idea what one looks like. These rodents are mainly nocturnal and are rarely seen during the day unless there is attractive food nearby.

The Small World of Vernal Pools

Through our association with TPSR and our travels elsewhere, it is easy to think of sensitive environmental regions in terms of "large" geographical areas, measured in acres to square miles. Our April guest speaker, Ellen Bauder, showed us that there are equally sensitive regions that occupy only several hundred square feet: San Diego's vernal pools. Dr. Bauder, who has been studying these pools for about 15 years and is a recognized authority on them, described her work on these pools, discussed the special adaptations that plants and animals have for survival, and made a convincing case for their value and preservation. Highlights of her talk are summarized below.

What are Vernal Pools? They are small temporary ponds that support plant and animal life unique to the ponds. They are only found in a region extending from southern Oregon through California into northern Baja, Mexico. These pools occur in locations in which there is a hard subsoil, such as hardpan, that blocks water drainage, which leads to shallow pools during the rain season.

Pool Characteristics - Typical sizes vary from 12 - 15 ft. across and 5 - 6 in. deep for small pools to 30 - 40 ft. across and 12 - 15 in. deep for large ones. Pool life is up to two to four months. Vernal pools are frequently found along with small mounds, called Mima mounds after the area in Washington where first described. The origin of the mounds is uncertain, as is the relationship (if any) between the mounds and ponds. Fortunately for the pool plant and animal life, potentially invasive shrubs and grasses cannot live for long with their roots in standing water, so these invasives are not a problem for pool survival.

Pool Life: a) Plants - Semiarid areas such as ours have wide variability in rainfall, so plant life (and animal life) in these pools must adapt to large variations in rainfall both within a year and from year to year. Quillwort (*Isoetes*) exemplifies one plant's approach to this problem. This plant, which can be traced back over one hundred million years, is a perennial (it looks like grass) that produces microspores and macrospores. These spores will not unite except in the presence of water. During periods of insufficient rainfall, the plant survives through the food stored in its corm. *Downingia*, an annual, uses another approach - dormancy. The very small seeds have a coating that won't dissolve unless there is sufficient water to ensure survival. Further, the seeds won't germinate unless the rain occurs during the cool weather of the rain season. This prevents germination during the occasional summer rainstorm, which provides insufficient water for plant survival. Some plants have also developed special features to accommodate pool variability. For example, *Callitriche* handles the varying water level with what is called morphological plasticity; as the water level rises, the plant stems elongate so that most of the leaves can be at the surface.

b) Animals - Invertebrates constitute much of the pool animal life, and they display some of the same adaptations as plants. The fairy shrimp egg, for example, has a coating that will not dissolve until there is sufficient pool water for the shrimp to survive. According to the speaker, much more is known about plants than animals in vernal pools.

TPSR Pools - After the meeting, Dr. Bauder took a quick look at the wet-weather pool sites west of the maintenance yard. She reported seeing plants that are typical for vernal pools but felt that the area probably doesn't support standing water for sufficiently long periods for the sites to be considered true vernal pools. Her first impression is that these are what she would classify as marginal vernal pools, but she added that she wants to return for a more extensive survey before reaching any conclusions.

Outlook for Vernal Pools - The development of San Diego has eliminated most of the area's pools. The speaker estimated that probably only 3% of the pools survive today, and we have already lost half of the pools identified in the extensive surveys of 1979. About 3/4 of the surviving pools - and she considers these to be the best ones - are on Miramar Air Station land, where they face obvious hazards even though there is now a program to try to protect them.

What would be lost if the vernal pools were to disappear? Rare plants, such as the San Diego mesa mint, Otay mesa mint, and coyote thistle, to be sure. But more significant, from a wider perspective, would be the loss in biodiversity, a foundation of our environment.

Note: For current research on another aspect of vernal pools, see "Native Bee Pollinators of Vernal Pool Plants," by Thorp and Leong in the April 95 issue of *Fremontia*.

Palomar College Basketry Symposium by Judy Schulman

On April 1, 1995, four docents attended Palomar College's symposium on the basketry of San Diego's indigenous people. Titled "Four Hands Weaving," the symposium was in conjunction with a month-long gallery display of Cupẽño, Cahuilla, Kumeyaay, and Luiseño baskets. The catalog that was produced to go along with the display is destined to become an invaluable reference.

After a traditional Luiseño blessing by Chris Devers, the program was turned over to James M. Barker, Gallery Curator and Project Director. He talked about the inception of this exhibit-symposium and then introduced each of the speakers.

Dr. Christopher Moser, Chief Curator of the Riverside Municipal Museum, showed slides of baskets in his museum and talked about his work to create a data base of baskets and their weavers. He is the author of three books on basketry. In our library we have his book *Native American Basketry of Southern California*.

Dr. Kat Anderson, ethnobotanist, spoke about how habitat loss affects basket weavers and what efforts are being made to reconstruct the areas they use. She is co-author of *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians*.

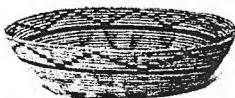
Ken Hedges, Chief Curator, San Diego Museum of Man, gave a brief overview of Kumeyaay culture. Primarily known as an expert on native American rock art, he is also co-author of a book on local plant use, *Santa Ysabel Ethnobotany*.

Justin Farmer, a Diegueño weaver and an expert on mission Indian baskets, spoke about features that characterize a mission Indian basket. For me, meeting Mr. Farmer was a treat because I have corresponded with him by mail and phone for the past three years. He has been a contributing author to several books on basketry, including the one mentioned above by Dr. Moser. He is also author of *Indian Basketry Material Preparation*. Several years ago he founded the California Indian Arts Association.

Donna Largo, a Cahuilla weaver, gave an emotional talk on what it is like to be a basket weaver and the difficulty she has in finding someone to carry on the traditions. Most of her students don't mind learning the actual weaving techniques, but they stop when they realize the amount of work involved with gathering materials. She teaches a week-long Cahuilla basketry class at Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts.

Dr. Lowell Bean, anthropologist and Professor Emeritus, California State University at Hayward, spoke about how the changing role of women in Cahuilla society is reflected in the designs that they use in their basketry. For those of you interested in ethnobotany, his name should sound familiar. He is co-author of *Temalpakh: Cahuilla Indian Knowledge and Usage of Plants*. Written in 1972, it is one of the most comprehensive books of its kind. More recently he edited and co-authored many of the chapters in *California Indian Shamanism*.

Docents who attended were June Brickelmaier, Melanie Martinod, Judy Schulman, and Helen Oswalt.



Botanical Studies in the Reserve in the 1970s

With the completion of the revisions of the Reserve's plant list, it is appropriate to look back at the work of previous naturalists at TPSR to see how much of the current information was obtained. In the March 95 *Torreyana* there was an account by ranger Rich Irwin about the beginnings of the Docent Society, and in his letter on this he also described some of his plant work at TPSR in the mid 70s, which must have been a major contribution to what later became the TPSR plant list. Here is his account:

"I found among all the clippings, notes, and publications kept at the Reserve only small lists, etc., compared to what was actually the natural reality. So I began working on a complete list. And I began to build up the herbarium collection, including mounting and labeling pressed specimens taken by others from the Lagoon-marsh area which had been stored for years inside newspapers. All specimens were cross-checked with the herbarium at UC Riverside, where the curator was a personal friend and had intimate knowledge of California flora and flora of much of the world. Over the years, I wandered the nooks and crannies of much of the Reserve - never quite getting the canyons completed that lay between the golf course and ocean. The result was finding over a hundred plants not before listed at Torrey Pines. The most exciting find to me was the *Agave shawii*, the Shaw's agave or century plant. ... The [then] current botanic keys and flora listed the plant as extinct in the United States! I had the pleasure of monitoring the one plant cluster for several years, seeing it bloom, and taking a little human time to push some seeds just below ground - hoping for more plants to grow before animals and birds could find and eat all the seeds."

What's in a Name (Plant, That Is)?

Have you ever wondered about the people whose names are part of plant names, such as *Pinus coulteri* (Coulter pine), *Quercus kelloggii* (black or Kellogg oak), or the state flower, *Eschscholzia californica*? Then you'll find a wealth of information in a delightful recent acquisition in the docent library by Karen Nilsson titled *A WILD FLOWER by any other NAME*. The author provides short biographies and photographs of over 40 botanists, some famous and others now forgotten, who played a major role in collecting and classifying western plants.

Of special interest to docents are accounts of C. C. Parry and John Torrey. Members know of their connection with the Torrey pine but may not be aware of their roles in nineteenth century botany. Torrey was the first in the U.S. to adopt the then new European system of classification based on plant structure and function (now known as taxonomy). He also was a teacher and mentor to young botanists, including Asa Gray, who was later to become the country's premier botanist. Unlike most botanists of the time, Torrey did not travel extensively to collect. The author quotes Torrey: "I have not herberized out of a circle of 400 miles radius [from New York City]. This is a rather sad confession for a North American botanist." It is hard to see how he had time for botany, for he was also professor of chemistry and served as the supervisor of the New York mint!

As for the California poppy, it was named for Johann Friedrich Gustav von Eschscholtz, a ship's surgeon on a Russian ship that sailed into San Francisco Bay in 1817. A botanist on board, Adelbert von Chamisso, named the poppy found in the Bay area for the surgeon. Interestingly, Eschscholtz returned to San Francisco ten years later (then a zoology professor) and named a lupine for Chamisso, *Lupinus chamissonis* (blue beach lupine).

(Ed. note: thanks to Marion Dixon for pointing out this book to me.)

Report from the Ranger

Interpretive Training - Come one! Come all! New docent trainees and seasoned docent veterans are invited and encouraged to share "Interpretive Techniques" on May 13, 1995, at 9 A.M. at the Lodge. This session will be conducted by ranger Greg Hackett and is guaranteed to add some tools to your interpretive tool box.



District Office Moves - The office has moved from its Old Town location to a building off Mira Mesa Blvd. The new address is: 9609 Waples, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92121. The new general phone numbers are 642-4200, 01, 02, 03.



Beach Trail Update - The information reported in the April *Torreyana* was premature. At this time the Reserve staff is still evaluating options. There will be no further comments in the newsletter about this trail until a contract is signed or work is underway.



Park Aide Returns - Docents in the Reserve on weekends will see the familiar face of Norb Ruhmke, who is here part-time for the summer. Welcome back, Norb!



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MAY DUTY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 L R. Miller L Stiegler	2 L Brickelmaier L McNally	3 L Margulies L [REDACTED]	4 L Ferguson L McDonald	5 L Schroeder L [REDACTED]	6 L Heller W Francis L D. Sachs W Stiegler
7 L [REDACTED] W McConnell L Clark W Nimick	8 L R. Miller L E. Sacks	9 L Wenman L Amanns	10 L Grain L E. Sacks	11 L Talberts L Oswald	12 L Musser L Schroeder	13 L Renner W P. Roberts L [REDACTED] W Dixon
14 L Heller W Cassell L [REDACTED] W Nimick	15 L Cooper L Huber	16 L Jacobson L Gittelsohn	17 L Margulies L D. Miller	18 L Marine L Oswalt	19 L Estey L [REDACTED]	20 Meeting L Pamell W Brav L Pamell W D. Miller
21 L Taylor W Marley L Taylor W D. Roberts	22 L Cooper L Huber	23 L Talberts L Henrichs	24 L Grain L Wenman	25 L Renner L Clark	26 L Musser L Watson	27 L Watson W D. Miller L [REDACTED] W P. Roberts
28 L [REDACTED] W Cassell L [REDACTED] W Dixon	29 Mem. Day L [REDACTED] W Tanalski L [REDACTED] W McConnell	30 L Jacobson L Gittelsohn	31 L Marine L Shaw	DUTY COORDINATOR: Ruth Ganeless 275-1568 HOURS: Lodge Daily 10-1; 1-4 Walks Sat/Sun/Hol 11 & 1		

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