



TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

Issue No. 238

March 1996

NEXT DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING

Saturday, March 16, at 9 A.M.

The March meeting offers members a stimulating change in format: The business meeting will be held under the pines just east of the Lodge (where the benches are located), and in place of a guest speaker in the Lodge, docents will have the rare opportunity of joining Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl for an interpretive walk in the Extension. Bob estimates about two and a half hours to cover three and a half miles total. This will be an excellent opportunity to see recent trail renovations and parts of the Extension seldom visited. (Inclement weather moves the business meeting into the Lodge and cancels the walk.)

Note: In order to provide more parking space for visitors during the busy spring months, the Reserve staff requests that members car-pool to the monthly meetings when possible and that single drivers park in the lot by the kiosk and get rides up to the Lodge from other members.

Docent Society Election Results

At the February meeting the following docents were elected to Society offices:

President ----- Don Grine	Secretary ----- Kathy Watson
Vice President ----- Vida Fruebis	Duty Coordinators - Elaine Sacks and Ann Campbell
Program and Activity Director --- Walt Desmond	Treasurer ----- June Brickelmaier
Training Officer ---- Joan Nimick	

Newsletter Status - There were no candidates for editor of the *Torreyana*, so election for this position was postponed to the March meeting to provide time to evaluate the newsletter survey taken at the meeting (see p. 5 for a summary) and consider options. At present the best approach appears to be publishing the *Torreyana* every other month (bimonthly) and providing members with a one-sheet news bulletin on alternate months. Docent Pam Drechsel has offered to be editor for the bimonthly publication. At the March meeting there will be a vote for editor of the bimonthly *Torreyana* and solicitation of one or more members to serve as assistant editor responsible for the one-sheet news bulletin (name to be determined).

Docent Doings

Docent of the Month - President Don Grine presented the February award to Ann Campbell in recognition of her work in the children's program and assistance in Society activities. While Ann is a new member (she joined in 1995), the Reserve is not new to her. This long-time Del Mar resident was a teacher for many years at Del Mar Hills Elementary School and used to bring her classes to the Reserve. She had always thought it would be nice to spend more time in TPSR, so after her retirement she joined the Society and has found the children's program a great way of maintaining her interest in introducing children to nature.

New Members - Training Officer Jim Cassell gave new badges to Herb Katz and Lawrence Rudolph. Congratulations, and welcome to the Society!

A Surprise for Jim - At the February meeting the 1995 trainees expressed their appreciation to Jim Cassell for all his work with them during the training program, and after the meeting a number of them treated Jim to a brunch at the Potato Shack. Jim is always willing to share his knowledge of the Reserve plant life, and an increasing number of longer time members join him on his walks for a refresher on just what those "little yellow flowers" really are. Thanks, Jim, for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Sick Call - Two docents have been incapacitated by recent accidents. Mary Weir tripped on a step, fell, and broke a hip (not the one that broke last year). She is recuperating at her Borrego Springs residence. Grace Martin suffered a compressed vertebra as a result of a fall and is confined to her home. Both members would surely enjoy hearing from their docent friends (refer to the membership list for address and phone information).

By-Laws - President Don Grine has updated the by-laws to reflect recent changes. A draft copy is on the bulletin board in the docent room for member review.

Volunteer Agreements - Docents who still haven't reviewed and signed their volunteer service agreements are requested to do this now. Please see the ranger staff for this.

PERIODICAL INFORMATION

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Annual Meeting of the TPA by Elizabeth Nicoloff



The Torrey Pines Association held its annual meeting on February 8 at the Lodge. Vice President George Beardsley presided in place of President John Fleming, who was unable to attend. Election results were announced. David Goldberg, Elizabeth Nicoloff, Dave Odell, Freda Reid, and Opal Trueblood were all elected to another 3-year term as Counselors.

The treasurer's report, given by Dave Goldberg (who is assisting Treasurer John Shelton with the Association accounts), showed a closing balance of \$105,183.69. It included (in round figures) checking account of \$105, savings account \$3,316, book sales account \$10,221, and Merrill-Lynch Ready Assets Trust \$91,540. The largest item of receipts was sales of the book *TORREY PINES Landscape and Legacy* - some \$24,398. Other receipts came from member dues \$8,625, contributions \$10,385, and interest \$4,226. Expenditures included money spent on the book - photography, promotion, storage, etc. - the TPA share of *Torreyana* expenses, and office expenses (postage and stationery principally). A separate report on the book showed that 1,356 (89%) of the hard cover books have been sold, leaving 153 in stock, and 1,507 (44%) of the soft covers, leaving 1,950 in stock. Very favorable reviews have appeared, some of the best being in scientific and technical journals. The report also paid tribute to author Bill Evarts, whose many slide talks and autograph sessions helped to sell many books.

An environmental report was submitted by Dave Odell and Opal Trueblood, co-chairs of TPA's Environmental Committee. A principal concern of the Association is the continuing problem of erosion from Torrey Pines Mesa into the lagoon. The TPA has joined with the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation in putting pressure on the City of San Diego. The city accepted in 1992 the responsibility for maintenance of adequate erosion control devices but has taken no action to date. At TPA's request, the USD Environmental Law Clinic

became involved. Professor Corky Wharton assigned law student Andy Peters to do the necessary legal research, and on the basis of Peters's work he sent letters to the regulating government agencies (Regional Water Quality Control Board, Corps of Engineers, etc.) requesting that they force the city to take action. The TPA also endorsed the actions of various environmental organizations to protect aspects of the environment.

Resource Ecologist Mike Wells reported on projects the TPA has been involved in. On the reforestation program: of the 512 seedlings planted in the winter of 1994 to replace the 600 trees lost to the bark beetle, 29% have survived, well ahead of the natural survival percentage of seedlings - this because the seedlings were watered by volunteers through the summer, allowing them time to put down deep roots. 60 more seedlings will be planted this year. A study of growth patterns showed that clustering is natural to the Torrey pine, so the seedlings are being planted less densely than in the beginning, and in clusters similar to natural clusters. Another project is the removal of exotic vegetation, which is being done largely by docent volunteers. The California Forestry Service helped with the Hottentot fig eradication by lending crews with heavy equipment. To discourage revegetation by exotic shrubs and grasses, much of the fig has been killed by spraying and then left in place rather than removed. Native shrubs are then planted in holes made in the stand of dead fig. Another environmental concern is the movement of wildlife in and out of the Reserve. The Carmel Mountain underpass, which was the only corridor between the Reserve and the land to the east, has been severed, leaving the Reserve as an island, cut off from the surrounding area. Caltrans promises a new corridor under I-5. To develop managerial strategies for the maximum biological diversity, wildlife populations in the Reserve

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Annual Meeting (continued from p. 3)

must be studied. Already studies are being made of sensitive amphibians and reptiles, and also birds.

Don Grine, Acting President of the Torrey Pines Docent society, reported on docent activities that tied in with TPA programs during the year, and spoke about the growing cooperation between the two groups.

District Superintendent Ed Navarro spoke briefly on how Torrey Pines Reserve is regarded in Sacramento as one of the jewels of the State Park System.

Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl reported that Reserve trails, which had deteriorated with the winter rains of 1995, are being improved, and that the Beach Trail, which had been closed because the ledge path overhanging the beach had become dangerously narrow, was opened

after work was done to widen that section of the trail. Work has also been done on the Extension trails. The improvements at the North Beach parking lot will be finished very soon and the lot opened.

Before the close of the meeting, member Harriet Allen spoke about the need for an interpretive and research center for the entire Reserve complex - the main Reserve, the Extension, the lagoon, and the beach. She moved that the TPA begin studies right away of the feasibility of building such a center and make a report in three months to the membership. The consensus was that the Association is not yet ready to undertake the project, and the motion was voted down, but the feeling was that this is something that should definitely be considered in the future.

Training Class Schedule

Note: All sessions listed below are on Saturdays. There will be optional Sunday morning walks after the Saturday training classes.

March 9 - Introductory talks by Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl and President Don Grine.

March 16 - Docent Society Meeting; no training class.

March 23 - Reserve birds by Don Grine, and Reserve reptiles by docent John Carson.

March 30 - Native Americans and Reserve history, by docent Judy Schulman.

April 6 - No training class.

April 13 - Plants by Jim Dillane, science teacher, Escondido High School.

April 20 - Docent Society Meeting; no training class.

April 27 - Insects by Ron Lyons, volunteer entomologist, Chula Vista Nature Center.

May 4 - Geology by Don Grine

May 11 - Interpretive walk , Reserve staff.

May 18 - Docent Society meeting; no training class.

Docent Views of the *Torreyana*

For a number of years the content and length of the *Torreyana* have been relatively constant. Preparation of the newsletter has required considerable time and effort on the part of the editor, and this has been a significant factor influencing members not to serve as editors. Because of the lack of a candidate to take over as the new editor, a survey of docents' views of the newsletter was taken at the February meeting to help determine what members want in the newsletter and which newsletter formats and options are preferred. Results of the responses from 52 members are summarized here.

Years a member: 2 or less years - 15; 3-5 years - 14; 6-9 years - 12; 10 or more years - 11

How soon after receiving the *Torreyana* do you read it? *

<u>Years a Member</u>	<u>Read First Day</u>	<u>Read First Week</u>
2 or less	73%	33%
3 - 5	79%	14%
6 - 9	58%	33%
10 or more	73%	27%

How much of the *Torreyana* do you read? *

<u>Years a Member</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Over Half</u>
2 or less	80%	7%
3 - 5	86%	14%
6 - 9	67%	25%
10 or more	73%	9%

*Note: Only the first two choices are tabulated because so few members selected other choices.

Members were asked to rate the usefulness and interest of the eleven main subject areas that are frequently or always in the newsletter. With two exceptions, all the subject areas were found of interest and use "most of the time." Views on articles on other parks and organizations were split between useful "most of the time" and "occasionally."

Members were asked for their first and second choices of the following options for a newsletter: monthly *Torreyana*, bimonthly *Torreyana* with one-sheet news bulletin on alternate months, quarterly *Torreyana* with news bulletin other months, and a monthly one-sheet news bulletin.

	<u>Years a Member</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Bimonthly-Bulletin</u>	<u>Quarterly-Bulletin</u>	<u>Only Bulletin</u>
FIRST CHOICE	2 or less	11	3		
	3 - 5	8	1	2	
	6 - 9	7	3		1
	10 or more	7	2	1	
	TOTALS	(33)	(9)	(3)	(1)
SECOND CHOICE	2 or less		5		3
	3 - 5		2	1	
	6 - 9		2	2	2
	10 or more		1		
	TOTALS		(10)	(3)	(5)

Survey Results: A large majority of the respondents find the current newsletter useful and prefer to have it published monthly. If members' preferences are followed, there are no changes in the present newsletter content that would significantly reduce the time and work for the editor.

(continued on next page)

Survey (continued from p. 5)

Readers' Suggestions: a) Have several members share or take turns in writing a few articles for each issue in order to lessen the work for the editor; b) have one article in each issue on a Reserve plant or animal.

Survey Conclusions: The members want the newsletter to continue with about the same content as it has had in recent years. Since it would likely be difficult to reactivate the *Torreyana* in the future if it were to be discontinued now, the best option appears to be to change to a bimonthly schedule, for which one member has indicated a willingness to be editor, and try to find a way of returning to a monthly schedule later when other members may become available for this. Changing to a bimonthly schedule will require finding one or more members willing to prepare a one-sheet news bulletin for the alternate months; this bulletin will contain the duty schedule, meeting information, and other short items pertaining to the docents and the Reserve.

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Judy Schulman for handling the survey at the February meeting.

A Few Nature Notes

A Little More on Bumble Bees

Bumble bees can live in surprisingly cold areas, being found near the Arctic Circle and at high elevations. In order to raise the temperature of their wing muscles to that needed for effective operation in cold weather, they shiver thoracic muscles and alter biochemical reactions, changing body energy into heat. Bumble bees produce only a small amount of honey for feeding larvae, so their nests do not contain the quantities of honey associated with honey bees. Many bee genera have to put up with nest parasites called cuckoo bees (after cuckoo birds, which lay their eggs in other birds' nests), and bumble bees are no exception. Cuckoo bumble bees have no workers; they lay eggs in bumble bee nests and rely on the bumble bees to feed their larvae. There are three species of the cuckoo bumble bee genus *Psithyrus* in California. They do not look like bumble bees, more nearly resembling some wasp species.

Correction: A word was inadvertently omitted from the title of the first reference in the bumble bee article, p. 7, February 96 *Torreyana*. It should be: *Bumble Bees and Cuckoo Bumble Bees of California*.

Bird Name Changes -

Docent plant specialists who were irked by all the name and classification changes in the new edition of Jepson will find some satisfaction in learning that birders have the same problem. Recent name changes by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) for birds that are in the Reserve area include black-shouldered kite (now white-tailed kite), black-tailed gnatcatcher (the coastal species is now the California gnatcatcher, with black-tailed gnatcatcher being for the desert species), and western flycatcher (the coastal species is now the Pacific-slope flycatcher). And according to a reliable source, the A.O.U. will soon announce a name change for a bird often seen in the Reserve (the new edition of *Stokes Field Guide to Birds Western Edition* already has the new name): the rufous-sided towhee will be the spotted towhee. So plant people and birders do have something in common after all.

Reserve Reptile Survey-

ESI Stacie Hathaway currently has sufficient students for this survey, so docent help is not needed. But docents are welcome to join the group to see the sampling results. A schedule is posted on the closet door in the docent room.

Report From the Ranger

Ranger Greg Hackett - Greg returned to the Reserve the middle of February and is continuing his recovery at his residence (the Fleming house). While he is not back on duty, don't be surprised to see him around the Lodge (after his long hospital stay, can anyone imagine him staying away from his associates and all his docent friends?).

Junior Ranger Project - Ranger Allyn Kaye wants to begin a Junior Ranger program with a self-guided activity sheet that parents can use with their children on walks in the Reserve. She would like to get the help of interested docents in planning and writing this material. Docents who want to help should see Allyn for further information.

Park Aide Changes - Rick Thompson, who has done so much on exotic plant and trail projects, leaves for the required non-work period. Welcome back to Stacey DeJane and David Franks. David will be taking on much of the work that Rick was doing.

Editor's Note: Because of the problems associated with the probable changes in the newsletter, it seemed preferable for me to handle this issue to allow sufficient time for new members to take over. John Carson

TPDS Board

President	Don Grine
Vice President	Vida Fruebis
Program&Activity Director	Walt Desmond
Training Officer	Joan Nimick
Secretary	Kathy Watson
Treasurer	June Brickelmaier
Duty Coordinators	Ann Campbell Elaine Sacks

Torreyana Editor

TPA Board

President	John Fleming
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Secretary	Bob Coats
Treasurer	John Shelton

Ranger Staff

Supervising Ranger	Bob Wohl
Rangers	Greg Hackett Allyn Kaye Chris Platis Mike Wells
Resource Ecologist	N. Ruhmke, D. Franks
Park Aides: S. DeJane	Charlie Kerns
ESI: Stacie Hathaway,	

Changes in Address

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The *Torreyana* is issued monthly except for August by the Torrey Pines Docent Society, which gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the TPA in its production. Contributions are due 5 weekdays before the end of the month. Please deliver them to the *Torreyana* box at the Lodge. The *Torreyana* is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Editor:
Staff: Elizabeth Nicoloff, Glenn Dunham,
Del Roberts, Walt Desmond

MARCH DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 L Clay L Gaarder	2 L Gaarder W D. Miller L Murthy W Stiegler
3 L Heller W Ferguson L Gainless W Dixon	4 L R Miller L Cooper	5 L Margulies L Stein	6 L Oswalt L Amann	7 L McDonald L Shaw	8 L Schroeder L Gittelsohn	9 Begin Docent Training L Grain W Katz L Murthy W P. Roberts
10 L Robertson W Cassell L Anasis W Stein	11 L Schroeder L Huber	12 L Talberts L Kanekar	13 L Oswalt L Shaw	14 L M. Jacobson L Bardwicks	15 L Clay L Hauer	16 Meeting L McDonald W Brav L D. Sachs W Stone
17 St. Patrick's Day L Watson W D. Roberts L Murthy W Dixon	18 L Campbell L Cooper	19 L Margulies L Hansen	20 L D. Miller L Wenman	21 L Bardwicks L Wenman	22 L Katz L Gittelsohn	23 L Schulman W Brav L Schulman W Stiegler
24 L Heller W Cassell L Myers W D. Roberts	25 L L Huber	26 L Talberts L Hansen	27 L Hauer L Wenman	28 L Clark L Katz	29 L R Miller L Vale	30 L Grain W Francis L D. Sachs W P. Roberts
31 Palm Sunday L Anderson W D. Miller L Murthy W Watson	Duty Coordinator: Ann Campbell 755-1934 Hours: Lodge Daily 10 - 1, 1 - 4 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 11 and 1 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.					

Torrey Pines Docent Society
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