



# Torreyana

A bimonthly newsletter for  
Torrey Pines State Reserve

Issue 251

May 1998

## TPSR Lodge 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony — Del Roberts

Sam Hinton opened the TPSR Lodge 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony with *The Land Knows You're There*, a song written by his daughter, a professor of Indian languages at Berkeley. It's based on a Havasu medicine song. When an Indian feels he is about to die, he visits his favorite places in nature to say goodbye and thanks each one for the gifts they have given.

Many honored guests who attended the ceremony on April 4<sup>th</sup> have also given their special gifts to TPSR. Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl introduced just a few. Activist Jessie LaGrange has kept close watch on the Peñasquitos Lagoon over the years, and in the early days was known as "the lady of the shovel." Every time the Lagoon closed up, Jessie would call her Del Mar neighbors and say, "The tide is right, bring your shovel." TPA member, Harriet Allen, has worked hard over the years helping to keep the Lagoon open, the Extension saved, and a Lagoon campground proposal defeated. Melba Kooyman, who has served the longest of any docent, began as one of the original Lodge Sitters before the Torrey Pines Docent Society was founded in 1975.

TPDS President, Diana Wenman, who video taped the day, deserves many kudos for her great efforts in organizing the celebration. She thanked the volunteer docents for their participation, especially Chairman Irv Hanson, Jim Cassell, Judy Schulman and Del Roberts.

This occasion also brought out family members of the early ecologists who saved and preserved the land for TPSR. Ellen Revelle Eckis, a grandniece of Ellen Browning Scripps, gave a family portrait of Aunt Ellen (see page 3). Bob Coats, TPA secretary and great grandson of Guy Fleming, imagined the joy of their camping among the Torrey Pines. (see page 2). Carolyn Fleming presented a framed photograph of Guy Fleming for the Lodge. District Supervisor Ed Navarro welcomed the City and State officials, who each presented a

proclamations to honor the day. Sam Bass of KXYX impersonated the 1933 California poet laureate John McGroarty, who read his poem *My California* at the 1923 dedication. Historian Alex Bevil's lecture and tour contributed greatly to our knowledge of the Lodge, which was not built by the Indians, but by Mexican day laborers. In their honor, a tape played the traditional celebration song, *Las Mañanitas* while the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary birthday cake was served. Afterwards, guests visited the art show, the children's activities, tasted Kumeyaay treats, and took guided walks.



Honored guests Melba Kooyman, Jessie LaGrange, Ellen Revelle Eckis, who spoke at the celebration.

### Next Docent Society Meeting Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Our speaker will be "Ant" Jamie King, who has been working on her Masters degree from UCSD based on her studies of invasive ants and their impact at TPSR. Her lecture will include a slide presentation. (story page 8).

## Tidings from the TPA — Freda Reid



The meeting on March 14th of the Torrey Pines Association (TPA) Counselors took place on a beautiful spring morning. Instead of walking in the Reserve, admiring the exceptional display of spring flowers, we attended to business.

We accepted unanimously the proposed slate of officers for 1998/1999: Opal Trueblood, President; Freda Reid and Courtney Coyle, Vice Presidents; Bob Coats, Secretary; John Shelton, Treasurer. Thanks to Sally Spiess for her conscientious performance as President last year! She was able to spread information about our interests through groups such as the Carmel Valley Enhancement Plan.

We set up a plan for responding in a timely fashion to urgent policy issues which impact the Reserve, such as the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documents for land developments, and meetings of governmental bodies. The TPA subcommittee on wildlife corridors is working on obtaining good maps to illustrate our concerns. We also planned a field trip to the east mesa.

The TPA was pleased to receive a report on the *Discovery Trail* to which we contributed funds, and also to hear that our web site: <http://www.torrey.pines.org> is now linked to that of the TPDS web site: <http://www.torrey.pine.org>. The two sites will provide a comprehensive introduction to the Reserve, its opportunities and problems.

A highlight of the month was the April 4<sup>th</sup> celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the TPSR Lodge. We thank all the docents who made it so special.

(Ed note: The TPDS thanks the TPA for their generous contribution toward the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.)

## Guy Fleming — Bob Coats – Anniversary Speech Excerpts



Ellen Browning Scripps retained naturalist Guy L. Fleming — my great-grandfather — as custodian of this newly designated preserve consisting of both her lands and the City owned lands as a whole. In the summer of 1921, Miss Scripps made provision for the construction of a lodge at Torrey Pines, with Mr. Fleming as her facilitator.

To be close to his work at Torrey pines, Mr. Fleming erected a tent house north of the lodge construction. Guy, his wife, Margaret Eddy Fleming, and his children, John and Margaret, spent most of that summer camping

out at Torrey Pines. Later, in 1926, he built a home for his family on that same campsite and the Flemings took up permanent residence in March, 1927. Torrey Pines was home for the Flemings for some 30 years. Can you imagine how it was for my great-uncle John and my grandmother Margaret? They grew up in this beautiful place, with the opportunity to explore its every nook and cranny. Best of all, a camping trip with their friends was as close as their backyard.

## The John Fleming Memorial



Over 30 relatives and friends gathered at Torrey Circle on Sunday morning, April 5, for a memorial for John Fleming (son of Guy Fleming), who passed away at his Alpine residence last January 12, shortly after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. The service was arranged by Carol Fleming, one of his three daughters; she described with obvious fondness her childhood memories of life in state

park units where her father was a ranger and talked about his many interests, including history in recent years. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ranger Earl Jones, who was at TPSR in the mid 80s, reminisced about his chance meeting with John Fleming at Cuyamaca a few years ago, which led to a collaborative effort on the history of Cuyamaca Rancho, where Mr. Fleming was one of the first rangers. Several other attendees also spoke, including Jennifer Wegis, one of Carol's daughters. Carol presented to the Reserve a photograph of John Fleming taken in 1934.

John Fleming was closely associated with TPSR in the early and latter parts of his life. He and his sister Margaret lived with their father at TPSR while the Lodge was under construction in 1922-23. After a career in the state park system, he retired to Alpine and later served as TPA counselor, vice president, president, and life-time counselor-at-large. While his death ends the family name association with TPSR over much of the past 77 years, the family dedication to the Reserve continues through Bob Coats, TPA secretary, and John Wegis, TPA Webmaster, great grandsons of Guy Fleming. Memorial donations for John Fleming may be made to the Torrey Pines Association, P. O. Box 345, La Jolla, CA 92038.

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Memories of my Great Aunt, Ellen Browning Scripps  
— Ellen Revelle Eckis' speech given at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the TPSR Lodge



It would be nice to say that I have memories of driving out here to the Torrey Pines Lodge with Aunt Ellen, but alas, that I cannot. I do remember being impressed, as a child, at being able to go along in her limousine with Aunt Ellen, Aunt Jen, her half sister, and my Mother though the San Diego Zoo.

Was I slightly retarded, or why was I not more keenly aware as I was growing up, that my beloved Aunt Ellen was such a very special person? As our family spent every summer in La Jolla, I of course knew her well, but as a pleasant aunt, whose house it was always fun to visit, rather than a philanthropist — a title I learned much later she hated to have used about her. One thing that annoys me is to hear her referred to as “the heiress of a family fortune.” She was definitely a self-made woman — a hard working one.

She was deceptively fragile looking, but was actually sturdy and almost fiercely independent. She did not like to have things done for her that she knew she herself could do.

Once during my high school years, and twice during college, I had the good fortune to spend a week living in her little guest house, having all my meals in the big house with Aunt Ellen and her companion, Cousin Hilda Gardner. During those visits I learned the truth of what her youngest brother, Ed, once said: “The amount of food she consumed in a day would not equal the tenth part of that consumed by an ordinary human being.” As I, instead, had a large appetite, there were frequent days when I sneaked off to Putnam's Drug Store for a waffle or a sandwich. Poor Aunt Ellen would have been horrified had she discovered that I was being underfed in her house!

Being a member of a newspaper family, she had an abundance of newspapers. She found a good use for them after they had been read by rolling them up into tight little bundles, tying them with string, and stacking them by the fireplace, ready for use as kindling — an example of her frugality.

Her personal wants were simple. She did not like to spend money on herself. She did not choose to replace anything if, even though well-worn, it was still wearable. I remember the really shabby slippers by her bed. Once Mother and I admired a lovely new dress she was wearing. It was a pretty shade of blue, similar to a bed jacket she had been wearing during a recent hospital stay. She shyly confessed that it had seemed to give people pleasure to see her in that color, so she thought she should wear it more often.

Aunt Ellen did not think of her Anglo-Saxon name as a particularly handsome one to inflict on any institution. It was, as she put it: “a ridiculous name, without melody or charm, with that one poor little vowel struggling against

those six harsh consonants.” So she would probably be glad that this lovely park, that she helped make possible, was named for its unique pine trees rather than for her.

She might be amused and perhaps even confused today, with the proliferation of the name “Scripps” in La Jolla, in spite of her feelings about its use. The local phone book lists six institutions as well as one Inn. There are also three relatives with the famous name.

An example of Aunt Ellen's selflessness was in the building of her new house when she was 79 years old. Instead of designing a house that would be cozy and comfortable for her and her Jen, she built one that she hoped could be of some civic use after her death. This Irving Gill structure was the only house I remembered seeing her in, since her former wooden home had been destroyed by fire in 1915. She left this rather stark house to the hospital, hoping it could function as a home for the nurses. Now, after several remodelings, it is the La Jolla home of the San Diego museum of Contemporary Art.

To close, there is one particular quote that has always seemed to exemplify this remarkable woman. A visitor once commented that she had only a weekly cleaning woman, but ten gardeners. Aunt Ellen answered, “La Jolla hasn't any park and I have all this space. Hundreds of people walk through my garden every week. It is always open to the public. When I divide what it costs me by the number of people who enjoy it, I think it is one of the most economical civic duties I could perform.”



Leo Baggerly and Dorothy Green in their respective roles of Guy Fleming and Ellen Browning Scripps at the 75<sup>th</sup> TPSR Lodge Anniversary. One visitor thought she saw Ms. Scripps at the hairdresser's in La Jolla recently.

**Book Corner — How Birds Migrate (1995) by Paul Kerlinger  
— Kathy Estey**

As a bird watcher, one of the greatest pleasures is standing and watching tens of thousands of geese and ducks migrate overhead. It's hard to stand there watching and listening without wondering why and how. This book attempts to explain both, with the caveat that there needs to be a great deal more research into the how of migration before it's understood.

This book is well written, with clear, easy to understand illustrations. It's inbetween a popular account of the subject with no information and a scientific account with too much data. It's perfect for the general reader with an interest in the subject.

The why of migration is that it evolved as a way for birds to exploit resources. If a bird is an insect feeder and lives in a northern climate, when it gets real cold and there are no bugs, it pays to go where the bugs are. There are three types of migration: complete, partial, and irruptive. Complete migration is where all the birds leave an area and travel for up to 15,000 miles. Partial migration is where not all members of a species migrate, perhaps because part of the range provides food all year long. Iruptive migration is where migration occurs only some years, such as for the Great Gray Owl, which we see in the United States only when there is a shortage of food in Canada.

It is important to remember that birds pay a high price to migrate, and many birds are lost due to predators, lack of food, and flying too long over water. So over time species make a cost/benefit analysis, and the benefits must be high. Over the last few years there has been a change in the songbirds in the northeastern United States, as determined by the Christmas Bird Count. There are so many backyard feeders that songbirds are able to not migrate and find ample food in their breeding range. Of course, that has also meant that Sharp-shinned Hawks, which eat songbirds are also not migrating in the same numbers, as they too have found adequate food in their breeding range.

It is very difficult to study bird migration — much of it goes on at night, much occurs over water where there are few observers, and most birds are too small to carry radio transmitters though scientists are working on this. Also there appear to be multiple factors which control how birds migrate, and it is difficult to develop experiments which allow one to test just one factor. Plus birds are able to make adjustments as they migrate, such as finding the right altitude which allows for the most efficient flight.

Thus, how birds migrate is not completely known. There seems to be a genetic component, in that first year birds seem to have a general idea of when to migrate and approximately where to go. But older birds have a much better map of the migratory path than do first timers. Different species may use different cues, such as star patterns for those who migrate at night, and some form

of magnetism for other species. Birds may have a back-up navigation system — for example those birds who use star patterns on a cloudy night may be able to switch to a magnetic system.

The last chapter of this book deals with preservation of habitat on the migratory paths. It is not enough to preserve habitat on the breeding and wintering grounds if there is no place for the birds to forage on the way from one to another.

This is a good book for those who have been wondering where all the ducks and shorebirds in our lagoon have gone, or for those who find it amazing that a bird like the Blackpoll warbler, weighting 20 grams, can fly nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico for two to three days.

### **Ranger Staff Appreciation**

Thanks to District Supervisor Ed Navarro and Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl and his staff who devoted time and energy to the TPSR 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ranger Allyn Kaye, who proposed the original idea of a celebration, took time out for a more lasting celebration — the birth of second son Troy Allen — but still organized the Art Exhibit. Ranger Chris Platis worked with the NCCC (National Civilian Community Corp.) to clean up Torrey Circle with an assist from Ranger Greg Hackett. Thanks also to Park Aides David Franks, and especially Stacey De Jane, who took on whatever job had to be done and did it with her usual efficiency.



The Encinitas Environmental Painters Show



Disk Jockey Theo Tanalski, Chairman Irv Hanson, Ranger Chris Platis, Flapper Georgette Camporini, Park Aide David Franks, and substitute T-shirt seller Del Roberts while Georgette danced the Charleston.

## Hats off to Docent Volunteers

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a success thanks to the docent volunteers who arrived early and left late to carry out the activities planned by the historical (sometime known as hysterical) committee headed by Irv Hansen. Historian Judy Schulman provided background information, Jim Cassell the graphics, Del Roberts the publicity, John Carson, the photographs, and Diana Wenman, the Anniversary T-shirt and graphics production.

Refreshments are always a major part of any party, and chair Margaret Bardwick and her committee — Jane and Bob Talbert, Ann Gaarder, Twinx Hauer and Del Roberts — planned a tasty sampling of Kumeyaay treats. Pete Bardwick built the Kumeyaay sign, decorated by Jim Cassell, which will be used for future events. Jane and Bob Talbert, hosts-with-the-most, supplied guests with coffee, Yerba Santa tea, muffins and a birthday cake.



The Talbert's volunteers Pat Foster, Ann Gaarder, Dick Lighthall and Joy Cooper – ready to serve.



Margaret Bardwick, Twinx Hauer and Kumeyaay treats.

Docents who showed up that day enthusiastically pitched in wherever needed. As coordinator Katharine Chaffee said, "I didn't have to do much. Everyone just did what had to be done." Bob Margulies, Barbara Briggs and Ken Baer kept the Cloud Nine Shuttles moving efficiently, and Judy Schulman and Jeannie Smith greeted the honored guests who rode up the hill in antique cars. Betty Vale manned the information desk; Treasurers June Brickelmaier and John Green changed money; Georgette Camporini sold Anniversary T-shirts; Don Grine set up his telescope so the guests could see the two baby owls and mother sunning in the canyon; and Theo Tanalski livened up the crowd with his 20s music.

Kathy Estey and Dorothy Green, hardly recognizable as their usual exuberant selves, each dressed in white blouse and long black skirt, shared the role of Ellen Browning Scripps, with proper decorum. Leo Baggerly impersonated Guy Fleming so well that some folks on his namesake's trail thought he was the real naturalist and wondered how old he was. "I'm 114," he replied, "But there are such good things to eat here and hiking keeps me healthy."

Barbara Wallach and Joan Nimick planned a creative program. Children wove a spider web of colored yarn on a fireplace screen, made 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book marks, and tried to play home-made bamboo flutes. Cindy Wollaeger and her husband made adobe bricks from pine needles and sand to show the children what's behind the walls of the Lodge.

Hats off to all those docents, trainees and supporting members who offered to do whatever was needed and did it so well.



Joan Nimick talks with Dave Economou about the children's program.



The indefatigable Irv Hanson finally became dog-tired.

## Postcards of Torrey Pines — Judy Schulman, TPDS Historian

Given the interest generated by the antique postcard display at the TPSR Lodge 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, here is some background on my research. First of all, my thanks to Jim Cassell for displaying my cards so beautifully. What was shown is a sampling of the over 160 different views from my collection, which I began in the late 1970s as a way of doing historic research. (Later I found that artistic license in some styles of postcards would make this difficult.) The most recent postcard was published in 1998 in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lodge. The oldest postcard is postmarked 1910. Since the use of postcards in the United States began in 1873, it is possible that some earlier ones might still exist.

Among the many views I have, there are three that are unique by virtue of their topic. The first one is the interior view of the Lodge circa mid-1930s that was reproduced for the 75th anniversary. I have never been able to find any other view of the inside of the Lodge. The second one features a view of the road on the front and shows restaurant information on the back. The third one shows a cat and a dog playing on the steps of the lodge. Based on a variety of sources of information, it is believed that the animals belonged to Axel Johnson, who was one of the Lodge's proprietors after John Burkholder.

My postcard search led to some interesting discoveries. Did you know that a sardine fishing boat capsized on the beach at Torrey Pines on October 19, 1941? A postcard showed a group of people pulling a capsized boat along the beach. Its caption read "After a Storm, Torrey Pines Beach, Cal." Since there was no postmark, I had no idea when the photo was taken. This presented a research challenge and the fun part of postcard collecting. Taking two clues, I was eventually able to identify the date. The clothes that people wore were guessed to be circa 1930s to 1940s. Using a magnifying glass, I was able to determine that the name of the capsized boat was *Amelia*. I went to UCSD and searched their newspaper file for the Union-Tribune during that time period. Under the headings of *Amelia*, shipwrecks and storms, I discovered that a sardine fishing boat had capsized one mile south of Del Mar in a storm on the aforementioned date.



Judy Schulman with her post card collection

## Music of the 20s — Theo Tanalski



One of the highlights of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge was the 20s music created from original records and re-pressing. To re-create the authentic sound — and make it possible to listen to some of the scratchier and more distorted records — I used what could be called a 3-D Signal

Processor. This is a public address horn dating from the 40s or 50s. The shape duplicates the shape of an upscale horn player from the 20s, hence recreating the sound that was heard, while reducing the distortion with its sharp frequency cutoff.

While people were assembling for the ceremony, I played a tape of *Rhapsody in Blue* performed by George Gershwin on piano with Paul Whiteman's orchestra. A woman came up to me and exclaimed that she heard her favorite music wafting over the air as she got out of her car. Guests sat lost in listening, some tapping their feet, reminiscent of people sitting in the park near the gazebo on a sunny afternoon.

Docent Georgette Camporini, our state-park-promoting flapper danced to *Doin' the Georgia Grind*. "I can shake it East, I can shake it West, but way down South I can shake it best, doin' the Georgia Grind," performed by Louis Armstrong and His Hot Five from 1925. In addition, we had a young couple in boots and shorts dance the Lindy Hop to *Baltimore* played by Bix Beiderbecke. One man came up after 2:30 and said he had the job of stocking his dad's jukeboxes, and could we please play some sounds. We reconnected the power and played an "RCA Victor SPECIAL coin operator's" record of *South*, by Bennie Moten's Kansas City Orchestra.



The Model T and Horseless Carriage Clubs also set the 20s mood. Honored guests were driven up the road formally called the Roosevelt Memorial Drive to the Lodge, where visitors had the opportunity to talk with members of the club and inspect their antique cars.

Notes from the Archives: Torrey Pines Extension  
— Maryruth Cox

In 1963 my neighbor, Joan Winchell, and I had an idea: why not make the empty land to the north of Del Mar Terrace (where we lived) into a park? The hills were still pristine with yellow blooms of coreopsis in the spring and tangled masses of coastal scrub and chaparral between the scattered Torrey pines. A few dirt roads wound over the sandstone bluffs, but otherwise it was an oasis of wilderness between us and Del Mar. We didn't know beans about how to create a park. In our ignorance we thought we could just inform the proper county or state agency, and it would happen! We ignored the fact that the people who owned this land probably had their own dreams about its future. We contacted Margaret Dixon, an old-time conservationist who lived in Del Mar. She was excited and curious: were we the owners, or perhaps wealthy philanthropists who were prepared to make a reality what she and many others had longed for for these many years?

For in the fifties John Comstock, a world-famous lepidopterist, and the president of the Torrey Pines Association, had suggested many times that the northernmost stand of Torrey Pines to the east of Del Mar, stretching from Carmel Valley road to San Dieguito lagoon, be included in the park. From his home on Crest Rd. in Del Mar he could see unique sandstone bluffs with weathered pines and sculptured caves. He envisioned that the park would extend up the canyon from Carmel Valley Rd. to the mesa top (now Del Mar Heights) and down Crest Canyon to the San Dieguito lagoon. The idea of extending the park to the north was in the air. By 1969 a small group of loyal park supporters was involved head over heels in the Torrey Pines Extension campaign. The state promised \$900,000 for acquisition of the land if local people could raise \$700,000 by January, 1970.

Ed Butler, a well-known San Diego lawyer with influential friends in the worlds of finance and government, led the campaign. In the fall of 1969 he released an impassioned plea to "Save the Torrey Pines" to the local newspapers and the Associated Press (AP): "This area represents a million years of sculpturing by the wind and rain. To see it all go under the bulldozer's blade for a housing development would be a crime against our national heritage. Our campaign is aimed at those Americans who see all around them the wanton destruction of our natural heritage and are determined to fight to save such things of beauty as the Torrey Pines."

Letters poured in from all over the country: Georgia, Florida, Connecticut, New York, Nevada and California to name but a few. Some of these letters are preserved in the Torrey Pines Historical Files, and I should like to share them with you, as a testimony to the special feeling that this corner of the world inspired.

"Several years ago, before the Torrey Pines Annex was publicized, I wandered by pure chance up to the top of the bluff looking southward toward the State beach, east to the hills, west to the ocean and standing there smelling all the pines and sage and eucalyptus in the summer sun, I pronounced it good. I loved the site (there were surveyors' stakes all over it) but knew it would be too much for my pocket, in fact, it was too good for me in every respect. It truly is too good for any ONE land holder and should belong to all the people." Olive S. Hanson, San Diego

"We, as a country and as people, are too quick to forge ahead blindly. I am from the Midwest where they have destroyed much of the land and it makes me sick to see how the West has got to repeat the same mistakes. I am making my small donation not so much to save a few trees but to help show that the individual can do something to preserve his environment." Harvey W. Doerring, San Diego

"I first saw those pines in 1921 when we puffed up that famous grade enroute to San Diego from Corona. You had to have quite a car in those days to make that grade in high, as I recall. Those trees have always held a romantic interest for me, which has become more nostalgic with the passage of time. More importantly, they represent a tangible tie with the distant past, and are a vanishing species. I cannot afford very much at the moment, but want to be counted among those who tried." Lt. Col. Burchard M. Johnson, Ret., Pacific Grove

"This contribution is the result of an A.P. story today telling of your efforts. "In 1919 (I wasn't yet 15) on a rented car trip from Beverley Hills to San Diego we went over the heights above La Jolla and a bobcat leaped across the road in front of the car opposite a Torrey pine that hung precariously over the cliff. I never forgot it. And I'll bet the gnarled tree is still there at the summit." Theodore B. Goetz, News Editor Westchester Rockland Newspaper, White Plains, NY

On August 20, 1977, the Torrey Pines Extension was dedicated formally as a part of the Torrey Pines State Park. Now, in 1998, Joan Winchell, and I, and many, many others can enjoy this bit of wild land tucked between the suburbs of San Diego and Del Mar, where we can still hear the thrasher sing, smell the California sage, and feel the warm sun on our backs as we trudge up the sandy trails.

## Nature Note – Owls — Don Grine

*It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman,  
Which gives the stern'st good-night.* (Lady Macbeth, on hearing the scream of the murdered king).

Several hundred visitors and docents saw an adult Great horned owl and two owlets at our anniversary celebration April 4<sup>th</sup>. Most of us seldom hear an owl in our suburban setting and even more rarely see one. Owls are a feathered mystery (or a feathered mousetrap, depending on whether you are a man or a mouse). The silent flight, which enables owls to surprise mice, results from special feather structures. The barbs on the leading edges of the primary feathers in the wings are long and curved to reduce air turbulence. The owl wing in the "touch me" area of the Lodge shows these well.

The Great horned owl does give a terrifying scream that could be taken for a murder in progress. Its more common sound is a series of deep hoots given mostly by the male as it establishes its breeding territory during the middle of winter.

These owls get their nests the new-fashioned way, they steal them. They particularly like nests of red-tailed hawks. They breed early: eggs have been seen in San Diego county from Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> to Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>. Once an owl settles in the nest, the hawks seldom contest. Great horned owls are ferocious they eat red-tailed hawks. They usually nest in trees. A nest was in a large Torrey pine in the Extension for several years. Those we saw were in a small cave in the ridge behind the Lodge. In a cave they may lay eggs on the cave floor with no nest at all.

After the owlets fledge, they stay in the nest area for up to three months. We may see the whole family sitting on the ridge behind the Lodge soon.

More reading (from our library I hope):  
Stokes, *A Guide to Bird Behavior, III*  
Unitt, *The Birds of San Diego County*  
Ehrlich, *The Birder's Handbook*



## The Effects of an Invasive Ant — "Ant" Jamie King

Most individuals have become familiar with my Master's research by way of the little metal "cages," brightly colored flags and buried jelly jars that have dotted areas of the Reserve over the last several years. Although at times an eyesore, these little contraptions have served a vital role in furthering one of the primary goals of the Torrey Pines State Reserve, to increase our understanding of the ecology of our local flora and fauna — specifically, to aid our understanding of the local ant populations.

Why ants? And who cares, *really*? As ants are the primary aerators of soils, distributors of native seeds and a food source for native reptiles, we should all care. For this reason I have been studying the diversity, or variety, of native ant species across the reserve and determining whether this diversity is impacted when faced with the invasion of an exotic ant.

This invasive ant, the Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) is most commonly seen in our kitchens and bathrooms as a stream of erratically moving little black forms. They are also very common in coastal patches of

native habitat in Southern California. In our Reserve they gang up on native ants, and with the ferocity of wolves subdue their opponents. The key to their success is ferocity and abundant numbers. Several will grab hold of the legs of native ants with their biting mandibles, others the antennae, and snap away until their opponent is dead. At times they will even drag these corpses, which are 5 - 10 times their size, back to their nests. The final fate of the dead is unknown.

What we do know, however, is that over the long haul, the Argentine ant is displacing our native ants species. My research has shown that ant diversity is significantly decreased when the Argentine ant is present. In other words, there are fewer native ants and native ant species. And this effective invader is spreading across the reserve at what appears to be a rate of approximately 100 meters per year. Only the Parry Grove, the southern portion of the Guy Fleming and areas closer to the beach are presently free of this ant. If measures are not taken to limit further expansion of the Argentine ant, we can expect these areas to be infiltrated as well.

### Torrey Pines Docent Society Board

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### Address changes go to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
Shirley Musser, Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 2414  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
TP Lodge telephone: 755-2063

Torrey Pines Association  
P.O. Box 345  
La Jolla, CA 9203

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**Editor's Corner:** Special thanks goes to John Carson who has agreed to be co-editor of the July *Torreyana* while I'm in Europe. Please contact him with your articles well in advance of the deadline June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### TPSR Natural Resources Volunteer Projects — Jamie King – Environmental Services Intern

#### Love Our Lagoon

In 1995 over five acres of exotic vegetation were identified in the North Beach and Southern lagoon areas, specifically hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) native to Africa and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) native to Asia. All exotics were removed by hand during 1997 largely through the efforts of staff led volunteer groups. Between 1997-1998 however, significant regrowth occurred in all areas. To deal with this situation and stimulate more community involvement and volunteerism, the "Love Our Lagoon" volunteer day was created.

The goal of the "Love Our Lagoon" program is to offer an event that will not only deal with the problem of the regrowth of exotics in a cost effective way, but also offer a forum where local community members can network and be educated about the ecological significance of our wetlands, specifically the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. By bringing many different groups together, local families, school kids, Sierra Club, Calpirg, and business groups, I hope to stimulate a long term interest and appreciation of our natural resources, and do my bit towards ensuring that a future Ellen Browning Scripps and a Guy Fleming will be out there.

The actual event takes place the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., currently at the North Beach area. After a ten minute introduction to aspects of lagoon ecology and conservation, volunteers spend two to three hours removing exotic or transplanting native vegetation.

I would like to invite you to come and take part in the "Love Our Lagoon" event. Docents can get involved as volunteers or as speakers. Many of you have invaluable knowledge of the flora and fauna that visitors would love to share.

#### Historic Animal Counts

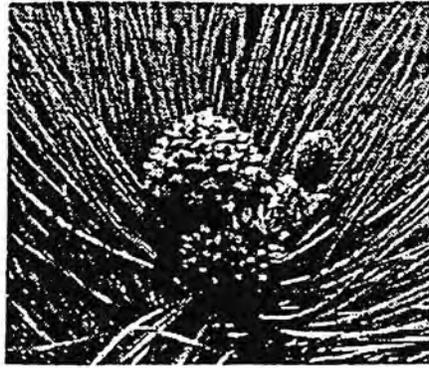
A summary of some of the scientific research conducted over the last few years in the reserve is contained in the recently completed "Wildlife Management Plan for Torrey Pines State Reserve - Terrestrial Vertebrates." One of the recommendations from this study was that the animal sightings documented in the staff and docent logbooks over the last 20-odd years should be summarized and analyzed in order to see if any trends in numbers of visits or areas visited exist. Although one might think that a mix of visitor/staff/docent/researcher sightings might be unreliable at times, studies have shown that the observations of these groups are relatively dependable and offer a source of "free data" that roughly mirror the results of more thorough scientific surveys. Ideally, the data might support our suspicion that animal visitations into the eastern Lagoon have decreased as areas such as Carmel Valley Road and I-5 interchange have been developed, thus cutting off normal travel routes. We might also be able to compare sightings with climate records and thus predict fluctuations in animal visitations.

Several docents are currently reviewing old logbooks and summarizing entries documenting animal sightings. This data will later be put into the computer and analyzed. This project is perfect for anyone having a slow day during lodge duty and can additionally provide a highly entertaining perspective on the interactions of staff and the past activities at the reserve.

Please see Jamie King at TPSR for more information.

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
P.O. Box 2414  
Del Mar, CA 92014

**TORREY PINES**



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**May Duty Calendar 1998**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 L W L Grain W Kamen L	Duty Coordinator: Elaine Sacks 551-0708 Hours: Lodge - Weekdays 10-1, 1-4 Sat/Sun/Holidays 10-1, 12-3, 3-6 Walks - Sat/Sun/Holidays 11 and 1 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.				1 L Stein L Watson	2 L Ganeless W Ferguson L Dixon W Nimick L Gaarder
3 L Weir W Wenman L Grain W Kamen L Sacks	4 L Katz L Huber	5 L Margulies L Tanalski	6 L Camporini L Shaw	7 L Smith L Hauer	8 L Burns L Gittelsohn	9 L Camporini W Tanalski L Carlson W Stiegler F Farnes
10 L Wenman W Ferguson L Heller W Carson L Wenman	11 L Jacobson L Weir	12 L Talberts L Davis	13 L Rudolf L Shaw	14 L D.E. Miller L DeWitt	15 L Burns L Tanalski	16 MEETING L Parnell W L Watson W DE Miller/Ben- L Wenman nett
17 L Parnell W Cassell L Anasis W Kamen L Gordon	18 L Katz L Huber	19 L Jacobson L Amanns	20 L L DeWitt	21 L Smith L Hauer	22 L L Gittelson	23 L W Brav L Phillips W Stone L Phillips
24 L W D.E. Miller L Heller W Stiegler L	25 MEMORIAL DAY L Parnell W Carson L Parnell W Myers L	26 L Talberts L	27 L L	28 L Rudolf L	29 L Baer L	30 L W Brav L W Myers L