



Torreyana

A bimonthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve

Issue 252

July 1998

NEXT DOCENT SOCIETY MEETING

July 18 at 9 A.M.

The guest speaker will be Resource Ecologist Mike Wells, who will summarize recent results of Reserve research and describe current projects.

A Real Hike - The Docent Society recently contributed \$250 to the Trans-County Trail fund for a team of docent Diana Wenman and ranger Greg Hackett to join the first "Spines to Pines" hiking expedition that took place from May 26 to June 5 and covered 114 miles. Your TPDS president hiked all eleven days, and Greg joined for the last two. Torrey Pines State Reserve is an integral part of this trail, along with Anza-Borrego Desert and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks and other city, county, and private lands. This trail has been more than five years in the making and is 70 percent complete. The cooperating agencies include DPR, SD City and County Parks & Rec. Depts., SD Water Utilities Dept., Poway, and the U.S. Forest Service. Sponsors included all of the above plus the San Diego Natural History Museum, Adventure-16, San Diego County Trails Council, San Diego County Parks Society, and Radio Station 92.5. The event culminated in a National Trails Day celebration in Balboa Park on Saturday, June 6, where TPDS also hosted a display table.

There were about 18 participants in the hike, with eight completing the full 114 miles. The weather was perfect, the wildflowers were abundant, and the scenery was absolutely spectacular. This was proof that San Diego County has it all! The group bonded unbelievably, and even though all had blisters and other aches and pains, there

wasn't one complaint. Cory Linder and Mike McFeries of the S. D. County Parks & Rec. Dept. provided daily sustenance and support, and everyone had a great time. TPDS is now written up in a notebook on top of El Cajon Mountain — we are famous!

Diana Wenman, President, TPDS

Children's Education Program - "I want to come back to Torrey Pines with my family to tell them everything I learned." When children feel this way, we know we have succeeded in our mission. A great big **THANK YOU** to the 26 docents who participated in the children's program this school year. You led 3,111 children and about 350 adults on our trails. Forty-four different schools visited, and eight were funded by TPDS busing grants. Thoughtful children and teachers from one of the schools pooled their pennies, nickels, and dimes to donate \$50 to TPDS.

We have many new docents who will be joining us in the fall. We plan on developing some new props and materials this summer and invite all of you to participate.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer. Bookings are already being made for next September!

Barbara Wallack, Children's Program



Tidings from the TPA

Freda Reid

At the TPA meeting of May 9 we welcomed the newly installed

Counselors Diana Bergen, David Crawford, and Marti Kaye. They have already demonstrated an interest in the type of concerns which face the TPA through prior volunteer efforts in other organizations. We are fortunate to have their expertise to provide a fresh approach to some of our problems.

We had an interesting presentation from Michael Beck, who is a county planning commissioner and Director of the Endangered Habitats League to which the TPA has contributed. He was able to give us a broad view of the work needed to ensure that the San Diego County plans for implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) are successful. He suggests that a coalition of conservancies and trusts be formed similar to that involved with the San Dieguito River Park. He asked the TPA to support this as well as to become involved in the discussions to find the most environmentally acceptable route for Highway 56 and to follow closely the strategies for lobbying the city council on land management in the Neighborhood 8A area on the east mesa.

We were pleased to hear that the Torrey Pines Lodge and the Fleming residence have been designated as both State and National Historic Landmarks as a result of the work of Alex Bevil and the financial support of the TPA. It is probable that the winding road up the hill will receive similar recognition.

The Counselors will meet on Saturday, June 13, for specific consideration of environmental matters and on Saturday, July 11, for the regular Board meeting, both at 8:30 A.M. at the Lodge. TPA members are welcome to come and make suggestions and comments about the activities of the organization in the public comment portion of the agenda.

Book Review

Broadsides from the Other Orders: A Book of Bugs by Sue Hubbell

Reviewed by Kathy Estey

This is a book for the general reader who finds most of the natural world fascinating. On the cover is an apt quote from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which states, "Bugs and Sue Hubbell are a magical combination when they get between the covers." Sue Hubbell has written several books, at least two of which Marc Gittelsohn has in our library, and she always is both entertaining and informative. She does not have a degree in entomology, but she is just interested in bugs and in those who study them, for the book has as much information about bugs as it does about those who study them.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters, each chapter focusing on a kind of bug (a general term which Sue Hubbell uses throughout the book) and those who study them. For example, in the chapter on gypsy moths, there is information on Etienne Leopold Trouvelot, who brought the gypsy moth to the United States to improve the production of silk worms. And elm trees have never been the same since a few of his moths escaped.

In the chapter on ladybird beetles (also called ladybugs), she explains that there are probably more than ten million kinds of beetles and that they have adapted to living on land, in water, and in the air. Also, they have probably been around for 225 million years. There are people who make a living of collecting thousands of ladybugs in the mountains of the West and then selling them to gardeners to help eradicate aphids. People are making money selling ladybugs, even though in the flying stage of their lives they usually fly away from where they are released. (Ed. note: according to entomologist and author May Berenbaum, releasing the ladybugs a few at a time late in the day in a well-watered and mulched garden will increase the probability that the ladybugs will stay awhile.)

In the chapter on silverfish, those flat little bugs which hide in your cupboards, Sue Hubbell explains that 400-million-year-old fossils have been found very similar to the present silverfish. She then asks if they are a primitive form, or did they just achieve perfection early on? They have managed to survive several mass extinctions when most more complex and seemingly more advanced forms were eliminated.

One chapter is on syrphid flies, something about which I knew nothing. But she explained that they are big, gaily colored flies which hover around flowers and are often mistaken for bees. We had just been walking the Guy Fleming Trail to admire the flowers and had seen many chubby, fuzzy black bugs with yellow stripes. I have assumed for years that

(continued on p.3)

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Book Review (continued from p. 2)

they were bees but now realize that they are probably syrphid flies, as my bugs did not have the little waists which identify bees. Now I must find another book on syrphid flies to see if I am correct. Sue Hubbell uses this chapter to discuss mimicry, which is the idea that syrphid flies, with no stinger, have evolved to look like bees, which do have a stinger. Thus predators of flies would not eat syrphid flies, because they know that black bugs with yellow stripes sting. However, nothing about bugs is that simple, for there are certain birds that will eat both stinging and non-stinging yellow-striped black bugs. They just scrape off the stinger. And if there were more non-stinging striped black bugs than stinging ones, wouldn't predators begin to eat a lot of flies, and the mimicry would not be effective?

This book does not answer all your bug questions. It just makes you more aware of the incredible creatures they are, and anxious to learn even more.

Volunteer Protection Act of 1997

Last year Congress enacted a law (42 USC 14501-14505) to provide some degree of protection to volunteers against frivolous, arbitrary, or capricious lawsuits arising from their volunteer activities. The law states that no volunteer of a nonprofit organization shall be liable for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer if certain conditions are met, such as acting within the scope of assigned duties, and the harm was not caused by willful misconduct, gross negligence, etc. An obvious problem is that people involved in an accident may have quite different views on what constitutes gross negligence, so it appears that volunteers could still find themselves involved in lawsuits arising from injuries to people participating in public activities. Further, because the law is new there is no case law to provide guidance in interpreting the law.

In a recent phone discussion with John Mott, DPR Cooperating Associations Manager, he reiterated his recommendation of last year that docents should perform public activities as "state park volunteers" for activities **approved and scheduled** by the park supervisor in order to have reasonable assurance that DPR would provide legal services in the event of lawsuits arising from these activities. Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl concurs with this recommendation. Bob has a copy of this new law (note: at present there is no corresponding state law for volunteers although there is one for directors and officers of nonprofit corporations).

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Nelson Brav and Kathy Estey for locating and providing a copy of this law.

Docent Doings

Docent-Ranger Appreciation Party - This annual event will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 6 P.M. at the Lodge. Look for details in the August issue of the *Torreyana Lite*.

Petroglyph Trip - Docents interested in a trip to Little Petroglyph Canyon near Ridgecrest (about 100 miles north of San Bernardino) on Nov. 6-8, please call Diana Wenman by the end of July. The visit is sponsored by the Living Desert organization.

New Role for Docent Vice Pres. - Jeannie Smith was a successful applicant for a park aide position at the Reserve and will be working here this summer. DPR rules prohibit employees from serving as cooperating association officers, so there will be a hiatus in her term as vice president until after summer.

Editor on Vacation - Del Roberts and her husband Bob Margulies are spending June and July in Europe visiting friends in Germany and touring Italy and France.

Reptile Sightings - Docent Barbara Wallach and several Reserve staff recently observed a large gopher snake on the Whitaker Garden trail entrance trying to swallow a rabbit. The snake had a few coils around the rabbit, but eventually realized the rabbit was too big for it, released its grip, and the rabbit hopped away. On the Memorial Day afternoon walk, visitors got an unusual view of a striped racer resting along the side of High Point Trail. Later on the east side of the Fleming Trail, there was an excellent view of a kingsnake moving slowly parallel to the trail.

DOCENT NOTICE

Docents on Lodge duty are requested not to take excess money from the cash drawer to put in the ranger safe. Diana Wenman and Karen Griebe will take care of the cash twice a week, so there should not be a buildup of money in the cash drawer.

The Reptiles and Amphibians in the Reserve

Which species of snake is most numerous in the Reserve? Are there any horned lizards left here? Answers to these questions and lots of other information are now available in a report that summarizes the results of the nearly three-year UCSD survey of TPSR's reptiles and amphibians, which began in June 1995. This was part of a larger survey that covered selected areas in five counties from the U.S.-Mexico border to the Sierra Pelona Mts. north of Los Angeles and east from the Pacific Ocean to the crest of the inland mountains. Both the TPSR and larger surveys were probably the most extensive and systematic ever done in these areas. They have provided much data on species, their relative abundance and distribution, and their habitats, critical information needed for their protection and conservation in the rapidly diminishing open spaces in southern California.

Specimens in the survey were collected using pitfall drift-fence arrays. In TPSR there were 35 arrays that covered parts of these areas: TP1 - Broken Hill; TP2 - TPSR Extension; TP3 - Parry Grove, the east side of the Guy Fleming Trail, and the southern part of the Lagoon. The data for these areas are based on 125 sampling days for TP1, 110 days for TP2, and 100 days for TP3; results are summarized below.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SNAKES (Total Number Caught)</u>			
	<u>TP1</u>	<u>TP2</u>	<u>TP3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Western Yellow-Bellied Racer			1	1
San Diego Ringneck		7	2	9
Night Snake	4	1		5
Calif. Kingsnake	1	5		6
Striped Racer	10	12	28	50
San Diego Gopher Snake	5		8	13
Two-Striped Garter Snake			1	1
Southern Pacific Rattlesnake	2	2	8	12

Snake Comments - The number of species is about half of that observed in the general Torrey area by L. Klauber (the rattlesnake expert) in the 1920s and 30s. Some of these "missing" species may now be so few in number and so localized that they were not caught. The two-striped garter snake was caught near the Lagoon, which is consistent with its known preference for moist habitat.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LIZARDS (Total Number Caught)</u>			
	<u>TP1</u>	<u>TP2</u>	<u>TP3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
San Diego Alligator Lizard	26	62	98	186
Western Skink	2	11	15	28
Orange-Throated Whiptail	85	92	65	242
Coastal Western Whiptail	17		6	23
Western Fence Lizard	157	190	194	541
Side-Blotched Lizard	77	89	43	209
Coastal Horned Lizard	3	22		25
California Legless Lizard			**	

**Observed near an array in the Lagoon site but not caught in any traps

Lizard Comments - The horned lizard has just about disappeared from the main part of the Reserve, possibly related to the increase of Argentine ants, which it does not like for food. There is a small population in one section of the Extension. In walking on the Reserve trails, the fence and side-blotched lizards are the ones commonly seen, with the orange-throated whiptail a very distant third and the alligator lizard a rare event. Note how, with the exception of the fence lizard, this differs from the survey results.

AMPHIBIANS

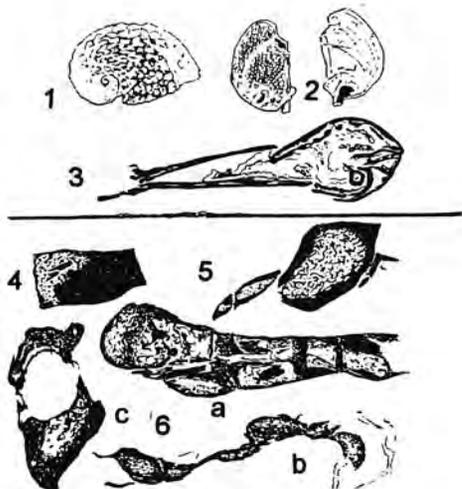
Only four species were caught: 119 Pacific slender salamanders for all three sites, 9 arboreal salamanders for all sites, 10 Pacific treefrogs (9 of these in TP1), and 2 Western toads near the Lagoon.

Paleobotany - Paleozoology at Torrey Pines State Beach

By Wes Farmer

In addition to providing outstanding wildflower displays this year, the recent above average rainfall washed many fossils down from the cliffs to Torrey Pines State Beach. Through these plant and animal fossils, some with remarkably well preserved structures, we can get a glimpse of TPSR life in the distant past of the Eocene period. I've sketched some of my fossil finds, which are shown below and separated into seashells, bones, and plants. Using these sketches as a guide, please join me in a trip back in time to imagine some of the life forms in the Reserve 45 to 50 million years ago (the numbered descriptions correspond to the sketch numbers).

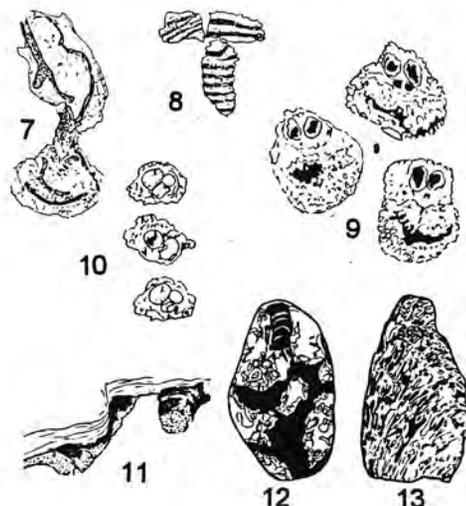
1. Shell of the gastropod *Nerita trilineata* with the color pattern still in the shell.
2. Inside and outside views of the operculum or door of a gastropod, most likely that in #1.
3. The pholid clam, sketched in longitudinal section, lived and grew inside wood immersed in saltwater. Similar clams live today in siltstone and are found as shells on the Torrey Beach.
4. A piece of soft-shell turtle bone, which is embedded in mudstone and on display in the Lodge on the floor next to the dinner table display.
5. A "saltwater crocodile" bone in situ on a rock on the beach, gradually being eroded by the waves.
6. This bone may be from a leg of ancestors of rhinoceros or tapir (catalog #61047 in the Dept. of Paleontology of the San Diego Natural History Museum). The bone, which was embedded in mudstone, is shown in three views :6a - longitudinal view, 8.5" long by 2.5" wide; 6b - longitudinal view with bone embedded in mudstone; 6c - top, showing ball joint (?).
7. This carbonized plant, field number 46, is in mudstone below Yucca Point. Is it a coconut? Or a cycad? Or?



8. A 38-pound petrified object (see #13) contained pieces of petrified plants, including petrified summer-winter wood (sketch #8).
9. These are vascular bundles of a monocotyledon plant very well preserved in detail, even to the cell walls. Can you see the xylem and phloem within the bundles?
10. This is another petrified plant with different vascular bundles. Studying the different cell structures found in these plant fossils could help build up a catalog of the Eocene plants along the beach from lifeguard tower #1 to just past Flat Rock.
11. Two monocotyledon plant fossils 6 inches apart and three inches in diameter were discovered in siltstone at a very ebb tide. Their horizontal position was in a northwest-southeast direction.
12. This remarkable 50-pound watermelon-size mudstone has many oysters attached to a carbonized plant. It has an irregular shape and must have been in the water several years for the oysters to grow to the size they attained.
13. This large petrified object was found on the beach after a winter storm. It contains lines of material that could suggest mucous. How did these pieces of dicot material get inside this petrified object? Could a sick Eocene animal have drunk water and eaten woody material the way present day dogs and cats eat grass when suffering upset stomachs? Then the animal died, became buried, and the stomach material eventually mineralized?

Note: A box containing TPSR fossils is ready for the children's program and is stored in the docent closet.

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Jim Croff, San Diego Concrete Cutting Co., for sectioning fossils for me.



A Week in the Life of Ranger Bob

By Bob Wohl

I had a strange, unusual week last week - which is not that unusual. And I mentioned it at the Saturday Docent Meeting. Some of the Docents told me later that it gave them a greater appreciation of what a Ranger does - and how varied it can be. So when John Carson asked me for a Torreyana article, I decided to share some of the events.

I started off Tuesday, June 16, by discovering Greg had arranged a trek, with Doug Ruth of Trans-County Trails and Isabel Kay of the Carmel Mountain Conservancy, from Los Penasquitos Lagoon to Los Penasquitos Canyon through Carmel Mountain Mesa. "Would I care to come?" (Why sure.) Jim Hagey came along to see whether millions of dollars of County Water Authority mitigation money might go toward the mesa acquisition. We scrambled under I-5 Freeway at Carmel Creek, found a plausible route on the south side, east of Sorrento Valley Rd., that connected to the asphalt path along Highway 56. At Carmel Creek horse farms we trudged up the steep, horse-manure-dappled road to the high-tension power line and out onto the mesa. What colors! Deep reddish, umber Linda Vista roads spread out before us, shouldered by golden yarrow, pink canchalagua, purple skunkweed, and small electric patches of turkish rugging. A clear, brilliant sunny day added to the spell of being in a magical land. We all were convinced. This is where the hiking path for the Trans-County Trail should be, not down alongside the speeding trains and boxy companies of Sorrento Valley. For 5 hours we canvassed the perimeter of the 200-acre Pardee parcels, half of the 400 acres of Neighborhood 8A, with great hope for the possibilities of preserving it and anxious despair for the potential loss and developmental destruction. I had to rush back and meet with Kathy Roper, organizer for this year's Nov. 15 Scripps Clinic Stride and Run, and discourage her from having 800 5K runners race around the Guy Fleming Trail (only walkers, please).

Wednesday was prearranged. Mike Wells invited me along for a 3-hour final review

and inspection of the City of San Diego's restoration-mitigation projects to correct and make amends for the 1993 sewer line break fiasco. We met with city biologists Kim Marshall and Larry Sworda and their Shiva Construction contractor Shahram Elihu at the lagoon Flintkote residence. All looked well - except for some umbrella sedge weeds that Shahram hadn't pulled - until Larry Sward led us deep into the jungle-thick mule fat, willows, and catalpa trees. "This is insidious - and nearly impossible to eliminate." He pointed to dense vines that at first resembled wild cucumber. "Cape Ivy - an exotic that smothers the native trees and kills them - and it's resistant to hand removal, pesticides, and even fire." (Swell - just what we needed - another fascistic alien invader, like ehharta / veldt grass.)

We gloomily left this sector and moved over to the successfully restored wetlands along North Beach entrance and Carmel Valley Road. Shahram was chided for the lack of cleanup and weeding but all in all, the "hair plugs" of pickleweed, jaumea, frankenia, and distichlis (marsh grass) were greening and spreading from the natural tidal surges.

By now John Carson will be tearing his hair since I'm overstepping my column space. Thursday, Greg and I and campground rangers went on a 6-hour journey and tour to the Mexican border enclave of Donovan State Prison. A very sobering experience. A facility for 4,200 inmates, with 1200 employees, half of whom are Correctional Officers (the same number as State Park Rangers in California), this 6-year-old compound covered an area the size of our 200-acre Extension. (No space here - you may read the details in our Ranger Log diary). And Friday was an all-day, all-staff meeting, training session, and review. Eight hours later, after lots of discussion, debate, pizza, birthday cake, and too much sun, we all adjourned. And of course, on Saturday, I spent a pleasurable 4 hours with the Docent Board and general assembly, as President Diana Wenman related her 11-day journey as an enthusiastic hiker on the initial (trail-blazing at times) Spines to Pines Expedition on the eventual Trans-County Trail. (Okay, John, I'll stop.)

Lyme Disease in California - Wood Rats, Ticks, and Fence Lizards

Lyme Background - Since the identification of this disease in 1975 in the Northeast, there has been extensive research there on: a) the cause, a spirochete bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* (hereafter denoted as *Bb*); b) its main host, the white-footed mouse; and c) the transmitter to people, a tick of the *Ixodes* genus (see ref. 1 for a summary of early work). Unless treated with antibiotics, serious long-term problems can develop, e.g., in the nervous system and the bone joints. So prevalent is the disease in parts of the East and upper Midwest that drug companies have been working on vaccines, and one is now in the FDA approval process.

Lyme disease has now been found in most of the states, but in Calif. the rate of occurrence is much less than in the Northeast. Research in Calif. during the past ten years has produced some surprising results. This note summarizes them and discusses their extension to our area of the state.

Ticks - Ticks comprise three families in the order Acari of the class Arachnida and appear to have just one body part. They are usually small in the unfed state (a few sixteenths of an inch or less) and undergo three stages of development: larva (only 3 pairs of legs in this stage), nymph, and adult. During each stage ticks feed for a short time on the blood of animal hosts. Life spans are usually just a few years. In the East, the tick *Bb* transmitter is *Ixodes scapularis* (formerly called *I. dammini*), while in Calif. it is *I. pacificus*, the western black-legged tick. Our tick in the unfed condition has these features: nymph - dark brown on top and about 1/25" long; adult female - reddish brown on part of top and about 1/10" long (adult male is smaller).

Tick Hosts for *Bb* in Calif. - Field studies done mainly in Humboldt County found that the dusky-footed wood rat and the local kangaroo rat are the main animal hosts; unlike in the East, mice play a distinctly secondary role [2,3]. This wood rat occurs west of the Sierra and the Peninsular Range from the southern border up into northern Calif. There are several species of kangaroo rats in separate geographical locations in this area, so the present view is that the wood rat is likely the more important host overall in Calif.

Tick - *Bb* Relation in Calif. - Field studies show that a host-specific tick, *Ixodes neotomae*, is mainly

responsible for transmitting and maintaining *Bb* in wood rat populations, and *I. pacificus* (which feeds on various hosts) transmits *Bb* to people. In contrast, in the East the *Ixodes* tick that infects people also maintains *Bb* in the host animals [3,4]. In Calif. the nymphs are active from late spring into summer, while the adults are active from fall into spring. Most Lyme cases occur in the summer when the nymphs are active. Clover and Lane [5] investigated occurrence of *Bb* in nymph and adult *I. pacificus* and found 4% of adults and 14% of nymphs infected. They also found that tick nymphs, including *I. pacificus*, attach to humans much more often than previously thought.

The Role of the Fence Lizard - A puzzling aspect of Lyme disease in the West Coast has been the relatively low occurrence of infected ticks, less than 5% in adults, compared with 50% in some parts of the East. According to a recent announcement by R.S. Lane [6], the blood of the fence lizard contains a substance that kills the spirochete *Bb*. Because the fence lizard is a favorite host of this tick, many of the ticks end up being free of *Bb*.

Lyme Disease in Southern Calif. - Just about all the field studies have been done in northwest Calif. There is one report [7] of finding the *Bb* spirochete in wood rats near Big Bear. At present the northwest Calif. results are assumed to apply here also. A recent article in the Los Angeles Times reported the first confirmed tick with *Bb* in the Los Angeles area. This was vindication for a small number of area residents with Lyme symptoms, some of whom have been unable to get proper treatment because of doctor skepticism that Lyme disease occurs there.

Some Observations for San Diego and TPSR - According to Dr. James Lang [8], Senior Vector Ecologist for the county, there have been no Lyme studies in our area, and only a couple of cases a year get reported to the county Dept. of Environmental Health. Wood rats are found in parts of the county, including TPSR. Because ticks prefer moist habitats, the TPSR mesa is relatively free of them, but parts of the Lagoon have many. Information to date suggests Lyme disease is rare here, but to be safe always watch out for ticks when in their habitats.

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8. Private communication.

New Books in the Library
Two Short Reviews (Editor's Choices)

A Field Guide to the Snakes of Calif.
Philip R. Brown

While there are several standard field guides on U.S. snakes, I believe that Brown's guide (1997) is the only current one devoted just to our state. It has the expected concise summaries of species characteristics, which are well done, but what sets this guide apart from others is the outstanding collection of 64 color photographs. Most guides have only one or two illustrations for a species, but Brown has more if needed. For example, the common kingsnake has wide variations in pattern, which are well documented in five photographs. And there are four photographs of the Calif. mountain kingsnake showing the subspecies variations. The colors of this snake can compete with the mountain wildflowers. Docents having questions on snakes should find the answers in this guide.

The author is affiliated with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, where he manages the "Lizard Lounge." This is a small but excellent exhibit of local reptiles. Docents visiting Santa Barbara are advised to stop by and see it.

Insects as Food:
Aboriginal Entomophagy in the Great Basin
Mark Q. Sutton

Menu:
Soup of the Day - Ant Soup
Entree - Roasted Grasshoppers & Caterpillars
Dessert - Bee Larvae

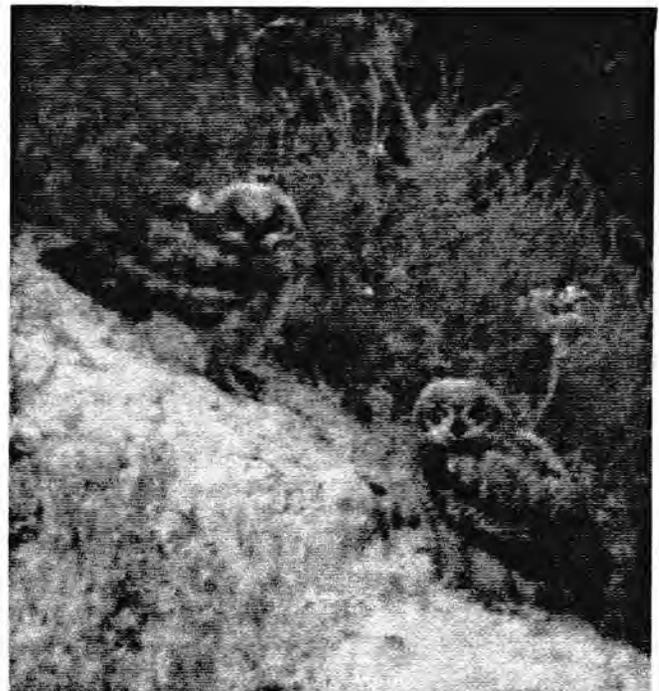
This blue-plate special of insects is repulsive to most of us today, but for some native people throughout the world, insects continue to be a valuable food source, especially for protein. It was certainly true for Native Americans. This book, which grew out of a Great Basin archaeology seminar the author took at UC Riverside in 1986, is a compilation of what is known about the Native American uses of insects for food in the Great Basin (including the Owens Valley of Calif.). Because this practice was so widespread, it is very probable that the local Native Americans made similar use of insects. Material on food uses of insects is mainly scattered in obscure journals and books difficult to obtain. Sutton's book is thus a convenient one-source reference for docents, especially those in the children's program, interested in Native American tastes in insects. And if your meals are blah and boring, check Sutton for new items to add some zest to dinner.

Nature Footnote
Owlets
by Don Grine

During the Lodge anniversary on April 4, many visitors and docents had the special treat of viewing an owl family with two owlets living in a small cave at the base of the canyon just north of the Lodge. (Ed. note: viewers had Don to thank for the use of his telescope.) I last saw the owlets on Thursday, April 16, just after a children's walk. Both of them were walking around the ledge near their nest and eventually walked down into the plants nearby. Neither seemed ready to fly. I showed them to several of the staff, including Bob Wohl.

About 7:30 on the morning of April 18, I looked down on the ledge with binoculars. Instead of owls or owlets, two ravens were on the ledge. They both walked into the cave several times. One flew away and returned four times, carrying unidentifiable pieces of something, while I watched for about 15 minutes.

My initial thought was that the owlets were killed by the ravens or some other predator and the ravens were cleaning up. I recently learned, to my relief, that the owls were doing well; they had simply left the cave and moved up the canyon towards High Point. Diana Gordon told me she has heard both the parents and owlets calling in the High Point area. She provided the picture below taken of the young owls near High Point.



Great Horned Owlets

Torrey Pines Docent Society Board

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Vice President.....Jeannie Smith
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Training Officer.....Jim Cassell
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Duty Coordinators.....Ann Campbell
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Vice Presidents.....Freda Reid
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Todd Nordness, Holly O'Meara, Mick Colarco
Parking Enforcement.....Brook Gutierrez
ESI.....Charlie Kerns, Jamie King
SPA.....Rick Thompson

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Guest Editor's Comment: Since Del Roberts is away on vacation, she asked me to come out of retirement for this issue. I thank the TPA and TPDS members and the TPSR staff for their articles. Thanks are also due to those who help put out each issue: Jeannie Smith for the address labels (now over 600), Marion Dixon for proof-reading, Jack and JoAnn Cannon and Twinx Hauer for getting the newsletter ready for mailing.

Report from the Ranger

Discovery Trail Update - The trail pathbed has been completed and some of the railing installed. Work will start during the summer on the restroom retrofit and the installation of benches, signs, and safety curbing. Ranger Greg Hackett will arrange a meeting with the docent trail brochure group to begin work on the brochure. The target date for opening the trail is this fall.

Welcome, New Park Aides - Todd Nordness, who was a student intern this past spring, and Linda Severn joined the Reserve in June and will be here for the summer. They are students at San Diego State working towards B.S. degrees in the Dept. of Recreation.

Congratulations, Mick - Mick Calarco, who started as a park aide in June 1996, returned in June for another summer after graduating from San Diego State with a B.S. in anthropology (specialization in California archaeology, with a minor in Native American studies). He applied for a DPR Ranger I position and hopes to start ranger cadet training in October.

Extension in the News - Jerry Schad's Roam-O-Rama article in the June 11 issue of the *San Diego Reader* was on the TPSR Extension. During the past few years the staff and volunteers have done much work in the Extension repairing the trails and cutting back the vegetation. So Schad's comment on the "ill-maintained, and seldom-trodden pathways," raises the question of just when he last visited the Extension. The staff and docents were also surprised to read: "Here you'll find three kinds of sage (white sage, black sage, and coastal sagebrush)" Jerry was a speaker at a Docent Society meeting last year and knows the natural history of San Diego, so we'll assume the sagebrush comment was a glitch possibly introduced by the newspaper staff. For the current trail conditions, Jerry is invited to walk the trails now.

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