



Torreyana

A bimonthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve

Issue 254

November 1998

Message from the President

— Diana Wenman

Just what is the *environment*? A brief dictionary description says “surroundings” and quite often we hear “our home.” I don’t really think these words and phrases properly define *environment*. They indicate something that is outside, separate and apart from oneself.

I believe that **WE** are the environment and therefore, everything we do to the air, water, earth, plants and animals is being done to ourselves. In other words, there is no duality, all are one. We are the Torrey pine, the mountain lion, the Carmel Mountain Mesa, and, conversely, all of them are us. It is the theory of “everything.” If we treat everything with respect, love and compassion and live our lives truthfully and with the right action, then the *environment* will flourish and bear everlasting golden fruit.

New Proposal for the *Torreyana*

In an effort to continue the *Torreyana*, John Carson, former editor, proposed that he and Del Roberts, current editor, turn out a full *Torreyana* quarterly, with each doing two issues a year. Supporting member Glen Dunham has agreed to continue publishing a one/two page *Torrey Lite*, now known as the *Torrey Newsletter*, sharing eight issues with Diana Wenman. Perhaps, in the future, other docents will volunteer to edit either publication. Docents and TPA Counselors will receive the newsletter, and the full TPA membership will receive the *Torreyana* quarterly.

Next Docent Society Meeting

Saturday, November 21 at 9:00 am

The speaker will be Don Gragg, who will be speaking on the San Dieguito River Park (SDRP). He has been a member of the SDRP Volunteer Patrol since 1996, and is active in the SD World Affairs Council. He’s a veteran of 16 marathons, and enjoys high altitude trekking.

Nominations for 1999 Board Officers

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate of officers to be the 1999 Board: President Ken Baer; Vice President Irv Hansen; Secretary Theo Tanalski; Treasurer John Green; Duty Coordinators Ann Campbell, Elaine Sacks; Training Officer Marty Bressler; Program/Activity Dir. Mary Weir. Further nominations can be directed to the nominating committee (Bob Margulies, Irv Hansen and Shirley Musser) before or at the November meeting before the elections

Editor’s Corner

“Environment” is the theme for this last regular *Torreyana*. We are fortunate to have TPSR as a buffer against increased development. But in the book, *California’s Threatened Environment*, edited by Tim Palmer, the chapter by Gary A. Patton on “Land Use and Growth Management” sounds an alarm. A UCSC professor proposes that his students think of themselves “as bacteria in a bottle, which doubles in population every minute, and that given its size, the bottle will be completely filled with bacteria in one hour. If it’s 11 am, and the bottle will be completely filled at noon, then when is the bottle going to be half-full?” Answer on page 10.

Tidings from the TPA — Freda Reid

Environmental concerns have been the cornerstone of the agenda of the TPA since its inception, and most of its major achievements are related to this. Currently the proximity of Carmel Valley Road and Sorrento Valley Road to Los Peñasquitos Lagoon makes it essential to track the planning process for future configuration of these roads with special concern for wildlife corridors and road runoff. Additionally, the TPA is concerned with Neighborhood 8A negotiations and with the route for the completion of Highway 56. We are also watching the proposed rebuilding of the old Torrey Pines Inn on the south edge of the Reserve and the renovation of the low and high bridges by the beach.

The Board of Counselors has always been fortunate to find people who are willing to address the problems of increasing urbanization on the mesas and in the wetlands around Torrey Pines State Reserve. This development impacts the integrity of the Reserve, threatens the remaining Coastal Sage Scrub ecosystem, the health of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the maintenance of wildlife corridors. Their volunteer labor is perhaps the most difficult and initially unrewarding. It involves attendance at lengthy and unpredictably-timed meetings of the County Board of Supervisors, the City of San Diego and the California Coastal Commission among other agencies. Often meetings culminate in a mere three minutes for the presentation of ideas after patiently listening to numerous other speakers.

Some Counselors are more comfortable with pen in hand or fingers on keys. They are the scribes who write to governmental bodies and to legislators, explaining the point of view of the TPA on environmental matters. Others are more active in the field and are willing to clamber around hillsides and wade through water in order to get a firsthand picture of a particular situation to report to the less agile members of the Board.

The Board has always included members with interest and expertise in various branches of natural history, either as a recreational pursuit, or as a career, and the need for public education on environmental problems is taken seriously. It is hard to single out specific people, but Peggy Fleming, Jeff Frautschy, Harriet Allen, Jessie and Lee LaGrange and Dave O'Dell are noteworthy among other outstanding TPA environmentalists.

Birding at Torrey Pines — Hank Baele

Because of the diversified environment TPSR is a wonderful area for birds. We have it all: the open ocean and coastline for sea and shore birds; the Lagoon and wetlands for wading birds and swimmers; and the woodland and chaparral area for perching land birds, hawks, and other aerial birds.

For our winged and feathered friends, Torrey Pines is a great place to call home, or to stop for a rest while migrating north or south. The Reserve is well protected by the surrounding roadways and golf course. Because of this, domestic stray pets are few and far between. (They can be a threat to our bird habitat.) The predator I feel causes the most harm is our acrobatic Common Raven. Ravens congregate here, particularly in the woodland and cliffs, looking for bird nests and terrorizing the aerial birds. We have counted as many as 60 Ravens during one monthly bird count. Also, we are seeing the Common Crow in greater numbers; it is as much a predator as the Common Raven.

Do you feel there is a lack of bird life in TPSR? For the past three years we birders have taken monthly bird counts, identifying and counting the number of each species. We have identified as few as 45 different species and as many as 95 in one month. December through April are the best months, averaging about 75 different species. June through September the count is at the lowest, averaging about 50 species. About a year ago, we included the wetlands and willow groves between Old Sorrento Road and the railroad tracks. This area has proved to be very productive. We have identified several birds that are rare to the area, including the Clapper Rail and the Greater Roadrunner.

As fall arrives, many birds will be migrating South. This would be a good time to join our birding group. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 am in the South parking lot. We divide into three groups, and are in the field approximately three hours. You need binoculars and should be a fairly good walker. Each month the "bird list" is posted in the glass case on the Lodge porch and at the entry door to the docent lounge. Check it out. We birders hope you find it interesting and join us.

Periodical Information

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Organization: Torrey Pines Docent Society

P. O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014

Docent Bio – Cheryle DeWitt — Del Roberts

Cheryle DeWitt, sometimes known as the *Reptile Lady*, surrounds herself with a collection of rare and endangered species of reptiles, mostly Geckos, who are active at night, and sleep during the day. For the past 20 years she has been working with these sensitive creatures, collecting, breeding, and showing them. She's also a consultant at the San Diego Zoo on exotic reptiles, setting up display cages, and working with their educational classes. Cheryle has been published in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, and locally, in *San Diego Magazine* and the *ZOONOOZ*. She also mans a Reptile Hot Line, giving out information about reptiles as pets, and answering questions, mostly about snake bites and how to keep snakes out of your yard. "No way," she says, but suggests keeping your yard cleared of good hiding places in debris and foliage. "Although they like to bask in the sun, snakes are very secretive animals. During the winter, they go into semi-hibernation, and are most active after the rainy season, when mice and other tasty animals breed."

Cheryle was the oldest of six children growing up in Salt Lake City in a household with exotic pets of all kinds, including lizards and snakes. Her mother is a painter and sculptor, and Cheryle has always loved art. Her art collection from New Mexico hangs on her walls over her artistically decorated reptile cages. Her grandfather was a lapidarian and introduced her to rock collecting. Three years ago, she began to design jewelry, using her collection of gems. She has participated in the San Diego Gemological Society's shows, and has sold her jewelry in several local stores in Del Mar and La Jolla. Docents had a chance to view her collection at the recent Docent/ Ranger Appreciation Party.



As a child of the 60s, Cheryle left her studies at Brigham Young University, and moved to Hollywood "to experience a different life style." Her "Hollywood scene" included a stint as a professional exotic dancer and a manager of rock groups. "It took me a long time to grow up," she says. But grow up she did and moved to San Diego. She felt right at home living in Mission Valley, with a huge garden by the San Diego River complete with frogs and animals. She worked for General Atomic as a secretary for two years before moving to General Dynamics as assistant to the VP. She enrolled at National University at night and graduated with an MA in Business Administration.

Cheryle's been in San Diego for over 20 years, now living in Sea Village with her husband, David, a CPA, whom she met through a single's newspaper ad. He wrote; she answered. They have been happily married for 12 years. They spend weekends driving to the desert or mountains, hiking and birding,. At home, Cheryle patrols the TPSR Extension, often with David, effectively reducing the dog-walking problem, particularly with the "regulars" whom she escorts out of the Extension.

"My life's purpose is to help animals and the environment," she says. Two years ago, Cheryle read about the TPDS training program through a newspaper ad. "I knew I had to do that," she says. "Being an environmentalist and working with wildlife, I was attracted to TPSR. Everything is interrelated, and we're the ones who disrupt the balance. So I feel we should be the ones to help save what we can." Cheryle is fighting to stop the importation of reptiles, whose capture not only destroys the environment by cutting down trees to get to the reptiles, but can disrupt the entire population by taking the big male breeders. Since the bird act against importation of birds has passed, she's now working on reptile protection.

Her motto is: "Think globally and work locally." Through Lodge duty, Cheryle tries to educate the public about reptiles, and suggests that those who want one as a pet buy a captive bred; one that makes a good pet. As for the TPDS, she says, "These docents are the most fabulous people I've ever worked with."

**Book Corner — *Pioneer Naturalists* by Howard Ensign Evans
— Kathy Estey**

Pioneer Naturalists: The Discovery and Naming of North American Plants and Animals is a fun book, not a book which you read for hours with your dictionary at hand. This is a book you keep on your night stand and read a few charming pages at a time, always learning a little more about the natural world and those early scientists who have studied it.

The introduction is a short history of the collectors, (some scientists, some not) who have discovered the natural bounty of the United States. The first was a young man who sailed with Columbus and sent back to the Old World a description of an alligator, a manatee, a pineapple and other plants and animals never seen in Europe. Later collectors were from Europe, until the United States developed its own cadre of scientists. The introduction concludes with a few paragraphs on how plants and animals get their common and Latin names. Many are named in honor of a person and a name based on a person is called an eponym. And that's what the rest of the book is about.

Our local hummingbird, Anna's, is named for Anna, Duchess of Rivoli, who was described by Audubon as a "beautiful young woman — extremely graceful and polite." There is then a brief description of this most amazing bird, which still exists natively only in the Western hemisphere.

Each short section is about a pioneer naturalist and the plants and animals named after that specific person. These sections include information on who the person was and more about the particular species, such as: Johann Reinhold Forster and the Forster's Tern; Thomas Say and the Say's Phoebe; and Georg Wilhelm Stellar and the Stellar's Jay. There is a longer section on George Engelmann, whose name is attached to an oak, a spruce, a pine, a daisy and several other plants.

"Best of the Best"

Georgette Camporini, CALPA treasurer, reports that our own **Barbara Wallach** was chosen "Volunteer of the Year" for Southern California by California League of Park Associations (CALPA) for her outstanding contribution to our multi-faceted Children's Program, which the League chose as the "Best of the Best" in the Southern district. The annual state-wide conference was held October 8-11 in Eureka, California. It was hosted by the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association in collaboration with the North Coast Redwood District. Congratulations, Barbara!

One of my favorite sections is on Clarkia, a group of plants named for William Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame. There has been so much recently on television and in books about their fabulous, courageous journey, but there has not been as much information about what wonderful scientists they were. William Clark, though not as a trained scientist, but as a military man, took the time and had the interest to describe numerous plants and animals. And then he attempted to send hundreds of specimens of new plants and animals back to Washington. The specific Clarkia he discovered is now commonly called a ragged robin. This group of Clarkias are still studied today because of an unusual number of chromosome configurations.

Occasionally, the author travels into other related areas. Almost everything I have read about entomologists (those who study bugs) leads me to believe they are a unique group of scientists. In one short chapter, the author describes how entomologists, who often have large numbers of new bugs to name, use the names of friends or colleagues. One named a species for his wife, who later divorced him, but had to live forever after with that eponymous bug. One entomologist named a genus Ochisme (pronounced oh-kiss-me). He followed this with Polychisme, Dolichisme, and Peggichisme. Does that lead you to believe entomologists spend too much time with their subjects?

Pioneer Naturalists is in our fine library, waiting to be checked out. Though there is a great deal of information in the book, it is presented in such a way as to make the acquisition of that knowledge, quite painless. As I said, a fun book.



"Best of the Best" Barbara Wallach

Notes from the Archives: Erosion in Torrey Pines Extension

— Maryruth Cox

For thousands of years erosion has shaped Torrey Pines Extension. Wind and water have loosened the red rock in the Linda Vista formation and the Torrey sandstone. Rainwater has carried the debris down the canyons to the Lagoon, where tidal action has washed the sediments to sea. The broad canyons and sculptured bluffs that we admire today are the result of this process.

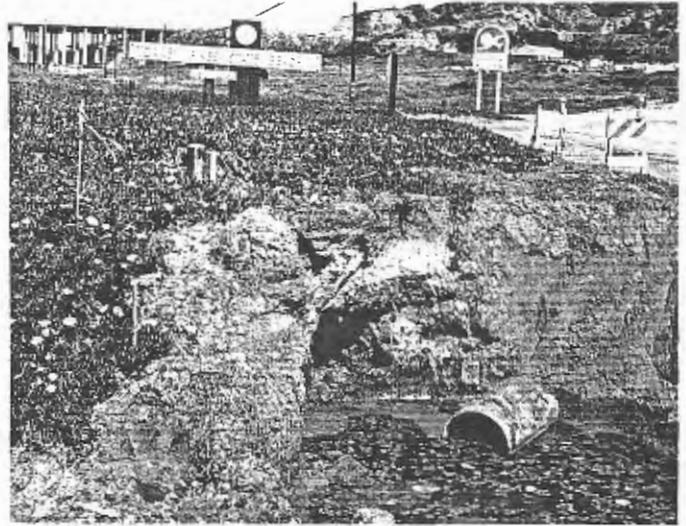
When Indians cleared land for their shelters and trails, erosion was accelerated. Sometimes the Indians started fires in the dry vegetation to facilitate their hunting, and the ground surface was exposed to rain and wind.

Later the Spaniards broke wider trails through the brush with their horses, or drove cattle into the canyons to feed on wild grasses and flowers. More and more land became vulnerable to erosion.

In the 20th century farmers began to clear and plow the alluvial fans at the base of the Extension canyons — where Sea Point, Sea Village, and Del Mar Terrace are today. They dry-farmed beans until the 1950s. After every rain the fields were plowed to conserve moisture in the ground. The sandy soil became loose and prey to washouts in the sudden rains characteristic of San Diego.

Erosion became a serious problem in the Extension after 1964, when San Diego improvement districts were formed in Del Mar Heights and Del Mar Terrace to build water and sewer lines and to grade the streets. In the fall of 1965 a series of sharp rains devastated the newly-graded streets, and several homes were flooded. A deep gully appeared along the main canyon of the extension beside the new sewer line that had been built from Del Mar Heights to Carmel Valley Road.

Pressures to develop land increased. In 1970 the Lyon company cleared the land that later became Sea Point. The Baldwin company began the construction of Sea Village in 1971. On November 11, 1972, 1.89" of rain fell. Sand and water cascaded down the canyons of the Extension: the excessive run-off came from the newly-graded streets in Del Mar Heights, and the cleared land along the pipeline near Carmel Valley Road filled, and floodwaters crossed the road to spill sediments into the lagoon. It was a disaster!



Jessie LaGrange took photographs of the scene and submitted them to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, who requested that two large siltation basins be made: one at the NE corner of Del Mar Scenic Parkway and Carmel Valley Road and the other across the street.

During 1974-75 the State Park supervised the construction of large stone dams or gabions. Erosion was still a serious problem in the Extension. New homes and paved streets in Del Mar Heights increased the danger from excessive run-off down the canyon. The four and one-half miles of streets, plus the impervious roofs of houses, shed as much as 400,000 gallons of water after a one-inch rain. That water drained into the Extension canyon and carved deep gullies at the upper end, while depositing unwanted sand at the lower end of the canyon.

In 1983, an "El Nino" year, sand blocked the storm drain under Del Mar Scenic Parkway, and the tennis courts were flooded, as well as one house, which fortunately had insurance. During the past winter, 1997-98, another "El Nino" year, the large siltation basin at the foot of Del Mar Scenic Parkway caught the storm drainage, and there was little damage. But what will happen if we have 40" of rain in one month, as happened in 1916, when roads, bridges, and homes all over San Diego county were destroyed, including the bridge that had just been built across Los Peñasquitos Lagoon? We need new solutions to the old problems of uncontrolled erosion to ensure the stability of the Extension canyons.

Nature Note: and on the Beach — Don Grine

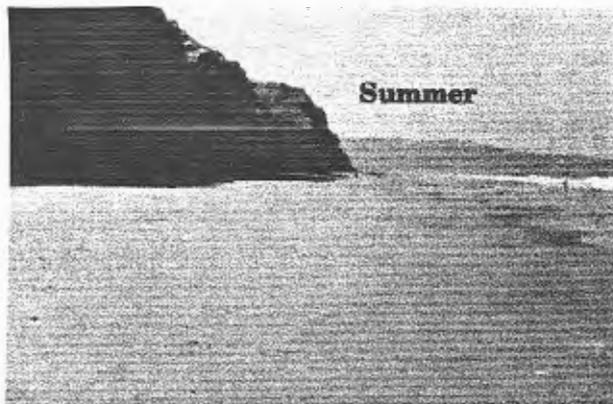
Anybody walking on the beach will notice that the beach is sandy in the summer but mostly covered with cobbles in the winter. Several people have noticed that sand levels are a bit lower now than at the end of past summers. The easiest way to explain these observations is to describe how sand moves on and off the beach and then where sand comes from and where it goes.

The on-shore, off-shore migration of sand involves the beach we see above water and the underwater sand out to about 30 foot water depth. Summer waves have longer distances between crests because they come from distant storms in the southern hemisphere. They pick up sand grains from the bottom and advance them toward shore slightly with each wave. In winter, waves from local storms have shorter wavelengths and are often larger. The large, frequent waves do not sink into the already saturated sand but carry a layer of sand back down the beach slope. The sand is deposited in a bar, parallel to the shore, in the surf zone. Multiple bars result from storms with different wave heights. Long waves next summer pick up sand from the bars and the cycle repeats.

Waves striking the shore at an angle generate longshore currents which move sand parallel to the beach. At Torrey Pines, the large summer waves from the south move sand north. In winter, larger waves from the North Pacific move more sand south. Most of our sand comes from winter floods in our rivers. This source has been sharply reduced by dams on most of the rivers. The winter bars move south to La Jolla canyon where they are lost. Next summer, the beaches are starved. Cliff erosion in large winter storms provides another source of sand so beaches may be wider for a summer after big storms.

References: (Both in our library)

Bascom, W., *Waves and Beaches*, Anchor, 1964. Kuhn, G. G. and Shepard, F. P., *Sea Cliffs, Beaches, and Coastal Valleys of San Diego County*, Un. Of Calif. Press, 1984.



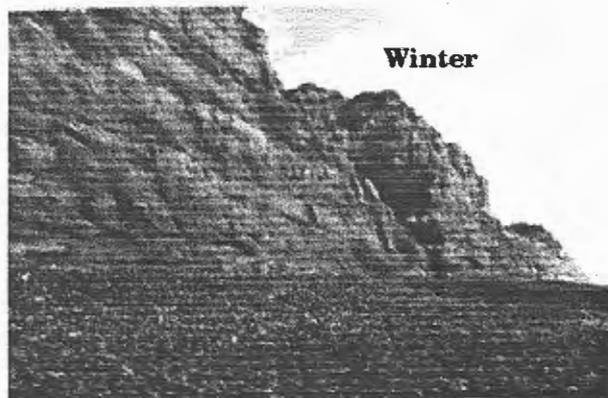
CALPA Annual Meeting Report — Theo Tanalski, newly elected VP

What is CALPA, and why have we gone to their conferences for years? The California League of State Park Associations (CALPA) meets regularly with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) personnel. Over the years, CALPA's free-flowing conduit of opinion and information has clarified and improved relations between DPR and the Cooperating Associations (Co-ops). Co-op bylaws and contracts have been clarified: all but one Co-op has signed a DPR contract. CALPA networks with groups throughout the state: clarifying thoughts and feelings, and revealing mutual concerns, while sharing triumphs. CALPA has also aided in securing improved liability insurance for Co-ops.

The eighth annual Statewide Conference of CALPA was held October 8 – 11 in Eureka, California. The conference themes were: *Introduction to host organizations, *Advantages of Parks Councils, and other forms of association partnerships, *How Management Assistance programs and Strategic Planning can help organizations, *How-tos of political advocacy, *Fundraising, grantsmanship, and planned giving, *Nonprofit insurance programs and liability information, *Ideas for improved interpretation, *Whys and hows of going online, *Report from DPR about needs, opportunities, *California State Parks Store, insider views on bond issues, *Meeting other parks through their "Best of the Best" presentations.

Working with CALPA will give us continuing help in achieving our goals, including the CALPA goal that we are "*independent, but not alone.*"

Editor's note: the final CALPA report will be posted on the docent bulletin board.



Arthropods and Local Development

— Ron Lyons

In general, because there are so many species and most of the study is related to those that affect us economically, assessing the impact of development on local arthropods is not a tractable problem.

In discussing losses in the ecological web, ecologist David Janzen noted that what escapes the eye is the most insidious kind of extinction — the extinction of interactions. The complexity of any assessment increases tremendously when we attempt to include the interrelationships between species.

It is obvious from the development going on along the I-5 corridor and farther inland, that there will be more changes in all coastal nature areas. Arthropods specifically adapted to coastal dunes are already under threat or extinct. Areas that were once representative samples of the coastal environment have become increasingly isolated not only from the inland areas that feed them and are fed by them (it is a two way street) but also from each other as the corridor which links them directly — the ocean-front zone — becomes even less friendly to the movement of wildlife.

What is not as obvious, at least with the arthropod populations, is what changes will take place and over what time frame we can expect to see them. Many, involving small or nocturnal species, will undoubtedly pass unnoticed. As I am fond of pointing out, habitat is not a place, rather it is a movement of time and space. Habitat changes as conditions change, however minutely, and arthropods are acutely affected by small changes. Arthropods often concentrate along the edges of trails, apparently influenced by their microclimatic and barrier aspects. Shade provided by the large width of overpasses could conceivably provide a formidable obstacle to the free movement of diurnal insects that favor open areas. Smog buildup at the confluence of freeways might form a chemical barrier for some species. Others might find the wind patterns or the noise levels difficult to cope with. Unlike many larger animals, juvenile and adult insects often have quite different environmental requirements. Environments that look intact to us may in fact be missing one or more critical components. Population changes, in numbers and/or distributions, will produce corresponding changes in interactions.

Development affects different species differently, often depending on the grab bag of strategies they have adopted to survive as viable members of an

evolving biotic and abiotic community. Like their larger counterparts, some arthropod species are very mobile while others (especially juveniles) are not. Some species are widespread while others are localized. Some species are relatively abundant while others are seldom found. Species also differ in their ability to modify their behavior. As a result some species will be affected adversely, some will benefit, and others will be relatively unaffected. Evaluation of the population status of most plants and larger animals is fairly straightforward, even if the reasons for that status are not always apparent. Similar evaluations for arthropods are much more difficult. Besides our general lack of knowledge, their small size and the potential to suspend development or activity (strategies, sometimes measured in years, which allow survival in unfavorable times) all contribute.

New species will still appear in the Reserve, but most, if not all of these, will be non-natives associated with our efforts at globalizing the world population of certain arthropods, accidentally and on purpose. The Honey Bee is one of our early successes. More recently, the Giant Whitefly has made some inroads into the Extension, apparently having infested non-native vegetation just south of the entrance. A predatory wasp from Mexico has been introduced into the county to help combat this landscape pest. Within the past couple of years, a ladybird beetle, introduced on the east and west coasts a number of years back, has shown up in several areas along the coast including Torrey Pines. Non-natives have the potential to depress the populations of native species or displace them. Native bumble bees became more common when the Honey Bee population declined recently. The impact of the Africanized Bees remains to be seen. On the other hand, the introduction and spread of sweet fennel in the 1700's allowed the native Anise Swallowtail Butterfly to expand its flying season and become more abundant.

The issues relating to the impact of development on arthropod diversity are not simple, but they are very important. As Michael Samways wrote in his book, *Insect Conservation Biology*, insects are a big cog in the biosphere clockwork. Because Torrey Pines is relatively large, intact, undisturbed, and ecologically diverse, it represents an important heritage site for the diverse flora and fauna originally found along San Diego county's coast. The pace and nature of urban development will only increase its value in the years to come.

Research Covers the Reserve — Reported by John Carson

During the past five years there has been an extraordinary increase in the number of research projects in TPSR. Just since April 1995, 30 projects have been approved here. While docents know about a few from talks by Resource Ecologist Mike Wells and from *Torreyana* articles, members are probably unaware of most of the recent work. So this note presents brief descriptions of some of these completed projects to show the diversity and extent of TPSR research. Docents interested in further information are directed to the project permits in the ranger office.

Research Projects completed

Carmel Valley Faults – A large number of previously unknown faults were found. (SDSU)

Rodent Study – The endangered Pacific pocket mouse not found here. (CSU Bakersfield)

Dodder – Found that dodder on salt marsh hosts contributes to plant biodiversity: killing prevalent hosts allows other natives space to grow. (UCSD)

Pine Needles – To find if fungi that decompose pine needles are in TPSR. (LA Co. Nat. Hist. Mus.)

Dolphins – From TPSR cliffs, observe dolphin behavior off TP State Beach. (SDSU)

Soil Samples – A study of sandy soils on bluff tops to determine if Pleistocene sand dunes. (UCSD)

Bladderpod /Insects – Investigate bladderpod pollination and insect use of pods. (SDSU)

Ongoing Research Projects

Insects – Ecological relationship between certain moth species and coastal sage scrub plants. (UCB)

Lagoon Nutrients – Determine nutrients in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon outflow and possible relation to changes in Lagoon watershed. (UCSD)

Fog Drip

A few years ago USD Prof. Estberg conducted experiments to try to clarify the role of fog for the Torrey pine. Fog moisture measurements were made at TPSR and on San Miguel Island (next to Santa Rosa Is.). Since the results were never publicized, they are summarized here. Fog moisture content was 4 to 5 times greater on San Miguel. An important effect of fog appears to be reducing transpiration through blocking the sun and increasing humidity. As former naturalist Hank Nicol suggested, fog condensate dripping to the ground from needles is likely a negligible factor. The possibility of needle absorption of fog moisture is still an open question.

Acknowledgment: My thanks to Mike Wells for discussing these projects.

The Trails of Torrey Pines — Park Aide Rick Thompson

The trails at Torrey Pines are one of the ways that our visitors can learn and appreciate the Reserve. To paraphrase a line from one of our major grants, “The trails at TPSR are the conduit, i.e. the physical connection between the visitors and an exclusive natural experience.” The reality though is that the trails are used for much more, including running, access to our beach, and unfortunately, for dog walking and a means to explore restricted areas. Our trails get a lot of use.

Historically, trail maintenance has been limited by other staff requirements. However, Ranger Chris Platis has lead the effort to meet these needs. The US Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) has provided past periods of focused work, but when their involvement ended, subsequent trail maintenance suffered.

Recently trail work has increased, through a grant from the National Recreational Trail Fund Act. They provided funds for repairs of closed or severely damaged trails, the Yucca Point trail restoration and replacement of the overlook, the Extension Gully Trail and the Discovery Trail.

Volunteer participation on special projects has also increased thanks to commitments by outside agencies, private organizations, school groups and the Scouts. The *Scripps Assist Volunteers* continue to improve the Guy Fleming Trail through our *Adopt a Trail* program. Since 1995 over 22,000 hours of volunteer work has been coordinated on special projects including the addition and replacement of post and cable, building of stairs and re-engineering of poorly designed sections of trail.

Further accomplishments in the last few years have been the reopening of the Parry Grove Trail, and major rehabilitation and repair of the trails in the Extension. Other priorities include repairs to the park road footpath, addition of cable steps at the turn below Guy Fleming parking, and repairs to the Beach Trail along the cliff face.

A specific grant provided for the recent hiring of three new Park Aides as trail crew, will allow for the completion of the big projects. This increase in staff will help, but it's the volunteers that contribute to much of the work that gets done. Hopefully, they'll just keep coming. They're the real heroes.

Editor's note: Rick Thompson is also our hero. He's on the trails each day working with the crews.

Docent Doings

Docent/Ranger Appreciation Party on September 9th brought forth a spirit of fun, games, arts and crafts and story telling. **President Diana Wenman** and **Ranger Allyn Kaye** arranged a tasty buffet of hors d'oeuvres, fresh salads, and a variety of pastas. Desert proved how much we appreciated each other. Ranger cake read: "You are the best." Docent cake read: "No, you are the best." **Joan Nimick's** suggestion that docents share their talents or projects brought forth a wealth of photographs, jewelry, ceramics, weavings, and pine needle baskets. **Ron Lyons** canceled his "star walk" due to the overcast sky, but read a native American legend about the Andromeda constellation and how the stink bug got his name.



Our computer system is up and running in the docent room, thanks to **Diana Wenman** and **Jeannie Smith**. Docent projects so far include self-published books, pins and handouts for the children's program and graphics for the *Torreyana*. We will also now have a secured central location for files and information.

Elaine Sacks reports that the Newcomers Book Talk group has contributed \$100 to the TPDS in memory of Docent Carol Schroeder, to be applied to the Topo Memorial Plaque now being designed.



The new TPSR Pine Cone Club pin, designed by **Marty Jacobson**, for the Children's Program.

Salute to the Docents

This Thanksgiving Holiday let us give thanks for the docents who volunteer their time and effort to make TPSR a very special place. We are fortunate to have such a talented and knowledgeable group, who specialize in a variety of fields. Most of our 80 docents spend at least 72 hours a year tending the Lodge or giving nature walks. Many work untold extra hours on specific jobs and special projects.

Board President: Diana Wenman
Vice President: Ken Baer
Program/Activity Dir. Don Grine
Training Officer Jim Cassell
Secretary: Theo Tanalski
Treasurers: Brickelmaier/ Green
Duty Coordinators: Ann Campbell, Elaine Sacks
Torreyana Editors: Del Roberts/Glenn Dunham
Torreyana Staff: Marion Dixon, Joann & Jack Cannon, Twinx Hauer

Torreyana Columnists: Maryruth Cox, Don Grine, Kathy Estey, Diana Wenman, John Carson, Freda Reid
Ranger Bob Wohl

Membership: Shirley Musser
Refreshments: Jane & Bob Talbert
Historian: Judy Schulman
Librarian: Marc Gittelsohn
Book Store: Karen Griebe
Publication: Marion Dixon, Judy Schulman, John Carson
Jeannie Smith

Computer: Jeannie Smith
Exotic Plant removal: Dave Economou, Eva Armi
Docent League Rep: Georgette Camporini
Bird Count: Jane & Hank Baele, Don Grine, Kathy Estey, Twinx Hauer, Barbara Anderson, Dorothy Green, Shirley Grain, Diane Sachs, Dawn Grottke, Joan Nimick, Priscilla Roberts.

Children's Program: Barbara Wallach, Joan Nemick, Leo Baggerly, Jim Cassell, Lilla Clark, Marty Bressler, Kay Harry, John & Myrna Burton, Ruth Ganeless, Twinx Hauer, Don Grine, Irv Hansen, Susan Ferguson, Joann Miale, Shirley Musser, Diane Sachs, Theo Tanalski, Mary Weir, Cindy Wollaeger, Katharine Chaffee, Diana Davis, Chris Frederickson, Margaret Fillius, Wes Farmer.

The Lagoon Glows In The Dark — Libby Lucas

Did you know that Los Peñasquitos Lagoon glows in the dark? It's the luminescence of dinoflagellates in the tidal flows that causes the glow — just one of many intriguing facts about the Lagoon which John Callaway, a wetlands biologist with the Pacific Estuarine Research Lab*, provided a group of docents during his Lagoon walk on October 10th.

The panoramic view of the Lagoon system from behind the TPSR Lodge illustrated John's explanation of the Lagoon's decades-long transition from a historically salt water environment to one that now receives much more fresh water. The human-induced combination of a reduced tidal exchange (caused primarily by the railroad berm, the North Torrey Pines Road bridge, and the North Beach parking lot) and a relatively recent increase in fresh water and sediment from the Lagoon's 95 square mile watershed (caused by development) has reduced the Lagoon's salinity, in turn changing the system's flora and fauna.

As we then walked along a trail on the Lagoon's southern perimeter, we saw Killdeer, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, and a few schools of fish in Peñasquitos Creek just west of I-5. The range of plant adaptations to the varying salinity in the water and the soil around the Lagoon painted a vivid picture of the many factors impinging on the system.

Considering the loss of some 90% of the coastal wetlands in San Diego County, it is remarkable and vital that the Lagoon continue to be one of the most pristine lagoons in southern California. The recent and future burgeoning development in the watershed make this a sobering challenge. The docents can help to meet that challenge by educating the public about the adverse impacts from activities in the watershed, and what we can do to reduce the sediment, chemical pollutants, nutrients and fresh water that reach the Lagoon.

*Under contract with the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, PERL has been monitoring the Lagoon for years. They have just recently begun a study on the system's food web of which dinoflagellates are a part.

Proposition M — Diana Gordon

Proposition M is an initiative on the phase shift of Subarea III from "Future Urbanizing" to "Planned Urbanizing," approving development of Pacific Highlands Ranch. This area is due east of Del Mar, south of San Dieguito River Valley Park and north of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The development, at final buildout over a 22 year period, would be changed from the current underlying zoning of Agricultural (1 in 10 acres) to approximately 5,470 units, plus a Town Center and Village area, on 2,652 acres (the developer to finance the completion of SR56 northbound ramps to I-5 and I-15).

Proposition M designates 1,300 acres of a total 2,650 acres as "permanent open space." It obliges the developer to revegetate with native plants, provide trails and wildlife corridors. Built into the proposition is the transfer of 150 acres on Pardee Parcels A & B on Carmel Mountain which, as stated in the ballot, would become included in Torrey Pines State Reserve."

Proposition M is endorsed by the Sierra Club, the Endangered Habitats League, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and the Carmel Valley Planning Group.

Proposition M is opposed by the San Diegans for Responsible Freeway Planning, which focuses on development density and projected traffic circulation/flow figures.

Obviously this is a very difficult Proposition to decide upon. Protecting Carmel Mountain and setting aside open space for public use between I-5 and I-15 is a good thing. However, there will be negative impact caused by increased population density, freeway congestion, changes to the watershed, and all the other by-products which a new development can have on a previously rural community.

In addition to your voter information pamphlet, flyers from both sides are posted on the docent bulletin board for you to study.

Answer to bacteria question on page one: Not 11:30 am. "The bottle will be half-full at 11:59 am, one minute before noon. One minute later, it will be completely full. That's the nature of exponential growth – the same kind of growth we're experiencing in California." **VOTE!**

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(*trail maintenance)
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To all the *Torreyana* staff, columnists and contributors, I send my deepest gratitude for all your contributions over the last two years. Thank you also for your continued support, without which there would be no *Torreyana*. To borrow a line from the appreciation party: You are the greatest!

Editor

Report from the Supervising Ranger

— Bob Wohl

Winding down after the summer. We all have been looking forward to vacations, since each ranger cannot take off more than one week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Our seasonal staff is increased during the summer to handle the peak summer crowds. By October, however, we cut back. Park aide Todd Nordness has gone back full time to San Diego State Univ., while Linda Severn left for a student internship with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Slidell, Louisiana. Most of you have already heard the good news that Mick Calarco competed and won a San Diego City Park Ranger position at Balboa Park. Torrey Pines alumni also were successful, as former park aide Sue Pelley was selected by City Parks to be their interpretive Park Ranger at Mission Trails; and Norb Ruhmke won a State Park Ranger Cadet slot at the Asilomar Ranger Academy. (Wouldn't it be great if he received a ranger position in our district?)

So I was not prepared last week for the complete ranger staff reduction that occurred. Chris Platis was preparing to go on vacation. We were all anticipating Greg Hackett's return from Kauai adventure. Then I got a call from Greg last Monday. "Ah, er, Bob, I slipped on some wet rocks on a beach near Naapali, and broke my arm." Greg came in with a red wrapped cast as Chris went off on vacation. And then Allyn Kaye came down with the flu! All three rangers gone at once! Fortunately, summer was over, but still there's plenty to do. I was appreciative of the depth of talent and dedication we have on our staff — into the breach came Stacey De Jane, and Holly O'Meara, and David Franks. And of course, the docents were there to keep visitor services running smoothly. Allyn came back by the Concourse D'Elegance Hill Climb and the Docent Meeting Saturday; but Greg will be on limited duty 'till the New Year.

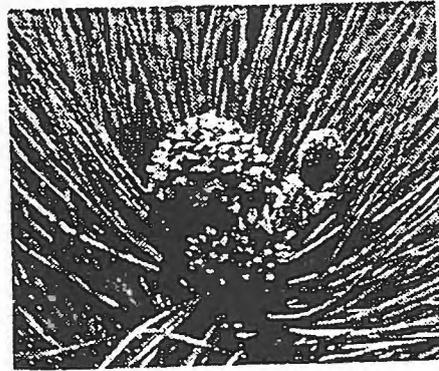
Many of you are fans of our rangers and seasonals. Stacey and David have connections with many docents and visitors. So be prepared when they complete their nine month seasonal tours. Stacey will be leaving in mid-November and David, after Thanksgiving. Jamie King also runs out of hours by then.

We are increasing the seasonal staff in other areas. Using Trail Rehabilitation grant money, we have hired three new park aides to work solely on trails with Rick Thompson and Chris. They are: Nicki Tader, Jody Hochstein, and Todd Prior. And Mike Wells and I are taking on two new Environmental Services Interns (ESI), to take over Jamie's various duties: Pamela Higgins, and (someone most of you have already heard of) Jeannie Smith!

So, it may not be summer, but as usual, at Torrey Pines, there is no such thing as the off season. Between docents and rangers and park aides and ESIs and the resource ecologist, there are always lots of projects and energy percolating away.

Torrey Pines Docent Society
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