

# TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bimonthly Announcements  
February 2000

## February Meetings

**Board Meeting** February 19 will begin at 8:00 AM. Members may attend on a space available basis.

**General Meeting** will begin at 9:00 AM, with the business segment, followed by refreshments.

**Ranger Greg Hackett** will give the talk following the refreshments break (about 10:30 AM). Greg has received diversity training from DPR and has developed the Discovery Trail. He titles his talk *Toward Accessibility*, and will be sharing information on making our park services as accessible as possible.

With every passing month and year, our park visitors become more diverse. We must improve our ability to serve them. In addition to Greg's information sharing, we'll be reviewing a State Park video "Making Our Services Accessible," and taking a short walk on the Discovery Trail.

Over the years, your editor has attended several "diversity trainings." The field seems to be continually evolving and maturing. So, it should be especially valuable to learn from Greg Hackett the latest and greatest, focused on Torrey Pines State Reserve!

Your editor got involved in setting up two new computers around the **Torreyana** deadline. The schedule has been slipped. This month you receive a multi-page **Torrey Lite**; the **Torreyana** will appear next month.

So this issue has only the most vital items for your reading:

1. **February meetings**
2. **Lodge Usage Committee report**
3. **Allyn Kaye's Interpretive Report**
4. **Proposition 12 bond issue information**
5. **Duty Schedule**

--Theo Tanalski, Editor

I thank Georgette Camporini for her assistance with this issue.

## Lodge Usage Committee report

### Introduction

Allyn Kaye, acting Supervising Ranger at Torrey Pines, addressed both the Board and the general assembly of the Torrey Pines Docent Society on Saturday, January 15, regarding concerns the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has with respect to the public's restricted access to the Lodge during the monthly docent meetings, and the annual training program. Additionally, it is Ranger Kaye's assertion that the docents meeting in the Lodge constitutes a fire safety violation.

A committee was formed to explore options to solve these issues. The committee consists of Judy Schulman, Bob Marguiles, Joan Nimick, Twinx Hauer, Marc Gittlesohn, Georgette Camporini, Dick Lighthall and Ken Baer. Most of the committee members received input from concerned docents as to possible solutions, and brought these collectively to a meeting on January 22.

### Background

It is important to preface the mitigation plan proposed by the committee with some background. First and foremost, the Torrey Pines Docent Society, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, serves to provide interpretive and educational programs, as well as to help preserve the natural resources, for the public on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation. In 1999, docents served over 10,000 hours in various programs ranging from Lodge duty, guided nature walks, facilitating school field trips, and conducting interpretive trail patrol to trail maintenance and staging the 100-Year Anniversary of Torrey Pines as a natural species park. The 10,000 volunteer hours last year constitute roughly five full-time, paid Ranger positions for Torrey Pines.

Without a doubt, the 25-year history is an astounding accomplishment for all past and present docents. While I do not have a year-to-year total, I surmise we have given well over \$50,000 to the Ranger staff for the purchase of equipment (such as computers, phones, kayaks, audio-visual) and supplies (such as park map duplication). Also, the monies paid to stage events such as the 75<sup>th</sup> Lodge Anniversary, the 100-Year Park Anniversary, and the annual Ranger-Docent appreciation party are major expenditures. It is with a spirit of cooperation and appreciation for the Rangers that the docents have existed. It is our commitment to maintaining Torrey Pines for the public that has been our passion, however.

And passion has reigned with almost every phone call I have received from concerned docents regarding this new "situation".

So, the proposed mitigation will be addressed in five sections: **Lodge Use, Parking, Safety, Training,** and the **Long-Range plan**. As called for in the TPDS bylaws, a monthly meeting of both the Board and the general membership is mandated. (Exception: we can take a maximum of four field trips annually in lieu of meetings.) These monthly meetings serve to both inform and refresh the docents.

### **Lodge Use**

We will begin with the speaker in the Lodge from 9 AM to 10 AM. The Lodge will open at 10 AM every third Saturday of the month, and during training sessions. We will inform the public on the voice mail message for Torrey Pines, and with a posted sign at the entry kiosk. In this manner, visitors will be restricted from accessing the Lodge for no more than one hour. Certainly, there are plenty of trails and vistas to experience in an hour. Immediately following the speaker we will have refreshments and social time. In that same area behind the Lodge, we will have our business meeting. In case of extreme weather, the visitor population is low, and we can have our business meeting inside the Lodge, not to exceed 45 minutes.

Of the roughly 3000 hours the Lodge is open and available to the public annually, the docents have used roughly 60 hours (stated by Allyn Kaye), or 2% of that time. Under the mitigation plan proposed, the docents will use the Lodge less than 0.5% of the time available to the public.

### **Parking**

All docents will be encouraged to park in the beach lot and either walk up or carpool. If you choose to drive up, you must park north of the public restrooms on the maintenance road. All cars must park on the west side of the road only, with your docent parking permit clearly visible. We discussed possibly hiring a shuttle service for meeting days, but the idea was ill received. If we can make available to the public all 71 of the parking spaces at the top of the Reserve, we have accomplished our goal. Furthermore, if the allotted parking spaces are repainted to more realistic proportions, the number of parking spaces can be increased.

### **Safety**

While we appreciate Ranger Kaye's concern for the safety of the docents, the call to no longer use the Lodge for our meetings is moot. Over the past three years, the average attendance has been 54 docents per meeting. The concern raised is regarding "unsafe working conditions" for State Park employees. As docents/volunteers at Torrey Pines, we are officially "unpaid state employees". Our monthly meetings are

simply that, and I would challenge anyone to agree that they consider themselves "at work" when attending. [Although, per my understanding of the situation, we are under Worker's Compensation during the meetings (Ed.)] Furthermore, there are ample exit doors consisting of three double-wide doors in the main room of the Lodge, two exit doors via the Ranger office, one exit door back through Mike Wells' office, and plenty of human-scale windows to break away should an emergency arise. Finally, the Lodge is constructed of 7000-or-so adobe bricks, which do not ignite, and the Lodge has sustained 76 years of seismic activity without a hitch. Thus, we feel we can meet in the Lodge without subjecting State Park employees to unsafe working conditions.

### **Training**

What can be said, other than the bottom-line: You **must** have training in the Lodge. There is no way around this, as new volunteers are acclimating to the environment in which they will give their time. The Training will be conducted as usual, on Saturday mornings in the Spring of each year. Parking will be addressed in the same fashion as the monthly meetings. Some training sessions, depending on class size and subject, might even be conducted in the docent library.

### **Long-Range plan**

A myriad of possibilities exists in this regard, primarily with use of the Guy Fleming House and surrounding land/property. The potential Peñasquitos Lagoon Interpretive Center would be another excellent location to hold our meetings. Maybe a huge outdoor tent? (Well, that one is a pretty last-ditch effort.)

### **Conclusion**

Each of us would expect that the Torrey Pines Docent Society will be in existence 25 years from now, serving an ever growing San Diego resident and tourist population. We can easily meet the demands that face us, but they must be compatible with our mission statement. Quite frankly, not having a suitable meeting place would eventually kill the spirit and focus of the group. It is our sincere belief that our docent functions will continue to enrich the experience of the public and protect the Reserve, while assisting the workload of the Ranger staff.

**--Ken Baer, TPDS President**

[Ken will report results of discussions with Allyn and the Executive Board at the February 19 General Meeting. See you there. (Ed.)]

## Interpretive Report for the District Performance Review 1999

The Torrey Pines State Reserve Interpretive program is a collaborative effort by staff and docents. This harmonious relationship has generated high quality programs that are in high demand by the schools and general public.

The Torrey Pines Docent Society is an eclectic group of 100 strong and active docents who donated nearly 12,000 hours to the reserve in 1998. About 30 trainees participated in the seven Saturdays of docent training in local natural history topics. Once completing the training requirements, about 15 new docents joined the group. Docent led hikes are held every weekend and holiday: over 250 per year with over 2000 participants.

Five years ago a docent led school program was created. Subject areas are Native Americans, Whales, The Reserve, Plants and Habitats, Ecosystems and Food Chains, and Geology. Teachers receive packets of pre and post activities to add real educational value to the field trip.

A maximum of 60 students from grades 2 through 5 may attend the two hour program. A group presentation is followed by small group hikes of 8-10 students, each small group including an adult from the main group and a docent. These hikes focus on the subject area, but also take advantage of what happens to fly by, be in flower, or be seen spouting in the waves that day. A highlight for students is a visit to the museum where the students enjoy the "Please Touch" aspect: they often mention in their letters how special it was to touch a mountain lion, skunk, bobcat and coyote!

Over one half of the students served by the docent led program come from lower income families. Docents pay for about ten bus grants per year to Chapter 1 or 2 schools which receive federal aid (free lunch/breakfast), at a cost of about \$1000 annually.

The docent school program reached over 3500 children in 70 programs which involved over 1000 hours of docent time. Reservations for the 1999-2000 school year opened in mid August, and by mid October all dates were booked. (These programs are held from 10 AM- Noon on Wednesday and Friday during a traditional school year.)

Another real highlight, which the students recount in their thank you letters, is receiving a Pine Cone Club Button. Docents usually distribute them to their small group at the end of their hike, giving the docent the opening to discuss the importance of open spaces, preservation and the students' ability to impact the future. A follow up letter is sent to the teacher encouraging them to take a few minutes, every couple of weeks, to discuss what they have done recently to help their community, such as recycling, picking up litter, planting a seed, etc. Plus it gives the students another opportunity to display their Pine Cone Club badges, which they wear with genuine pride!

Staff school and youth group presentations reach about 15,000 children attending over 300 programs involving over 200 hours of staff time. These are conducted Monday through Friday year round -- especially important because so many local school districts are on year round schedules.

The staff program generally covers what Torrey Pines is about, what makes it a special place and special tree, what animals live here, and why a Reserve has so many rules! We also cover topic areas that the teacher may request. The presentation is usually 30 minutes, followed by a visit to the museum, a brief slide show, and then the teacher leads their own hike.

Torrey Pines Staff are in partnership with San Diego City Schools, San Diego Natural History Museum, and Naturelands (a consortium of interests to promote the MSCP [Multiple Species Conservation Plan]) in a pilot program called "Making of a Naturalist." I attended the training along with classroom teachers and learned how to integrate the curriculum into regular studies. Teachers received the incentive of a bus grant from Naturelands to Torrey Pines, or another of the four parks in the partnership, for their voluntary participation in the two Saturday workshops.

We are at the midway point of the Discovery Trail, designed for wheelchair accessibility, but also a great addition for the park visitor with little time, small children, or limited mobility. A brochure, signs, and an audio tape version are in the development phase. The restroom is currently being expanded and retro-fitted to be truly accessible.

After just completing a very successful 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Park, staff and docents are gearing up for the Sesquicentennial of the identification and naming of the Torrey Pine Tree to be held in October 2000. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

--Allyn Kaye, Ranger

## PROPOSITION 12

### Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000

In 1999 the Legislature placed this important measure on the March 7, 2000 ballot. It received near unanimous bipartisan support, recognizing the tremendous need California has for parks, open space, and recreation for its growing population. The Legislature also took note of the impact growth is having on California's wildlife, and included funding for protection of wildlife habitat.

California is growing at the rate of more than 600,000 people per year, and all these new residents need places to recreate, appreciate wildlife, enjoy the outdoors, and exercise. Existing facilities are simply inadequate, and the bond act will expand the supply of lands and facilities to serve these needs.

It has been twelve years since the last park and wildlife bond act was approved by the voters. Since that time, California has added more than five million people, and they need places to recreate, and for their children to play.

Although it is very diverse, in many ways this bond act is similar to those which were passed by the voters in 1976, 1980, 1984, 1986 and 1988. It provides funds for all the state agencies which protect land and recreational resources for future generations, and also makes grants to local agencies which perform the same functions. Since the 1920's Californians have

recognized that the way to build the State Park System, protect the coast, and accomplish other land conservation purposes is through a series of General Obligation Bond Acts. This measure continues that tradition.

Proposition 12 was placed on the ballot by the Legislature and Governor Davis to improve the quality of life in our state for the next decade. Tremendous leadership was shown by Assembly Speaker Villaraigosa and Speaker Pro Tem Keeley, and by Senators Hayden and Murray.

For further information, refer to your ballot pamphlet, [www.cprs.org](http://www.cprs.org), [www.safeparks.org](http://www.safeparks.org), [www.parks.ca.gov/](http://www.parks.ca.gov/), or [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

Here's how you can help:

- Vote "Yes" on Proposition 12 on March 7
- Encourage your friends and family to get involved
- Make a contribution to the bond campaign
- Volunteer to help to pass this critical bond

[Portions of this text have been excerpted from the California Park and Recreation Society's website at [www.cprs.org](http://www.cprs.org) ]

<b>FEBRUARY DUTY CALENDAR</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 L SOGO L FREDERICKS	2 L FREDERICKS L COOPER	3 L PFLEEGER L HELLER	4 L PFLEEGER L WENMAN	5 L SMITH W PARNELL L FRIERY
6 L PARNELL W CASSELL L HELLER W STIEGLER	7 L R MILLER L HUBER	8 L TALBERTS L AMANNS	9 L MARGULIES L SHAW	10 L STIELS L HAUER	11 L BEYER L GITTELSON	12 L D MILLER W KATZ L MARLEY
13 L GRAIN W FERGUSON L MYERS W KAMEN	14 L R MILLER L HUBER	15 L RUDOLPH L KATZ	16 L BEYER L STIELS	17 L D MILLER L DIXON	18 L RANDOLPH L DOOLITTLE	19 <b>MEETING</b> L GRAIN W BRAV L D MILLER W BRAV
20 L CASSELL L WENMAN W STIEGLER	21 <b>Pres. Day</b> L CAMPBELL W WENMAN L DeWITT W	22 L TALBERTS L RANDOLPH	23 L SACKS L SHAW	24 L GRANTHAM L HAUER	25 L RUDOLPH L GITTELSON	26 L SMITH W FERGUSON L GAARDER W MARLEY
27 L SCHULMAN W FRIERY L SCHULMAN W KAMEN	28 L TUBMAN L COOPER	29 L MARGULIES L DIXON		Duty Coordinator: Ann Campbell 755-1934 Hours: Lodge Daily 10 - 1, 1 - 4 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 11 and 1 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.		

# TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bimonthly Announcements  
January, 2000

## Editor's Greeting

Now that the holiday season and the Y2K hype are largely over, welcome to a new year as a supporter of Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Good things have happened with TPDS, TPSR, and each of us in the last year, and we will build upon them and further innovate in 2000.

The Executive Board, all committee heads, and, indeed, each of us are eager to do more and better in the coming year. Please give one another frequent praise, feedback, and (gentle) criticism.

We are united in the goals of doing the best for the Reserve, and trying to have as much fun (being healthy-happy-holy, according to each person's belief) as we can imagine!

## Duty Log 1999

**Elaine Sacks** reminds us that we need full and accurate accounting of docent hours for 1999. Not only can you get a free entry pass to California Parks for working over 200 hours, but the reported hours add to the power and prestige of TPSR in the eyes of DPR and the public. She asks you to send her a note, phone her, or, *best of all*, enter the unaccounted hours in the **log book** as soon as you can. Your efforts will help our cause.

## Membership and Service Agreement Renewals

(or, how to get your new parking pass)

--Please pay your membership dues for 2000 before the January 15 meeting so you can pick up your membership card at the meeting. Please make your check (\$10 Regular Docent, \$25 Supporting) to Torrey Pines Docent Society. Write "**Membership 2000**" on the check. **Mail to:**

Torrey Pines State Reserve  
P.O. Box 2414  
Del Mar, CA 92014

Attn.: Shirley Musser, Membership

**Or:** Put check in the Membership Envelope under the cash tray in the Cash Drawer (in the Lodge). Do **not** leave cash.

--Your service agreement with TPSR/DPR must be completed or renewed (as appropriate) in order to be a TPDS member in good standing. Please be prepared to consider and execute this form with the help of the Ranger at our January 15 meeting or soon after.

--Get your new parking pass from the Ranger when you have completed your service agreement and shown them your new membership card.

## January 15 Meetings

--**Board Meeting** begins 8:00 AM (primarily for Executive Board members, but all TPDS members are welcome to attend on a space available basis).

--**General Meeting** begins 9:00 AM.

--**Kurt Benirschke, M. D.**, and President, Zoological Society of San Diego, will be our **lecturer**. The lecture begins about 10:30, after the General Meeting and the refreshment break, and usually is over by noon.

## Kayak Training Class

**Joanne Miale** has arranged to have the next **Kayak Safety Clinic** on **Saturday January 22**, beginning at 9 AM. Greg Hackett and Ken Baer will instruct on proper and safe use of the kayaks in the lagoon, for docents who wish to use these vessels in the lagoon. This is a dry land clinic. (An optimum kayak trip might start within an hour of a +5 or more high tide, and return on the lowering tide, a two hour trip which could go as far as the fresh water streams near the Industrial Park.) Thank you Joanne, for scheduling this clinic!

## Lecture Notes and the Internet

--**Past lecture notes** (from April 1998 to present) will soon be available on our web site "[www.torreypine.org](http://www.torreypine.org)". They are a resource and an advertisement of the type and quality of education available to persons who commit to being TPSR Docents.

--**New lecture notes** will be available about one month after the lectures, after review by interested members and the lecturer for accuracy. They will be available on our Web site, as well as by e-mail (as before).

--**Please add your e-mail address** when you renew your membership. This enables us (more quickly, inexpensively, and easily) to send you, when available, meeting notes, lecture notes, and special announcements. You might consider adding Internet or e-mail capability to your lifestyle in 2000. Many computers can be made to access the Internet or e-mail: there are even **free** service providers (via a local phone number).

I thank Georgette Camporini for proofreading and Twinx Hauer for addressing and mailing this issue.

--**Theo Tanalski, Editor**

## JANUARY 2000 DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> L W D.E.MILLER L HELLER W KAMEN	<b>31</b> L L	Duty Coordinator: Elaine Sacks 551-0708 Hours: Lodge Daily 10 - 1, 1 - 4 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 11 and 1 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.				<b>1</b> L J. SMITH W GRINE L PARNELL W TARNOWSKI
<b>2</b> L RENNER W GRINE L PARNELL W TARNOWSKI	<b>3</b> L REE MILLER L HUBER	<b>4</b> L SOGO L FREDERICKS	<b>5</b> L RUDOLPH L FREDERICKS	<b>6</b> L STIELS L GITTELSOHN	<b>7</b> L BEYER L GAARDER	<b>8</b> L J. SMITH W MARLEY L W STIEGLER
<b>9</b> L D. TUBMAN W D.E.MILLER L W KAMEN	<b>10</b> L SHAW L HUBER	<b>11</b> L TALBERTS L AMANNS	<b>12</b> L MARGULIES L STIELS	<b>13</b> L GRANTHAM L HAUER	<b>14</b> L BEYER L GAARDER	<b>15 MTG.</b> L GRAIN W BRAV L W BRAV
<b>16</b> L D. TUBMAN W CASSELL L W ROBERTS	<b>17</b> L REE MILLER L COOPER	<b>18</b> L RUDOLPH L CAMPBELL	<b>19</b> L PFLEEGER L SHAW	<b>20</b> L D.E.MILLER L HELLER	<b>21</b> L GRAIN L	<b>22</b> L SCHULMAN W FERGUSON L SCHULMAN W MARLEY
<b>23</b> L PHILLIPS W CASSELL L ANASIS W STIEGLER	<b>24</b> L PFLEEGER L COOPER	<b>25</b> L TALBERTS L CAMPBELL	<b>26</b> L MARGULIES L RENNER	<b>27</b> L GRAIN L HAUER	<b>28</b> L L GITTELSOHN	<b>29</b> L PHILLIPS W FERGUSON L W ROBERTS

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For:

Dated Material -- Please Deliver Promptly