

# TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Announcements  
April 2000

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## Lodge Usage Update

Our plan to reduce Lodge usage has been successful. Thanks to Ken, Judy Schulman, and Walt Desmond for parking assistance. Ranger Allyn Kaye thanked us for carpooling, or parking in the designated area. With 65 chairs and persons in the Lodge, we evacuated the building (in a test "fire drill"), carrying out all chairs, in less than 60 seconds!

**For next month, please note and follow the new schedule and parking rules:**

- **Park** in the lower lot, or South of the top parking lot off the right hand side of the road
  - **Board Meeting** starts at 7:45 A.M.
  - **Our speaker** will be from 9 A.M. to 10 A.M.
  - **Business Meeting and Refreshments** will be outside in the back after the speaker.
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## Speaker of the Month

Jack Paxton, docent and professor emeritus of University of Illinois will speak on *Environmental Ethics, or why should we care?*

Be prepared for a wide ranging and interesting discussion of this topic.

There will be "rants and raves:" the bank robbery at the Bank of the Colorado River; Extinction: California's Grizzly Symbol (why do people say they **love** our area?); care to join "Congressbums for Bono Lake" (also known as the Salton Sew-wer), ....

You will hear facts, figures, reasoned arguments.

You will be invited to consider:

"Who publishes the sheet-music for the winds or the music of water written in river-lines?

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken over-civilized people are beginning to find out..." --**John Muir**

So join Jack and

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

--**John Muir**

## Message from the President

I've got this map that is fascinating. It was produced by the United States Geological Survey in 1975. The map covers Torrey Pines State Reserve, T.P. Mesa, T.P. Lagoon, Del Mar and Carmel Valley. In 25 years, developers have grabbed and carved so much land that an updated USGS map would be a startling comparison. Except, there has been no updated map produced.

Yet, what you see is what you got. The protests over the re-opening of Sorrento Valley Road are the murmurs of a few concerned individuals to make everyone aware that there is no alternative. The road must remain closed for the continued health of TPSR.

Re-opening the road is not "smart growth." Politics as usual is what it is. Lame duck San Diego City Council members, an aspiring-for-higher-office California Coastal Commission member, and Daddy Warbucks developers are just going through the political motions. Instead, they should all be doing the right thing, by following the logic that says, "If you choke it, it will surely die."

We are in period of historical economic growth. Halcyon days of stock options and pay-for-it-in-cash \$500,000 brand new homes. Philanthropy is a funny thing. Some share, some don't. Ironic how adults are like children, huh? Ellen Browning Scripps had the charitable heart and the vision to recognize the irreplaceable gem of Torrey Pines. The San Diego City Council in 1899 had the guts to dedicate Torrey Pines as a native species park.

In 2000, there is a war between the haves and the have-nots at Torrey Pines. Developers have the land, the City has the power, and we have not much of anything to fight with. We do have a rock and sling in the form of a lawsuit to be filed against the City. We are David against Goliath. [Was there a ballot initiative last month that I missed? Was it the one that sought to "protect wealth and provide selfish disregard of the greater good"?]

**Message from the President**  
(continued)

The Torrey Pines Docent Society has given financial backing to the lawsuit against the City. We have pledged up to \$10,000. (For a point of reference, it cost over \$5,000 to stage the 100-Year Anniversary of Torrey Pines last October). We fully expect the Torrey Pines Association, the Sierra Club and other non-profit organizations to pledge some big bucks.

The City can be stealthy when it comes to certain "projects," and I only hope they see their place in history: Torrey Pines, designated park in 1899; Torrey Pines, reaffirmed (or doomed?) in 2000. --Ken Baer, TPDS President

[This was submitted to me as a file named "svroad\$.doc" Ed.]

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**Announcements**

**Free handout literature** has been created by Children's Program volunteers. These excellent single sheet answers about plants, animals, etc. are available on the Lodge desk. If people wish more than one, encourage them to take one and reproduce them elsewhere. Thank you, Children's Program, for adding such value to TPSR!

**Lodge workers** are encouraged to **double up** in the busy season to better serve our visitors. You can sign up or not as you wish, work, then please log your hours.

**Interpretive Trail Patrol (ITP)** (walking the trails, answering people's questions, and being aware if people need help or are breaking our rules) is a very important way you can help TPSR (and gain hours). Please take our (or your own) cell phone on patrol, so you can make quicker and more effective reports. If you don't know how to use the phone, someone will be pleased to explain. You are covered by Worker's Compensation during ITP, just as you are during Lodge duty or scheduled nature walks.

**Earth Fair 2000** needs volunteers for the April 16 program in Balboa Park. Georgette Camporini has a setup (literature, stuffed animals, etc.) which she brings to tell our story to children and adults. It's lots of fun. Contact Georgette if you wish to participate.

**Earth Day 2000** needs volunteers. Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 A.M. To 2 P.M., the California State Parks Foundation, sponsor ENRON,

Torrey Pines State Reserve Staff, and San Diego EarthWorks invites **you** to join in our efforts to restore critical wildlife habitat in Los Peñasquitos Marsh Natural Preserve, perform Trail Maintenance in TPSR, and lead walks for those wishing them. Contact Ranger Chris Platis for more details. Volunteers meet at the North Beach parking lot at 8 A.M. for sign-in registration. Wear appropriate clothing. Tools, gloves, free parking passes and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Pamela Higgins at (619) 755-2063 ext. 308.

**Map updating** volunteers are needed. The TPSR map will be quickly updated and reproduced: Allyn needs people to aid this effort. Don Grine will later use Global Positioning System (GPS) topographic data and computers to make a more detailed and realistic map: see him to help with this. Finally, Cheryl DeWitt is redoing the Reserve Extension map, and would appreciate help also.

**Docent Appreciation Dinner** needs your help. In May, the Rangers serve a dinner provided through Docent funding. Chris Platis needs a few docents to help him with planning and execution of this enjoyable event: see him please.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** The TPDS, the TPA, and DPR Staff are joining to form a Strategic Planning Committee to help define and plan for the future. If you wish to serve on the committee or have suggestions, contact Ken or Allyn. Work will start this month.

**Flight Realignment** by the **Marines** at Mirimar will greatly silence the aircraft noise which has been shattering the natural beauty of TPSR for years. The Marines have realized that such noise is inappropriate over a State Reserve, and have rerouted their flights. Thank you!

**Thanks for the e-mail addresses!** We have twice as many e-mail addresses with which to contact Docents, Trainees, TPA members, and Staff, compared to two months ago. This comes in handy when we need to notify you of such things as Sorrento Valley Road reopening protests. Theo's **e-mail broadcasts** are now sent out using Blind Carbon Copy (BCC), so nobody else sees your e-mail address. I welcome any person wishing to be added to the list to submit their address (by e-mail, "snail" mail, in person or in the Torreyana inbox). I thank those who participate in this program: we **have** made a difference.

## Sorrento Valley Road Reopening Protest Update

Nine A.M. March 25<sup>th</sup> we met again to protest the City of San Diego's actions to reopen Sorrento Valley Road (SVR) to automobile traffic. The sewer manhole breathed its familiar warm sewage smell, and the loud auto rumble and the grey rebar-bristling partially-completed freeway overpass created a surrealistic platform for the morning's events (so near the (relatively) unspoiled nature of TPSR lagoon).

Speakers discussed much the same topics as last time, but the issue remained the **needs** of nature's animals, the Reserve, the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), the Coastal Commission, and the pedestrians and bicyclists versus the **wants** of the politically and financially powerful, well-organized factions wishing to reopen SVR.

Attorney Richard A. Schulman has written a letter to the city attorney January 21 on behalf of several property owners, urging the immediate reopening of the road because it is a key route for employee and client access: "My clients' patience with the Byzantine process of approving the improvement project before reopening the road has come to an end. We believe that the continuing closure of the road is both improper and not justified legally."

Resolving the different views of the situation will likely involve a lawsuit. The city has filed a "Notice of Exemption" with the county Recorder's Office March 1, which opened a 35-day window during which any legal challenge must be filed. Courtney Coyle, an attorney for the Carmel Mountain Conservancy intends to file a writ of mandate soon, suing the city for proceeding without the proper environmental permits.

Courtney discovered the city is prepared to spend \$681,000 to patch, repave, and install guard rails and safety signs in order to reopen a road which they may also spend up to \$420,000 to conduct an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which could recommend against any reopening to automobiles. A new traffic light for the closed road has been installed at the junction with Carmel Valley Road (in a city with "no money" to install traffic lights at active roads). Who is watching these taxpayer, MSCP, and nature issues? She insists it must be the public: you.

Bob Lewis spoke on behalf of Wayne Dunlap, chairman of the Torrey Pines Planning Board. Tuesday, March 28, 7 to 9:30 A.M. at the Doubletree Inn the first public workshop on the proposed redesign of low and high bridges at Hwy 101 and Torrey Pines beach will be held. People need to take the time to oppose the likely widening of Hwy 101, Carmel Valley Road, and Sorrento Valley Road: the increased traffic flow surrounding the State Reserve is simply inappropriate.

Melba Kooyman (who described herself as the first docent at TPSR) spoke her mind: We need to attend meetings, bring friends. Strength is in numbers and commitment. Stay connected, don't get discouraged. Let our diversity be our strength!

[Some information in this report is taken from the March 26 San Diego Union-Tribune article by Leslie Wolf Branscomb and Mark Arner.]

I thank Jeannie Smith for providing the address labels and database, Ann Campbell for the duty calendar, Georgette Camporini for production assistance, and Jeannie Heller for mailing.

--Theo Tanalski, Editor

## APRIL DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 L SMITH W KATZ L MYERS W TANALSKI
2 L CAMPBELL W PAXTON L TUBMAN W STIEGLER	3 L R MILLER L HUBER	4 L MARGULIES L FREDERICKS	5 L FREDERICKS L GAARDER	6 L KATZ L STIELS	7 L BEYER L GAARDER	8 L HELLER W D.E. MILLER L DIXON W PETERSON
9 L CLARK W CASSELL L TUBMAN W KAMEN	10 L R MILLER L HUBER	11 L TALBERTS L AMANNS	12 L PFLEEGER BEYER L COOPER	13 L STIELS L HAUER	14 L RANDOLPH L CAMPBELL	15 MEETING L RENNER W BRAV L PAXTON W BRAV
16 L GRAIN W FERGUSON L W	17 L RUDOLPH L PFLEEGER	18 L McNALLY L DIXON	19 L RANDOLPH L OVERGARD	20 L SOGO L DOOLITTLE	21 L GRANTHAM L	22 L SMITH W D E MILLER L MYERS W STIEGLER
23 L GRAIN W FERGUSON L SCHULMAN W	24 L KATZ L	25 L TALBERTS L	26 L SACKS L COOPER	27 L D E MILLER L HAUER	28 L RUDOLPH L DOOLITTLE	29 L ANDERSON W PAXTON L CAMPORINI W TANALSKI
30 L ROBERTSON W CASSELL L W KAMEN	Duty Coordinator: Ann Campbell (858) 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.					