

TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Announcements
May 2000

May Meetings

Board Meeting begins at 7:45 A.M. Space available, the public is welcome to attend.

General Meeting begins at 9:00 A.M., starting with the speaker. After refreshments, the business meeting will begin.

Mays' speaker is **Peter Yingling**. He will present a slide show on reptiles and amphibians, emphasizing the ones that may be found in the Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Remember the parking rules, please:

- Park in the lower lot, or South of the top parking lot off the right hand side of the road
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--Theo Tanalski, Editor

Announcements

Docent-Ranger Appreciation Dinner. Every year the Rangers participate in a Docent sponsored dinner to honor our volunteer work at TPSR. Thursday June 1, from 4 to 7 P.M., at the Lodge, an Italian (spinach/cheese or meat) lasagna dinner will be served. Good cheer, fellowship, and a meal will await those who show up. Also bid farewell to Ranger Chris Platis, who is moving on within DPR.

RAPPORT. Joe Vasquez, District Interpretive Specialist, introduced this program, part of a DPR document *Aiming For Excellence* (available from the staff). All are encouraged to become familiar with this DPR state wide initiative to improve our skills. This year we complete a voluntary self-evaluation summary. Next year there will be formal evaluation by Docent appointed evaluators.

This is a "tool" to help us improve performance by checklist what we do and what we could perhaps do better in the future. **RAPPORT** is an acronym of the evaluation categories: so how Relevant, Accurate, Provocative/enjoyable, Programmatically accessible, Organized, Retained, and Thematic are **your** presentations? Please let him know, for the benefit of this program as well as your own improvement.

Joe needs **20 or more of these RAPPORT forms** (DPR 461D) filled out, based on a self-evaluation of your walk, signed, put into an envelope, and either sent to him, or given to Ranger Allyn Kaye to deliver to him. Keep a copy for your records. These forms should be **delivered by the end of June**.

Joan Nimick's walk will be Saturday June 3, starting at 9 A.M. at the Lodge. This will be a review of everything, a cooperative effort by all, and anyone, trainee or docent is welcome to participate. Joan is known for her expertise in plants and birds, among other areas, as well as her engaging personality. You are sure to learn, as well as enjoy, if you are part of this event!

May is State Park Month. This promotion allows people to get a pass, giving one free day use entry to **any** State Park in the month of **May**. Anyone may get these passes from your local library, Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Bureau, or by calling toll free 1-800-777-0369.

150 Year Commemoration—Torrey Pine Birthday Tree. There will be a celebration here, this fall, of 150 years of statehood, and of our *Pinus torreyana* (Torrey Pine) being the "Birthday Tree" (having been discovered during the early events of statehood. **But** we need a **committee chair** and **members** to **plan the work!** Please contact Allyn if you are interested: time is running out!

Everyone Everywhere Care For Our Parks. Ranger Allyn Kaye's initiative is in the concept stage. It seeks to create a vehicle to get individuals, community organizations, and corporations to care for, support, and protect **all** our State Parks. She would appreciate any suggestions and help to develop this idea into something which could really catch on!

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Sorrento Valley Road Reopening Suit: Pro and Con on Contributions

Torrey Pines Docent Society (TPDS) policy is made by the Executive Board at scheduled Board meetings, and must fall within the guidelines of our Bylaws. Approved minutes form the record of adopted policy. Bylaws do not tell Board members how to make decisions, but Board members should be informed on the issues to be discussed, be concerned with the good of the Society, and have some awareness of and consideration for the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of TPDS members (who in turn should also be well informed on the issues). Do all this, and we will get good results from our system.

Here is some information, facts, possibilities, and the spectrum of potential attitudes one might have toward TPDS giving money to Carmel Mountain Conservancy (CMC) to prosecute a suit against the City Council, seeking to prevent them from reopening Sorrento Valley Road (SVR) to automobile traffic before the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is submitted to the city and discussed. May this be food for thought, both for Board members responsible for setting policy, and for Docents who might seek to guide Board members to make the best decision for all concerned.

Policy

Our Society's boundaries are set by our Bylaws (in addition to our Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) contract, and our Articles of Incorporation with the State of California). "The Board shall formulate the Policy of the Society" (Bylaws Article IV, Section 1). Policy is recorded in approved Board (and to a lesser extent, General Meeting) minutes. The Board makes policy at meetings scheduled in accordance with our bylaws: "The Executive Board shall hold meetings as called by the President or any three of the Board members. These meetings shall be open to all voting members of the Society" (Bylaws Article III, Section 3).

History

SVR was closed temporarily in 1996 to permit construction of Highway 56, and the City stated it would not be reopened before a final decision was reached on an EIR. With the threat of suit from

business interests, the City decided they were not required to wait for an EIR, and filed a "Notice of Exemption" with the County Recorder's Office. CMC hired Courtney Coyle to research, write and prosecute a suit opposing (on multiple grounds) the reopening SVR prior to the issuance of a final EIR. A copy of the suit is available at the Lodge.

Rusty Areias, DPR Director, has written San Diego Mayor Golding, asking her to delay opening until the EIR has been completed. Opening could "ultimately contribute to loss of wildlife species at TPSR and the nearby portions of the City's Multiple Habitat Planning Areas." Damage could result from changed "drainage patterns and petroleum by-products from the asphalting process..."

Ed Navarro, DPR District Superintendent, also informed the Mayor and Council members that the California Gnatcatcher and the Light-footed clapper rail, which have taken up residence nearby and east of SVR (SVR and property to the east does not belong to TPSR), may be discouraged by reestablishment of traffic on SVR. Further, a functioning animal corridor (Carmel Mountain Road underpass under Interstate 5) south of this area was destroyed in 1994, and animals are attempting to use an underpass (completed in 1998) beneath I-5 in Carmel Valley. Animal corridors allow maintenance of healthy wildlife populations in this core area within the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program. Reestablishment of vehicle traffic could cause the area to become a mortality sink (more animals would die here than would be added to the adjacent populations). He states, in summary, "We ask that these consequences be carefully considered before any decision to reopen the road is made."

The CMC has approached and obtained \$3000 from TPDS (whose Bylaws, in Article I, Section 1 state: "The operations, use of property, and assets of the TPDS shall be limited to interpretation and other educational purposes."), and \$3000 from Torrey Pines Association (TPA) (whose mission stresses protection and preservation).

Sorrento Valley Road Reopening Suit: Pro and Con on Contributions (concluded)

At the May 18 TPA meeting and the May 20 TPDS meeting the CMC will request further donations. The suit may be over in two months, or not. If CMC loses the suit, it currently feels that some other organization should take up any legal action opposing the terms of the EIR. In any case, suit, EIR, and EIR reviews could take as much as two years to resolve.

So, the questions are: should we give additional donations to CMC, how much, and why or why not?

Discussion

A review of available Board minutes (and Torreyana issues available in the Library back to January 1994) shows that we have written letters in support of preservation issues, or urged individuals to take appropriate action, but never committed TPDS funds to social/political issues.

On the other hand, our Articles of Incorporation (from 1977) includes among "the purposes for which this Corporation is formed"..."and by giving all possible aid to the State Government in conserving, developing and interpreting the areas of the State Park System for the benefit of the public." This says that we would be within our Articles of Incorporation to give aid to the CMC to accomplish what DPR feels is beneficial for our area of the State Park System.

Despite the suit seeming to be a noble and proven cause, there could be a spectrum of Docent opinion which may need to be considered. Some may feel the Society should not be involved in areas outside of our Bylaws (contributions could still be made by committed individuals). Others might question the science mentioned (you don't need to be a scientist to question what scientists write), or feel that degradation of habitat will happen anyway, or that SVR habitat could tolerate auto traffic during the day (which would provide a safety valve for community transportation when there is a pileup on the freeway). Some may feel, if we start with this issue, why not spend on any of many issues which could lessen the rate of destruction of our Lagoon resulting from impacts

along over 55 miles of (upstream) watershed? Some are willing to help, but only with a "fare share" contribution. We have heard from a few, and can only guess what others feel.

We **do** have funds in our treasury, accumulated from years of saving. Some feel we should spend the funds on worthy projects. One is the Children's Program (including subsidies to low-income schools for transportation/manuals, and production of low-cost TPSR specific educational material for general public benefit). Fixing illegal trails (which increase erosion), fixing wood platforms, and improved signage are other projects. **You** may think of further uses for these funds.

On the other hand, in the future, our income will decrease while our workload increases. Governor Gray Davis' initiative to lower Park entrance fees will decrease our income from Annual Passes (from less expensive passes and fewer people buying them). Some even feel it is possible that all fees will be eliminated at some State Parks. More people coming to the park will require more docent effort, while we must transition from selling passes to grant writing and fund raising. How many Docents want to take up **fundraising** instead of **interpretation**? So, our funds will not easily or soon be replenished.

The TPA will also see a radical decrease in funds: they rely on about 600 members who value the free admission pass they get by paying to join the TPA.

Conclusion

In the last six weeks, our Society has sailed into uncharted territory. On May 20th the Board needs to make an informed decision in the best interests of the ecology, local population ("people are animals too"), TPDS, and the individual members thereof. Docents need to be informed and share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas with one another and Board members. Perhaps, by moderating emotional reactions and looking at the "facts," such as they are, Docents and Board may reach an optimum decision.

--Theo Tanalski

President's Message

"To protect, preserve, and help maintain Torrey Pines State Reserve and to interpret its unique value to the public through a variety of educational programs." Docents and trainees, this is the TPDS mission statement. Could we be more succinct? I suppose we could recite this statement at the beginning of each monthly meeting, so that each and everyone of us realized the important role we play in the operations of TPSR. However, I do not believe that would be necessary. Each of us inherently knows the fundamental reason for us being here is to protect these wonderful trees and the unique coastal woodlands in which they call home.

We need look no further than the popular and insightful booklet "Torrey Pines State Reserve", which is dedicated "to the preservation of the rare Torrey Pines and its environment". As early as 1890, citizens of San Diego banded to "save and protect" the Torrey Pine groves. Ellen Browning Scripps major contribution was to "purchase, protect and preserve" Torrey Pines. Guy Fleming "superintended the protection of the Torrey Pines". Dr. C.C. Parry suggested dedicating Torrey Pines forever "to the cause of scientific instruction and recreation, where wiser generations than us may sit beneath its ampler shade and, listening to the same musical waves, thank us for sparing this tree?"

Our role at Torrey Pines is clear. Protect. Preserve. Maintain. Interpret. Educate. These are the functions and duties performed by docents, as well as the Ranger staff and members of the Torrey Pines Association, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, the Carmel Mountain Conservancy, the Sierra Club...the list goes on.

It has recently been argued that the bylaws, which lend governness to the function of the TPDS, do not specifically state that our role as docents include protecting and preserving Torrey Pines. If that argument holds true, then we surely need to amend the bylaws now, don't we? We have in our midsts active docents who hark back to 1977 and can be called on to assist us in the direction we need to take.

The motion for approval of \$10,000 as a donation to the Carmel Mountain Conservancy came from the general membership at the March meeting. The motion was made after Cheryl DeWitt, Linda Martin and others updated the docents on the City of San Diego's plan to re-open Sorrento Valley Road. The link from the Carmel Mountain "Preserve" to TPSR is a vital wildlife corridor which crosses Sorrento Valley Road. The motion passed by general membership (including all board members present). At the April board meeting, the approval of \$10k was reduced to \$3k by a slim majority. It has been argued that: (1) the general membership was not fully informed of the issue(s) they voted on, (2) the bylaws do not call for TPDS to support the protection and preservation of Torrey Pines, (3) the proper parliamentary procedure was not followed, and (4) \$10,000 is a lot of money.

Politics and procedure - what a bore! Let's overcome the red tape, folks. Do me a favor: take a walk along Sorrento Valley Road from Carmel Valley Road to Carmel Mountain Road (level distance round-trip approx. 2.5 miles). Go with an open mind, (and also a camera). After the walk, drive east on Carmel Valley Road and enter 56-East until it ends and continue driving east as far as Evergreen Nursery. (Maybe 8 miles). What you will see is startling and sad. The gold rush is on. Terra firma is worth its weight, but the legacy we will be left with is nothing to be proud of. Worse yet, the 56 freeway has not even been completed or graded yet!

The vital wildlife corridor into TPSR is Carmel Valley via Carmel Mountain Preserve. I strongly believe that once every docent has walked Sorrento Valley Road and driven Carmel Valley Road east to Evergreen Nursery, then you will have the opportunity to cast an educated vote on the expenditures of TPDS monies.

President's Message (concluded)

Yes, our educational and interpretive programs are top priority and top-notch! We are not foregoing any of these. I challenge anyone to find a more comprehensive, fulfilling and lasting field trip offered through our Children's Program for school-kids! As an employee of the Chase Manhattan Bank, \$4,000 has been donated to TPDS from Chase over the past 2 years. The Children's Program has received \$3,000 of that. I am proud of my status as a docent and the fact that my volunteer work is recognized as an important role by the company I work for. In my tenure as President, I am unaware of any project/request for money being denied. If the request is sound, if the need is there, and the docent budget can pay it, let's do it.

That, my friends, is what we have a budget for. I urge any docent to submit a request in person or in writing for a program that would benefit Torrey Pines and the public. Let us be rational and logical. It's not a radical idea to fight for the continued preservation and protection of the wonderful legacy which is Torrey Pines State Reserve

--Ken Baer

MAY 2000 DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1 L R. MILLER L CAMPBELL	2 L TUBMAN L FREDERICKS	3 L FREDERICKS L COOPER	4 L STIELS L SOGO	5 L RUDOLPH L CAMPBELL	6 L ROBERTSON W D.E.MILLER L J.SMITH W STIEGLER L	
7 L GRAIN W FERGUSON L WEIR W KAMEN L	8 L R. MILLER L HUBER	9 L TALBERTS L AMANNS	10 L WENMAN L WENMAN	11 L KATZ L	12 L BEYER L STIELS	13 L SACKS W TANALSKI L MYERS W BRAV L	
14 L WENMAN W CASSELL L ANASIS W HULL L	15 L BUBAR L PFLEEGER	16 L MARGULIES L DIXON	17 L HAUER L COOPER	18 L RUDOLPH L RANDOLPH	19 L TUBMAN L STIELS	20 MEETING L GRAIN W PAXTON L MARTIN W PAXTON L	
21 L CLARK W TANALSKI L WENMAN W L	22 L GRANTHAM L TEETZL & OVERGAARD	23 L TALBERTS L DIXON	24 L BEYER L HUBER	25 L DOOLITTLE L HAUER	26 L MARGULIES L WATSON	27 L J. SMITH W D.E.MILLER L W STIEGLER L	
28 L GRAIN W CASSELL L PARNELL W KAMEN L	29 MEMORIAL DAY L SACKS W D.E.MILLER L PARNELL W HULL	30 L KATZ L TEETZL & OVERGAARD	31 L TUBMAN L	Duty Coordinator: Elaine Sacks 551-0708 Hours: Lodge Daily 10 - 1, 1 - 4 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 11 & 1 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute. Lodge duty week-ends 3 - 6 PM.			