

# TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Announcements  
June 2000

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## Meetings, June 17

**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.

**June's speaker is Philip K. Ensley, D.V.M.,** Associate Veterinarian, Zoological Society of San Diego. He will speak on the **California Condor Recovery Program.**

Dr. Ensley grew up in Virginia and attended high school in Scarsdale, New York. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University, he attended veterinary school at Tuskegee University in Alabama. Following a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, he completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Henry Bergh Memorial Hospital of the ASPCA in New York City. He then joined a small animal practice in Salt Lake City, where he became interested in zoological medicine while consulting the local zoo. After two years in Utah he was accepted to a 15-month postdoctoral training program as a Smithsonian Fellow at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. At the completion of this program, Dr. Ensley joined the veterinary staff of the Zoological Society where he has worked for the past 24 years. During this period he had the opportunity to work in the "early days" of the condor program, when he spent time in the field with biologists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Audubon Society. This program has been a remarkable success bringing together the efforts of many individuals, institutions, and state and federal agencies.

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### 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, facing south.

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I thank Georgette Camporini for production and mailing assistance, Jeannie Smith for the database and labels, Liz Stiel for her meeting notes, and Ann Campbell for the duty schedule.

--Theo Tanalski, Editor

## Announcements

**Opportunities.** Trainees are graduating and looking to help, while other members are going on summer vacations. **Lodge duty is our first priority:** please do at least one lodge duty per month until all slots are filled. Park use will be expanding as a result of lowered fees, while Ranger staffing is about one half of what is authorized. Income to TPDS will decrease. People are needed for a variety of important projects, if we are to maintain and improve our renowned quality and diversity of public service. In July we have a field trip which should be of immense interest.

So, trainees, docents, volunteers: **dig in and take a big helping this summer.** Are these needs, burdens, duties, tasks, service, or exciting opportunities? **Make them fun and exciting!**

### Birthday Tree Celebration

We have had ever more successful anniversary celebrations: the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Lodge, and the 100 year Anniversary of our area as a protected park. This fall we are urged to celebrate the 150 year anniversary of (American naming of) the Torrey Pine, *Pinus torreyana* (which could be called the "**Birthday Tree**"), in the spirit of State sponsored **Admission Day 2000**. There are good reasons to pitch in and make this the best of our celebrations: among them to gain publicity for our park, to have fun, and to develop our public relation skills.

**Ranger Allyn Kaye** reminds us we need a Committee Chair for this program. The key to being a good chair is **delegate, delegate, delegate.** Ideas to improve on last time might be to have an art contest to create an "Art of the Tree" design for tee shirts, prints, etc. In addition to guided walks, she suggests stationary interpretation sites the public could visit on their own schedule: trees, hawks, snakes, children's activities, etc. **Please volunteer to be chair or a committee member and work with DPR to make this a memorable event!**

## Announcements

### Birthday Tree Celebration (concluded)

In response to my question, **Mary Helmich, Admission Day Coordinator, State Parks** wrote in part:

"California State Parks' efforts to recognize the 150th anniversary of the gold discovery at Coloma, the Gold Rush, and Statehood are pressing ever onward.

"*Celebrating California: Admission Day 2000*, September 8-10 on Capitol Mall in Sacramento, will recognize the past, present, and future of the state through "time portals" using living history, exhibits, performances, vendors, and food. Each block will represent a distinct period of California history. Follow the event as it develops on this web site: <http://www.calad2k.org>.

"Our director of State Parks, Rusty Areias, will be asking each district to participate in some way in the event. I would love to have the "Birthday Tree" and its special story represented. (I'm coordinating participants, so please give me a call at 916/653-3913, or [MHMELM@parks.ca.gov](mailto:MHMELM@parks.ca.gov)).

"In addition, the United States Postal Service will be releasing a lovely new stamp, recognizing our statehood on September 8th in Sacramento and throughout California on the 9th. They are looking for park sites for their second day of issue. I think Torrey Pines would be ideal! Contact your local postmaster to find out where the postal event is being staged. It might be at Torrey Pines.

"Other events will be happening all over California. The web site listing sesquicentennial activities is now maintained by the California Division of Tourism:  
<http://commerce.ca.gov/sesqui>."

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### July Field Trip.

Mary Weir is planning a field trip to **Tijuana Estuary Visitor's Center**, where Greg Abbott will give a personal tour of the **Model Marsh** experiment. This 20 acre trailblazing wetland restoration project took about a dozen years from conception to construction, and the cooperation of 16 state and federal agencies. This experiment will show how to better restore degraded wetlands everywhere. Please sign up on sheets at the Lodge desk or in the Library. The plan is to hire a bus in which we can all travel. The bus will leave about 9:15 A.M. This unusual event should be educational, as well as a prime opportunity for socializing. See you there?

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## Announcements

### Sorrento Valley Road Reopening Suit Update.

**Diana Gordon** updated us on issues surrounding the Carmel Mountain Conservancy (CMC) suit opposing reopening Sorrento Valley Road (SVR) prior to an approved Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Diana and Mike Wells met with San Diego city attorneys, the acting head of engineering, and the Environmental Impact Review head, who came to the Reserve (these people had not been here before, and left with a different appreciation of the issues). In addition, members of the business community (in a singularly anonymous and weakly-written form) have filed suit against the City of San Diego and the Coastal Commission. The CMC suit has some strong legal aspects, and Diana feels confident right now.

Docents may choose to educate people about keeping SVR closed prior to the EIR, and might walk on the road and encourage others to do so, as well as write letters to City Council and the Mayor about keeping SVR as a wildlife corridor. **Cheryle DeWitt** will lead a SVR walk 3 p.m., Wednesday June 7, starting from the SVR Park and Ride lot. This walk should be informative as well as enjoyable.

The CMC is waiting for further records from the city, and they are amending their suit with more information about rare and endangered bird nesting and how the present energy dissipaters could result in water being forced onto the road.

On May 20, our board did not contribute funds to the CMC suit. The TPA, at their May 18 board meeting, donated \$3,000, and some private donations also have been received. The cost of the CMC suit is \$1,500 a month, so CMC costs are covered for the next two months. If CMC wins the suit, it will get all its costs back and will then return monies to donors.

Anyone wishing to make donations as an individual is welcome to send them to this address:

Carmel Mountain Conservancy  
P.O. Box 135982  
La Jolla, CA 92039

This suit is only the **first step** in a **vision** for SVR. Over the next few months, people need to educate the public and various groups toward a vision of what SVR **can become**. One way this has been put is ***From Native American Trail, to Country Road, to Recreational Urban Pathway***. Anyone wishing to help create the vision and promote coalition is welcome to contact CMC, Diana, or Ken Baer, among others.

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Ranger's Report

Ranger's Report (concluded)

**Fee Reductions.** As of July 1, the parking fee will be reduced from \$4 to \$2 per car. (We are one of the few parks in Southern California having this changed fee structure.) Attendance in the park will likely soar, while Ranger staffing remains at about half of that authorized. By next year, fees may decrease to zero. Docent committees are needed to consider how to better accept donations and to plan for future decreases in traditional income.

**Docents urged to help.** Allyn reminds us that docents are required to work 72 hours a year minimum, not including time spent in meetings. This is six hours per month. **Lodge duty** has priority over trail patrol or scheduled public walks. Try to do at least one shift of Lodge duty until all Lodge duty slots are filled. [Docent duty coordinators ask you to please find your own replacement if you must cancel scheduled duty.] People are also needed to care for the plants in front of the Lodge. Please submit your **RAPPORT** forms [see announcement elsewhere on this page for details] by the end of June.

**Look out for dying trees.** Torrey Pine trees are susceptible to attack by bark beetles, turpentine beetles, as well as other infestations. We must all be on the lookout for any pine tree showing yellowing of the needles on any branch. Please report any such observation immediately to any staff member.

**Lagoon Resource Protection.**

[Your Editor notes that: There have always been two general views on our Lagoon:

- (1) The Lagoon is a **Preserve**, and, as such, should have **no** public contact, in order to achieve **resource protection**, and
- (2) Allowing people to picnic nearby, children and others to paddle and wade in the shallows, etc., are ecologically **acceptable** uses for a **public resource**, as well as pragmatic and wise **public relations**.

[There have always been occasional low levels of fecal pollution in the Lagoon. Sometimes these levels may exceed the set tolerance, which, in itself, is a somewhat arbitrary level. But, until you test, and the test results come back (days later) failed, who can say for sure the Lagoon was polluted? Testing has become more frequent and regular with time, but there is still no "real time test" of pollution done here. So, there lacks a logical basis to either close or open the lagoon to public access based on the potential of fecal contamination. *End of Editorial note.*]

**Lagoon Resource Protection**, continued.

Those people favoring **resource protection** of the **Lagoon** are creating a "**warning notice**" advising of potential pollution in the Lagoon, and advising the public to avoid contact with the water. It is hoped that posting such notices will result in decreased public contact with the Lagoon resource.

**Farewell Chris Platis, Welcome Dick Miller.**

Ranger Chris Platis is making a lateral move to Mount Tamalpias State Park in the San Francisco Bay area. He will be replaced by Ranger Dick Miller. Thank you, Chris, for your years of good work. You have left a lasting imprint of beauty and quality on our Reserve! And welcome, Dick Miller!

**Human remains.** You may see people attempting to scatter human remains (ashes) in TPSR. Although there is new law regarding this practice, people **still** need permission from **Staff** to deposit **anything** in the TPSR. Please refer such people to any Staff.

--Ranger Allyn Kaye

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**Announcements** (continued)

**Demonstrate your RAPPORT.** Staff needs at least 20 of these self-evaluations of your nature walk filled out and turned in to Joe Vasquez or Allyn Kaye by **the end of June**. Please make a copy, sign the form (DPR 461D, available from staff), put into an envelope and submit to staff. We'd like forms from Children's Program participants as well as public guided walk participants. Please help ourselves and DPR by participating in this self-improvement program.

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## Children's Program Report

## Children's Program Report (concluded)

**School year ends for Children's Program in June.** The program has served 41 schools and 3,000 students. Thanks to Docent funds, low income schools have had their \$90 bus fare paid so children, some who have never been more than a few blocks from their home, can visit our Reserve and perhaps establish a lasting connection with nature. If more Docents volunteered for the Children's program, they could increase the number of schools and children even further.

**Summer Training Continues.** In June, July, and August, there will be twice a month training walks with the Children's Program. Share your techniques, learn about interpretation in general and working with children in particular. The first training walk will be Wednesday, June 21, starting at 9:30 A.M.

**Help with New Publications.** Self-guided walk pamphlets are being prepared for the public: the first may be "Self-guided tour to Red Butte." These small booklets will be laminated and free for people to **borrow** as they go on the trail. This way we multiply our effectiveness in serving the public! You might think, "I don't know how to work with all the complex computer graphic stuff needed to make such a booklet." However, Barbara Wallach explains that they have many pictures scanned in already, so much of the work is already done. If you are interested, contact anyone from that program.

**Translators needed.** Wouldn't it be nice to offer some of the short pamphlets we've created in Japanese, Italian, etc.? We could, if members or friends would take the time to translate these pamphlets for us. Contact anyone from the program for details.

**Pine Cone Club buttons.** The *Pine Cone Club* is an "organization" youngsters join if they agree to respect and conserve all living things, etc. This button is a source of pride and conversation among peers, as it reinforces and spreads love of nature. Since we give out so many of these buttons, the docent Board agreed to pay for their production by an outside supplier. This saves docent time, energy, and wrist power for other buttons, computer work, etc.

**Teacher's Manual.** This document has been written, checked, refined, and published. It is a fine tool for teachers participating in the program (and would be informative for any Docent as well). This booklet costs \$10 to produce: our Board has authorized funds to subsidize the first copy to those schools with limited funds. It is also available on CD-ROM at the Docent computer.

**Thanks To Phonics.** We share a "different" word found in a letter from a student, who thanked us for providing such an interesting IGZIBIT. Of course, the student referred to one of our fine "exhibits." But the logical basis of Phonics, combined with a developing identification with nature, will take this student a long way in the future!

**Thank you all for making the Children's Program what it is, and we welcome your help to make it what it can become in the future!**

## JUNE DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 L SCHULMAN W SCHULMAN L SCHULMAN W ROBERTS	5 L R MILLER L HUBER	6 L MARGUIES L FREDERICKS	7 L FREDERICKS L AMANN	8 L JACOBSON L HANSEN	9 L RUDOLPH L MARTIN	10 L SMITH W TANALSKI L TANALSKI W DAVIS L MYERS W STIEGLER
11 L GRAIN W CASSELL L ANASIS W KAMEN	12 L R MILLER L OVERGARD L TEETZEL	13 L TALBERTS L DOOLITTLE	14 L TUBMAN L RANDOLPH	15 L D E MILLER L STIELS	16 L BEYER	17 W MEETING L CAMPBELL W BRAV L BRAV
18 L CHAFFEE W D E MILLER L W FILLIUS	19 L KATZ L HUBER	20 L MARGUIES L SHAW	21 L PFLIEGER L HANSEN	22 L RANDOLPH L HAUER	23 L RUDOLPH	24 L ROBERTSON W D E MILLER L SMITH W STIEGLER
25 L GRAIN W CASSELL L SACKS W KAMEN	26 L PFLIEGER L OVERGARD L TEETZEL	27 L TALBERTS L DOOLITTLE	28 L BEYER L COOPER	29 L KATZ L HAUER	30 L CHAFFEE L DIXON	

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.