

TORREY LITE

Torrey Pines Docent Society Announcements

July 2000

Meeting, July 15

Field trip. The bus trip to the Tijuana Estuary Park will depart from the park-and-ride lot near the corner of Sorrento Valley Road and Carmel Valley Road at 9:00 A.M. for the half-day excursion. You may drive directly to the Tijuana Estuary Park if travelling to the bus is inconvenient: park in their lot and use their shuttle bus. This event should be educational and fun.

No Board or General meeting this month

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9. **Flyer for Bob Wohl Celebration** [attached]

Celebration honoring Bob Wohl

When: Friday, August 4, 2000, 6 P.M.

Where: Old Town Holiday Inn, 2435 Jefferson, San Diego: in Old Town State Historic Park (OTSHP).

Why: Bob has had a great promotion to "Historic Sites Sector Superintendent (manager State Park)."

How: look for flyer included in this mailing with details concerning reservations, and a form. If you are interested, please send it in ASAP, including your check for pre-paid dinner, as there is limited seating.

Comment: Not only is this title new to Bob, but it appears to be new to the Park System. Bob has done so much for TPSR, TPDS, and TPA over the decades, has done much for OTSHP in the last eight months, and will be doing more for many others with his new assignment. Whether you celebrate him at the Holiday Inn or not, please join me in congratulating him and wishing him the best in his new activities!

I thank Jeannie Smith for address labels, Liz Stiel for her meeting notes, Barbara Wallach and Margaret Fillius for Children Program input, and Elaine Sacks for the duty schedule.

—Theo Tanalski, Editor

There'll be some changes made

July 1: Some California State Parks will reduce fees. However TPSR and other parks in the Coast District will not reduce their fees.

October 1: Annual pass automobile decals will be eliminated, and replaced by a hangtag (like a disabled tag) costing \$35 for the year (versus the present \$75 fee). There will be no second vehicle passes: the purchaser may use the tag with any vehicle. (We will continue to sell the \$75 decals until that time, and they will be good for an extra year, due to the cost.) Only rangers will sell the hangtags and there will be no logbook entry required. ***This will result in a probable \$15,000 annual loss of revenue for TPDS.*** We must develop alternative sources of funding!

January 1, 2001: TPSR and the remainder of State Parks will reduce entry fees to \$2, or \$1 for seniors. This will result in a large increase in park usage. Parking lots may be filled more often. More Rangers and seasonal employees will be hired, money collection machines will be removed, and North and South parking lot kiosks will be continuously staffed.

General Information from the President

Ken Baer stated that we need to discuss how to maintain our revenue after the docent annual pass sale ends. Ken thanked Muriel Beyer, Judy Schulman, and Joan Nimick for their work on the Docent Appreciation Dinner. He praised the docents who gave trail walks for the Children's Program and presented them with pins. Ken addressed the issue of **docent hours** and explained that if you can't do lodge duty because the roster is full, **trail patrol** is fine as long as you have completed the interpretive trail patrol training. **[Allyn Kaye will offer trail patrol training Wednesday July 19th at 1 P.M. —Ed.]**

Donations will be accepted by the Carmel Mountain Conservancy to support their lawsuit opposing reopening Sorrento Valley Road prior to the completion of the Environmental Impact Report. The address was given incorrectly last month. The correct address is:
Carmel Mountain Conservancy
P.O. Box 13582
La Jolla, CA 92039

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501c3, IRS, and Political Lobbying

Some have raised questions regarding the Torrey Pines Docent Society's ability to "lobby" and still maintain our tax-exempt status as a 501c3 organization. The quick answer is, "Yes, we can."

Last week I spoke with John Mott, Department of Parks and Recreation in Sacramento, who is the liaison between "official state policy" and the many state park volunteer groups. John also is the main point of contact with each park's CAL (Cooperating Association Liaison), which is Ranger Allyn Kaye. John clarified that the TPDS, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization, can **indeed** do political lobbying **if**:

1. We spend no more than 20% of our annual budget on political lobbying efforts. (In 1999, total "expenditures" were \$84,559, so we **could** have spent up to \$16,900 on political lobbying efforts.) [I believe there is also a factor of 501c3 versus 501h3: 501h3 increases the allowed percent from "insubstantial" to 20%. We may wish to apply for the h3 category, solely to gain additional flexibility of action. -Ed.]

2. We spend an "insubstantial" amount of time, including both our monthly Board and business meetings, on political lobbying efforts. Insubstantial is defined as no more than 5% - 15% of our time. (In 1999, the docents provided 11,000 hours of volunteer service, so we **could** have spent up to 1,650 hours in political lobbying efforts.)

I also spoke with the Internal Revenue Service last week, at John's urging. The IRS gentleman was also very clear that the TPDS certainly **could** lobby. The IRS defines lobbying as having expenditures from our organization donated to a candidate for political office or donated to a political campaign. Also, if TPDS members are spending their service hours to a candidate or campaign as **official** representatives of the TPDS, with an **official** endorsement of the TPDS, that can be no more than 5% - 15% of our total annual service hours.

We can exert **any** amount of time as **individuals** to **any** political campaign, and **happen** to be members of the TPDS, with absolutely **no** implications for the TPDS as a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. I could even stand before the members at a monthly business meeting and declare "***I will be voting for Susan Davis for Congress***" with absolutely no implications for the TPDS as a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Now, the most important issue: **We are a non-political group**. We have always been apolitical [not political -Ed.], and we intend to **stay that way**. We are an informed and educated group, however, and will not, as individuals, turn a blind eye or deaf ear to important social, environmental, religious, legal, etc. issues. Quite the contrary, we share information freely (and this information is readily available and Internet-quick!).

Regarding the \$3,000 that the TPDS gifted to the Carmel Mountain Conservancy: the issue at hand was **not political**, rather, it was **legal**. The City of San Diego acted illegally on numerous counts, and under the California Environmental Quality Act, we, the citizens, had every right to demand the City desist illegal actions.

Phone calls and letters were completely ignored by the representatives of the City for weeks and legal action was felt to be the only remedy.

The distribution list which a member of the TPDS maintains as an informational, data collecting, or bulletin board type of communication service is **not** an official medium of the TPDS. Individuals on the list can request, at any time, to be removed, and there is a disclaimer regarding the content of each e-mail message delivered that it is **not** an official message of the TPDS.

I hope this has provided enough facts for us to be informed regarding our tax-exempt status as a 501c3 organization. **--Ken Baer, President**

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Strategic Plan Committee Report

Strategic Plan Committee Meeting notes from initial gathering on June 17, 2000.

Written by Ken Baer.

Contact: Ken Baer.

Next Meeting: ?? Phone calls to determine best date and time

Action Items: A copy of the TPSR General Plan (1984) and the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon enhancement plan and program (1985) are available for you to read in the Docent Library at the Lodge. Your name will be on a list for check-out. These were expensive to duplicate and would be cost-prohibitive to mail. Please read the General Plan to become familiar with the foundation from which we are working.

Objective: To implement short-term and long-term goals for the preservation, restoration and maintenance of Torrey Pines State Reserve, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Carmel Mountain Preserve.

Meeting Attendees:

Greg Hackett, Ranger, DPR, TPSR

Ken Baer, President, TPDS

Diana Gordon, trustee, Carmel Mountain Preserve

Opal Trueblood, Torrey Pines Association (TPA)

Theo Tanalski, docent, TPDS

Georgette Camporini, docent, TPDS

Renate Smith, docent, TPDS

Nancy Woodworth, docent trainee, TPDS

Jan McMillan, President, TPA

Jack Paxton, docent, TPDS

Walt Desmond, VP, TPDS

Annie, TPA

The San Diego Coastal State Park System general plan, drafted in 1984, and the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon enhancement plan and program, drafted in 1985, are available for your review. The documents are foundational elements for the guidance of this strategic plan committee. Some areas will require updates, and others will require implementation.

Listed in the next column are issues, which were identified by committee members as high-priority. We can form subcommittees to research, analyze, and propose action plans for the most pressing issues:

- Legislative contact
- Population increases (resident and tourist)
- State Park fee decreases
- TPSR capacities
- Greater docent presence
- Greater Ranger presence
- Yosemite Park plan as a model for TPSR?
- Utilization versus preservation
- Invaders: iceplant / ants
- Updated and better signage on trails / to trails
- Restroom signs
- Safety: cable setback at beach overlook, Broken Hill Trail, and south cliff edge at Razor Pt. Trail
- Deteriorating adobe at roadway back stairs to Lodge
- Prescribed burns for fuel capacity decrease?
- Transportation/shuttle system: no passenger cars?
- Interpretive Center at Lagoon
- Wildlife corridors
- Quality of service at the Lodge
- Resources: Guy Fleming House, Maintenance Compound, Lodge
- No hi-tech shows!
- Education for Lagoon Interpretive Center
- Funding for Lagoon Interpretive Center
- Multi-purpose building for Lagoon Interpretive Center?
- Protection of Lagoon and upstream flows
- Sorrento Valley Road / EIR / San Diego City mitigation
- Carmel Creek feeder into the Lagoon
- Sediment traps into the Lagoon
- Liaison for State, San Diego City & County
- Invasion of non-native species
- Current trail system is approx. 10% of TPSR's 2000 acres
- Grant sources and availability
- No more public parking lots?
- Removal of invasive, non-native materials in the Lagoon: regimented programs
- Re-introduce a salt water marsh environment to the Lagoon, as opposed to a fresh water environment
- Torrey Pine clones - what are the long-term aspects for survival?
- Wetland restoration program
- Reserve status is a conservatory approach
- Impact of: widening freeways, developing open space into homes/commercial use
- Responding to EIR's
- We need State Parks staff to fight to preserve state parks!
- Ownership of TPSR by residents of San Diego
- Education programs outside the park: roadshow
- Academic institutions involvement
- Business community involvement
- More lifeguards
- Regular trash removal from the beach

Children's Program Report

Thank You

We are very grateful to all of you who took part in the Children's Program in the last school year. You are a wonderful group of people, and great to be with. Even when we called you at the last minute, you helped out whenever you could, without a complaint.

For your information, from the period of September 1999 to May 2000, we had about 3300 children from 49 different schools come for 69 programs. We gave 9 Ecosystems/Food Chain, 1 General, 5 Geology, 39 Native American, 5 Plants/Habitats, and 8 Whales presentations. To carry out this program, docents gave about 1000 hours.

School Program-Summer Workshop Report

June 21st, seventeen docents and trainees met for almost four hours to evaluate this year's program, plan for next year and hike. A summary of the meeting follows:

- 99 and 44/100% of teacher evaluation forms that were returned were very positive. The value of evaluation forms was debated. They may be eliminated next year.
- Attempts should be made to hold presentations to 15 - 20 minutes. More docents will be encouraged to do the presentations.
- To accommodate more schools, double booking will be done whenever possible to achieve the maximum number of students (60-70) every Wednesday and Friday. (Adding another day of the week is not feasible at this time)
- Once the calendar is filled, a waiting list of schools will be kept. The list will be used to fill cancellations and for double booking.
- More "hands-on" activities will be stressed. Wonderful samples of "helpers" and "tools" to use during the hike were shared.
- Teachers will be asked to encourage students to eat breakfast the day of the hike.
- "Rainy Day Activity" kits will be prepared for each theme.
- Caution should be used when taking the children on top of Red Butte.
- Docents should be familiar with the procedure for reporting incidents/accidents.
- Cell phones should be carried by docents during interpretive walks.
- The new Teacher's Notebook and its dispersal were discussed.

A copy of the Children's Docent Notebook (red binder) will be kept in the library. It contains information on trail techniques, ideas and topics, helpers on the trail, detailed information and pictures of: insects, mammals, food chains, ecosystems, habitats, and much more. It also is available on CD from Barbara Wallach if you'd like to have your own copy (no charge). Just let me know. There is a copy of the CD in the docent computer cabinet and docents may look at the information on the CD and print any of the articles they choose. This is purely informational and certainly not required study for docents who work with the children.

FUTURE DATES FOR WORKSHOPS

July 7th, 9:30 A.M. Prop repair/brainstorming session for new props.

July 19th, 9:30 A.M. Just for fun! Decorating gourds, walking sticks, flutes. Bring lunch. You do not have to be an artist to do this!!

July 20th, 5:15 P.M. Rick Kamen will lead a fun filled hike. Sunset will be fantastic!

August 4th, 9:00 A.M. TRAIL HIKE! "Setting the stage", interpretive tricks, stories, activities, management and control techniques all will be explored as we hike several of the trails. All docents/trainees are welcome to participate in these sessions.

A workshop focusing on the Museum will be scheduled in September.

Join us for any or all of these sessions. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to our first workshop.

--Barbara Wallach and Margaret Fillius

"Better Wrong than Boring" Story Swap & Saunter

Bring your most interesting nature stories to share with other docents on an easy walk with docent Rick Kamen, on Thursday, July 20 starting at 5:15 P.M. at the lodge.

Rick has stories of dubious veracity about the "Mystery of Red Butte," the bugs in "Bug Juice," and he claims that male mockingbirds learn mating calls of other species because female mockingbirds are so prone to headaches.

Come to listen, or tell your own favorite stories, ... even if they're true.

--Rick Kamen

JULY 2000 DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
30 L SCHULMAN W L SCHICLMAN W	31 L BLUE L WEIR	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.					1 L R. SMITH W BRAV L HALLER W BRAV
2 L ANDERSON W CASSELL L WATSON W BENNETT	3 L KATZ L D.E.MILLER	4 INDEPEND. DAY L MARGULIES W FRIERY L GANELESS W ROBERTS	5 L RUDOLPH L COOPER	6 L STIELS L DOOLITTLE	7 L MUSSERS L WENMAN	8 L J. SMITH W D.E.MILLER L M. TUBMAN W STIEGLER	
9 L CHAFFEE W FERGUSON L ANASIS W KAMEN	10 L REE MILLER L WENMAN	11 L TALBERTS L AMANNS	12 L BEYER L FREDERICKS	13 L KATZ L FREDERICKS	14 L RANDOLPH L WENMAN	15 FIELD TRIP L D.TUBMAN W L M.TUBMAN W ROBERTS	
16 L CHAFFEE W CASSELL L DAVIS W FRIERY	17 L REE MILLER L COOPER	18 L MARGULIES L RANDOLPH	19 L BEYER L PFLIEGER	20 L GRANTHAM L DOOLITTLE	21 L RUDOLPH L STIELS	22 L J. SMITH W L M.TUBMAN W STIEGLER	
23 L ORAHOOD W FERGUSON L W KAMEN	24 L REE MILLER L TEETZEL	25 L TALBERTS L PFLIEGER	26 L TUBMAN L COOPER	27 L KATZ L CAMPBELL	28 L MUSSERS L CAMPBELL	29 L WINTERS W D.E.MILLER L W	

THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY

IS REQUESTED TO CELEBRATE

ROBERT WOHL'S NEW POSITION AS

**SUPERINTENDENT OF OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO
STATE HISTORIC PARK**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 2000 AT 6 PM

DINNER: \$12.00

HOLIDAY INN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO

2435 JEFFERSON ST.



Name: _____

_____ Vegetarian

_____ Regular

_____ No. in Party

Reservations must be received by August 1st Make check out to BOOT and send to:

Mary Byrne, Reservations,
Boosters of Old Town SDSHP,
4002 Wallace St. San Diego, CA 92110