



TORREYANA

*A NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE RESERVE*

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2001

Kent Wilson, 1937-2000

President's Message...

Lowered entrance fees have resulted in more visitors to Torrey Pines. In order to better serve our public, the board has decided to add Lodge duty hours on Saturdays, Sundays, and all holidays. If you have already made plans for your duty, **please** keep the appointment. Overlapping duty is beneficial. Additional hours are 9 a.m. to noon, noon to 3 p.m., and 3 to 6 p.m. *Closing time is subject to sunset and visitor load.*

Thank you for carpooling and freeing visitors' parking spaces in our lots. Thanks, too, for your wonderful contributions to our break-time snacks. These efforts make it a continuing pleasure to serve as your President.

Georgette

Kent Wilson died on March 28, 2000. He was a good man, a friendly neighbor, and an enthusiastic teacher and scientist at UCSD. He also devoted a great deal of time and effort to Torrey Pines State Reserve. He served as a counselor for many years in the Torrey Pines Association (TPA) and in the past few years had trained as a docent. His passing leaves big gaps in many fields, but his role in conserving the Torrey pine is of particular interest to us.

In the late '60s and '70s, Kent was active in various support groups for the Park: the Torrey Pines Wildlife Association, the Torrey Pines Protective Association, and the TPA. He was especially concerned with the acquisition of land for the Torrey Pines Extension.

In 1967, the California State Legislature appropriated \$900,000 to buy land for the extension, with the proviso that the funds be matched locally. The TPA had responded by raising \$345,000 and the federal government contributed another \$345,000. Friends of the park were elated: they believed the 200 acres, which had the northernmost stand of Torrey pines, would be secured for the Extension. *(cont. on page 2)*

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Websites: TPDS www.torreypine.org, *Pinecone* via web: www.torreypine.org/docent.htm
TPA www.torreypines.org

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Kent Wilson (cont. from page 1)

But by 1972, the money was nearly gone and only 100 acres had been acquired. Land prices around the new park extension had escalated dramatically due to pressure from residential developers.

The 100 acres that had been acquired lay across the big valley that now forms the core of the extension. Park supporters felt strongly that the new extension should fill the valley, reach up to the "red cliffs surrounding the bowl-shaped Torrey Pines Extension" (Kent Wilson, 1974). But two developers, Turner and Harrington, had plans to build expensive homes on their properties to the north of the 100-acre parcel. Kent Wilson and Mary Kelley wrote to the San Diego Planning Commission: "we strongly oppose the proposed Turner development...in the northern section of the Reserve."

California State Assembly Bill 3401 promised \$100,000 for Torrey Pines Extension, and Wilson and Kelley urged its passage. But when it did pass in August 1974, money for Torrey Pines had been deleted.

Undaunted, Kent pushed on. He talked to Assemblyman Craven, who promised to introduce new legislation to buy land for the Extension. In 1975, the TPA offered the State Parks Foundation \$25,000 to help buy the Harrington parcel. Harrington started to bulldoze his land but was stopped because he did not have a coastal permit.

Finally, on April 14, 1976, the state authorized acquisition of the Harrington parcel, and soon after, the Turner land was acquired. The Extension was almost complete. It had been a long struggle, yet more battles lay ahead for Kent, Mary Kelley, and many others.

The last time I saw Kent, he and his wife Lana were walking briskly up the main trail in the Extension, through the land he had worked so hard to obtain for the public. All around us was the world of the Torrey pine: where the towhee hops on the white sand, where owls call from the ridge-top pine, and where a coyote may peer at us from his lookout on the sandstone hill. Coastal sage wove a tapestry of sights and smells around us, while a gnatcatcher mewed in the brush, and an Uta scampered off trail.

Thank you, Kent!

Maryruth Cox

The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

On the road with Walter Desmond...

My wife Ann and I took an impromptu weekend off in Santa Barbara, abandoning all responsibilities for 2 days and relaxing. By 1 PM, feeling the need for some activity, we headed for the Botanical Gardens. What an absolutely lovely place! We decided to try the Guided Tour offered at 2 PM. And who was awaiting us as docent guide? None other than our own John Carson! As we all might expect, the next one and one-half hours were the most informative, organized, entertaining, interesting and erudite imaginable. John seems to be thriving in SB (great weather with no traffic) and at the Gardens (great docents, great staff, much expertise, interesting microclimate, and good opportunities for research). He's taken up lichenology and showed us some fascinating samples of his little subjects. John's advice for completing the tour was to visit Carpinteria's gigantic Torrey pine. On the way home we made the stop: that tree is huge, looming there as you drive into town and well worth the detour. The Desmonds recommend the Botanical Gardens as a perfect destination for TPD's--just make sure that John is scheduled for the walk! (Wouldn't this be a great TPDS field trip?)

"It takes a village..."

You may have wondered why the Guy Fleming Trail was closed to visitors most of Saturday, February 10. That was the day Ranger Adam Stahnke and Park Aide Jody Hochstein organized 41 local folks, volunteers from three groups and two individuals, acting on their own initiative, into a dynamic trail maintenance crew.

According to Ranger Stahnke, Bruce Howard's Eagle Scout project worked on trail erosion control on the south side of the trail. Brian Cooke's Eagle Scout project worked on removing split-rail fencing and replacing it with post and cable in and around the "Lion's Head." Twenty-one members of Temple Soleil worked on non-native plant removal and trail grooming. Volunteers Chris Pulido and Chloe Denaker-Skew worked on trail drainage control and grooming for a total of 84 hours of trail work completed.

Thanks to Adam and Jody who made this community effort possible, and to all the TPSR neighbors who volunteered their time and energies to help maintain the Reserve's most popular trail.

Linda Martin

Walking San Diego

Where to Go to Get Away from It All

Second Edition, 2000: 250 pages

Lonnie Bernstein Hewitt and Barbara Coffin Moore

Mountaineers Books, \$15.95

Reviewed by Anita Musser

Are you looking for a gift for someone in this area who loves to walk? The second edition of Hewitt's and Moore's *Walking San Diego* might fill that need. It offers detailed directions for eighty walks (including more than twenty new ones), and makes some significant alterations in text and maps to keep up with the changing faces of some of San Diego's favorite outdoor spots.

The authors bill these walks as "under two hours long (assuming a reasonable pace), suitable for all ages, and less than an hour from downtown." All walks are cross-referenced to the Thomas Guide 2000, a particularly helpful feature for a newcomer to the area. Included is information about hours and fees, with the usual caveat to call ahead.

The walks are presented in three broad divisions: "Coastal San Diego" and "Inland San Diego" (these speak for themselves), and "Walking Shorts." The latter section describes easy strolls from both the coastal and inland areas, including a section that focuses on six places for beginning birders.

There are two appendices. The first, "Native Chaparral Plants," is illustrated and is quite helpful to a reader wishing to identify the plants the authors point out in the guide. The second, "Suggested Readings," lists offerings in geology, history, and natural history. The reviewer wishes that Hewitt and Moore had included a very basic illustrated guide for the county's most visible birds. It would have been a welcome companion to the guide on plants. It is a surprising omission, considering Moore's extensive knowledge of birds.

Interspersed throughout the text are informative articles on local history; the plants, birds and animals you might see as you're hiking; tidepools, wetlands and chaparral; and general information to make your adventures safe and satisfying.

Curious to see if the information was accurate, I took several walks described in the book. Previously, I had taken these walks without the benefit of *Walking San Diego*. The information on Torrey Pines State Reserve checked out except for an unavoidable error - we recently changed the times for the guided walks. And I question the possibility of a walker spotting a deer on the Guy Fleming Trail today. (*Deer were reported on this trail in year 2000... Editor*) I also walked the two Mission Trails Regional Park trails. And finally, I ambled along the West Basin of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. For each of these walks, I found all directions easy to follow and appreciated the authors' additional pointers on what to observe along the paths.

Walking San Diego (Second Edition) offers a varied palette of walks -- enough for months of pleasurable and educational outings.



Dear Torrey Pines Docents and TPA Counselors:

As you are all probably aware I have been reassigned to a new position in Sacramento. The effective date of my leaving my position in San Diego was February 8th and starting my new position in Sacramento will be April 9th. I sincerely appreciated the support many of you gave me during this transition and will cherish your words of encouragement and inspiration for a long, long time.

It goes without saying, but needs to be said here, that your diligence, persistence, dedication and enthusiasm on behalf of the resources is the cornerstone of what makes it a little easier for me to leave. When I first became involved with Torrey Pines I knew it was in good hands because of all of you, people who truly cared. While I am leaving with a deep sorrow that I will not be an integral part of this area anymore I leave with the strength that "we left our mark" and that you are still going to be here as stewards of the resources to continue the legacy.

I want to thank you all for your help, support and persistence on behalf of the resources that we each have tried to protect and preserve all these years. Your honest opinions and expertise at all levels is greatly appreciated and I know it will be some time before I again work with such a group of dedicated individuals like yourselves.

I trust you will all keep up the good work and hope that one day soon our paths will cross. I am indeed proud to call each and every one of you a friend and ally. I will always cherish your friendship, leadership and commitment and look forward to the time we see each other and possibly work together again.

With Respect and Admiration,

Ed Navarro

More changes at Torrey Pines...

(excerpted from Ranger Allyn Kaye's comments at the TPA general membership meeting in February)

In 2000, we saw Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl, a fixture at Torrey Pines for more than 20 years, promoted to Superintendent of Old Town State Historic Park; Ranger Chris Platis transferred to Marin at Tomales Bay (Chris spent nearly 25 years here, starting in high school as a trail crew member with the Youth Conservation Corps); Ranger Greg Hackett promoted to special assignment; and the retirements of longtime Lifeguard Lou Marquette and Maintenance Worker Skip Shelton. Now, District Superintendent Ed Navarro has accepted a position in Sacramento. *(See Ed Navarro's letter above.)*

2001 promises as much change as the year just past, beginning with a new superintendent. And change is good and a constant. Sometimes we forget that change is a natural process, especially when we are all so concerned with the preservation of this tree and its unique landscape.

Thanks to the TPA, our staff now has new custom-built desks and ergonomically correct chairs, in addition to the structural improvements that enrich the experience of park visitors with disabilities. And more is to come, including a new video presentation and theatre, restoration of the Fleming residence, refurbished native plant gardens and the completion of the "Discovery Trail" (soon to be renamed); and the possibility of a new interpretive center at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon,

I am optimistic. Each and every day people arrive at my door breathless and aglow with the wonder and excitement of having just "discovered" this awesome adventure of Torrey Pines.

Docent Chronicles

Docent Meeting -- St Patrick's Day, March 17th

Our guest speaker will be **Kathy Jenkins**, docent at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House these past 14 years. Kathy calls her talk "Same land -- different feet." She will be taking us on a "talking" tour of Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. Kathy will introduce us to some of the many people who inhabited this canyon and tell us why they chose this place. Please join us to hear Kathy share her bit of San Diego history...a "piece of San Diego where many

Training Program 2001

Jim Cassell, TPDS training officer, has announced the 2001 Docent training schedule. There are still openings for this year's session. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jim at (858) 481-6901, or drop by the Torrey Pines Lodge for more information.

Mar. 3	Introduction	Ranger Kaye
Mar. 10	Geology	Don Grine
Mar. 24	Plants	Jim DeLane
Mar. 31	Torrey Pines History	Judy Schulman
April 7	Birds	Barbara Moore
April 28	Insects	Ron Lyons
May 5	Native Americans	Judy Schulman
	Children's Program	Barbara Wallach
May 12	Interpretive Methods	Staff

Tracking Team Training: "I'm so glad you're home"

By Joan Winchell

Linda phoned to ask if I would write up something about our day of training with the Peñasquitos Canyon Tracking Team. We hung up and immediately the phone rang again. "Oh good, I'm so glad

you're home" was the opening rehearsed sales pitch of a stranger. I hung up before I learned what she was selling, but it got me thinking. She was on to a theme: It's rare to catch somebody at "home" these days. And this leads in a round about trail to our day of tracking.

Under a brilliant blue sky washed clean and crisp by a downpour the previous day, the team, headed by Barry Martin, kept us on our toes and down on our knees peering at the camouflage of night time visitors and their tracks. The team's humor and obvious relish in their work was contagious, and we only touched the



surface. At the end of the afternoon Barry told us of the ramifications of doing this work, how it feeds into interpretation of migration, destinations and well-being of the animals moving across the terrain: As more development encroaches, their survival becomes precarious.

Many of us signed up to help monitor specific transects -- to continue this training and help plot the comings and goings of animals in Los Peñasquitos Canyon. Tracking statistics speak the consequences of community actions, both supportive and destructive. And they tell us whether we're likely to find these wonderful animal friends "at home" in future visits. ☺

Wouldn't it be great if we had our own TPSR tracking team? All we need is a coordinator! Ed.

An encounter between two ant species

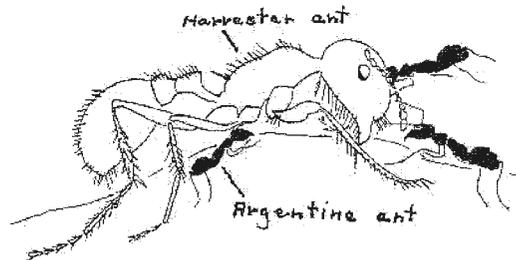
By Maryruth Cox

One day last fall, when the sun was hot and the sea wind whispered in the dry plants, we found a red ants' nest in our driveway. The big red ants scurried back and forth, collecting seeds from our neighbor's garden. We stepped carefully around them, fearful of their painful bites.

Two days later, a more intrepid species had invaded their turf. Hundreds of small, black Argentine ants swarmed over the new nest, hurled themselves at the "big reds," and sunk their biting beaks into the big ants' vulnerable tissues.

The big ants did not retaliate. Why? Perhaps the Argentine ants were too small a target for the weapons of the big ants. Three days later, the nest was barren, lifeless.

Note: Our driveway, where this encounter took place, is about one block from the Torrey Pines Extension. Presumably similar battles between these two species take place in the park.



Relative size of the Argentine and harvester ants, two species found throughout Torrey Pines State Reserve

Children's Program - 2001

Below is the information we currently have for schools coming to the Reserve for Docent-led walks between now and the end of May. **Please sign up as soon as possible**, as this saves time and disruptive phone calls. Please note that this listing may change with time, as we do get cancellations and additions. Check the master calendar in the Docent room.

DATE	SCHOOL	TOPIC	GRADE	# KIDS	TIME
2/21/01	La Costa Meadows	Native Americans	4	62	10:00
2/23/01	South Oceanside Elementary	Native Americans	3	60	9:30
2/28/01	Oak Park	Whales, Dolphins	3	60	10:00
3/2/01	Capri Elementary	Native Americans	3	80	9:30
3/7/01	Montevista	Native Americans	3	60	9:30
3/9/01	Bay Park Elementary	Reserve, Habitats, Plants	2	60	10:00
3/14/01	Oak Park	Mix of Native Americans & Reserve, Plants	3	60	10:00
3/16/01	Green Elementary	Reserve, Habitats, Plants	3	60	9:45
3/21/01	Kennedy	Native Americans	3	60	10:00
3/23/01	Kennedy	Native Americans	3	40	10:00
3/28/01	Solana Highlands	Native Americans	3	60	9:30
3/30/01	Solana Highlands	Native Americans	3	60	9:30
4/4/01	Oak Park		4	60	
4/6/01	Del Mar Hills	Mix of Reserve & Ecosystems	2	40	9:30
4/11/01	Red Hawk	Reserve, Habitats, Plants	4	54	10:00
4/13/01	Del Mar Hills	Ecosystems & Food Chain	4	40	9:30
4/18/01	Torrey Pines Elementary	Unknown	2	65	9:30
4/20/01	Angier	Native Americans	2&3	40	10:00
4/25/01	Silver Gate Elementary	Native Americans	3	40	10:00
4/25/01	Miramar Ranch	Native Americans	3	20	10:00
4/27/01	Lake Elementary	Native Americans	4	55	10:00
5/2/01	Fletcher Elementary	Reserve, Habitats, Plants	2	40	10:00
5/4/01	Jerabek Elementary	Native Americans	3	60	10:00
5/9/01	Oak Park	Reserve, Habitats, Plants	2	60	9:30
5/11/01	Silver Gate Elementary	Native Americans	3	20	10:00
5/11/01	Ivey Ranch Elementary	Native Americans	3	45	10:00
5/16/01	Hamilton Elementary	Native Americans	3	40	9:30
5/18/01	Ivey Ranch Elementary	Native Americans	3	65	10:00
5/23/01	Hickman Elementary	Native Americans	5	64	10:00
5/25/01	Ivey Ranch Elementary	Native Americans	3	45	10:00

Children's Program -- 2000

Last year 2,923 children from 41 different schools attended 67 program presentations covering ecosystems and the food chain, geology, Native American culture, plants and habitats, and whales and dolphins. Twenty-nine Children's Program docents racked up a grand total of 981 docent hours.

An Update on the Torrey Pines Docent Society Chronology

by Judy Schulman

The TPDS is now 26 years old! A chronology of the first 20 years appeared in the March 1995 *Torreyana*. That issue also contained an interesting article by former docent John Carson about earlier volunteer groups dedicated to our park. Like the first 20 years, this 5-year update shows the scope of our group's dedication to the park.

Feb 1995	TPDS published a brochure about the organization to be handed out to park visitors and potential members. State-Park-sponsored Native American Advisory Council met with TPDS to improve presentation of Native American displays and handouts.	April 1998	TPDS celebrated 75 th anniversary of the building of the lodge.
Sept 1995	Non-profit activities policy established.	Oct 1998	Docent Barbara Wallach named volunteer of the year from Southern California CALPA for her work in the children's program. Children's program was also recognized as an outstanding program by CALPA.
Oct 1996	TPDS was the host group for the annual meeting of the League of California State Park Non Profit Organizations (now known as CALPA).	Nov 1998	Docent computer system up and running. Children's program starts self-publishing badges, booklets and handouts.
1997	Docent Don Grine established an eco-tourism program which provided special walks to local tour companies -- walks tailored to specific interests for which there was a fee paid to TPDS.	June 1999	TPDS gave its first special needs walk for blind members of the Companion Society.
March 1997	TPDS participated in Baja Native Culture Festival held at Torrey Pines.	July 1999	TPDS field trip to Tijuana Estuary
July 1997	Jeannie Smith spearheaded TPDS website.	August 1999	Instructional material for children's program put on CD-ROM
July 1998	Docent trip to Little Petroglyph Canyon	Sept 1999	TPDS field trip to Rancho Penasquitos Canyon
		Oct 1999	TPDS celebrated 100-year anniversary of TPSR as a park.
		Nov 1999	Interested docents received kayak safety training. Kayaks to be used in the lagoon.
		March 2000	TPDS is 25 years old. Contributed money toward maintaining the closure of a section of Sorrento Valley Road.
		Oct 2000	150 th anniversary of the naming of the tree celebrated.
		Nov 2000	Due to new format/cost, TPDS no longer involved in selling the annual passes
		March 2001	TPDS is 26 years old.



From Judy Schulman's Postcard Collection (ca 1930's): We presume this card was titled in error...