



TORREYANA

*A NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE RESERVE*

Volume 2, Issue 3

May 2001

President's Message

Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye and I attended a wonderful conference sponsored by the California League of Park Associations. This was a major conference attended by many State officials from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as well as volunteer leaders from across the state. Workshops and seminars were conducted over three days and covered a wide range of topics such as better ways to track financial performance for non-profits, how to recruit new members, strategic planning, how to present items for sale to the public, and suggestions on fund raising initiatives. It soon became apparent that we are way behind the curve on recording sales and handling cash. Of the major parks, we were the only one that did not use a cash register and do daily tallies of sales.

The State has made specific recommendations that your Executive Board is currently reviewing. We had presentations on modern cash registers that are very easy to operate: many at the conference reported great success using them. One volunteer leader actually told me, "We wouldn't dream of going back to the old system. These new machines make it so much easier on everyone."

I'm pleased to report that progress is being made on updating our bylaws. Please read the article in this issue and feel free to contact any Board member with your questions. We plan to ask the membership to ratify the new set of bylaws with standing rules at our regularly scheduled meeting at the Lodge June 16.

Another activity I am really proud of us is the role our docent society played in judging the recent San Diego Science Fair. Theo Tanalski, Margaret Fillius, and Mary Weir served as judges and TPDS sponsored two awards. Those attending the April meeting heard the junior winner present his topic. With youth like this, our parks and future conservation projects are in good hands.

Don't forget our field trip in May and remember that parking is limited. Once we get there, it will really help if we carpool. Again my thanks to all of you who make this docent society a positive force for preserving our Torrey pines and for the education you do with children of all ages. The more I talk with other volunteers from around California, the more I realize how fortunate we are to have such a talented and dedicated group of volunteers. You are all simply the best!

Georgette Camporini

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Linda Martin lmartin7@san.rr.com or, left in the *Torreyana* mailbox at the Lodge. Address changes: Postal, Shirley Musser, POB 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014 (858) 755-2063; E-mail changes, Jean Smith, JeanSmith@msn.com
 Websites: TPDS www.torreypine.org, *Pinecone* via web: www.torreypine.org/docent.htm
 TPA www.torreypines.org

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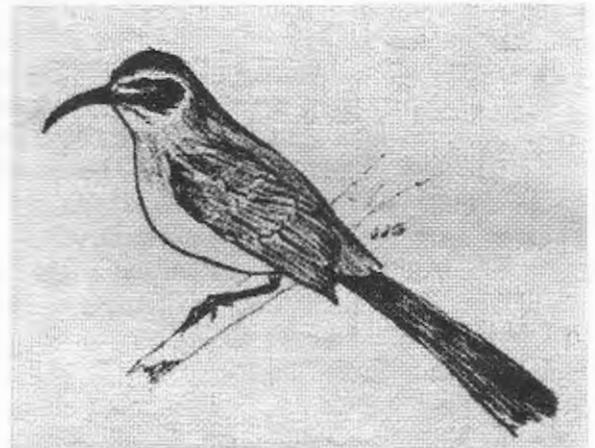
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Bird of the Month: California Thrasher

By Don Grine

The California Thrasher, *Toxistoma redividum*, is listed as "common" for the whole year in our Torrey Pines bird list. Nevertheless, we do not see the birds for most of the year. They stay on the ground or low in the chaparral, digging for insects and seeds with their big hooked bills. Thrasher's often run with their tails held erect like miniature roadrunners. I've even seen one grab a lizard and run off with it.



For the next few months, we will see and hear the male birds often. They perch in the very tops of shrubs singing their lovely songs. In free translation (to other males), the songs probably mean "Stay away unless you want a fight." And to females, "Hey babe, I'm available."

All the courtship leads to baby birds, born blind, naked, and helpless. After about 12 days, the young have fledged feathers and can see and move around. The male then takes charge of feeding the babies while the female re-nests and starts a new brood.

When a Torrey pine falls in the Extension...

By Linda Martin

After a number of rainy February days and several violent hail storms, I was eager to take advantage of the sun's return to do trail patrol through my favorite Extension routes. Turning a familiar corner on the D.A.R. Trail, I was stunned to see a large Torrey pine down and completely blocking the path. Using my cell phone to call the Lodge, the staff was quick to confirm that the "blow down" had been reported and Environmental Services Intern Charlie Kern was already exploring options for managing the downed tree.

Seeing the huge tree up-ended, with roots still attached and visible from the trail below, I was reminded that other trees had fallen and survived. There is a large Torrey pine just south of the Fleming A trail that is a real survivor and a good example of the species' adaptability. Having experienced such a fall, I presume, it now grows along the ground horizontally and seems quite vigorous. But the D.A.R. "blow-down" was probably not a candidate for such growth. The main part of the tree had no roots to feed it. A sense of loss overwhelmed me as I considered the options. I found myself wondering if we didn't have a duty to try and save it. I scheduled an interview with Mike Wells, the TPSR Senior Resource Ecologist.

After spending an hour with Wells, I have a better understanding of the complexities he and the rest of the TPSR staff face every day. Managing a wilderness island in the heart of densely populated suburban San Diego, a popular recreational area that is nearly "loved to death" by 1.5 million visitors each year, presents nearly incomprehensible problems. According to Wells, his management decisions are based on the "prime directive" -- protection of the resource.

In docent training, we learned that ours is one of a handful of state reserves designed to emphasize outstanding or unusual natural or scenic values. Torrey Pines was created to maintain and enhance the country's only major stand of *Pinus torreyana* Parry in its natural state. (Docent Manual 2000) We also learned that bark beetles, specifically, the five-spined engraver beetle, bore through the bark and lay eggs in the cambium layer. Larvae feed on the cambium, pupate and emerge as adult beetles. If a tree loses its cambium, it dies. During years with sufficient precipitation (about 11 inches annually), healthy trees produce enough sap to repel the invading insects. Wells says sustained drought can weaken the trees' defenses, resulting in infestations similar to the one experienced in 1991 when six hundred trees were lost. Obviously, protecting the resource translates into managing the bark beetle.

How serious is the current beetle problem? According to Wells, we lost about a dozen trees due to bark beetle attacks between 1992 (the end of the last major infestation) and 1999. Since then, we've lost ten trees. But trapping is expensive and labor intensive. Each trap's catch must be

inventoried and reported weekly. Wells would wish for an endowment to cover the expense, as these items are not included in his state budget.

Based on evidence of a potential infestation, Wells invited Patrick Shea, Emeritus Scientist at Pacific Southwest Research Station in Davis, to come to Torrey Pines to assess the health of our trees. A trapping program was begun in the summer of 2000, but Wells wanted Shea's recommendation for continuing the program. (The TPSR beetle trapping program is the first of its kind, the first experiment project for trapping beetles with pheromones.) Pheromones mimic beetle sex hormones, attracting both male and female insects. Shea's report calls for additional traps based on resident beetle populations throughout the park. He warned that blow down is especially vulnerable to infestation. The downed branches and/or trees can act as incubators for bark beetles without proper management. Shea's detailed report called for additional measures to protect the Reserve's healthy trees.

Now, we've come full circle, returning to the tree that fell in the Extension. If this tree could stay alive, it would produce sap to repel the beetles. Since it cannot, there is a grave danger that beetles will take up residence, send out their sex signals and attract a whole gang of their buddies, thus endangering neighboring Torrey pines.

Normally, the solution to blow down is to chop it and remove it from the park before the beetles decide there is a free lunch after all. The Extension tree is a problem. Too remote to reach with the "wood chippers" (remember the scene from the movie "Fargo?"), the trunk will be cut up and treated with SEVIMOL in situ. SEVIMOL is a benign substance that mimics the tree's own sap. Wells describes it as a form of molasses, evident in its trademark name.

As of Easter weekend, the Torrey pine was still blocking the trail, creating an adventure for local children (of all ages) who scramble through the branches. I didn't get acquainted with this particular Torrey pine, up close and personal that is, until it began to die. Nevertheless, I will miss it terribly. In such a small population, every tree helps maintain the TPSR's ecological balance. Every loss moves this fragile species, *Pinus torreyana*, and its habitat closer to extinction.



Photo by Mike Cornforth

Docent Chronicles

Docent Field Trip -- May 19

A 9:30 AM today, the docents will have a one hour tour of the Encina sewage treatment plant, followed by an 11 AM hike in Box Canyon, an area slated to become the "Villages of La Costa". The Encino Wastewater Authority is located at 6200 Avenida Encinas, Carlsbad, phone 760-438-3941. Directions to the Encina facility, just west of Interstate 5. Exit I-5 at Palomar Airport Road and continue west to the traffic light at Avenida Encinas (Texaco Station on corner). Turn south and continue to the works, which will be on your left and is well-marked. Jack Paxton, who is hosting this trip, asks us to carpool for better parking and a cleaner environment! Jack says the tour is mostly outside, "so please dress appropriately." No one under 12 is allowed on the tour. The Encina facility can be viewed in virtual reality at <http://www.encinajpa.com/> See Box Canyon at www.canyonsnetwork.org

Todd Nordness -- appreciated

By Joan Winchell

Our wood shed is stacked with wood cut to size, from big logs to kindling. Enough to last two years, perhaps! Senior Park Aide, Todd Nordness, found a non-native, downed tree in the reserve. He rented a chain saw and spent many hours cutting, splitting and hauling up to the lodge. But the woodsman who gave us this gift is no longer around to thank, even as we sink into the warmth and aroma of our fresh supply of seasoned firewood. I'll miss Todd's humor and the way he connected with all kinds of folks. I wish him the best of good fortune; his legacy at Torrey Pines will burn brightly on the winter days ahead. Come sit around a fire with us again, Todd. (Watch for Todd to show up again in June, says the Torrey Pines rumor bird.)

Cochineal bugs help save the rain forest...

By Laura Bedinger

One of the most interesting and oldest insects at Torrey Pines State Reserve is the cochineal bug that lives on our native Prickly Pear cactus. When the Spanish missionaries first came to San Diego, the cochineal provided local Kumeyaay people with a natural red dye. Today, few local people harvest this small scale-like insect, but Torrey Pines Docents may refer to the cochineal when they take park visitors on an interpretative walk.

This unique insect plays a much grander role in another park, the Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador. This South American park is the "cloud forest" which provides water for the residents of Loja, Ecuador. This national park is not only the "water factory," but home to the *Jocotoco antpitta* a bird newly classified in 1998. The park has over 600 species of birds and hopes of expanding avitourism in the region. According to an article by Martha Hodgkins Green in the March/April issue of *Nature Conservancy*, a recently developed partnership between park sites in North and South America called the *Fundacion Ecologica Arcoiris* is providing guidance and funding for honey farms that surround the borders of Podocarpus. They've also facilitated "...a lucrative market crop called *cochinilla*, a tiny parasite that grows on cactuses. Crush them and they smear a brilliant crimson, an organic dye highly prized by Asian rug merchants and the natural cosmetics industry." These cacti and their resident insect populations provide protection for the park's borders as well as an economic opportunity for local residents who earn a living harvesting the *cochinilla*.

Diary of a Docent-in-Training

by Cynthia Dukich

March 3, 2001: Trainee Orientation— Jim Cassell and Ranger Kaye

It was 8:40 AM when my partner David and I stepped off the #301 bus at the TPSR turnoff. Not sure how long it would

take to get to the lodge, we raced up the hill, reaching the top, sweaty and huffing, at 8:54. Thankfully, kind folks up there had provided coffee. We have to be prepared for such climbs. When we moved to Encinitas a month ago, we left our car in Washington State.

Once the new recruits got settled, Jim Cassell started the meeting with words of encouragement. Then Ranger Kaye and others covered park history, general operations, and what will be expected of us, as trainees and once we become full-fledged docents. Surrounded by startling natural beauty, in a lodge with a stuffed cougar, a fireplace, and outdoorsy people sporting practical hats, I temporarily escaped the rush of the twenty-first century. Grateful for those who've worked to preserve a place like this, located only a fourteen minute walk (twenty at a reasonable pace) from the #301 bus route, I knew I sat in the right spot.

March 10, 2001: Geology—Don Grine
Contemplating geologic time is like doing brain yoga. It's a stretch to think in millions of years, so I start slow. After all, continents drift leisurely. The Pacific plate heads towards the Aleutians at two inches a year. With a certain perspective, it might appear as if nothing really changes. The oysters of today do look a lot like the Del Mar Formation oysters, fossilized 48 million years ago. But many fossils are not so familiar, having come (Continued on next page)

Docent Chronicles(continued)

from life forms that no longer exist. A little change can add up big over the long haul. This is good to remember when I wonder if my actions have impact. Over time, two inches can make quite a difference. If the Pacific plate continues towards the Aleutian chain at that rate per year, in 80 million years what was San Diego county will have been subducted and spewed from a volcano as molten rock — the ultimate in recycling.

After class, some trainees joined Eva Armi and Margaret Fillius on the Guy Fleming trail. We ran into Don, who had to guide another group, but stopped to give a brief field geology lesson, using a magnet, a piece of paper, and a small microscope he pulled from his multi-pocketed vest. I'll admit that one incentive for me to finish docent training is so I've an excuse to wear a khaki vest with lots of pockets. Don dropped a handful of sand on the paper, then moved the magnet underneath. The dark bits, magnetite (Fe₃O₄), zoomed about as if self-propelled. I felt like a kid, delighted with discovery. I'll definitely keep a magnet in one of my vest pockets. Once finished animating magnetite, we viewed the sand under his microscope. Illuminated with a battery-powered light, the magnified grains reminded me of gemstones. I'll have to reserve a vest pocket for a microscope too, so I'll never lose sight of how much the world changes with each change in perspective. (*Watch for more docent diary entries in the July Torreyana -- Ed.*)

Clapper Rail Sighting!

Cheryle de Witt and I had the good fortune to spot a Clapper Rail about 30' due west of the mid-section of the closed area of Sorrento Valley Road. It was in a pond, north of a large clump of willows. I was able to "capture" this elusive bird on video! Diana Gordon

A note from your editor...

Thanks to the Prickly Pear cactus attack (remember my awkward attempt to defend myself at the March meeting?),

your editor has been denied most of the extraordinary TPSR wildflower show this past month. While resting, stretching and icing myself may be helping me recover physically, it is definitely not good for my mental health. My psyche misses the early morning hikes up the Lodge Road and trail encounters with birders, runners, and friendly park staff who open the Lodge and always have a cheery word for the day or interesting experience to share. However drear, deprivation has made me appreciate my easy access to TPSR and convinced me that we've done the right thing by buying a home here in Del Mar to maintain it. While convalescing at home and preparing this issue for printing, I found that reading Cynthia's diary entries, Judy's Santa Rosa Island piece, and Don's monthly bird tale have helped me feel close to TPSR. Perhaps others of us, laid up for one reason or another, will feel connected to this special place through experiences and views we share through the *Torreyana*. Send your TPSR-related memoir, observation or photo to me for the July issue of *Torreyana*. Send it to me at lmartin7@san.rr.com or leave it in the *Torreyana* mailbox at the Lodge. "Reach out and touch someone (else)" who cares about Torrey Pines. Linda Martin, *Torreyana* Editor

Ranger Kaye's "Wish List" -- March 2001

When the Torrey Pines Association Counselors met in March, Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye presented them with her staff-generated Wish List for 2001. Kaye says many potential Torrey Pines Patrons feel more generous when they know specifically where their contributions will be used. Kaye presented the TPA with the following list. What additional items and/or services would **you** add to the list below?

- Underpass from South Beach lot to the South marsh trail
- Beach/Marsh Interpretive Center (a/v & meeting room, offices, research library collection)
- Attractive carved wood entrance sign for Reserve, North Beach.
- Interpretive panels at marsh, kiosks, restrooms, marsh trail

- Benches at variety of locations along park roadway and trails, extension.
- Period style furnishings for main lodge office, resources office, library, museum information desk and sales area.
- Funding for an Interpreter position (school groups, junior rangers, volunteer management, interpretive materials, training)
- Endowment for bark beetle monitoring and trapping
- Contribution to endowment for lagoon mouth opening (\$800K-1mill.)
- 14 acres at Carroll Canyon for \$750K that is nearly contiguous with LPMNP
- Newsletter to adjacent neighbors (residents and businesses) re: fire management, exotic plants, wildlife issues, respect for reserve, etc.
- Bike path/wildlife corridor connection from CVREP to SVR
- Underpass at CVR and Portofino wildlife corridor
- Second outdoor "classroom" bench area in sunshine.
- Improved surfaces and decking/platforms at Parry Grove overlook.
- Bike racks at all trailheads.
- Multi-color brochure and/or map for park visitors about TPSR
- Tram/bus/shuttle to move people from lower lots to upper reserve.

Ranger Kaye also wishes for extra docent volunteers around the Lodge these days. Due to vacations, conferences and management training, the Lodge is critically under-staffed, she says. And, visitor numbers are definitely up: we are needed more than ever. Kaye encourages us to double up during these lean staff times, especially the week of May 22nd when Ranger Miller will be mostly on his own. In fact, if that little "rumor bird" has it right, we may not be seeing much of Miller after his summer vacation. Is retirement in the cards for our favorite birding ranger? Maybe we can lure Greg Hackett back and keep Ranger Adam Stahnke? Ranger Kaye reminds us to leave some time on our summer calendars for helping to staff the Del Mar Fair booth. Recruit, recruit!

Santa Rosa Island: "other" home of the Torrey pines

By Judy Schulman

We all say pretty much the same thing in our guided tour patter, "The Torrey pine tree grows naturally in just two places in the world -- here at Torrey Pines State Reserve and 175 miles NW of here off the coast of Santa Barbara." But what do we really know about this island other than the fact that it is the other home of the Torrey pine?

In the Pacific Ocean, there is an eight-island chain extending from the northwest to the southeast for about 160 miles. These islands lie between 11 to 60 miles from the shore. Known as California's Channel Islands, they range from Point Conception to San Diego. Five of these islands comprise Channel Islands National Park (CINP). Santa Rosa is one of those five islands. The others are Anacapa, San Miguel, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

CINP consists of 249,354 acres, half of which are underwater. Its unique natural and cultural resources helped it gain national park designation in 1980. Evidence of Chumash and Gabrielino people are found on some of the islands. Explorers Cabrillo, Vizcaino, Portola, and Vancouver explored the area. (Some historians believe Cabrillo may be buried on one of the islands.) In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Russian, British, and American fur traders hunted the sea otter almost to extinction. In the mid-1800s, ranching came to the islands. Throughout the 1900s, the islands were utilized by the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the military. The islands are also part of the International Man and Biosphere Program to conserve genetic diversity and to serve as an environmental baseline.

Santa Rosa Island is the second largest island (52,794 acres). It is about 15 miles long and 10 miles wide. It is 26.5 miles west of Santa Barbara. The structure is that of an uplifted block deformed by folding and faulting (Don Grine I hope you are reading this).

Although grasslands blanket most of the island, there are also high mountains, rolling hills, deep canyons, creeks, rocky intertidal areas and sandy beaches. The island is surrounded by

kelp beds. Harbor and elephant seals breed on its sandy beaches. More than 195 bird species have been identified on the island. It is home to endemic island fox, spotted skunk, and deer mice. Over the years, sheep, pigs, deer, elk, and cattle have been introduced. A nearly complete pygmy mammoth skeleton was excavated from a dune.

Nearly 500 native and introduced plant species have been identified on the islands. Thirty-five are endemic to the Channel Islands. Four are restricted to Santa Rosa Island. Our Torrey pine is one of those four species. They are found on the northeast sector of northwest-facing slopes to the east of Bechers Bay.

More than 600 archeological sites have been discovered, some dating back 11 to 13,000 years. One such site discovered in 1959 challenged the belief that Native Americans arrived here by a land bridge over the Bering Straits. The location and age of the bones found suggested that at least some of the first settlers could have come to America by boat and migrated along the coast.

The island's earliest inhabitants were the descendants of the Chumash Indians (they called the island Huima). Circa 1542, Cabrillo claimed the island for Spain. By the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century, the Chumash were moved to mainland missions. After Mexico's successful revolt against Spain in 1821, the island became subject of the Mexican flag. With the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago some 22 years later, the island first came into private ownership, with sheep and cattle ranching emerging as the island's economic base. Current proprietors, Vickers and Vail, have owned the island since 1901. In 1968 the federal government purchased Santa Rosa Island to include in Channel Island National Park, but Vickers and Vail retain ranching and hunting interests until 2011.

[For more botanical information about the island Torrey pine, please refer to John Carson's articles in the December 1994 and January 1995 issues of the *Torreyana*. For more information about Santa Rosa Island, please refer to California's Channel Islands (1997) by Marla Daily and Pieces of 8 Channel Islands: A Biographical Guide and Source Book (1980) by Adelaide Le Mert Doran.]

*Far away in the sunshine are my highest
aspirations. I may not reach
them, but I can look up and see the beauty,
believe in them and try
to follow where they lead.*

-- Louisa May Alcott

SAND WASP

By Margaret Fillius

One of the many colorful insects we have at Torrey Pines is one you can see almost any time you go down to Flat Rock during the summer. This pale blue and black laborer is busy hovering or darting about, and may be seen disappearing into small holes in the sand. It may also be seen digging in the sand. It is the Sand wasp, *Bembix occidentalis*, also known as the digger wasp. It belongs to the family *Sphecidae*, order *Hymenoptera*. At a little over 2 cm long with a stout body, this wasp lives in any sandy soil, not necessarily near the coast. For instance I have seen a large colony in Old Town.



This is a wasp that differs from other wasps in that:

- a) It is not a social insect, so does not belong to a hive. They do, however, nest in the same vicinity to others of their species. This has been likened to condominium living.
- b) The majority of digging wasps provide their larvae with a single store of food that must last the larvae through development. In the case of the Sand wasp, the larvae are fed freshly caught food throughout development. The sand wasp hovers in search of insects such as flies to feed to their young in a burrowed nest. Each cavity contains a single larva.
- c) The mouthpart is beaklike, formed from an elongated triangular labrum.

Comparison of the sand wasp with the yellow jacket shows close resemblance, other than blue versus yellow in the abdomen. This is a type of mimicry of mutual benefit. Both wasps can exact a painful sting. If a

predator gets stung by either of the two insects it will learn to associate their coloration and shape with pain, and will in future avoid both species.

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Docent Judges make a difference at 2001 Science Fair

by Walt Desmond

The TPDS made an important contribution to environmental science education in deciding to sponsor a special award at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair this year. This fair is a major student science competition in the area. This 47th annual event featured nearly 1,000 projects selected from more than 10,000 student applicants. Science Fair judging is done in two parts, the general awards judging and the Professional Society Awards judging. TPDS were among the latter, joining about 100 science and engineering organizations. Docent judges found two outstanding projects, one each in the Junior and Senior Divisions. Why are these awards so important? Because getting students involved in science, in general, and natural history, in particular, is so important. Junior and senior high school years are often a time when wonder, curiosity and fascination with science and nature are replaced by other interests, and may actually be inhibited by the formal education process. Science fairs stimulate those scientific qualities and reward perseverance. Awards such as ours do this specifically for natural history achievements —probably the best way for young scientists to get started.

But our awards are even more important. San Diego's history in aerospace and current concentration of biotechnology and electronics are reflected in the local science fair in a preponderance of projects and judges in those areas. There is a tendency for environment, ecology, and other natural sciences to be neglected. There are fewer general judges in these areas, so fewer projects might be recognized. TPDS and an encouraging number of sister organizations are beginning to help reverse this, with judging by professional experts in these fields. There is still room for more: this year's TPDS senior winner was recognized by four other professional societies. All agreed (along with his teacher) that his project was superior to many of those which were judged higher in the general awards, but won no Professional awards. Without the latter, this talented student would have been overlooked. By continuing the TPDS award annually, we can continue to support students in this important field. Thank you docents, board and fair judges.

Contact walterdesmond@aol.com for more information.

Tidings from the TPA

By Diana Gordon

At their March meeting, Torrey Pines Association approved their slate of officers for the year 2001-02. New officers are president, Jan McMillan; vice presidents, Bill Evarts and Bob Warwick; secretary, Ann Gardner; treasurer, David Goldberg; and membership chair, Tom James. President McMillan reported on a meeting held between herself, Counselors Coyle, Ewing, and Bergen and District One Councilmember Scott Peters. The counselors briefed Mr. Peters on areas of concern to the Torrey Pines Association. Copies of the TPA's *Green Book* were given to Mr. Peters to be presented to all San Diego City Council members.

The TPA counselors were sorry to learn that Maryruth Cox would no longer be able to assist the TPA as archivist. Maryruth has been a valuable asset, working countless hours researching and documenting the activities of the TPA and the Reserve. The Association is now in need of a new archivist. Also, in order to facilitate the archivist's duties, donation of a folding table and lamp would be much appreciated!

It was decided that the soon-to-be-published revision of the historical TPA booklet would be distributed to all TPA *life members* at no cost. The booklet will be available for purchase at the Reserve Lodge.

The Torrey Pines Association was one of many local groups which spoke for the continued closure of Sorrento Valley Road (SVR) at the March 27th San Diego City Council hearing. Other groups present included the Torrey Pines Docent Society, Torrey Pines Planning Board, Carmel Valley Planning Board, City of Del Mar, Sierra Club, Carmel Mountain Conservancy, Audubon Society, San Diego Bike Coalition, and business leaders from Sorrento Valley, to name but a few. After hearing testimony from both sides, the city council voted 7-1 to reject the city manager's recommendation to re-open the road. They also voted to reject (refuse to certify) the EIR, another recommendation by the city manager. Secondly, the city council voted 8-0 to direct the city manager to amend the Community Plan, deleting this section of SVR as a circulation element road, vacating its use as

a public street. Two options were attached to this motion:

1. A pedestrian/bike path, with emergency/utility maintenance vehicular access only;
2. Limited one-way access (15 mph) during daylight hours, with 2-way pedestrian/bike path similar to rules governing access on Junipero Serra Rd. in Mission Trails Regional Park.

The meeting concluded with an amendment from City Council Member Byron Weir proposing a master plan for the area, allowing input from all interested parties. As a result, a task force meeting is being arranged by Scott Peter's District One office.

Another item of immediate interest to the Torrey Pines State Reserve is the publication of the Environmental Impact Report for the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project. As a result of public review and an impact analysis of project components of the draft EIR, this report now includes a "preferred project comprised of a combination of the components analyzed in the draft EIR." The Torrey Pines Association is currently reviewing the document, but no further information is available at this time.

Carmel Mountain Conservancy Update

By Diana Gordon

Many thanks to those who contributed toward funding the Legal representation for Carmel Mountain Conservancy at the recent Sorrento Valley Road City Council hearing. It was great that so many of you were able to show up at the hearing to demonstrate your support for keeping the road closed. Courtney Coyle did an excellent job of presenting the Conservancy's concerns. Mike Liebhaber also presented a Power Point display which outlined the Conservancy's position and rough draft plan for a pedestrian/bicycle path along the eastern edges of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon (see Carmel Mountain Conservancy web page for the slide show on the Sorrento Valley Road Bikeway: <http://sd.znet.com/~mjl/>)

CMC continues to raise funds for work on the Sorrento Valley Road closure issue since there are still outstanding bills for legal costs.

Contributions may be mailed to: Carmel Mountain Conservancy, PO Box 13582, La Jolla, CA 92039.

Siltation Basin

by Maryruth Cox

In November 1972, heavy rains caused a disaster at the North Beach entrance to Torrey Pines Park Road. Sand, mud and water flowed down the hill to cover the intersection at Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar Parkway and McGonigle Road. The newly graded slope for proposed Sea Point development was badly eroded. In the main canyon of Torrey Pines Extension, run-off from Del Mar Heights cut great swathes in the stream-bed, which had never recovered from the trenching and bulldozing done six years earlier for new water and sewer lines.

Sea Village and the projected Sea Point development were on the outwash plain of the canyon and thus in a deposition zone for sand and mud. Something had to be done. Not only were the man-made communities at risk, but the lagoon was filling with sediment which destroyed plant and animal life.

The State Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a statement: two siltation ponds must be built to catch the run-off and sand. The Board asked Pardee, the developer of Sea Point, to set aside four acres at the corner of Carmel Valley Road and Del Mar Parkway for one large basin. The other, smaller, basin was planned to be on the park property across Carmel Valley Road. Pardee, unhappy with this decision, sought professional help to fight for the right to develop his land: he wanted to build condominiums on the four-acre parcel.

It was suggested that the local residents (Del Mar Terrace and Sea Village) form an assessment district to purchase the four acres (priced at \$800,000), to be used as a neighborhood park as well as the catch basin for future floods.

At a hearing before the San Diego City Council two local residents, Melba Kooyman and Jessie La Grange, announced that community members were not interested in financing a neighborhood park. The open beach was available for their recreational needs. Pardee and his Beverly Hills lawyer were stunned. Not only would they not be able to build houses on this land, they wouldn't even be able to sell it!

After 18 months of bitter wrangling at numerous meetings, Pardee was forced to retain the four acres as open space. Today it is the communal property of Sea Point.

The catch basins have proved their worth many times. In 1998, a small lake formed in the large basin and ducks moved in. Unfortunately, the heavy run-off coincided with a sewer break. The lake became contaminated. The basin was drained and sediment removed. The weir across the road dams a small pond. It is a favorite hangout for the kingfisher who sits on the power line above and waits for his dinner.

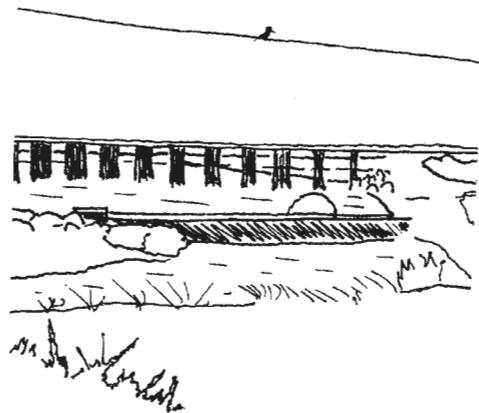
If you go to the south entrance of the extension, look just upstream from the tennis courts. You will see a large culvert that carries run-off from the canyon down under Del Mar Parkway to the large siltation basin. This arrangement allows sediment to settle before the water runs on under Carmel Valley Road to the weir and thence to the slough.

Maryruth Cox and her husband Charles have lived on the edge of Torrey Pines since 1953, before it was an extension of the park. In 1955, they built a home on Via Grimaldi. Today, Maryruth and the UCSD professor emeritus commute to Bonsall where they grow oranges and avocados on a certified organic farm.

The Kingfisher

By Maryruth Cox

*The Kingfisher sits on the power line,
picking up "Pisces" one at a time:
he doesn't eat the heads;
he doesn't eat the tails;
but, oh, how he likes
those slippery entrails!*



Update on the Bylaws

By Jim Bedinger, Vice President

The Torrey Pines Docent Society (TPDS) was incorporated in 1977 as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of California. Several minor revisions of our bylaws have been made since that time. Last year, an effort was begun to completely revise and modernize a set of bylaws that would keep the working procedures of the TPDS within law and within "best business practice." The new TPDS Executive Board decided to continue the review. President Georgette Camporini appointed a formal Bylaws committee to consist of Theo Tanalski, Barbara Wallach, and Mary Weir and myself, as chair.

The committee reviewed the working notes and recommendations from past working groups. They also had reference to several more modern bylaws in place with other non-profit organizations. Using all the above material, the committee has prepared a draft of revised bylaws supported by standing rules and presented it to the Executive Board at the April meeting. We plan to incorporate Board revisions, if necessary, then take the documents to a formal vote at the Executive Board meeting in May. The revision will then be presented to the general membership for ratification at the regularly scheduled meeting on June 16.

Although not intended to cover every change, the following is a summary of the major changes suggested:

(If you have concerns about any of the following items, please contact one of the committee members.)

- Creates **Standing Rules** for Executive Board role definitions and financial/accounting procedures. The Standing Rules may be changed by a majority vote of the Board.
- Adds Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised as authority for meeting procedures.
- Adds new category of membership – Friends of the Torrey Pine. This will help offset TPDS losses due to policy changes regarding parking pass sales.
- Adds requirement that a candidate for the Board must be "a voting member in good standing."
- Clarifies quorum as 50% (5 members for Board Meetings) and articulates a procedure for handling quorum questions when one Board position is occupied by two people.
- Amends the Bylaws by requiring a vote by a quorum consisting of 50% of the total class of voting members.

Informal signed proxies would be allowed for purposes of establishing a quorum and voting. A simple majority of those present when the quorum is met will decide the issues to be amended.

- Updates internal procedures to follow current business practice, such as replacing references to savings and loans associations with credit unions and recognizes item processing capabilities available from most financial institutions, i.e. one signature on routine checks.

The preceding changes will update our **Bylaws** to allow a new class of supporting membership. The new **Standing Rules** will give the Executive Board a clear and more efficient means for conducting the monthly business of the TPDS. In no way do these revisions alter the mission or general purpose of the TPDS.

Important Reminder

Shirley Musser reminds us that a few docents have not yet paid their dues for 2001. If not paid up, your contact information will not appear in the next published membership roster.

Shirley asks that we check the list posted in the Docent Lounge and call if her records are in error.

Call (858) 755-1981

Or, e-mail her: joseph6427@aol.com

This issue is dedicated to Judy Schulman's father. Many thanks to Walter Desmond who proof-read this issue and Dave Campbell who helped me with technical "calendar" problems. Submission deadline for the July Torreyana is June 18, the Monday after our Saturday meeting. ♥

The Birds Of Torrey Pines State Reserve - April 14, 2001

*Common Loon 1
 Pied-Billed Grebe 6
 Western Grebe 7
 Brown Pelican 8
 Double-Crested Cormorant 25
 Great Blue Heron 3
 Great Egret 13
 Snowy Egret 6
 *White-Faced Ibis 14
 Green-Winged Teal 3
 Mallard 7
 *Blue-Winged Teal 2
 Cinnamon Teal 3
 Northern Shoveler 2
 Gadwall 14
 Bufflehead 1
 Osprey 1
 White-Tailed Kite 3
 Northern Harrier 3
 Red-Tailed Hawk 8
 American Kestrel 2
 California Quail 7
 American Coot 57
 Snowy Plover 3
 Semipalmated Plover 2
 Killdeer 8
 Black-Necked Stilt 4
 American Avocet 4
 Greater Yellowlegs 1
 Willet 23
 Whimbrel 4
 *Surfbird 3
 Western Sandpiper 110
 Dowitcher Sp. 6

Ring-Billed Gull 1
 Western Gull 77
 Caspian Tern 10
 *Royal Tern 8
 Elegant Tern 42
 Forster's Tern 8
 Rock Dove 6
 Mourning Dove 16
 White-Throated Swift 12
 Anna's Hummingbird 16
 *Allen's Hummingbird 1
 Belted Kingfisher 2
 Pacific-Slope Flycatcher 3
 Black Phoebe 11
 Say's Phoebe 1
 Ash-Throated Flycatcher 2
 Cassin's Kingbird 10
 Western Kingbird 1
 N. Rough-Winged Swallow 54
 Cliff Swallow 13
 Scrub Jay 9
 American Crow 1
 Common Raven 55
 Bushtit 13
 Marsh Wren 1
 Ruby-Crowned Kinglet 1
 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher 2
 Wrentit 10
 Northern Mockingbird 6
 California Thrasher 2
 Loggerhead Shrike 1
 European Starling 19
 Orange-Crowned Warbler 5
 Yellow Warbler 1

Yellow-Rumped Warbler 10
 *Black-Throated Gray Warbler 1
 Common Yellowthroat 32
 Wilson's Warbler 1
 Black-Headed Grosbeak 2
 Spotted Towhee 6
 California Towhee 27
 Rufous-Crowned Sparrow 1
 Savannah Sparrow 7
 Song Sparrow 47
 White-Crowned Sparrow 4
 Red-Winged Blackbird 71
 Western Meadowlark -- heard 3
 Brewer's Blackbird 11
 *Hooded Oriole 5
 *Northern Oriole 3
 House Finch 49
 Lesser Goldfinch 11
 *Lawrence's Goldfinch 2
 American Goldfinch 2

Total Species 88

*Uncommon To Rare In Reserve

Observers: Gray Grantham, Don McClintock, Twinx Hauer, Don Grine, Barbara Anderson, Kathy Estey, Hank and Jane Baele

Weather - Clear - Zero Cloud Cover -
 Temp 60+ - Low Tide



The Courtyard at historic Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House will host "Arch in the Park" on May 12 from 10 - 3. This is a family event with food, music, historic tours and activities for all ages. Call (619) 239-1868 for information.

Bark beetles in a time capsule?

The San Diego Archaeological Center has invited TPA and TPDS to contribute to an exhibit featuring a (hypothetical) time capsule to be opened by archaeologists in the year 3001. Mike Wells will contribute a couple of used bark beetle traps and Barbara Wallach will lend some props from the Children's Program, specifically the costumes used in teaching elementary school children about the natural food chain. Bunny ears and an owl mask? The exhibit, which opens May 19, should be great fun. Contact Barbara if you can help assemble the materials.

TPDS has also agreed to participate in the event at Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House on May 12. (see photo at left) The Archaeological Center and the San Diego Archaeological Society are co-sponsors of the "Arch in the Park." We will have a table and have been invited to bring displays and literature. If you can help with either event, please contact Barbara Wallach.

MAY DUTY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 L R. SMITH L DIXON	2 L RANDOLPH L A MUSSER	3 L R MILLER L GAARDER	4 L SOGO L GAARDER	5 L IVANY W BRESSLER L STIEGLER L WATSON
6 L PARNELL W D E MILLER L REGO W KAMEN L CAMPBELL	7 L M TUBMAN L IVANY	8 L TALBERTS L DOOLITTLE	9 L MARGULIES L PFLEEGER	10 L KATZ L DTUBMAN	11 L BEYER L STIELS	12 L BEDINGER W BEDINGER L M TUBMAN W STIEGLER L
13 L PARNELL W BRESSLER L GRINE L ANASIS	14 L D TUBMAN L HANSEN	15 L R SMITH L WOODWORTH L WINCHELL	16 L RANDOLPH L A MUSSER	17 L GRANTHAM L HAUER	18 L SHAW L MARSHALL	19 MEETING L GRAIN W D E MILLER L WATSON W BENNETT L WATSON
20 L L BEDINGER W CASSELL W KAMEN L	21 L D E MILLER L WOODWORTH L WINCHELL	22 L TALBERTS L DOOLITTLE	23 L MARGULIES L HANSEN	24 L R MILLER L HAUER	25 L BEYER L STIELS	26 L L BEDINGER W J BEDINGER L SMITH W TANALSKI L
27 L GRAIN W GRINE L CAMPBELL W BRAV L	28 Mem Day L CORNFORTH W FRIERY L W TANALSKI L	29 L R SMITH L DIXON	30 L MARSHALL L DE WITT	31 L KATZ L HANSEN	Duty Coord.: Ann Campbell (858) 755-1934 Hours: Lodge Daily 10-1, 1-4 Sat/Sun/Holidays 9-12 12-3 & 3-6 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 9:30 and 1:30 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute.	

Torrey Pines Docent Society
 P.O. Box 2414
 Del Mar, CA 92014
 (858) 755-2063

