



TORREYANA

*A NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE RESERVE*

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2002

What's the buzz about Proposition 40?

On March 5th, California voters will be asked to vote on a set of six propositions designed to make the state a better, cleaner, safer place for ourselves and our grandchildren. One of these measures should be of particular interest to Torrey Pines friends and supporters – Proposition 40: *The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002.*

According to California's voter guide, just \$225 million of the \$2.6 billion bond issue is earmarked for "state park improvements and acquisition," but grants made available through Prop 40 and subsequent issuance of general obligation bonds would include another \$300 million for wildlife habitat acquisition and restoration projects; \$300 million for water quality protection and restoration activities, including protection of watersheds, coastal waters, beaches, rivers, and lakes; and, \$267.5 million

for historical and cultural resources preservation. Sara Feldman, of the California State Parks Foundation, says the latter category could include such projects as restoration of the Fleming Residence, and cited a similar historical building restoration at a state park in Tahoe. Prop 40 has other set-aside funds for urban parks, regional and local park acquisitions and urban forestry programs that might or might not be germane to the needs in Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Prop 40 has many supporters and few detractors. The former include the American Lung Association of California, AARP, California Organization of Police and Sheriffs, National Wildlife Federation, Veterans of Foreign Wars, California Chamber of Commerce, California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, The Nature Conservancy, California Black Chamber of Commerce, and,

closer to home, the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. The opposition is led by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, who assert that we "simply don't have the money."

The editorial board at the Los Angeles Times disagrees. On February 20, they endorsed Prop 40 with a strongly worded piece on their editorial pages: "Bonds like this one are the proper way to finance long-range improvements that will serve future generations. The state is well below its informal limits on bond debt, so Californians proud of their natural heritage can vote for Proposition 40 with no twinges about adding too much to the state's obligations. Vote yes on Proposition 40."

Decide for yourself. See www.voteyeson40.org or read the pro and con arguments in your California voter guide.



Lance Nelson (center) won the TPDS Senior Division Environmental Sciences award. Lance is pictured here with his parents, Science Fair Committee chair, Theo Tanalski, and TPDS President, Georgette Camporini. (Photo by Linda Blue)

President's Message

The Docent/Volunteer classes began on January 26 with more than 65 trainees (a record high number) plus docent members in attendance. I have found them asking questions and eager to learn and share their diverse experiences. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself and welcome them to our group.

For the second year, the TPDS will be judging at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. Lance Nelson, pictured with his parents at left, was awarded the Torrey Pines Docent Society's committee Senior Division Environmental Sciences award last year. Theo Tanalski headed the TPDS award committee. Lance, then a senior at Mt. Miguel High School, received five other professional awards. He is presently a student at the University of California San Diego (UCSD).

Timothy Fleming (not pictured), grade 8, Rincon Middle School, received Junior Division Environmental Sciences award. Timothy also won two additional Professional awards. Both Timothy and Lance received 3rd place awards in the "regular" judging.

Docent Walt Desmond is on the Board as Chair of the Science Fair's Professional Organizations Awards. Located at Lincoln High School, Walt is a "Biomedical Sciences Specialist." This is a professional scientist, not a teacher, who acts as a liaison with local medical research and higher educational institutions. (See Joan Nimick's "Bouquet" to Walt on page 3.)

Please note the meeting date change in April, moved from the 20th to the 27th. Our regular meeting is postponed a week due to the Statewide Earth Day Celebration. Come and participate in this fun annual event. (See the "Docent Chronicles" for details, and/or call the Ranger office. (858) 755-2063.)

See you then!

Georgette Camporini

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Torrey Pines Docent Society, since 1975.

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Bouquets!

by Joan Nimick

[Joan wrote this column to award "bouquets of appreciation" to some of our long-time members whose names, perhaps, are unfamiliar to our present membership. As you will see, all have contributed lasting benefits to our Docent Society and in several cases are still very active. Watch for more "Bouquets" in future newsletters. Ed.]

Marge and Bob Amann joined in 1983. From the beginning they did a great deal of maintenance of all the trails including those in the Extension. One of their major contributions was the first installation of plant markers in front of the Lodge and on the Guy Fleming Trail. These have since been updated and improved but the original idea was theirs. As well as being volunteers in TPSR, they are also docents in Cuyamaca and San Jacinto State Parks. They also worked in the Heise County Park, Cleveland National Forest and Mission Trails. In 1999, the Amann's received Docents of the Year awards for their outstanding efforts in Torrey Pines.

Pete and Margaret Bardwick joined in 1983 and received their 15-year trophy in 1998. (Their 20-year award is on the horizon.) Margaret originated the Indian program that has evolved into the present one that we use in our Children's Program. She is a Master Gardener and belongs to the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. Torrey Pines is one of the club's projects and as such they contribute money and manpower for trail maintenance in TPSR. Pete and John Carson were responsible for getting the benches we use for all our outdoor lectures (the seating that is so vital to our Children's Program).

Walt Desmond joined in 1988. He was Program Chairman for two years and Vice President for another two. Walt was responsible for getting a grant from his firm for our School Transportation Program. (In connection with our Children's Program, TPDS pays for buses when participating schools cannot afford it.) Walt is one of the founders of the San Diego Science Alliance and is on the board of the Science Fair where he uses his interest in Torrey Pines to promote an emphasis on Natural History.

Marion Dixon joined in 1986 and for the first two years she assisted Isabel Buechler in editing the *Torreyana*. For the next six years she was the sole editor. In 1990 she served on the committee to prepare the first TPDS training manual (headed by then-president Michael Fox). She typed most of the manual. At various times in the 1990's, she proofread the *Torreyana* for editors John Carson and Del Roberts, in addition to proofreading various publications of the Children's Program committee. Along with Jim Cassell and Judy Schulman, Marion prepared a brochure providing information on the TPDS. She also served on the Publications committee and several nominating committees as well as leading nature walks for the public. In 1999 she was Public Relations chair for the

Centennial Committee and prepared the scrapbook with media clippings and event photos. Marion, along with Mary Weir and Kay Harry, is currently engaged in the preparation of a booklet on Guy Fleming featuring reprints of many of his local articles. She also does Lodge Duty and comes to all the meetings.

Dave Economou joined in 1993 and his big contribution has been his expertise in trail maintenance. Dave spent years clearing our trails of alien growth such as Russian Thistle, iceplant, stock, etc. He would take school groups, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts and put them to work clearing the trails. Then the groups were rewarded with a guided docent tour showing them wood rats' nests and spiders and bark beetles and other neat things! Dave is still very active and is currently working on an article for the *Torreyana*, reporting on his efforts.

I wonder how many have noticed the work of our **Quiet Magician**? This is a man who makes things appear or repairs things without fanfare but the improvement over what **was** is magical! His talents are so diverse that he has left his mark on nearly every facet of Torrey Pines. He has done an enormous amount of trail restoration and discovered fossils in the cliffs that are of great geological interest. We see his work in many of our Lodge displays. He repaired the rattles on the Rattlesnake, then noticed the Pelican's webbed feet had nourished some of the Lodge mice. He repaired the feet and made a sandy base for it to stand on. He made the sardine the Osprey has in its talons, he "firmed-up" the owl pellets and placed them under the Great Horned Owl. He repaired the Coyote's coat and then decided that as it was running it should be chasing something. He added the little rodent illustrating the food chain. His professionally crafted models of the Gray Whales are used in the Children's Program during the whale migration season. He is a photographer par excellence. Many of his pictures are in our flower brochure and appeared on our original Flower Display Board, along with his views of Torrey pines that introduced visitors to the Reserve.

Perhaps by now you have guessed that our **Quiet Magician** is **Dr. Wesley Farmer** who became a member in 1991 and who still occasionally takes part in the Children's Program. ☼

Wild Onions

A story by Maryruth Cox ©

There's a special pocket of loose sand on the hard red rock where wild onions sprout every year. If the rains have come, there are pungent green shoots in February.

By May, fairy flowers nod on slender stalks.

And in dry October small holes filled with reddish onion skins mark the ravages of the onion-eaters. ☼

Docent Chronicles

Next General Membership Meeting - March 16

Guest Speaker – 9 AM

Business Meeting – 10:30 AM
(following the refreshment break)

Please remember to carpool, walk, and/or park on the west side of the Lodge Road beyond the public restrooms. Bakery goods and fruit are always welcome contributions at break-time. Also, please make Jack Paxton happy and bring a re-usable cup and plate from home.

Very Important scheduling change for April!
Torrey Pines will celebrate Earth Day April 20th
The TPDS general membership meeting will be moved to April 27th. Please make a note of this change in your personal calendar!

March Speaker – “The Newspaper Barons”

Patricia Schaelchlin became interested in San Diego history in the 1970's when she volunteered to do historical research on endangered buildings. Her first assignment through the “Save Our Heritage Organization” was the San Diego Rowing Club boathouse located at the foot of Fifth Avenue. This research was used in “The Little Clubhouse on Steamship Wharf.” Her interest in historical research led to documentary reports for historical site designation. She has contributed articles to *San Diego Home & Garden*, *The Journal of San Diego History*, the *La Jolla Report*, the *La Jolla Light*, and other publications. In 1988, she published “La Jolla, the Story of a Community”--reprinted in 2000. Schaelchlin's new book, “The Newspaper Barons,” will be published in September 2002. It is the story of one generation of the Scripps family. Drawing from thirteen years of research on this fascinating family, Schaelchlin will tell us about the life of Ellen Browning Scripps and Ms. Scripps' relationship with thirteen brothers and sisters. Schaelchlin has a Masters Degree in Anthropology and sat on the San Diego Historical Site Board for twelve years.

February Meeting Notes:

Program Chair Mary Knox Weir is scheduling some wonderful programs for 2002, as evidenced by the description of March's speaker (above), and the excellent

program presented February 16th. Ruth Alter and Dr. Tim Gross gave a fascinating history and demonstration of the stone tools used by the Kumeyaay. Board Secretary **Iris Geist** wrote up a wonderful summary of the program. If you're interested, perhaps she will e-mail it to you. (All the board members' e-addresses are included in the masthead now – *Torreyana* Page two.)

President Georgette Camporini told us about an interesting problem: too much money in our cash drawer! The working assumption is that member dues were mixed in with sales receipts, resulting in a docent reminder: dues go into **Shirley Musser's** envelope kept in the docent room mailboxes. However, occasionally visitors to the Lodge make cash donations to TPDS. If this occurs while you're on Lodge Duty, write “donation” on the sales slip with the amount. If the amount is \$50 or more, please get the name and address so a gracious “thank you” note can be sent.

Again, bookstore staff remind us that not all items in the inventory are discounted to docents. Please check the new list before granting discounts on docent sales. And more from the bookstore – extra copies of the *Torreyana* and *Torrey Pinecone* will be stored in the file drawers in the docent desk. These can be given out to visitors interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities.

Editors Cynthia Dukich and Linda Martin request that you recycle your personal newsletter copies. Also, if you happen to receive more than one copy, please share with a friend or neighbor.



Docent Julie Bubar explaining the display case contents to her elementary school students -- participants in the popular TPDS Children's Program (Photo by Linda Blue)

(Docent Chronicles, continued)

Ranger Gary Olson reported on plans for Earth Day, April 20th. There will be volunteer opportunities for 150 that day, including individuals to staff a booth at the lower parking lot kiosk. Olson reported that the path from the lower lot to the Guy Fleming Trail will be widened, thanks to grants from the California State Parks Foundation and Home Depot. Please contact Ranger Olson if you can help with the preparations and the staffing needs on Earth Day.

Olson said we should all set a good example for drivers on the Lodge Road by keeping our speed at exactly 15 mph. [Boy, this editor couldn't agree more! Ed.] Olson also reported on an incident that occurred during the training session February 9th. A road rage event escalated to a shooting in the lower parking lot, but the shooter got away. Let's hope the anger wasn't based on the Lodge Road speed limit!

Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye announced that the fourth position at TPSR will be filled by Ranger Mike Winterton, perhaps as early as April. Also, the full complement of Park Aides will be hired back. Good news, indeed!

Ranger Kaye reminds us of the California State Park Ranger Association Conference that will be held in San Diego March 4-7th. Detailed information is available on their website at www.cspra.com. This is not just a boring conference with talking heads, but will feature whale watching, a course on making Ranger hats (honest!), a Mexican Fiesta, interpretive secrets of the S.D. Zoo, and a special "resources" session on "underwater lightening" at our own TPSR. Check the WebPages and call today!

Ranger Kaye also reminds us that all volunteers, including TPDS supporting members, need to complete the Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA) soon. If you have concerns about any of the text and conditions, please put them in writing and get them to Allyn, ASAP. This is especially true for docents with concerns about the intellectual property rights clause.

The last word on Neighborhood 8 -- See what's at stake in Neighborhood 8. On March 16th, after the general membership meeting at the Lodge, **Diana Gordon** has volunteered to lead a hike into the lands described in the lead editorial. Meet Diana at the 56 overpass where Carmel Creek Road ends. [This is the same hike I refer to in the editorial. Ed.]

Delfina Cuero: An account of her last years

As told to Florence Connolly Shipek
Ballena Press 1991 \$13.44 – 98 pages
(available at the Lodge bookstore)

Reviewed by Docent Muriel Beyer

Delfina's autobiography and her own account of her last years and significant ethnobotanic contributions, (as told to author Florence Shipek) should be on your "must read" list.

Delfina was a member of the Kumeyaay people of coastal San Diego. She tells of her early years, of family life and survival. Delfina's courage and endurance never waned as she experienced the death of her husband, having to give up her children for lack of food, and the death of her son. She survived beatings and abuse by her new husbands. Delfina belonged to a conquered people. She owned nothing, belonged nowhere. She survived decades of cultural stress as a member of a displaced people. Long before Torrey Pines became a state reserve, Delfina and her family came to this area to hunt for plants and other foods. She returned to the scene of her childhood with Florence Shipek to identify plants and herbs and their uses. Delfina just wanted to be permitted to go home and live out her final years in the familiar land of her youth.

Sorrento Valley Road, a "Haven"

by Maryruth Cox ©

Do you know the closed section of Sorrento Valley Road that borders the lagoon, between the sewage plant and Carmel Valley Road? Last fall when I was walking there, admiring the rich diversity of wildlife (herons, ducks, frogs), I chanced to meet a rather heavy-set lady strolling, with perfect aplomb, right down the middle of the road. She asked: "Will this road be opened?" "I don't know, not yet anyway."

"It's a haven, from this all around," and she gestured with wide arms at the new office buildings sprouting up across the hectic freeway.

We watched the great blue heron stalk a frog in shallow pools that reflected the sky and the pine-clad hills. Two Common Yellowthroat (warblers) played tag in the willows. Behind us a 100-foot-high retaining wall lifted the noisy freeway out of earshot. Down its concrete blocks cascaded a melange of blooms: pearl-white datura, yellow poppies, creamy buckwheat. Yes, it is a haven -- a corner of the wild world left in a busy city. ☼

Tidings from the TPA

By Jan McMillan

The Torrey Pines Association's annual meeting was especially enjoyable this year, thanks to several excellent speakers. New District Parks Superintendent Ronilee Clark introduced herself and graciously answered a broad range of questions. Diana Bergen gave an excellent description of what Sorrento Valley Road would look like according to SVR Task Force recommendations. Diana Gordon presented a fascinating set of slides describing the "connectivity" between wildlife at Torrey Pines and other canyons and waterways in the County. She explained that this connectivity must be preserved in the face of man-made developments. David Crawford presented Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye with construction drawings for upgrading the video room, which will soon be ADA accessible and will incorporate DVD technology and a plasma screen. Tom James shared proofs for the new color membership brochure, which will reflect recently approved revisions to membership categories and rates. (The contribution for an *Individual Life* membership has been changed from \$200 to \$250, with an option to contribute \$500 as a Patron Life member. The *Supporter* category has been renamed *Friend*.) Treasurer David Goldberg reported that a generous contribution of \$10,000 had been received from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation.

A surprise announcement inspired us all. Christopher Sunnen, who works as a Park Aide at the Reserve, described *Peaks for People*, a non-profit organization he has established for his sister, Jennifer Sunnen. Jennifer has a condition known as Retts Syndrome, a neurological disorder affecting 1 in 10,000 females, and Chris aims to climb 73 of the United States' largest peaks to raise awareness of Retts Syndrome and money for its cure and treatment. Primary benefactors of the campaign will be the Retts Syndrome Research Foundation and Children's Convalescent Hospital, with 5% of the proceeds directed to the Torrey Pines Association to assist in preserving the Reserve. We thank Chris from the bottom of our hearts and wish him the greatest success. Chris will kick off his campaign by climbing Cuyamaca Peak on March 9. If you would like to learn more about this endeavor, please check out www.peaksforpeople@earthlink.net on the web, or call (858) 682-7961

Outgoing Counselors Opal Trueblood and Bob Linn were thanked heartily for their service to the TPA, Opal having

served as President for two terms. Two new Counselors, Adam Gevanthor and Lee Harvey, were elected to three-year terms. The complete Board of Counselors and their offices will be listed in the next issue of the *Torreyana*.

A most enjoyable part of the day was time spent meeting other TPA members in one of the most beautiful spots in the world! Thanks to Bob and Marion Warwick for providing refreshments and to Ranger Allyn Kaye and staff for setting up for the meeting and handling parking and other essential details. ☀

Would you like to meet more of your fellow TPA members, help get out mailings, attend public hearings, write letters, etc.? Please let your Board of Counselors know of your interest. Contact us by dropping a note to P. O. Box 345, La Jolla, CA 92038. (A note on your renewal envelope, with phone number or email address, will do just fine.) Thanks for whatever you can do to support the Reserve!

Letters from our readers

Is Sorrento Valley Road a dump?

Jessie LaGrange and others have questioned the recent dumping along Sorrento Valley Road near its intersection with Carmel Valley. It is feared that debris would find its way into Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

Recently, K.C. Strange of the City Council's office revealed part of the story. It seems that for some time there has been illegal dumping under the unfinished freeway ramp. The city of San Diego, in an effort to stop the dumping, has barricaded Sorrento Valley Road with rip-rap and also moved the dumped material so that it lines Sorrento Valley Road and prevents entry. This has partially succeeded, but lately trash has been dumped in front of the barricade!

This area is now under the jurisdiction of CALTRANS. Any questions about the dumping can be directed to Ed Dean, CALTRANS (619) 688-6131.

Maryruth Cox

[Maryruth Cox was TPA archivist for many years. Ed.]

What makes a neighborhood?

When Mike and I moved back to San Diego in 1998, we met the perfect example of “how not to grow” just east of Del Mar and the Torrey Pines Reserve. The area known to us as North City West had become the poster child for development run amuck. Adjacent to the formidable freeway “merge” and jam-packed with housing, shopping malls, multiplex theatres, community centers, and parking lots, the new “Carmel Valley” was a seething mass of suburban angst. How could the City Council, Board of Supervisors, SANDAG, Planning Commission, neighborhood advisory boards, (“all of the above”) let it happen? It was too depressing.

After decades of community activism focused on fighting sprawl – here in San Diego, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, and in the Northern Virginia suburbs – I wrapped myself in the friendly coziness of Torrey Pines Docent Society work and concentrated on protecting a little piece of urban wilderness, Torrey Pines State Reserve. I quickly learned, however, that no island, no matter how well protected by statute, park rangers, and volunteer docents on patrol, can survive human nature, especially if those humans are still living out the “manifest destiny” fantasies of their 19th century ancestors.

Carmel Valley’s “Neighborhood 8” is a creation of Caltran’s and San Diego City Council’s past. It is a tiny slice of land encompassing the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project (CVREP), open space land south of SR-56 that follows an artificially re-routed Carmel Creek and feeds into Peñasquitos Lagoon. This is also the last remnant of a wildlife corridor between Peñasquitos Canyon and our Lagoon. The folks haggling over this wretched plot of land hemmed in by freeways and light industrial parks, are not the mega-developers of planned communities past, they are, with one exception, friends and neighbors. Nevertheless, they seem indifferent to the effects of further encroachment into an area once valued as open space, unmoved by arguments predicting further degradation of Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Torrey Pines Reserve.

In the 1980’s, the San Diego planning community seemed determined to retain the canyons and the wild species that contribute so much to the region’s natural beauty. New development that maintained intact canyons was considered “good development,” although most planning stopped at the freeways that connected the County’s new suburbs. And so did much of the wildlife traffic.

During the mid-1980’s, conservation biologist Michael Soule studied our canyon system through a special arrangement with the University of Michigan, UCSD, and SDSU. The native San Diegan chose this area based on its unique canyon topography, “a series of canyons that branch much like a river system,” and the risks posed by isolating these habitats through residential development. “Despite how these canyons look, they are sick and dying habitats,” Soule said in a 1987 *LA Times* piece focused on his study. The fragmentation process is especially insidious because the habitat deteriorates almost invisibly, he said. Isolating an animal group can lead to the extinction of that population. Another biologist warned that little bits of open space that are not interconnected may have the unintended consequence of promoting nuisance animals, like opossums who may actually prefer to dine from our garbage pails.

In 1992, the San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy responded to the city’s draft EIR for development in what is now Carmel Valley objecting that plans for the area would whittle away existing wildlife habitat, leaving only “fragmentary habitat conservation areas...”



Neighborhood 8 seen from the south side of Carmel Creek Road. (Photo by Diana Gordon)

Ten years later -- after tens of thousands of residential units, commercial and light industrial communities have filled the valley to over-flowing -- aspiring developers of Neighborhood 8 and their consultants met with members of local community planning groups, the Carmel Mountain Conservancy, Sierra Club and local residents at the Carmel Valley Library. On January 16, 2002, we sat respectfully while computerized graphics were displayed and eco-friendly terms were woven through a virtuous sounding oration describing projects that included

(See Neighborhood page 8)

Neighborhood (Cont. from page 7)

hundreds of new residences and commercial structures that would degrade or cover over the remaining open spaces and wildlife corridor. After about 90 minutes of discussion between the presenters and hearing not a single word that addressed the disturbance to wildlife passages, the atmosphere bristled with pent-up anger. Finally, we began speaking out.

Isabell Kay, UCSD biologist and Coordinator for Open Space Systems, said 90 % of the habitat is already lost. Kay said fellow scientists wonder why we fuss over such a degraded piece of land, so fragmented that its ability to sustain wildlife is impossible to measure. Diana Gordon of the Carmel Mountain Conservancy spoke of the damaging effects of additional horse trails and anticipated off-trail activities by young riders. The TPA's Diana Bergen spoke out on the need for native plant restoration and appropriate architectural landscaping. Others complained that freeway access for all these new residents and workers is inadequate, and would likely result in even more local gridlock. Suddenly, the meeting came alive with the voices of community members, residents who will have to live with the reality of projects glowingly described as "enhancing habitat value." In the eighties, we termed this sophistry, "the product versus the promise."

On Valentine's Day, February 14, city staff member Bernie Turgeon conducted an N8 workshop to which all interested parties were invited. Diana Gordon, Carmel Mountain Conservancy, and Mel Hinton, Audubon Society, spoke in opposition to a room filled with development proponents. But no decision-making took place that day. Prior to the workshop, Carmel Valley Community Planning Board presented the City with a strongly worded narrative including a paragraph from the original Community Plan's Park, Recreation and Open Space Element: "The original North City West/Carmel Valley Community Plan, commissioned by the City and approved in 1975, showed most of what is now known as N8 as natural open space. The plan sought to preserve the entire flood plain of Carmel Creek, for a variety of excellent reasons which still hold true today."

After citing their objections to each individual project's encroachment, they concluded, "...we do NOT accept these applicants' attempts to convince people that there is a need, or a mandate, or a reason, or any excuse whatsoever to encroach into...so sensitive an area as the N8 corridor, which connects Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Carmel Mountain, CVREP, and Torrey Pines

State Reserve, simply in order to provide a few more homes or offices in the applicants' preferred sprawling configuration."

There will, no doubt, be many more encounters between city staff, ravenous developers and community members -- many more meetings and workshops designed to wear down the resistance of residents trying to preserve an admittedly fragmented biologically diverse habitat that still manages to connect us with nature. (On a recent N8 outing, Mike and I observed a variety of bird species, critter scat, and other evidence that foxes, coyotes, and bobcats still use this modified river channel to reach the lagoon.) Still, I suspect most of the planned projects will be built, with only minor concessions to the community's concerns.

But maybe I'm being too cynical. Miracles do happen. Sorrento Valley Road is still closed. Thanks to local volunteer task force members, including TPA leaders and the DPR's Mike Wells and John Quirk, who gave generously of their time this past year, we have a comprehensive set of recommendations for keeping SVR closed.

After the last Ice Age, Torrey pines adapted and survived fifteen centuries of gradual desertification. Their delicately balanced coastal desert habitat endured because native predators and prey were able to travel freely between the Reserve and adjacent canyons. Efforts to protect this rarest pine and its habitat span more than 100 years. Will the Torrey pine survive the 21st century and the development of Neighborhood 8?

Linda Martin



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

Just a reminder to carpool if possible and to bring your own cups, etc. to the docent meetings so we don't generate more park trash. And when you're done with this newsletter, please recycle it, or better yet, pass it on to a friend. If you need extra *Torreyanas* or *Pinecones*, for yourself or others, look in the newsletter file at the docent's desk.

Thanks, The Editors

The Birds of Torrey Pines State Reserve, February 2, 2002

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe 10 | Red-shouldered Hawk 1 | Anna's Hummingbird 13 | California Towhee 26 |
| Western Grebe 130 | Red-tailed Hawk 7 | Belted Kingfisher 2 | Rufous-crowned Sparrow 1 |
| Clark's Grebe 2 | American Kestrel 8 | Nuttall's Woodpecker 1 | Savannah Sparrow 4 |
| Brown Pelican 6 | California Quail 1 | Northern Flicker 1 | Song Sparrow 30 |
| Double-crested Cormorant 4 | American Coot 53 | Black Phoebe 10 | Golden-crowned Sparrow 2 |
| Great Blue Heron 3 | Black-bellied Plover 4 | Say's Phoebe 3 | White-crowned Sparrow 34 |
| Great Egret 3 | Snowy Plover 10 | Cassin's Kingbird 2 | Red-winged Blackbird 30 |
| Snowy Egret 2 | Semipalmated Plover 32 | Tree Swallow 1 | Western Meadowlark 3 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron 1 | Killdeer 11 | Scrub Jay 7 | Brown-headed Cowbird 1 |
| White-faced Ibis 1 | Greater Yellowlegs 1 | Common Raven 6 | House Finch 90 |
| Green-winged Teal 6 | Willet 3 | Bushtit 55 | Lesser Goldfinch 12 |
| Mallard 11 | Long-billed Curlew 2 | Bewick's Wren 1 | |
| Northern Pintail 14 | Sanderling 16 | House Wren 2 | Participants: Hank and Jane |
| Cinnamon Teal 7 | Least Sandpiper 30 | Marsh Wren 2 | Baele, Twinx Hauer, Shirley |
| Northern Shoveler 48 | Dunlin 1 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2 | Grain, David Blue, Gary |
| Gadwall 46 | Jaeger 1 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5 | Grantham, Joan Nimick, Kathy |
| American Wigeon 55 | Heermann's Gull 29 | California Gnatcatcher 1 | Estey |
| Lesser Scaup 1 | Ring-billed Gull 104 | Hermit Thrush 10 | |
| Bufflehead 19 | California Gull 53 | Wrentit 9 | [[No weather conditions |
| Red-breasted Merganser 1 | Western Gull 28 | California Thrasher 3 | submitted with this report. Ed.] |
| Ruddy Duck 7 | Royal Tern 18 | European Starling 7 | |
| Osprey 1 | Forster's Tern 21 | Orange-crowned Warbler 1 | |
| White-tailed Kite 1 | Rock Dove 4 | Yellow-rumped Warbler 6 | |
| Northern Harrier 2 | Mourning Dove 2 | Common Yellowthroat 11 | |

WUT are Those Birds?

by David Blue

From fall through spring, you see them along Torrey Pines State Beach scurrying in and out of the surf like mechanical toys in their tight flocks, constantly playing tag with the tides. Light gray above and white below, often with a touch of black at the bend of their folded wings, these little shorebirds are Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*). However, my father-in-law, Jim Withers, gave up trying to remember their name long ago and simply calls them WUTs. I recently wrote this poem to celebrate his birthday and naming skills.

WUTs

*No ifs, ands, or buts,
they are the cutest little WUTs!
Bringing lots of smiles and joys,
they run around like Wind Up Toys.*

*Scurrying up and down the beach,
barely ahead of each wave's reach,
the Sanderling is a joy to see—
it is the bird I WUTs to be!*



Docent David Rightmer seen here with new trainees on the TPDS guided geology walk one recent Saturday .
(Photo by Linda Blue)

Docent Training 2002

Under Training Officer Don Grine's coordination, the membership's enthusiastic recruiting efforts, and support from the TPDS Board and talented presenters, the 2002 Docent Training Classes are breaking all previous records with more than 65 volunteers enrolled. March sessions are scheduled as follows:
March 2, Torrey Pines History with Judy Schulman
March 9, Birds with Barbara Moore
March 16, Regular monthly TPDS meeting
March 23, Plants with James DeLane

MARCH DUTY CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 L TORREY L GAARDER | 2 L BEDINGER W CORNFORTH L REGO W STIEGLER |
| 3 L D MILLER W FERGUSON L GAARDER W KAMEN | 4 L IVANY L MARSHALL | 5 L MARGULIES L DIXON | 6 L GRANTHAM L WENMAN | 7 L R MILLER L HAUER | 8 L RANDOLPH L STIELS | 9 L J SMITH W SANSEVERINO L REGO W STIEGLER |
| 10 L NAGAMINZ W CASSELL L ANASIS W HOHMAN | 11 L IVANY L SOGO | 12 L TALBERTS L DE WITT | 13 L ROGO L FEDERICKS | 14 L FEDERIDKS L DOOLITTLE | 15 L BEYER L STIELS | 16 MEETING L CAMPBELL W D MILLER L GEIST W |
| 17 L GRAIN W FERGUSON L WINTERS W BRAV | 18 L KATZ L | 19 L MARGULIES L WENMAN | 20 L SHAW L WINCHELL WOODWORTH | 21 L D MILLER L HAUER | 22 L RANDOLPH L | 23 L J SMITH W KATZ L WATSON W BENNETT |
| 24 L NAGAMINZ W CASSELL L WINTERS W BRAV | 25 L KATZ L MARSHALL | 26 L TALBERTS L DIXON | 27 L L WINCHELL WOODWORTH | 28 L R-MILLER L DOOLITTLE | 29 L BEYER L | 30 L CORNFORTH W RIGHTMER L GEISTKILLERMANN W |
| 31 L SCHULMAN W RIGHTMER L SCHULMAN W KAMEN | Duty Coordinator: Ann Campbell (858) 755-1934 Hours: Lodge Daily 10 - 1, 1 - 4 Walks Sat/Sun/Holidays 9:30 and 1:30 If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own substitute. | | | | | |



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