



TORREYANA

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DOCENT SOCIETY

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Monitoring the sand on Torrey Pines Beach

Text & photo by Maryruth Cox

At sunset, I wandered idly along the Torrey Pines beach under a riotous sky, ablaze with cloud-swirls of crimson and gold that no mortal artist could emulate. It was low tide; a godwit and I were alone on the wide sands, or so I thought, until I saw a knot of people gathered around a machine at the water's edge.

Curious, I drew near, and heard a man declaiming on the movement of sand along the beach. He stood next to a "Grizzly" tractor and a three-wheeled dolly. It was Bob Guza, researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), explaining that a group of scientists, engineers, and technicians had been measuring beach levels at Torrey Pines with this equipment for the past 18 months.

Aha! A mystery was solved. I had often noticed triple wheel tracks at intervals along the beach, running from the riprap to the sea. "Was the beach being measured?" I wondered. Do you remember back in April of 2001 when a big operation went on at Torrey Pines beach? There was a dredger anchored offshore which pumped sand from the sea floor through a large pipe to the beach. A bulldozer pushed the sand around and eventually constructed a large berm, about 1000 feet long, 100 feet wide and 10-12 feet high -- a bulge in the shoreline. This was the SANDAG beach nourishment



project, a grand scheme to replenish sand on twelve San Diego county beaches at a cost of 17 million dollars.

Guza participates in the Southern California Beach Processes Study (SCBPS), a joint program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, S. I. O., the California Resources Agency, and the California Dept. of Boating and Waterways, which aims to understand how and where beach sand is moved by waves and currents. SCBPS has been measuring waves, currents, sand size and beach profiles and seized upon the opportunity afforded by the beach nourishment project to begin the Torrey Pines Beach Monitoring program. For 18

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Notes from the TPDS President

Storm clouds gather as we go to press. Tragedies strike randomly and the world seems more dangerous and fraught with risk everywhere we look. I almost rue turning on the news these days and yet I found a little perspective is often good for the soul. Travel back with me to 30 years ago.

On Feb 14, 1973, the first group of American POWs returned to U.S. soil. VADM Jeremiah Denton and VADM Jim Stockdale along with many other long-term prisoners told the press of their faith in the spiritual and in their country as sustaining forces. Then more groups were released. Near the end of March, one of the last to be released shared a common point; they were captured in Laos. These nine Americans and one Canadian were the only POWs officially recognized as captured in Laos and released as part of Operation Homecoming. It was my great fortune to be one of them.

As I stepped off the plane at NAS Miramar, I was greeted by a large crowd and my wife. It was a tremendously exciting and uplifting time. As the dust settled and I tried to find some type of routine, my wife and I returned to Torrey Pines State Reserve. We had visited the park in the late 1960's and it was a place I often thought about when I was overseas 'in

dungeons dark.' It was the beauty and tranquility of our Torrey Pines high above the bluffs that continually came to me as an image. The cool Pacific breezes and the sound of the surf were always there. Little did I know then that Laura, my wife, went there and often thought of how we enjoyed this spot, especially the north overlook on the Guy Fleming Trail.

Many things have changed over the last 30 years. Today the State of California faces great fiscal and budget challenges. Homeland security is on many minds and there are forces in the world that would rejoice in our destruction. Now more than ever our docent efforts are needed to help at the reserve. Most of us joined to help maintain the Torrey Pines State Reserve. So now is the time to recommit ourselves: let us keep this place a treasure 'far from the madding crowd.'

If there is trouble in your world, if you are facing challenges in your life, I hope you will find hope and peace by coming to Torrey Pines. It is indeed a special place. And, your volunteer hours are more important than ever.

Thank you all for your continued legacy of giving.

Jim Bedinger

Heroes among us...

This picture accompanied a recent "*Del Mar Village Voice/Carmel Valley News*" article. The local weekly, widely distributed in North County, carried an in-depth feature on our own TPDS president, Jim Bedinger, detailing his capture and internment at the "Hanoi Hilton" so many years ago. The headline read "Former POW recounts harrowing capture and time spent in the infamous 'Hanoi Hilton.'" (The complete article is posted on the docent room bulletin board.)

While reading about Jim's experiences, I was struck by the fact that we don't usually discover the heroes who live among us until they're gone, extraordinary individuals like Del Roberts. Due to her rapidly deteriorating health, I didn't get to know her until a few months before she died. While



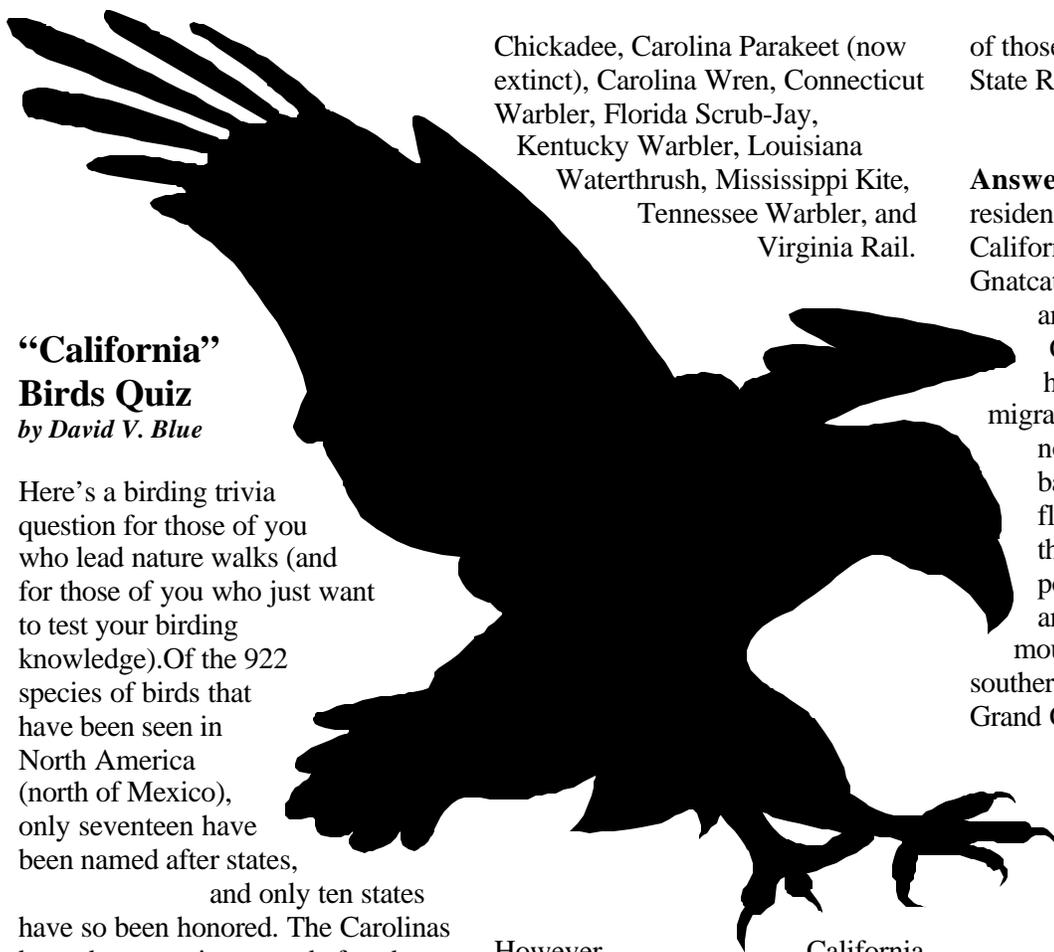
Photo by Carla Van Wagoner
for the *Del Mar Village Voice/Carmel Valley New* – Jan. 24, 2003.

interviewing the former *Torreyana* editor, I discovered a truly remarkable, talented woman most of us took for granted.

While writing for and editing the *Torreyana*, Del initiated a very popular column that featured our own docents. These were stories about interesting people with lives beyond their docent duty. Let us re-instate that feature: carry interviews with individual docents, active, supporting and honorary. If you can help with this project, by suggesting subjects, providing background, writing the article, or taking photographs for the column, please let me know by e-mail or phone.

Let us celebrate our homegrown heroes while they're here to enjoy it!

Linda Martin, Ed.



“California”

Birds Quiz

by David V. Blue

Here’s a birding trivia question for those of you who lead nature walks (and for those of you who just want to test your birding knowledge). Of the 922 species of birds that have been seen in North America (north of Mexico), only seventeen have been named after states, and only ten states have so been honored. The Carolinas have three species named after them, and eight other states have a single species named after them. These are the Arizona Woodpecker, Carolina

Chickadee, Carolina Parakeet (now extinct), Carolina Wren, Connecticut Warbler, Florida Scrub-Jay, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mississippi Kite, Tennessee Warbler, and Virginia Rail.

However, California has six species of birds named after it! Five

of those occur here at Torrey Pines State Reserve. Can you name them?

Answer: Four species are year-round residents here at Torrey Pines: the California Quail, California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, and California Towhee. The California Gull is abundant here in the winter, but migrates north to breed in the northern prairies and desert basins. Although it may have flown over in prehistoric times, the California Condor population is extremely limited and is currently restricted to the mountain ranges surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley and the Grand Canyon.

*If you see one,
please call me!*

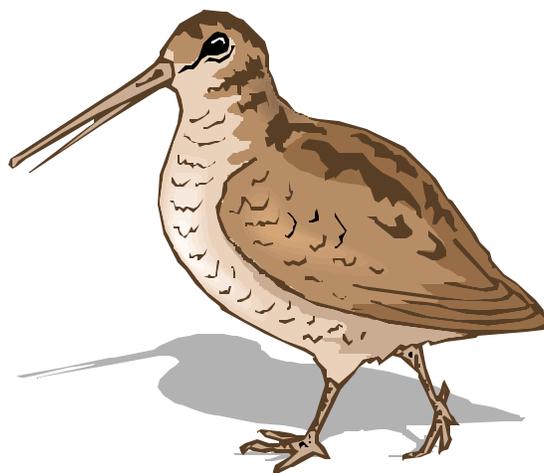
Beach Monitoring (Continued from page 1)

months, the beach levels at Torrey Pines have been measured, first every two weeks, then every month.

A dramatic change in the beach profile occurred in November 2001, when a big storm sculpted the bulge into a series of sand peninsulas. Now the peninsulas have been washed away (January 2003). Bob Guza explained that sand is a priceless commodity to coastal communities. Tourists who patronize our restaurants, motels, and surf shops like to lounge on soft sand, not hard rocks. Their kids like to play in sand.

We need to know more about the movement of sand on and off the beaches in order to manage this resource

better. Then we can stroll along the beach at sunset, watch the godwit probe for his dinner, and muse upon the moonrise without stumbling over cobblestones.



Docent Chronicles - March 2003

Natural History Museum Field Trip – March 15

We will meet at the San Diego Natural History Museum at 10 AM. Enter at the new entrance, on the side opposite the fountain. We will be taken on a special docent tour of the museum and screen their new movie on wolves. Our Natural History Museum Docent contact is John Keethler, 858-454-1281.

Don Grine arranged the docent exchange. According to Don, we are giving a special walk to the Natural History Museum Docents on March 3. They will have their business meeting at our school benches under the trees at 9:30, and then be led on a walk from 10:30 to noon. Afterward, museum docents will brown bag their lunches at the tables west of the Lodge. [Look for April meeting news in the April *Torrey Pinecone*.]

January program:

Cave art of Baja California
by Rick Vogel, *TPDS Secretary*

Mary Weir introduced Harry Crosby, a local explorer, photographer and writer, who presented a slide show on the rock art of Baja California: "Murals of an Unknown People". Crosby traveled more than a thousand miles of trails in his undertaking to find and catalog the then largely unknown art in the mountains of Baja California.

According to Crosby, some samples taken from the murals are dated at between 5000 and 7500 years before the present. At many sites, the earlier works have been painted over as many as five times. The surface

of the shelters upon which the murals were painted is an important factor in the durability of the paintings. The shelter walls and ceilings in Baja are composed of volcanic agglomerate. This rock was formed by the action of heat and pressure on the fine-grained lighter materials ejected by volcanoes about 25 to 40 million years ago. The resulting rock is much harder and more durable than, for example the sandstone that forms the base of the Navajo rock art in Arizona and New Mexico.

Most of the shelters do not qualify as caves; rather they are more like alcoves in the side of canyons. These canyons can be as deep as 700 feet. Wide bands of the agglomerate overlay relatively narrow (1½ to 18 feet) beds of very soft material such as chalk. As the canyons have eroded, the chalk erodes faster and deeper than the agglomerate. This action has caused chambers 40-50 feet deep into the formation. When the overhang becomes larger than the mechanical strength of the agglomerate can support, the rock fails. The result is a concoidal fracture, which forms a scallop-shaped alcove in the cliff wall. This fracturing also creates a clean, fine grain surface to paint.

The murals exist in a 25-mile wide and 300-mile long area in the mountains of central Baja California. This strip straddles the 28th parallel of latitude. Slides presented were from Crosby's 1972 expedition to Sierra de San Francisco, a remote mountain area outside of San Ignacio. The area has a number of remote ranches that are more than 20 miles from the nearest accessible

road. Travel to these sites now requires a permit and a local guide as the Mexican Government has recognized the value of preserving these artifacts.

In the shelters, the paintings are up to 35 feet high, showing that the painters certainly used some form of scaffolding. In some shelters, the over-painting is very heavy. In others, there is no painting at all. While the exact reasons for this disparity are not known, there may be religious or cultural significance of certain places. It seems that it was more important for the painters to paint in those particular areas than for the paintings to be distinguishable from the other paintings on the wall or ceiling.



The paintings in the slides depict people, deer, rabbits, snakes, birds, and mountain goats. A plant appears in only one instance. The shapes are abstractions of the forms but were

still reasonably representational. The human figures are up to 8 feet tall while some of the deer depicted were 14 feet long from nose to tail. All of the people depicted were facing the viewer and their outline was realistic. The interiors of the figures however are always fanciful and abstract, with no realistic features. Features on the front of a figure are added to the outline, since they cannot exist in the fanciful interior of the front facing figure. For example, in one painting of a woman is shown with her breasts appearing to be under her armpits. The painters used primarily reds, browns, blacks and some white in their efforts. The pigments used were predominantly ground rock and minerals suspended in agave or other plant sap. The paint was apparently applied with a brush made by pounding a plant stem such that the fibers form a brush. In some cases, the paint was blown onto the surface using a hand or foot as a stencil. Mr. Crosby identified about seven distinct schools or styles of painting, but they all employed the same conventions of perspective, outline and infill. The schools range from fairly realistic, solid colored figures to highly abstract, almost patchwork appearing figures.

The new **Native Plant Nursery Group** will meet again in late February or early March. If you have been thinking about joining, now is the time. We will be setting priorities, and taking a walking tour of the reserve and current on-site growing facilities. We plan to invite a guest speaker for this third meeting. If you would like to receive further information, call or email Nan Criqui 858/755/5186 or ncriqui@ucsd.edu.

Some of the projects we are considering include: collecting seeds on site, planting and raising native species; setting up and maintaining growing grounds in the reserve; revegetating selected park areas; creating a resource workbook/training manual of detailed information about native species; photographing flora at different ages and seasons, and creating a vegetation map of TPSR. For more information call or email Ranger Gary Olson, golson@ixpress.com.

(Docent Chronicles **continues on Page 7.**)

A LICHEN LOVE STORY As told to Ken King by Jim Cassell

Alice Algae made wonderful food
But she longed for a home and a brood
Then hungry Fred Fungus
The builder among us
Took a lichen to her, so he wooed

Fred and Alice were perfectly matched
Alice cooked and Fred sawed,
framed, and thatched
Soon babies arrived
They certainly thrived
And the babies had babies
that hatched

So algae and fungus are bound
Together wherever
they're found
Forever they dwell
With cell next to cell
In symbiotic embrace that's
renowned

Staff report: Ranger Gary Olson reports that he is beginning new long-term work projects with two TPSR interns. The first will team up with disabled groups to get the bugs out of the Discovery Trail. As some of you know, this trail has been in the planning and implementation stages for years. The second project will have interns conducting trail surveys. Their objective is to establish how many visitors use our trails each day and which trails get the heaviest use. Olson is very upbeat about the future of trail maintenance in Torrey Pines, so please cooperate with these efforts. Don't forget, you can make a TPDS donation earmarked "For Trail Maintenance." These funds will be used to support Gary's work in maintaining safe trails for all users. Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye and Nancy Mae Gallagher seem to be enjoying their trail work. (Photo by Eva Armi)



Tidings from TPA: Stewardship praised

by Ann Gardner, TPA Secretary

A surprise announcement at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Torrey Pines Association capped a gathering of members who came to remember the spirit of former Counselor Sally Spiess, to highlight the year's accomplishments and to elect new Board members.

The Association is nominated for District and Statewide awards for production of a new video and the "outstanding transformation" of the theatre at the Lodge. Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye announced at the end of the February 9 meeting. "None of this would have been possible without the generous donation by the Torrey Pines Association...not only the financial support from your treasury, but the personal devotion of several dedicated counselors to see the project through to completion."

The TPA is nominated for both the San Diego Coast District's "Stewardship" Award under the categories of protecting the interpretative, historical and natural resources of the park and the California State Parks "Partnership" Award. "The nomination is not just for the contribution of this particular project but chronic les the Association's fifty plus years of commitment to the preservation and protection of the Torrey pine," Kaye emphasized in her "sincere thanks."

Diana Bergen, TPA President, remembered Sally Spiess as representing the essence of this stewardship. "The sanctity of this refuge can only be preserved insofar as we continue to zealously guard the Reserve in its primitive beauty in ways that Sally did when she served

as a member of the Association and on its Board of Counselors." A formal Resolution to honor Sally, framed against a Bill Evarts photograph of the Reserve, was presented to her husband Dr. Fred Spiess and other family members in attendance.

David Crawford, the Video and Theatre Remodel Project Chair, also referred to Sally's dedication as he accepted special recognition for his work on the project. Vice President Doug Lappi drew applause as he summarized TPA efforts in 2002 to educate public officials on the legacy of the Reserve in relation to three proposed adjacent road projects: the Torrey Pines Bridge and roadbed expansion, the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project and the Sorrento Valley Road Reuse Project. Counselor Adam Gevanthor, TPA's graphics artist extraordinaire, awarded President Bergen a "Save Torrey Pines Beach" placard in recognition of her many weekends walking the State beach to tell beachgoers about the Reserve and the importance of protecting it from encroachment by wider roads and other developments.

Ballots mailed in before the meeting elected three new Counselors: Peter Jensen, freelance magazine and book writer, and former member of the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board and scoutmaster whose Eagle Scouts repaired trails in the Reserve some years ago; Sara F. Moser, long time La Jolla resident "dedicated to protecting untouched open spaces" and former member of the La Jolla Shores Association and the La Jolla Planning District Advisory Board; and David Zimmerman, Park supporter, Director of Information Systems at the Burnham Institute on North Torrey Pines Road and frequent walker in the Reserve

during his work day. They will serve new three-year terms with returning Counselors Anne Ewing and Jan McMillan. Retiring Treasurer David Goldberg noted that the treasury had grown to about \$200,000 and encouraged input from members on the 2003 budget process. Funds for all TPA activities come from :

1. Membership fees.
2. The sale of TPA publications: the renowned "Landscape and Legacy," "Torrey Pines State Reserve" (affectionately known as the 'green book'), and the recently re-published 1949 edition of the "Torrey Pines Association" book with outstanding historical documents.
3. Donations, most generously in the recent past from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation and the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund.

Now the public can purchase a copy of "A Legacy of Stewardship" the new 12-minute video, shot and produced by Jim Karnik Productions, at the Lodge. Proceeds from sales will be used in the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the Reserve. Video production, the first run production of copies in DVD and VHS format, reformatting of the Lodge slide show, a complete remodel of the theatre room and the purchase of new state-of-the-art-equipment were funded by the Torrey Pines Association for a total cost of \$30,890. Park employees helped too, painting the theatre room and restoring the old fireplace opening. Many local businesses volunteered time and materials, including Mansour Architecture Corporation, Precision Electric, Zauss – Goodwin Hardwood Flooring and Crawford-Jordan Construction thanks to the coordination and direction of TPA Counselor and Project Chair David Crawford. It was a two-year commitment of talent and patience.

Docent Chronicles, Continued

March Science Fair Judges needed. Walt Desmond is once again organizing science teachers and students to participate in the 2003 Science Fair. The Torrey Pines Docent Society has and will continue to supply a team of judges. The event will be held in Balboa Park from March 26 to March 30. Judging will take place on Wednesday, March 26th. Theo Tanalski will lead the team. If you have training and/or interest in being a judge this year, please contact Theo by email at thepccat@juno.com or call Jim Bedinger at (858) 831-8100, ext 514 so he can pass the word onto Theo. We welcome new and old docents.

Special Event in the Fall: This fall we are trying to help in the organization and implementation of a special event to celebrate the opening of the Lodge 80 years ago. TPDS president, Jim Bedinger, will form a special events committee to plan the early part of this event. If you have worked on such an event in the past and would like to help, please call Jim at work or at home. Or make sure you tell him the next time you see him at the Lodge. Or, leave a note in his mailbox slot [top left box] in the docent library. Final date is not definite, but it will probably be in late September or October when the weather is usually great and most are back from vacations. There will be more to follow on the Lodge event soon.

Lost Corning Ware: Ranger Allyn Kaye lost her serving dish at the Christmas Party. It was a white rectangular (about 9" x 12") Corning ware dish in which she brought her yummy lasagna. If you should find an extra dish or know where it might have been placed, please let Allyn know.

Reminder to all Docents – if you have not already done so, please submit your 2003 TPDS dues to Joe Musser: \$10 for active docents, \$25 for supporting members.

Note: Rick Vogel's reports of our membership meetings and field trips, excellent reviews of our business and pleasure outings, will be posted on the board in the docent room at the Lodge.



Birds of Torrey Pines Reserve – February 2003

Red-throated Loon 2
Pacific Loon 1
Pied-billed Grebe 2
Eared Grebe 1
Western Grebe 200
Black-vented Shearwater 10
Brown Pelican 1
Double-crested Cormorant 19
Great Blue Heron 3
Great Egret 4
Snowy Egret 3
Green-winged Teal 6
Mallard 7
Northern Pintail 140
Cinnamon Teal 2
Northern Shoveler 38
Gadwall 45
American Wigeon 20
Lesser Scaup 9
Bufflehead 2
White-tailed Kite 2
Northern Harrier 1
Red-tailed Hawk 6
American Kestrel 5
American Coot 35
Black-bellied Plover 3
Snowy Plover 1

Semipalmated Plover 4
Killdeer 2
Black-necked Stilt 2
Willet 7
Marbled Godwit 8
Sanderling 15
Western Sandpiper 2
Least Sandpiper 7
Dunlin 5
Dowitcher sp. 1
Heermann's Gull 12
Ring-billed Gull 34
California Gull 25
Herring Gull 1
Glaucous-winged Gull 1
Royal Tern 7
Forster's Tern 14
Rock Dove 12
Mourning Dove 11
Anna's Hummingbird 18
Belted Kingfisher 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 2
Northern Flicker 2
Black Phoebe 9
Say's Phoebe 1
Cassin's Kingbird 2
Scrub Jay 2

American Crow 7
Common Raven 15
Bushtit 9
Bewick's Wren 1
California Gnatcatcher 2
Gnatcatcher sp. 1
Wrentit 14
California Thrasher 1
Loggerhead Shrike 2
European Starling 2
Orange-crowned Warbler 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler 7
Common Yellowthroat 2
Spotted Towhee 1
California Towhee 22
Savannah Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 8
Golden-crowned Sparrow 4
Red-winged Blackbird 11
Brewer's Blackbird 14
House Finch 13
Lesser Goldfinch 3
House Sparrow 6

Unusual species:
White-breasted Nuthatch 1

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