



TORREYANA

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
BY THE TORREY PINES
DOCENT SOCIETY

Volume 4, Issue 4

July 2003

Partying in the Torrey pines

Late in the afternoon of June 4, the sun peeked through *June Gloom*, warming the patio stones and setting the mood for the Torrey Pines Docent Society's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. About five o'clock, docents in brightly colored casual attire began arriving, lugging their coolers, wine bottles, appetizers and dessert trays to the serving tables arrayed in front of the Lodge. With Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald crooning in the background, TPDS docents and volunteers mingled with staff, sipped excellent wine, munched the docent-donated goodies, made new friends and renewed old ones.

More than 125 Torrey Pines docents and volunteers from TPSR, San Elijo, and Carlsbad campground; current and former TPSR staff (Bob Wohl); and DPR officials, including Chief Ranger John Quirk and District Superintendent Ronilee Clark, came to socialize and dine on authentic Mediterranean fare catered by former TPSR Ranger Chris Platis' brother, Ted Platis. While we all waited for the aromatic Greek repast



Ranger Gary Olson and Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye lauded the docents and volunteers for their dedication and service to Torrey Pines State Reserve.

barbecuing on the front patio, Nancy Mae Gallagher led the group in icebreaker exercises. Bob Talbert made that special pungent coffee he and Jane provide during docent meeting breaks. (Sadly, Jane was hospitalized with a broken hip the previous Friday and had to miss the festivities.)

There was plenty of food, lots of good cheer, and it felt as though the docents and DPR staff have become one happy family again. Supervising Ranger Allyn Kaye and her elves outdid themselves with miniature painted flowerpots and scented candle favors. Ranger Kaye was generous with her praise for docents and other volunteers, singling out many for certificates of appreciation. She also presented John Quirk with an Alfred R. Mitchell print, framed in cherry wood.

The Board thanks docents Kathy Watson, Victoria Schaffer, and Nancy Woodworth for helping to make this event a "class act."

Linda Martin, Editor

Important Notice

July Meeting Changed!
There will be **no** TPDS membership meeting Saturday morning July 19. Instead, we will meet on the beach (south parking lot) at 5 PM that day for **A Potluck Beach Picnic!**

Notes from the President

The *Torreyana* is published bi-monthly by the Torrey Pines Docent Society. Print copies of this newsletter are mailed to members of the Docent Society, members of Torrey Pines Association, and some elected officials of San Diego City and County, and the city of Del Mar. Contact the Torrey Pines Docent Society at PO Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014, or phone (858) 755-2063.

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There are several important changes to note in your calendars. First, we shall **not** be meeting in the morning this month. Instead, on July 19, we will start around 5:00 PM on the beach with a brief docent-led program, social hour and potluck for all. Second, please put Saturday, September 6 on your calendar -- that is the date Ranger Gary Olson set for celebrating the Torrey Pines Lodge Anniversary. Gary is forming a committee, as there is much to do before then. Iris Geist and Judy Schulman are already helping, but many more docents are needed to make this a first-class event. Another date to mark is October 4. On that date, we've been invited to join the Natural History Museum docents for a "whale talk" by Jim Stone, Director of Education. We need a head count to help the museum plan for this presentation. Please call or e-mail Don Grine if you plan to attend.

I regret to report that several State parks have recently experienced thefts from cash drawers and donation boxes. Therefore, the State system is directing new cash limits and procedures to reduce temptation and limit losses in the future. The new procedure for closing the Lodge each night is to **count all cash in excess of \$100 and place it in an envelope with amount noted, your signature and date. Then, place the envelope with excess cash in the black docent safe in the back room.** This safe has a mail slot at the top and is plainly marked "docent safe." All docents performing lodge duty need to take note of this new procedure. If **you** find surplus cash in the drawer, and there is no docent on duty, please follow the procedure described above.

We also have a new donation box in the Lodge. There should always be a few dollars visible in this container, but it is docent money and therefore our responsibility to keep the amount to a minimum. Docents are being asked to empty this donation box at the end of each day. As with the cash drawer money, please place the money in an envelope, with the amount, your name, and the date, and mark it clearly with the word "**Donations**" on the envelope. This will allow us to track the effectiveness of the box in various locations to see if that influences giving. Responses to a recent user survey discovered that many TPSR visitors would be willing to make donations to the park. Now we have the way and all funds collected go to the Torrey Pines Docent Society. Over time, this new program may be a real winner in helping us to make improvements at the Reserve.

Finally, we send a big "thank you" to Ashley Falls Elementary School. Grades one through six took part in a penny drive for Torrey Pines with the fourth grade class rolling the pennies. Their effort resulted in a check to TPDS for \$500 -- that represents a lot of pennies, 50,000 to be exact. This school did a lot to show how much it cares in continuing the legacy of stewardship for Torrey Pines. A big hand to all involved and a heartfelt thanks to all.
See you on the Beach in July!

Jim Bedinger
Torrey Pines Docent Society

Guy Fleming's legacy

by Maryruth Cox

The following is from the Introduction to "Guy Fleming's Writings," edited by docents Kay Harry and Marion Dixon, to be published and available in the Lodge Bookstore in the Fall of '03.

Not much is known to us about Guy Fleming's early life. He came to San Diego in 1908 when he was 24 years old. At that time, San Diego was a small town surrounded by unlimited "back-country," crisscrossed by wild canyons where small boys chased lizards.

Despite its small size, San Diego had great ideas. Its citizens had emerged from the hardscrabble days of the pioneers and they craved culture. One of their projects was the Panama California Exposition of 1915, held in Balboa Park. New ornate structures were built, and the grounds were extensively landscaped with the plantings we admire today. Guy Fleming participated in this work and soon met life-long friends and avid gardeners, Kate Sessions and Ellen Browning Scripps.

Fleming soon gravitated to the group of eager naturalists who formed the backbone of the San Diego Floral Association and San Diego Museum of Natural History. He went on field trips with people like Daniel Cleveland and Ralph Sumner into the mountains, deserts, and coastal regions of San Diego County where the rich diversity of life forms sparked his passionate interest in natural history.

In a 1916 article (included in this volume), Fleming describes a field trip to Torrey Pines Park. A group of fifty people not only admired the unusual flora and spectacular views, but also cleaned up trash left by thoughtless picnickers. It was the beginning of a campaign led by Fleming to protect the unique Torrey Pines.

In the early years of the 20th century, San Diego was poised at such a moment, when a few dedicated people could make a big difference in its future. Fleming

was caught up in this "flood" of events. It was a time when San Diegans could choose to fill its pueblo lands with houses and industry, or leave open space for recreation and study.

Ellen B. Scripps had purchased the north grove of Torrey pines next to the city-owned parklands, and she wished "to preserve the natural beauty of the area." She asked Guy Fleming to be the caretaker of her land, and underwrote the construction of a house for his family. Fleming designed and built the structure still in use as a residence near the lodge. The Flemings would live there for 31 years.

During his long tenure at the Park, Guy Fleming became the symbol of Torrey Pines to thousands of visitors. He liked to lead them down the trail that bears his name today. If you happen to walk there early in the morning, you might hear the Spotted Towhee call from the Toyon, or glimpse the sunny Encelia (Bush Sunflower), nodding in the sea breeze. Perhaps you might see the Black Sage with its signal flags of blossoms impaled on long slender stems. You might imagine that Fleming himself is just ahead, explaining to a visitor how to make a refreshing drink from a half-dozen sticky fruits of the Lemonadeberry stirred with a little sugar and water.

Guy Fleming took on every task in the park, from catching rattlesnakes to building trails. His daughter remembered that when the power went out, as it often did, her father would rig a Dutch oven in the fireplace and cook a delicious stew.

Guy Fleming not only took care of the Torrey pines (during his tenure as guardian of the park the number of trees increased from around fifty to



Eclipse of the moon by Wes Farmer

thousands), but also became a spokesman for the preservation of natural features throughout Southern California. A stream of letters and articles poured from his attic study, some of which appear in this collection, emphasizing the need to protect the abundance of life forms in San Diego County. He fought to preserve the desert lands east of the mountains and personally surveyed the land that later became the Anza-Borrego State Park.

In 1933, Guy Fleming became the State Superintendent of Parks for Southern California. During the next 15 years, his office was the headquarters for the development of 21 state parks and beaches; Palomar Mountain State Park, Silver Strand, and Mt. San Jacinto, to name but a few.

Even after he retired in 1948, Guy worked for Torrey Pines. He helped start the Torrey Pines Association in 1950 and was its first president. In 1959, he saw a dream come true when Torrey Pines became a State Park.

Guy Fleming kept to his vision -- *to set aside a part of the earth where man could walk in spacious paths.*

Docent Chronicles - July 2003

Calling all docents to the Saturday, July 19th, Beach Picnic!

There will be no morning business meeting, Saturday, July 19. We will meet at 5 PM near the South Beach parking lot for a potluck picnic. Bring your favorite dish to share, something to drink (BYOB), musical instruments, and your funniest stories. Expect plenty of socializing and playtime in the surf. See you there!

Docents do well at the San Diego County Fair

TPDS has some extremely talented docents, including a few individuals who submit Torrey Pines themed items to the San Diego County Fair (formerly the Del Mar Fair) each year. This year, in addition to David Rightmer's stunning TPDS-judged photographs, Wes Farmer (supporting member '91), Judy Schulman (class of '77), and Joanne Miale (class of '96) had prize winning entries.



Wes Farmer won two Educational Merit awards for displays featuring Torrey Pines, and an Honorable Mention for his California Gray Whales exhibit. Joanne Miale won a First for her Wind/Wave ring, and a Second for her Torrey pine



pendant pictured above. Judy Schulman received an Honorable Mention for her (Torrey) pine needle baby booties (above). Joanne and Wes have websites. Their addresses are www.infinitejewelry.com and www.angelfire.com/ca2/seashorediscoveries/index.htm/, respectively.

Why not stop by the fairgrounds and see these winning entries in person? You have until Sunday when the July Fourth Weekend ends with a **bang!**

Ranger Olson reflects:

How I envy first time visitors to Torrey Pines. Summer has descended on our beautiful Reserve, bringing guests from around the world to experience our scenic wonders and play in the soft sands of our beaches. For some, it may be the first or only time they will experience the picturesque coastline and feel a sea breeze on their face, watch the birds soar through the canyons, or see a rattlesnake up close and personal.

I envy the first time visitors, for they can see the beauty of the Reserve with unspoiled appreciation. They see beyond minor problems on the trails and enjoy a unique outdoor experience. They stand with a familiar gaze in their eyes as they try to embrace the sculpted erosion of the sandstone bluffs; they find solitude on the tranquil overlooks as they watch for the green flash at sunset. They can sit quietly on the benches, unaware of the ants that are fighting a raging battle beneath their feet.

Remember the joy and excitement that you felt the first time you walked along Guy Fleming Trail, sat on Yucca Point overlook, or peered through your binoculars at a new bird? First-time visitors are not caught up by ongoing operational concerns as we are. They are unaware of the hard work and planning required to maintain this coastal oasis. Remember that we are making progress in improving the Park. You are making a difference in the lives of thousands of annual visitors who are influenced by your excitement, dedication and love for the Reserve.

I would like, once again, to thank all of the volunteers for your outstanding service and enthusiasm.

Gary Olson

A poem for July

by Maryruth Cox

Fireworks crack
the still night air;
children delight,
but dogs despair.
Crimson, and garnet, and
aquamarine,
violet, magenta,
and shades in
between:
cascading colors,
explosions of light
illumine dark reaches
of the soft
summer
night.



Docent Chronicles (Cont.)

Autumn migration at Torrey Pines State Reserve

*A birder's perspective
by David Blue*

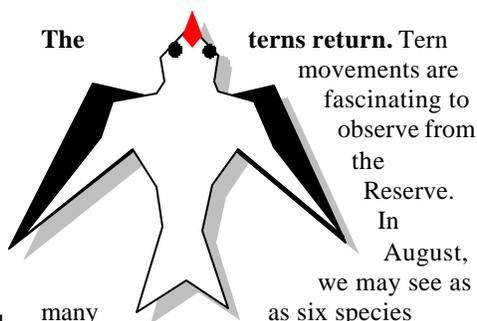
What is the autumn season? The autumn season is certainly in the eye of the beholder, and for those who behold the rivers of birds that flow through the Reserve every fall; the definition overflows the traditional calendar boundaries. Check your calendar and you'll see that autumn is defined as that season between the autumnal equinox (near September 21) and the winter solstice (on or about December 21). However the millions of birds that take part in nature's largest spectacle—the fall migration—ignore the artificial calendars of mankind. Their itinerary is driven by the amount of sunlight, completion of their breeding chores, and the genetic programming that has ensured the survival of the species for millennia. A few shorebirds, their parental duties over, start heading south by the end of June, while many of the waterfowl (including ducks and geese) remain north until their water habitats freeze over.

The numbers swell. By August, the bird population north of the tropics has more than doubled with all the recently fledged chicks. Breeding has increased the number of birds to the highest of the year, yet when the migrants return in the following spring, the population will typically be back to what it was the previous year. There are many perils that confront a bird in the first year of its life, and migration is a major one. Locations like Los Peñasquitos Lagoon are important staging and refueling sites.

A focus on shorebirds. Shorebirds trickle through from their northern breeding sites as early as July and the numbers of species and individuals greatly swell in August. Migration within a species typically occurs in two waves. Most shorebirds are what ornithologists call *precocial*. At hatching, they are well developed and

able to fend for themselves. Freed of the responsibility of raising their young, the adult shorebirds head south almost as soon as the young are hatched. This behavior leaves more food for the young. Depending on the species, we get the adult shorebirds passing through in late July and early August, while juvenile birds come through in late August and September. Imagine these tiny birds, only a few weeks old, heading south on a journey of thousands of miles, a journey they've never taken before!

Waterfowl come late. On the other end of the migration calendar are the ducks and geese. While some species show up early, many stay north as long as the water remains open. Many move south just in front of the freeze line that moves down the continent as fall progresses. Many waterfowl don't show up here in the Reserve until late October or November.



Our visitors range from the huge Caspian Terns with their heavy blood-red bills, to the tiny Least Terns with their bright yellow bills. We see few Royal Terns but Elegant Terns move north from their breeding sites in large numbers, often with flocks of 200 or more. This northward movement may be more appropriately referred to as "post breeding dispersal" than migration. Common Terns are not very common at all in the Reserve, but do occur. Juveniles of all species occur here, but I know of no breeding records.

Enjoy the migration. Watch this magnificent manifestation of nature that we call the autumn migration as it ebbs and flows through the Reserve. *Please contact me with anything interesting at dblue@san.rr.com or (858) 481-3783.*

The Sibley bird library

a review by Don Grine

- "The Sibley Guide to Birds," Knopf, 2000
- "The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America," Knopf, 2003
- "Sibley's Birding Basics," Knopf, 2002
- "The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior," Knopf, 2001

David Sibley really hit the big time with his "Guide to Birds." In an earlier review in *Torreyana*, I praised it to the skies but had one reservation: it is too big and heavy to be a practical field guide except for large, young, fit birders. The second title listed above is appropriately named "Field Guide," and it overcomes the size objection. It is slightly smaller than the comparable National Geographic bird guide. The reduction is achieved mostly by omitting birds that occur mainly east of the Mississippi. A few illustrations of included birds have been omitted, too. It's a good guide, real competition for National Geographic.

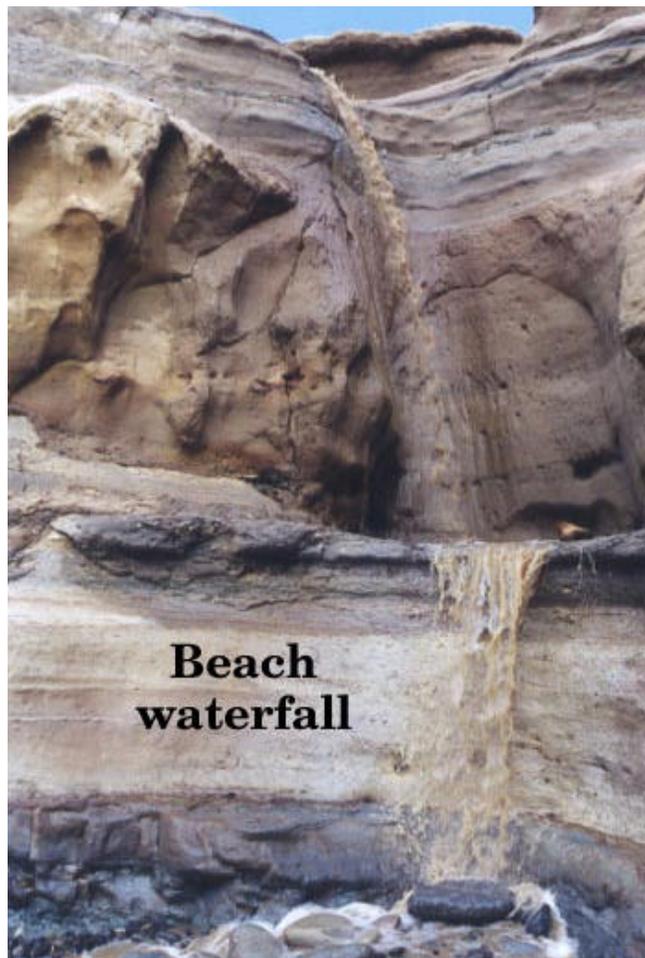
Sibley's "Basics" doesn't seem very *basic* to me. I'm working at it and appreciate chapters on topics such as "Understanding Feathers." The book is clear and I believe I'm becoming a better birder as I read. You should read a chapter, and then go out to practice in the field.

The Guide to "Bird Life and Behavior" is not aimed at bird identification. It tries to show what birds really do. It's really more fun to watch a bird live than to just name it. The "Behavior" book shows you what to look for.

I bought all four Sibley books and I'm glad I did.



A Torrey Pines pictorial



(clockwise from upper left)

"Bottlenose Dolphin" by Wes Farmer

"Beach with hang-gliders" and

"Beach waterfall" by Don Grine

"Our Lord's Candle" by Rick Vogel

Tidings from TPA: Carmel Valley Road update

by Ann Gardner

The Torrey Pines Association is attending local hearings and asking City of San Diego officials to modify their plan for “enhancing” Carmel Valley Road, which includes adding urban hardscape and paved parking spaces along the Lagoon in the Reserve.

“There is strong (community) support for alternative designs...that would allow us to make Carmel Valley Road safer and more visually pleasing while remaining business friendly and ecologically sound,” says TPA President Diana Bergen. She emphasized that the design proposed by the City does not correct the hazardous conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists or even automobiles along the northern edge of the lagoon. Further the visual integrity of Torrey Pines State Reserve is destroyed.”

Key design elements suggested by TPA come from the City’s just approved Street Design Manual - to separate pedestrians from traffic and create plantable areas relating to the adjacent natural setting, in this case the Reserve. The key design elements include:

- **No parking on the south side of the Road, next to the Lagoon.** “Elimination of parking along the entire length of the lagoon will communicate the important value we place on this land. It will create a consistent and recognizable edge, a natural edge and will give the area a more beautiful view not only to the residential and commercial property owners but also to all who pass by. *There are better places to park than on State preserve land,*” Bergen has stated.
- **Parking and planting pockets along the north side** of Carmel Valley Road to create a safer, visually pleasing and business friendly roadway design. Existing residential planting in the City right-of-way could be extended to the planting pockets.
- **Safer bicycle and pedestrian design.** Planting pockets will help separate pedestrians from traffic. The use of pockets has proven effective at slowing traffic by perceptually narrowing travel lanes.

\$50 thousand allocated to Reserve projects –

The TPA has donated almost \$50,000 of its treasury to the Reserve, taking into account “this especially difficult budgetary time for State parks,” for the following projects:

- \$10,000 for outdoor interpretive panels for the Guy Fleming trailhead, South Beach restroom, Discovery Trail and several other locations
- \$10,000 for remodel of front office, in keeping with style of completed Ranger's office remodel
- \$5,000 for benches for theater seating and storage in completed theater remodel
- \$5,000 for benches for second outdoor classroom in sunshine
- \$5,000 attractive wood carved entrance signs identifying Reserve at Reserve and North Beach
- \$5,000 one-time brochure for distribution to Reserve neighbors regarding Reserve and Extension and educating them about fire management, exotics, etc. and TPA
- \$1,000 continued funding of bark beetle pheromones
- \$5,000 Pilot Ranger Discretionary Fund
- \$2,000 vibrating plate for trail compaction
- \$1,200 network computers to one quality printer

The decision to spend down some of the Association's treasury was based on several factors including a continued review of TPA's reserve fund, annual operating expenses which includes about \$12,000 for normal contributions to the Reserve, the Park's needs list and developing guidelines for the review of project requests. At its earlier meetings, TPA Counselors had urged the Board to take action as soon as possible “in this especially difficult budgetary time for State parks.”

The ad hoc Expenditure Committee also suggested that the Board, at the end of each fiscal year, look at budget expenditures and make recommendations for the next year reflecting on, “After a project is completed can TPA say we are better off as an organization having spent it.”

Committee members, Counselors Diana Bergen, Courtney Coyle, Bill Evarts, Jan McMillan and Treasurer David Goldberg, Committee Chair, were commended by the Board for their work and recommendations.

