



TORREYANA

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
BY THE TORREY PINES
DOCENT SOCIETY

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Training in the Extension

Text & photo by Linda Martin

Sometimes I surprise myself and take my own advice. In the January *Torreyana*, I suggested we read Cynthia Duckich's clever diary entries in the "Special Edition" newsletter we use to tempt Torrey Pines lovers into our annual training program. Then I suggested we might benefit from sitting in on some of the training sessions. On April 3, that's just what I did (with some encouragement from Training Coordinator Janie Killerman); I dropped in on Joan Nimick's "Flowers of Torrey Pines" presentation. Joan had everyone pumped up and eager to hit the trails to begin the often confusing process of identifying the Reserve's native species. I'd agreed to take a group of docents-in-training on a hike in the Extension, an area of the Reserve that gets little attention from visitors to Torrey Pines, and remains a mystery to many long-time active docents. Since my home is near the trailhead on Mira Montana Drive, I hike through some areas of the Extension nearly every day, and *may* know the plants as well as some of our resident botanists, at least by their common names.

The Torrey Pines Docent Society training program got a serious makeover this year. With so few completing the course in '03, we determined that what we needed was less talk, more walk. A committee of docents and presenters met several times and designed a more active program with short indoor lectures followed by "hands on" experience in the Reserve. Janie, who'd been on the training team in '03, came forward and agreed to lead the effort, with promises for backup support from the active docent membership. The new training regimen is working better than we could have imagined. At the halfway point, we still have 60 trainees who not only show up for their scheduled sessions, but come to our membership meetings, as well.

April 3rd, fifteen trainees, including Janie, joined me for a hike along the highest and most popular, accessible trail – Red Ridge. After an hour, eight (pictured at right,

among fields of Sea Dahlias) were still enchanted by the blooms and views. We trekked along the mesa top, through the gully, up the D.A.R. Trail, and marveled at the panorama visible from the Pacific overlook. Janie has asked me to take a second group through the Extension Saturday, May 8, after Alicia Berg's presentation on "Snakes and Lizards of Torrey Pines." Whether you're a trainee or "old" docent who wants to renew your relationship with the Extension, you're invited to come along. I'll meet you at the break and give you directions for driving to the Extension rendezvous. (Boots are recommended.)



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President's Message...

Sixty new docent trainees! What could be a better sign of the Docent Society's vitality? And a great influence on the TPDS of the future, bringing new talents, insights, interests, passions. As we answer their questions, interact with them on walks and lodge duty, and share some of the training sessions with them—we're likely to find changes in ourselves. Such interactions certainly cause this veteran to re-examine what and how he presents our beautiful Reserve to others. In a word, his "interpretation."

The docent's role as interpreter is the main one we are passing on. Our bylaws, mission statement, training philosophy and agenda all reiterate interpretation as our Society's focus.

I think it is not an accident that we use the same word, "interpret," to translate foreign words into terms we understand. Here we change unfamiliar topics, phenomena, concepts and places into words that will make sense and stay with our audience. If people leave us with a better understanding, care and concern for TPSR and what it represents, if they have a new feeling for the beauty here, the art, the wonder, the peace...we must be interpreting it.

The inspiration for these thoughts? A recent training session by Docent Judy Shulman on TPSR's Native Americans and history was a masterful demonstration! Not only of what we should know and say, but **how** to present it so that people remember and walk away changed. This master (or is it mistress, no, "mystress") of interpretation modeled it all: taking risks (the ridiculous hat and pipe); having fun; involving us in the audience; bringing fascinating things to touch and see; relating things to the familiar. Obviously knowledgeable, even she didn't memorize a whole bunch of facts (in fact they were organized on note cards), and she ended up with a statement of love and concern and obligation that would convert anyone in attendance. Didn't all of us in the SRO audience say to ourselves, not only "Oh, that's a great new thing to tell people," but also "Oh; I'll have to remember to do it **that** way?"

So we welcome our bumper class of June 2004. We join you in learning or re-experiencing the Reserve, in modeling interpretation as well as demonstrating fascinating and interesting facts. This should help you increase your understanding and love of our special favorite place, as we all must do for the public. Trainees, you will find lots of willing people here to help you get started. And keep on challenging us!

Walt Desmond

PS: Help Wanted!!!!!! Docents: we can't wait for that new class— interpretation opportunities need filling NOW, every day: look how many lodge and walk duties are still unfilled for this month; we'd love to have more contributors to our great newsletters; we need help with programs, publications, library, museum, trails, etc., etc., Get in touch with a board member today! (Members' e-dresses are in the shaded masthead at left.)

Tadpoles at Carmel Mountain Spring, 2004

by Maryruth Cox

On top of the world, we wandered along ancient trails under the March sky. To the east, purple-black clouds obscured the mountains and we heard occasional thunder. In the west, the last light of day glanced from the mirrored sea. We were walking on Carmel Mountain, which is actually a mesa, and the old roads we were following had been battered to a hardpan by motorcycles and jeeps. Run-off from the February rains had collected in shallow dips to form vernal (spring) pools.

A week earlier the water in these pools had been clear, and I had seen signs of frogs -- glistening clumps of jelly with eggs or wriggling tadpoles. When I picked up the jelly, the tiny tadpoles squeezed out and wiggled on my hand.

But today a yellow silt permeated the water and we could only see the black bodies of the tadpoles when they surfaced, gasping for air. Perhaps their great numbers had depleted the supply of oxygen in the water. Some small black tadpoles clustered at the edges of the pools, while larger (thumb-nail-sized) grey and beige ones burbled in the middle.

One big tadpole held a small one in his mouth. Are tadpoles cannibals? Another sign of predators: bird tracks, about three inches long, probably from an egret hunting for his amphibian aperitif.

We returned every week to check on the pools. By the end of March they had mostly dried up, only three big ones were left. A cluster of silver-white tadpoles lay in one cereal-

***Ehrharta* removal -- opening day. (left to right) Vernie McGowan, Nan Criqui, Marge Stettbacher, David Rightmer and Katharine Chaffee (working in background). If you'd like to help remove non-native plants, please contact Vernie or Eva. (Photo by Eva Armi)**



Tadpoles (cont.)

bowl-sized depression; they moved feebly, barely alive. I picked one up and put him in a large pool. By the next week, that depression held only silver dust from the dead tadpoles. Tracks of a big bird testified to their fate.

On April 1, a half-inch of rain renewed the vernal pools. The dips in the road that had been dry were now filled with clear water again, but no tadpoles. The big pools were still cloudy with yellow silt. In them, tadpoles swam vigorously, flickering through the shallows, and did not surface often for air. The rain and the wind had revived the oxygen supply. Another chance for life!



The Willet

by Maryruth Cox

Usually,
the willet is solitary,
runs in the wave,
with eyes fixed on
the sand,
on the worm wiggles
that signal his dinner.

But tonight,
he and a friend
prance at the
water's edge,
march in distant
unison,
turn synchronously,
as if tied by invisible cords.

His head is high,
his body stretched,
and his partner
aware.

Docent Chronicles - May 2004

General Membership Meeting

May 15, 2004

9 AM – “Meet the DPR”

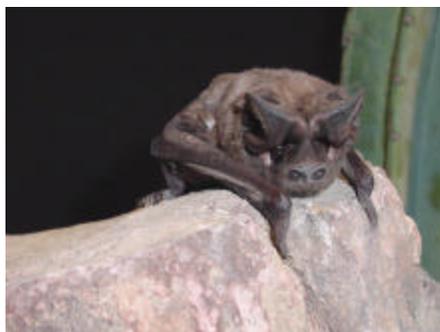
10 -- Refreshment/social break

10:30 – Business meeting

District Superintendent **Ronilee Clark** and North Coast Supervisor **Denny Stouffer** will give a “state of the district” presentation, with plenty of time for “Q & A,” so bring your questions and concerns to this important event. *With a class of 60 docent trainees, we are more crowded than usual in our Lodge meeting space. This is a particular problem when the presenter has an audio-visual presentation set-up in front of the main door. Please plan to be seated in the Lodge no later than 9 AM to reduce confusion and help us keep the meeting agenda on schedule.* As usual, please carpool and/or park along the west side of the Lodge Road – the space marked for “Staff Parking.” Bring something good to share at break time and a re-usable beverage cup. Thanks, the TPDS Board.

TPDS General Meeting -- April 17, 2004

by Victoria Schaffer



Dispelling myths about bats:

Our April 17 presentation was by **Dick Wilkins** from the Wildlife Center’s Bat Rescue and Educational

Programs, located in Poway. The Rescue Program takes in injured bats to treat them and either release them back to the wild, or give them sanctuary. The Educational Program instructs the public on how to safely handle a found bat. Dick’s video and slide presentation was chock full of useful information about bats. The presentation went a long way towards dispelling negative myths about these fellow mammals.

Some bat facts:

- Bats belong to the order *Chiroptera*, Latin for “hand-wing” (a reference to their upper limb structure, very much like our own hand and fingers)
- Bats are the only mammals that have powered flight
- Most bats are beneficial to humankind
- There are 2 bat groups: Mega and Micro
- There are 1,100 bat species worldwide: 720 bug eaters (mosquitoes, scorpions, caterpillars, maggots, etc.), 240 fruit eaters (help propagate fruit seeds), 50 nectar feeding (help pollinate nocturnal flowering plants), 7 meat eating (fish, frogs), and only 3 blood-eating species, none native to the United States
- The Western Mastiff bat is the largest USA species, the size of a hamster
- Some insect-eating bat colonies contain up to 30 million bats
- Some insect-eating bats can eat 600 mosquito-sized insects every day
- Micro bats are insect-eaters with sonar mechanism, including large ears to locate prey (echolocation)
- Mega bats are fruit eaters, do not use sonar



Some rabies transmission facts

- Rabies, a viral encephalitis preventable by timely immunization after exposure, can affect any mammal
- Raccoons, skunks, coyotes, wolves and bats can be rabies vectors (transmit viruses from one host species to another)
- Most bats have teeth too small to bite a human being
- A bat should NEVER be handled with bare hands
- Less than 40 humans have died from rabies since the 1950s
- In 1996 there was one human death related to bats, compared to 854 by electrocution and 42 from insect bite hypersensitivity

(Pictured above, Wilkins uses a “bat” and fishing pole to demonstrate a bat’s swooping movements when it mistakenly flies into your home. It’s not really trying to get in your hair! For more information on bats, go to www.batrescue.org.)

Business meeting notes: Former President **Georgette Camporini** introduced the students selected for the TPDS Science Fair award, **Nicholas C. Halsey** and **Virginia Dick**. Both awardees made brief presentations of their award winning projects. Nicholas and Virginia each received a certificate, a \$100 Savings Bond and a one-year TPSR parking permit. Walter thanked **Theo Tanalski** and the committee for their work.



Nicholas C. Halsey pictured with his dad, Richard Halsey, is a seventh grade student at Del Dios School in Escondido. He worked with Matilija Poppy seeds to study how fire helps seed germination. These seeds have a thick seed coat that needs to be cracked by heat prior to germination. He compared the effect of several fire-

associated conditions, heat from the oven, ashes, and liquid smoke, on the number of seeds germinating in 3 separate groups. He concluded that the highest number germinated in the group treated with liquid smoke. Water alone had no effect, but some component of the liquid smoke may have helped, and Nicholas plans to continue this work.

Virginia Dick, (pictured at right with her dad Randy Dick, is in the 11th grade at Point Loma High School. She presented her work on the use of clays to limit growth of phytoplankton in water. Her findings could be useful in aqua farming where excess phytoplankton interferes with the availability of oxygen to fish. Virginia found that talc was the best growth inhibitor. Talc had no harmful effect on blue mussel growth but rather seemed to be of benefit.

Docents of the Month are **Georgette Camporini**, **Theo Tanalski** and **Marty Jacobson**, for their hard work in judging the Science Fair projects and selecting the TPDS awardees. TPDS Treasurer Rick Vogel was also part of the judging team. President **Walt Desmond** reminded the membership of the “annual 72-hour duty requirement

To maintain regular docent membership. Desmond also mentioned that meeting attendance, while important, does not count toward the duty hours.

Training Coordinator **Janie Killerman** has motivated 60 trainees to continue in the 2004 program. (Yea, Janie!) The trainees are encouraged to arrange for a “Docent Mentor” for their Lodge Duty training periods. There is a sign-up sheet at the desk for active docents who are willing to be mentors.



Laura Lowenstein reports that everyone is doing a fantastic job with signing up and being available for the Children’s Program. The program ends at the end of this month (May), then we’ll take a 3-month break. Several trainees have gone along with a CP leader and the children: we are always glad to have anyone show up. The schedule for May is on the bulletin board in the Docent Room. If you want to be on Laura’s list for updates, contact her at adventuresahead@cox.net or phone (760)753-2091.

Karen Griebe asked the docents on Lodge Duty to follow the correct book-selling procedures. (If you are not sure, refer to instructions and price list in Procedures Manual.) Rick Vogel asked the Docents on afternoon Lodge Duty to make sure to follow the Lodge closing procedures for the money in the cash drawer. Rick’s protocol is reprinted on Page 6.

Trainee hikes in Sedona -- My husband and I visited Sedona, Arizona recently, for a week’s vacation. We are avid hikers. By dodging the rain, we were able to hike at least 3 days during our stay. Since I am a D.I.T. (Docent in training), our usual moderate to strenuous hikes took on a new meaning. I am also a lover of plants and have particularly enjoyed trying to identify plants and flowers on the weekly hikes at TPSR. **(Cont. on Page 6)**

Sedona (Cont. from Page 5) While on our Sedona hikes, we meandered and I spouted off names of flowers and snapped pictures of various flowering plants. I even bought a book of desert wildflowers found in Arizona. One funny incident occurred when we were on the “Pink Jeep Tour.” I pointed to Indian paintbrush and a verbena plant species. Our tour guide heard me, then pointed to a cactus and said, “that is an agave yucca.” He told the group how the Indians used this particular plant. Not wanting to be an arrogant tourist, I did not correct him. I later pointed out to my husband a real agave yucca. It has been a delight to be able to learn more about the native plants and flowers. **Cecily Goode** [Not being a botanist myself, I consulted Margaret Fillius on Cecily’s “agave yucca.” Margaret says, “the Agave and Yucca are two different genera, however both are in the *Agavaceae* family...just to confuse everyone more!” Ed.]

More housekeeping stuff: Bookstore cash procedure reviewed: Due to thefts reported at other parks, we docents need to protect our cash more efficiently. The Board, in consultation with the Department of Parks and Recreation, has developed the following accounting

process to safeguard our assets. This procedure should be followed every day by the Docent who has the last Lodge shift of the day (1-4 on weekdays, 3-6 on weekends).

1. Count the cash in the cash drawer (you can ignore the coinage).
2. Count out \$100 in the smaller bills to be left in the cash drawer for making change.
3. Put the excess over \$100 into an envelope with a label on it that say “TPDS Bookstore Receipts.”
4. Print the amount of cash in the space provided on the label.
5. Print the date in the space provided.
6. Print your name in the space provided.
7. Seal the envelope.
8. Put the sealed envelope in the Docent Safe – if you don’t know where the Docent Safe is, ask a Park Aid or Ranger – they know.
9. If safe is not accessible because office is closed, put envelope on the top in the cash drawer so that the 1st docent on duty the next day can deposit the envelope.

Birds of Torrey Pines State Reserve - April 2004

Observers: Don Grine,
David Blue, Hank and Jane
Baele, Jack Friery, Gary
Grantham

Lagoon: Open

Red-throated Loon 1
Pacific Loon 2
Common Loon 6
Pied-billed Grebe 2
Western Grebe 250
Brown Pelican 4
Double-crested Cormorant 16
Brandt's Cormorant 1
Great Blue Heron 1
Great Egret 17
Snowy Egret 12
Black-crowned Night Heron 1
Green-winged Teal 4
Mallard 19
Cinnamon Teal 6
Northern Shoveler 12
Gadwall 13

Lesser Scaup 2
Surf Scoter 10
Bufflehead 4
Red-breasted Merganser 1
White-tailed Kite 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 6
California Quail 3
American Coot 50
Snowy Plover 6
Killdeer 2
American Avocet 2
Willet 23
Marbled Godwit 2
Sanderling 300
Western Sandpiper 4
Dowitcher sp. 6
Heermann's Gull 3
Ring-billed Gull 17
California Gull 18
Western Gull 10
Caspian Tern 12
Royal Tern 14
Elegant Tern 34
Forster's Tern 3

Rock Dove 5
Mourning Dove 14
White-throated Swift 79
Anna's Hummingbird 16
Nuttall's Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 1
Black Phoebe 6
Cassin's Kingbird 10
Tree Swallow 13
Rough-winged Swallow 130
Cliff Swallow 101
Barn Swallow 2
Scrub Jay 3
American Crow 7
Common Raven 33
Bushtit 6
Bewick's Wren 2
House Wren 1
California Gnatcatcher 2
Gnatcatcher sp. 2
Wrentit 12
Northern Mockingbird 2
California Thrasher 3
European Starling 4
Orange-crowned Warbler 1

Yellow Warbler 6
Yellow-rumped Warbler 2
Common Yellowthroat 6
Spotted Towhee 3
California Towhee 17
Belding's Savannah Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 31
Golden-crowned Sparrow 4
White-crowned Sparrow 3
Red-winged Blackbird 28
Brewer's Blackbird 6
Hooded Oriole 2
House Finch 12
American Goldfinch 3



Tidings from the TPA

by Doug Lappi, President
Torrey Pines Association

Concerns over the rail passage that runs through the heart of Los Penasquitos Lagoon jumped to the forefront at the TPA Board of Counselors meeting this month. The Association was founded to encourage public interest in, and support for, the preservation of the rare Torrey pines and their scenic refuge. Proposed plans for the rail expansion through the Lagoon hits to the core of all efforts to protect Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Don Billings from the Torrey Pines Planning Group addressed the Board concerning the proposal for double tracking of the San Diego -- Los Angeles rail route. Transportation agencies such as SANDAG are now vetting the proposal to run a tunnel beneath Del Mar that would exit into the Lagoon. A second set of tracks would be constructed and continue on concrete pilings through the Lagoon. This would allow for increased train traffic. Last month, a community meeting including SANDAG, CalTrans, local politicians and the community was called and the community response was loud and clear: get those tracks out of the Lagoon! The extensively detailed 1998 Wildlife Management Plan for the State Reserve (read it on our website, www.torreypines.org) lamented the tracks and their damage to wildlife in the Reserve and the Lagoon Preserve. The addition of a new set of tracks and the new concrete viewscape was considered a bad idea in a beautiful and environmentally important place. The Counselors took a position to remove the tracks from the lagoon by utilizing a different route. There are two alternative suggestions at this point: one that skirts the San Dieguito Lagoon and one that turns inland near Cannon Road in Carlsbad and follows Interstate 5. Keeping the train out of any and every lagoon would be preferable.

Diana Bergen finished her term as President of the Board. Diana led very important struggles in the maintenance of the environment of the Torrey pine. She was there at the beginning of the fight to keep Sorrento Valley Road closed and spoke forcefully before the San Diego City Council when they voted to keep the road closed. During her tenure, the TPA gave more than \$50,000 for upkeep of the Reserve, and this was during a time when money suddenly became in short supply for State Parks across California. We thank Diana, who continues as a Counselor, for her dedicated hard work in the spirit of Guy Fleming.



Torrey Pines Docent Society, TPA, and many other community groups sponsored Earth Day at Torrey Pines April 24. About 50 early bird volunteers are getting their work orders from Ranger Olson, including Scott Peters, San Diego City Councilmember (in background), on hand to thank the volunteer workers.

New officers include Peter Jensen and John Quirk as Vice Presidents, Pat Masters as Secretary, Mike Gonzalez, Jr. as Membership Chairman and yours truly as President. David Zimmerman remains TPA Treasurer.

Alex Tynberg of the Trust for Public Lands spoke to the membership (at the annual TPA meeting in February) about purchasing the privately owned knoll that abuts the closed portion of Sorrento Valley Road. This private ownership issue creates serious difficulties for the continued closure of Sorrento Valley Road. We have enlisted the help of San Francisco-based Trust for Public Lands to resolve any rights-of-way issues that might surface in a future purchase. The Trust for Public Lands has contacted the present owners, and has asked for funding from the TPA for an independent evaluation of the property. TPA voted to approve the requested \$4000. The assessment will allow for appropriate discussion with the owners of the property and is one more example of how the TPA works to keep Torrey Pines State Reserve the wonderful place that you know.

TPA is upgrading its website in order to facilitate better communication with our members. Now, new and renewing members can print the form and send it to us. We also have discussions of topical Reserve issues and a PDF version of the current *Torreyana*. Our members are the greatest resource we have, and we want you to be informed and inspired to continue to do the things that need to be done for the Reserve. Check out our website (www.torreypines.org) and watch for new additions and updates. See you on the Trails!