



TORREYANA

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
BY THE TORREY PINES
DOCENT SOCIETY

Volume 5, Issue 5

September 2004



Mary Weir, Marsha & Rick Vogel, Maurice & Ree Miller, enjoy the ambience at Mike Gonzalez's Carmel Valley party. That's Mike Cornforth behind Ree.

Torrey Pines docents and volunteers party...again!

We picnicked on the beach in July, partied in Carmel Valley in August, and will be feted by the DPR staff in September. Are we party animals, or what! On Tuesday, September 21st, Torrey Pines State Reserve staff will host a "Volunteer Appreciation Dinner" for all Torrey Pines volunteers and docents. Ranger Gary Olson says this year's theme is "Prohibition and the days of the Speakeasy." Come "as you are" or come dressed as your favorite 30's era flapper or gangster. Ranger Olson says, "be prepared to have fun." Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30. Please sign up at the September docent meeting, or call the Lodge at (858) 755-2063.

BYOH (Bring your own hooch!)

Butterfly clams thrive

by Maryruth Cox

In May, the beach at Torrey Pines was knobby with *Donax*, butterfly clams. At mid-tide, we scooped handfuls of the delicately patterned inch-long mollusks from the wet sand. Later on, in June and July, the clams did not seem so numerous, but we still found the colorful shells scattered about the beach.

Now in August, when we happened to be splashing through puddles at low tide near Tower 7, we noticed tiny specks of shell in the sand slurry. They were living clams, *Donax*, about 1/8" long! There were thousands in the wet sand. In some places, we counted 100 to the cubic inch, probably descendants of the clams we had seen in May.

How can these little creatures survive in the summer on one of the most popular beaches in San Diego, with hundreds of human feet trampling on them every day? But there they are, alive and prospering!

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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President's message: Did you Notice?

This summer during the height of our regular docent duties, a few behind-the-scenes events happened that I think are worth noting:

- our introduction to the new Resource Ecologist, botanist Darren Smith
- welcoming new Maintenance Supervisor, Brian Gaudet, and his TPSR-specific trails specialist
- our letter to the California Assembly supporting parks legislation
- Ranger Jody Kummer's expansion of our old trail patrol program

Why are these significant?

First, they remind us of all the people and activities necessary for the long-term success of this place, including professional attention to major threats to the Reserve -- exotic plants and declining trail conditions; docents looking beyond TPSR to laws protecting our parks (if we don't support parks laws, who will?); and ideas for interpretation for those 90% of visitors who do **not** visit the lodge or take the docent trail walks.

There are also encouraging signs of continuing improvements in TPSR. These include increasing communication with district staff--potentially great resources supporting our work; personnel planning that include critical hires—they **are** happening; attention to our responsibility for legislative advocacy as set out in our bylaws; and widening our audience for interpretation to a whole new set of visitors. **We are making progress!**

Finally, these developments bring us expanded opportunities for volunteer work: With all our new docents, the duty calendar is looking great, and we can look beyond lodge, trail walk and Children's Program duties. If you are interested in working with Darren on exotic plants, doing trail work with our new staff; keeping track of key legislation; or working in our new trail interpretation program; why not leave your name with the rangers or a board member. (Find Board members' e-mail addresses in the masthead at left.) We need your interest and your talents!

With summer winding down, don't forget the September Docent meeting and the staff's annual Docent Appreciation Dinner, September 21. See you there.

Walt Desmond
President, Torrey Pines Docent Society

Book Review: Steve Usher

San Diego County Native Plants

by James Lightner
San Diego Flora, 2004, 230 pages

James Lightner's recent guide to the fauna of San Diego is a worthy addition to the libraries of both docents and visitors to TPSR. As the author's colorful and diverse background is fully explored elsewhere (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 30, 2004, page I-1; signonsandiego.com), suffice it to say that Lightner's lay approach proves very accessible to the non-botanist. The book is divided into two parts with the first half focusing on Trees and Shrubs and the latter portion on Herbaceous Plants. Both common and Latin names are provided, along with the plant's height, habitat and a brief description. In addition, photographs of the plants are offered from at least two perspectives: a close-up view of the flower, berry or leaf, as well as a wider view of the total plant. Finally, plants are differentiated between native and non-native.



While the main body of the book justifies the reasonable \$30 purchase price, the introduction is also a valuable reference source. Useful tables including San Diego County rainfall, the county's principal rivers, state and federally managed open spaces within the county (a surprisingly high 43% of total county acreage), the county's recent fire history, a vegetation map and glossary of botanical terms are all fodder for docent presentations and trail walk discussions.

What kind of review would not include some criticism, however? To be sure, with 6-7 photos per page, some of the photos are too small to be of great use in the field. A slightly larger format would enhance the utility of the book without rendering it too large for a

daypack. Secondly, only 520 species of the more than 2,000 species (more than any other county in the nation, according to Lightner) that grow naturally in our county are included. Lightner may address this issue with a second volume focusing on desert plant species. Nonetheless, the focus of the volume remains clearly coastal, chaparral and woodland. This is certainly not a problem for us at TPSR, but is not as inclusive as the book's title would imply.

A final criticism is that as the book is ordered taxonomically and requires a certain level of experience and familiarity with botanical classifications. Indeed, the index offers both the common and Latin names for entries, but as a field identification guide, it could be somewhat daunting to the beginner.

On balance, however, the concise, 230 page volume should be a useful addition to any docent's library. Though it will not displace Nancy Dale in anyone's backpack, any field trip would be enriched by the companionship of both Nancy and James.

Celebrating twenty years of service at Torrey Pines by Bob Margulies

This year, I am celebrating my 20th year as a Torrey Pines Docent. I use the word "celebrate" purposely. It is not often that one can celebrate 20 years of learning, aiding others, meeting so many lovers of nature and beauty, and fun...all in one place.

Through all these years, I have led, walked, patrolled and cleaned each of the Reserve trails and those in the Extension (accessible from just outside my front door). I have served as head of the nominating committee twice, been active in the

park during festivals and open houses, and for several years, I helped proofread and mail this newsletter. (Del Roberts, Bob's late wife, was Docent of the Year in '99 and a former *Torreyana* editor.) I continue to sit at the docent desk every other Tuesday morning.

I've served with many dedicated and knowledgeable rangers and park aides – many of whom have become fast friends. From each, I've received a better understanding of this unique environment and the art of interpreting that knowledge for park visitors. But most of all, it is the friendship of these individuals, folks who give so much time and love to our park, that has kept me involved. I hope that I will be a

docent for a long time to come. For me, being a Torrey Pines Docent has meant a satisfying life, full of loving and learning. ?



Above – Don Grine caught this Red-shouldered Hawk enjoying his lunch on the sign at Batiquitos Lagoon. Don has been a Torrey Pines Docent since '93.

Docent Chronicles - September 2004

Next TPDS general membership meeting

Sept. 18, 2004

9 – program

10 – refreshment/social break

10:30 – 2nd Class of '04 Graduation
and business meeting

Please try to arrive before the 9 AM scheduled start time. Attendance has been so good lately, that we rarely have empty seats for latecomers. If you cannot come on time, please enter the main room through the ranger office, so the presenter is not disturbed. Also, please carpool, if possible, and park on the west side of the Lodge Road, in the designated “staff parking” area beyond the public restrooms. Please bring a re-usable container for your refreshment beverage. The TPDS Board thanks you very much! Please turn off your cell phone during the meeting!

Highlights from the

August 21st membership meeting

(from TPDS Secretary Victoria Schaffer's minutes)



Siberian tiger, one of many “big cats” facing extinction.

The August presenter was Dr. Thomas D. English, president of the T. English Endangered Species Studies Institute. English is an environmental engineer with an extensive career in environmental preservation and endangered species protection. His work with the federal government included setting up the scientific foundation of a nuclear waste repository under former president Jimmy Carter. He contributed scientific input on the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and is

currently vice-moderator of Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, a group that draws attention to the need to preserve biodiversity and halt mass extinction. The core message of his presentation was that, as the highest species in the food chain, human beings are impacting the environment in such a manner that we are now in a collision course with the natural world. The extinction of species is part of nature's cycle; however, humans have eclipsed all other influences and are causing extinction at an unprecedented pace. We are driving species to extinction at a rate that is much greater than the planet has experienced for 65 million years.

- At the current rate of destruction, the tropical rain forest will be eliminated in 50 years, causing the extinction of 25% of all living species
- Other human-caused changes are global warming, the hole in the ozone layer, over-harvesting, and rapid population growth.
- The added effect of these changes and current trends will lead to another mass extinction in the next hundred years.
- Once a species is extinct, it is gone forever.
- A mass extinction threatens humanity's food supply.
- The ecosystem disruption caused by a mass extinction could lead to destruction of human culture and to the extinction of humankind.

Congress passed the **Endangered Species Act** and President Nixon signed it in 1973. ESA makes a determination of endangered and threatened species, and provides for listing, designation of critical habitat and recovery planning. Some federal agencies, including DOD, are now exempt from environmental and public health laws, including ESA, under exemptions approved by Congress in November 2003.

For more information: Contact Dr. English at Tdenglish3@sbcglobal.net For information about groups across the country working to protect endangered species, go to <http://www.earthjustice.org/about.clients.html>

Business meeting notes: After the refreshment break, docents moved outside to the Torrey Circle for a short business meeting, with President Walt Desmond presiding.

Walt recognized **Docent of the Month, Marge Stettbacher**, class of '04, nominated for her work with the exotic plants group. Marge joined the group before she even began the Training Program, and has been a consistent, hard worker ever since. Walt announced

that **Darlene Farnes** is working on the folders and volunteer hour forms, and would welcome your input. **Jeannie Smith** asks us to send her our mailing and e-mail address changes so she can issue an updated docent roster after next month's second graduating class. The new date for the **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** is Tuesday, September 21st. (See front-page story in the Torreyana for details.) **Ranger Gary Olson** would welcome help with setting up the Lodge for our monthly meetings. If interested, please contact him for more information. **Sharon and Steve Rose, and Lillian Lachicotte**, class of '04, have volunteered for Library maintenance. An on-line library catalogue is being completed, which will include a spreadsheet of all books and videos. The current collection includes **550** books. **Torreyana Editor Linda Martin** asked for newsletter contributions -- stories, photos, poems, or whatever inspires you. She then announced that she and **Jeannie Smith** have posted '03 and current '04 **Torreyanas** on the Docent Society WebPages. **Laura Lowenstein** asks docents on Desk Duty to please take **CP** inquiries, school and teacher's name, phone number, school grade, and place it in her mailbox at the Staff office. **Barbara Wallach** requests help with updating the Training Manual. Interested docents should contact her. No dates set yet for the 2005 Docent Training Program. Docents on Lodge Duty are asked to get name and contact phone # of interested individuals and pass them along to **Janie Killerman, Training Coordinator**. Walt received a "thank you" letter from **Sheila Kuehl**, Chair of the CA Senate Natural Resources & Wildlife Committee, for TPDS support of SB 1327. **Jim Bedinger** (immediate past president of TPDS) is chairing a Nominating Committee for the 2005 Board elections. Docents interested in being nominated or with suggestions for the nominations should contact Jim.

TPSR Staff Report

Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer gave us the happy news that TPSR finally has a new Maintenance Supervisor. **Brian Gaudet** started work on August 1st. He is a licensed contractor, with years of experience with the California Conservation Corps. One of Brian's priorities is to finish the High Point Trail renovation by September 21st. A new trail worker will start on September 1st. Ranger Olson says, "Brian brings a positive attitude and a wealth of knowledge to the daunting task of restoring the trail system. He has demonstrated his leadership ability by reorganizing the maintenance shop and looking at the trail conditions with a new perspective. Brian is a visionary, but realistic, and knows the challenges that lie ahead. Please give Brian a warm welcome and support his

efforts to protect, restore, and preserve our wonderful reserve." **Ranger Jody** says volunteers interested in Trail Patrol should contact her about an upcoming training session. She also says that docents coming for summer Sunday afternoon duties should call the South Kiosk in advance (858) 755-1275, for staff to remove the entrance barricade. Docents are asked **not** to remove the barricade themselves, as this creates issues with visitors and parking overflow. **Ranger Olson** needs a graphic arts volunteer. Call him if you can help.

More docent doins' -- Wes Farmer will present to the Lapidary Division of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society (1770 Village Place --Spanish Village, in Balboa Park) on September 24th at 7 PM. His program is titled "A Mile of Fossils" at Torrey Pines State Beach. His four award winning entries, from the S.D. County Fair in 2003 and 2004, will also be on display. His presentation will feature images of the flora, fauna and crystals of Torrey Pines State Beach from 1996 to 1998. TPDS members and guests are welcome. **Marina Grant** was on duty recently to receive a phone call from **Ranger Greg Hackett**. Greg wanted us to have his new address: PO Box 8664, Truckee CA 96162. Marina reports that Greg sends greetings to all of us and wants us to know that he is having a great time in the mountains, but he misses Torrey Pines.

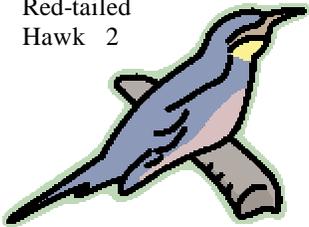
News from the Children's Program



Laura Lowenstein reports that the Children's Program (CP) is getting off to an exciting start with many new docents joining in for the fun. Thursday, September 30th, **could** be the first program of the season. (That is, if a school signs up for that date.) Based on a recent poll of interested docents, Thursdays and Fridays are the most convenient days for most of you. Consequently, CP days will be every Thursday and Friday in this coming season. I'll be issuing updates each week to let you know which schools are coming and the number of docents needed. We allow for last minute schedule changes and want you to know that any help is always appreciated. **Barbara Wallach** has scheduled a training workshop for Saturday, September 25th at 9:00 am. Please put that date on your calendar. Those working on revising program presentations are encouraged to bring them that day. I'll have more copies of the notes from Barbara's July "Insects & more" training session. A big "thank you" to Barbara for all her efforts to make us better educators. She really puts the fun in learning!

Birds of Torrey Pines State Reserve - August 2004

Common Loon 1	American Kestrel 4	Elegant Tern 52	Northern Mockingbird 9
Pied-billed Grebe 1	Peregrine Falcon (?) 1	Forster's Tern 1	California Thrasher 3
Brown Pelican 29	California Quail 7	Rock Dove 28	Loggerhead Shrike 1
Double-crested Cormorant 2	Black-bellied Plover 4	Mourning Dove 29	Common Yellowthroat 6
Great Blue Heron 4	Snowy Plover 12	White-throated Swift 2	Yellow-breasted Chat 1
Great Egret 2	Semipalmated Plover 10	Anna's Hummingbird 20	Spotted Towhee 7
Snowy Egret 6	Killdeer 10	Black Phoebe 6	California Towhee 32
Little Blue Heron 1	Greater Yellowlegs 1	Say's Phoebe 1	Belding's Savannah Sparrow 15
Green Heron 1	Willet 20	Cassin's Kingbird 5	Song Sparrow 15
Black-crowned Night Heron 1	Whimbrel 4	Western Kingbird 1	Red-winged Blackbird 1
Mallard 10	Long-billed Curlew 3	Rough-winged Swallow 11	Brewer's Blackbird 44
White-tailed Kite 2	Marbled Godwit 3	Cliff Swallow 15	House Finch 264
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Ruddy Turnstone 1	Barn Swallow 6	Lesser Goldfinch 34
Red-tailed Hawk 2	Western Sandpiper 59	Scrub Jay 18	House Sparrow 4
	Least Sandpiper 6	American Crow 15	
	Dowitcher 4	Common Raven 18	
	Heermann's Gull 200	Bewick's Wren 1	Observers: David Blue,
	California Gull 6	House Wren 4	Jack Friery, Will Cox,
	Western Gull 184	Marsh Wren H	Blair Francis, Don
	Gull sp. 100	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1	Grine, Gary Grantham,
	Caspian Tern 18	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2	Hank and Jane Baele
	Royal Tern 40	Wrentit 16	



Lodge Desk Manual 2004 Update.

by Victoria Schaffer

We have completed the 2004 update of the Lodge Desk Manual. The purpose of this manual is to provide the Lodge Duty Docents with a repository of instructions for the duty tasks, and with all information that will be of help while carrying on such tasks. We have tried to keep in mind that a manual will be useful only if its contents are easily accessible and its information is kept updated. In that sense, this will always be a work in progress. So, dear fellow Lodge Duty Docents, please contribute to keep your updated manual uncluttered and current. Add any updated information, new information, or replacements to current information in the back section of the binder, and we will incorporate it under the proper divider tab. Write down your valuable suggestions and recommendations in the blank pages included in the last section.

We thank all of you who volunteered your input for this update. Special thanks go to Barbara Wallach, who, in spite of a painful back ailment, took time to walk around the Museum to write down the name and location of every specimen currently in display, for our Museum Animals and Objects update; to Nancy Woodworth,

who, in the middle of her extremely busy spring, took time to go over the previous manual, and provided us with helpful recommendations; to Eva Armi for giving us an array of her TPSR photos to choose one for the manual cover. It was a hard task as they were all beautiful, but we chose (what else?) a close-up of a Torrey pinecone.

What is this ridiculous joy I feel,
when, walking by the sea,
sloshing through the puddles,
a pelican winks at me?

Maryruth Cox



Tidings from TPA

by Peter Jennings, Vice-president

Torrey Pines Association

The arrival of a small, oval piece of paper in my mail this summer led to a few moments of reflection. The occasion was the distribution of a new “sticker” by the Torrey Pines Association. After I’d spent several minutes working a fingernail between its sticky back and the protecting paper, I set out to find its new home. A car seemed the likely spot, even though one of the park’s early protectors warned in 1949, “It is of course platitudinous truism to state that the rapid development of automotive transportation has placed a new responsibility upon custodians of public recreation areas.”

I wiped a spot clean on a rear window, rubbed the sticker in place, and stood back to admire it. “Dedicated to the Preservation of Torrey Pines State Reserve,” it said...Preservation.

What has that word meant to all who have discovered the wonders of this park? Many of us turn to personal thoughts, perhaps of our first visit and a walk on Guy Fleming Trail with the fog pulling through the pines, and the surf in muted applause below. Or the warm greeting of a docent in the lodge as a small blaze snaps in the fireplace to take the chill off a winter day. Or a teetering hike along a golden cliff, one hand brushing the sandstone, the other outstretched in thin air for balance, as a favorite trail takes us the last few precarious steps to the beach.

As a resident of the Del Mar Heights area, living only steps from Crest Canyon and a few blocks from the Reserve’s Extension, preservation has meant that my family and I have walked, countless times, out to the overlooks above the lagoon. Especially after a day at work, the canyons and bluffs of this little-used area never fail to renew us. They honed my children’s love of the outdoors, literally shaping their self-confidence and sense of wonder at what nature can offer. Here is a favorite sandstone sphinx carved only by centuries of little rain, its paw-ridges melting into the high hills above Penasquitos Lagoon. Here is a quiet grove, almost a druid circle. When I stop to look over the ocean and the horizon’s last robe of colors, a train – centipede with lighted windows along each flank – moves across a single track above the already granite-black lagoon.

Yes, we have stitched it with roads and power lines. We have bermed and bridged its once-wandering lagoon mouth. We continue to “send” it seeds on the wind from our gardens; non-native plants that seek to take over its



original coat of many colors. We found it with our very feet. (In 1949, Ralph D. Cornell, a landscape architect asked to prepare a study on the park’s usage and the effects of development, wrote: “...the elevation of the highest knoll within the park has been lowered by eighteen inches or more because the foot traffic of visitors has loosened the sandy soil and caused it to slide down the sides of the slopes. This measurement is known because a U.S.G.S. marker that was flush with the grade when set, now projects a foot or more above the top of the hill.”) Yet somehow, this Reserve continues to awe us with its resiliency. Its rarity and improbable existence call to us...preservation.

In addition to the sticker, which your Association hopes will give you the chance to spread the word about joining TPA and addressing the needs of the park, our summer mailing included a small, buff-colored facsimile copy of the booklet “Torrey Pines Association: Dedicated to the Perpetual Protection of the Mainland Habitat of the Rare Torrey Pine.” Copyright 1949, this little volume remains a reasoned and at times strident description of why Torrey Pines Association came into being. Take a few minutes to enjoy its still-lively writing, for even the last will and testament of Ellen Browning Scripps, which is excerpted, has an inspiring ring to it: “The Torrey Pines fame was won without man’s creative aid, and that preservation rather than change should be sought.” If these words from the past call to you personally, we invite you to offer further support of your Association by seeking nomination as a Counselor. We have a position on the Board open and wish to fill it. The only requirements are a deep love and respect for the Reserve, and the time to work for its health. If you are interested, please call Doug Lappi at (858) 642-1988 or e-mail him at targeting@ATSbio.com

Preservation... it’s about the past and the future.