



TORREYANA

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(Photo by Steve Gould)

Murder in the Torrey Pines

Docents attending the annual Appreciation Dinner this year are ushered into the Tortellini Brothers' Winery (looking suspiciously like the Lodge Patio) by DPR staffers dressed in vintage costume, and handed a printed program that includes a list of prime

murder suspects. A murder in Torrey Pines? Read on...

As we filter out onto the back patio and find seating in the vineyard, "actors," dressed in Prohibition era costumes and looking vaguely familiar, start chatting us up, giving us odd snippets of local gossip and putting *their* spin on events surrounding Georgio Tortellini's death. Very curious. Soon Chief Ranger Jody Kummer appears to set the stage for this dinner mystery production and give us our instructions. Our job is to sort through the evidence and help solve the murders! (Throughout the evening, Kummer continues to provide background on the various characters under investigation. However, she instructs, "we" are to maintain our own "evidence records" on the form provided.) Shortly after Jody leaves the stage, Sharon Rose, (Class of '04) arrives in colorful flapper attire, and becomes oddly intimate with some of the shady characters on stage, particularly the maitre de, played by Ranger Gary Olson. Is she part of the act, a diversion, or an innocent who might come to harm? No one knows. Moreover, where is Nigel's mother?

During a scrumptious dinner catered by Pat and Oscar's and served by DPR staff, the story continues with Tortellini family members and close friends, suspects all, providing each other with evil motives for doing the deed. Vineyard heiress Olive Tortellini seems the most likely suspect. It's obvious that she and her land developer boyfriend want the vineyard for a strip mall. Horrors! But each "revelation" introduces yet another curious element in the suspicious deaths of Frank Tortellini, the vineyard founder, and his grandson, Georgio. And, where *is* Nigel's mother, anyway?

Before the evening ends, we are all caught up in this rollicking comedic entertainment, "Vintage Murder," written by Susan Haley, directed by our own Jody Kummer, and performed exclusively for our benefit, the Torrey Pines Docent Society. Many thanks to Jody and the TPSR staff for a great show and an unforgettable performance. We would encourage several of you (you know who you are) to continue with your thespian activities. Thanks to the docents who brought wine and desserts to share.

Linda Martin, Ed.

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Mysteries from behind the boardroom door

We're electing a new Board of Directors this month....so just what do they do? If you're like I was, up until this year, you know it's important and you're happy somebody is doing it, knowing that it helps us all do our docenting. And you probably appreciate, as I did, what these folks do, even if it's pretty much in the background.

Well you're right about all that—but let me share a few observations from my year on the board: first, it is indeed important, with the board having essential legal requirements, fiduciary responsibilities and duties and functions stated in our bylaws.

But it's more: elected along with me were some remarkable people bringing a range of talents and experiences from within and outside of TPSR. More amazing is the synergy that amplifies these backgrounds for the benefit of the Reserve. The power and collective wisdom of a team are evident every month all year long. While this is a gift of this particular board, it's also generally true of such groups including previous TPDS boards—I suppose because they come from a select group—TP Docents—all inspired by our place and our cause.

The result is continued stewardship of substantial assets and budget; planning and continuity from year to year, stability in crisis or lean periods, continuous improvement building on history; and an atmosphere in which docents can express their talents while getting their jobs done.

So thank you for taking your nomination and voting duties seriously—your vote helps to continue the mission of the TPDS. And remember that everyone out there has talents and experiences they can contribute—if not on the board itself, in adjunct activities and recommendations to the Board. Please resolve to learn more about the board by working with at least one board-related activity or committee; by communicating ideas and concerns to your board members and by considering undertaking this rewarding experience yourself in a future election. Please join me in thanking your 2004 Board for a year of outstanding communication, publications, programming, education, duty coordination, care for our finances, training new docents—all towards our mission of protecting and interpreting this extraordinary little corner of the world.

Walter Desmond
President, Torrey Pines Docent Society

Book review: Steve Usher

Outdoors San Diego – Hiking, Biking and Camping

by Tom Leech and Jack Farnan
Premier Publishing, 2004
288 pages, \$19.95 retail

An impressive 43% of San Diego county land is state or federally managed open space (including military reservations such as Camp Pendleton). Of that total, 70% is state parks and national forest. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Leech and Jack Farnan, we now have a comprehensive guide to the hiking, biking and camping opportunities within our county. The book focuses primarily on hiking and biking, with only a brief chapter devoted to camping. All three activities are presented on a regional basis:

Coastal, Urban San Diego, Inland, Mountains and Back Country, and Desert. The book also includes a section highlighting special interest issues (dogs, kids, limited mobility, vistas, and history) and offers a comprehensive list of further resources such as public agencies, NGOs and websites. Finally, the authors provide a list of tips to enhance the outdoor experience ranging from safety to an overview of recommended cycling gear.

With such extensive coverage in a relatively short book, one could not be blamed for expecting the descriptions to be cursory at best. To the authors' credit, quite the opposite is true. The hiking section begins each regional description with an entertaining and informative quiz, the answers to which are found in the subsequent text. For the Coastal Region, TPSR merits two of

the ten questions, including one on Guy Fleming. The biking sections include the type of equipment recommended as well as a rating on the degree of difficulty for the ride ranging from "Cruising" to "Demanding". Clearly the authors know the trails and the routes and are eager for others to learn them as well.

While there is little to criticize, I did find the pagination by chapter, rather than for the full book irritating (2-14 vs. 26) This is a minor quibble, however, given the value of the book overall. "Outdoors San Diego" appropriately awards TPSR with two stars (the highest rating) and its description of the Reserve, which includes the Extension, is very helpful to the casual visitor. The book is a valuable reference for Docents.

Letters to the editor

I was so pleased to read the marvelous letter from Torrey Pines Docent Bob Margulies in the September issue. His use of the word "celebrate" to describe his 20 years of volunteering at Torrey Pines touched me deeply. My grandfather, Guy Fleming, used to "celebrate" daily his success in preserving the Torrey Pines (and many other State Beaches and Parks). Guy celebrated learning new things, teaching others, and sharing his love of unique habitats with other lovers of nature, and with those who were unaware of the wonders of nature.

Bob Margulies sounds like a wonderful Docent -- his letter told of his interest and dedication to the Torrey pines, the Reserve, and Extension. It is this kind of person who makes interpretation to visitors meaningful, and motivates others to follow his lead. I am also happy to hear Bob describe members of the park staff as "fast friends" as this makes everyone's experience at Torrey Pines that much more enjoyable.

To Bob I say "keep up the good work and thank you." And to all Torrey Pines Docents, "a grateful thank you for caring."

Sincerely,

Cynthia F. Fleming Goodson



Torrey Pines

1923

Docent Chronicles - November 2004

November 20th membership meeting
9 AM – Election of TPDS Board
9:15 AM – Victor Walsh
State Historian
10 AM – Social/refreshment break
10:30 – Business meeting

Walsh will speak to us about the creation of Torrey Pines as a City Park in 1899 and the visionary role of early conservationists, such as the writer and amateur botanist, Belle Angier, and Daniel Cleveland, president of the Society of Natural History. They and others successfully lobbied the San Diego City Council, especially George Marston, to create the initial 369-acre park more than 100 years ago. Walsh will also discuss the later efforts of Ellen Browning Scripps and Guy Fleming to protect and enlarge the park, despite formidable obstacles.

Highlights of October 16, 2004 TPDS meeting *(from meeting notes by Victoria Schaffer)*

Board secretary Victoria Schaffer introduced the speaker, Phil Lambert. Phil is resident manager and long-time tour volunteer at the Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary. He spoke to the docents about last October's fires and their aftermath. Silverwood, located in Lakeside on Wildcat Canyon Road, is owned and operated by the San Diego Audubon Society. It started in 1966 from an 85-acre donation and has expanded to over 700 acres, acquired and maintained by Audubon entirely through voluntary donations.

On a majestic boulder-covered setting, Silverwood was sanctuary to birds of the chaparral and riparian oak forests. Up to 121 species could be recorded on a counting day. On October 26, 2003, the Cedar fires swept through the beautiful scenery. Phil and other volunteers had minutes to grab their possessions and run for their lives. They lost their place of residence, years of personal belongings, plus the Silverwood Sanctuary! There remained black tree stumps, ash piles, and oddly twisted bits of metal and glass as the only hint of man-made structures. But Phil's message was of small miracles and of renewal. In his words, "this event has allowed us to see aspects of the Chaparral that have been hidden for many years. It has been an exciting experience to witness the Chaparral recovery here at Silverwood, and I look forward to sharing some of the

events that have taken place, on and since the 26th of October."

Phil's slide show featured a rather terrifying view, likely taken on the run, of a wall of fire completely engulfing Wildcat Canyon Road. There were pictures one may not want to see, but should: a tiny blackened bird now peacefully lying on its side, an ash pile in the coiled shape of a snake, a charred small mammal body, and the ubiquitous black stumps and ashes. And then, slowly, first scarce and small, and then in almost an outburst, green sprouts and small seedlings! Yucca species started recrowning two months after the fire, also *Rhus ovata*, and then seeds started germinating: *Rhus laurina* (Laurel Sumac), *Ceanothus leucodermis*, *C. oliganthus*, *C. crassifolius* and *Arctostaphylos* (Manzanita) species. Some dominant species are seen taking over, *Salvia apiana* (white sage) decomposing leaves acidify the surrounding soil and prevent other seeds from germinating. Coast live oaks are sprouting shoots from their trunk base, and from thick, mature branches protected by cambium layers. Fire-follower plants now take their turn, and there are abundant flowers: orchids, *Calochortus* species (Mariposa Lily), *Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy) seedlings not seen for many years, *Phaselia* species and *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija Poppy). *Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary schedules nature walks Monday – Saturday, (Sundays except August). Walks can be arranged by calling 619.682.7200.*

Business meeting:

Ms. Carol Faulkner, 3rd grade teacher at Del Mar Heights Elementary school, students Desiree Lizcano, Katie Warland, and their moms attended the TPDS meeting, affording us the opportunity to thank them for their generous donation. After participating in the Children's Program last year, Carol's class decided to donate \$1000 from their community service project to TPDS. Katie and Desiree read a composition they wrote for the occasion.



(Photo by Eva Armi)

Business meeting (cont.)

Docent of the Month was Roger Isaacson, 2004 graduate, recognized for being instrumental in getting the "Writings of Guy Fleming" published. Roger helped with the final editing, did computer formatting, and submitted it to the online publisher. This last critical step followed several years of manuscript work by Marion Dixon and Kay Harry. (The book cover, designed by Barbara Wallach, appears on page 3 of this issue.) The books are now available in the Bookstore. Come take advantage of a low introductory price!

Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer reported that the High Point Trail will be ready to be opened within the next two weeks. Staff is planning interviews for Ranger Cadets. Plans are being completed for the Trail Patrol training.

Lillian Lachicotte, on the Library committee with Sharon & Steve Rose, reported that new book cards to check books out can be found in a binder. She asked everyone to look for books s/he may have forgotten to return to the Library. There is an Excel spreadsheet for the Library collection. Those interested in a copy should e-mail Steve Rose at stever9@adelphia.net.

Don Grine requested volunteers for Special Walks and circulated a sign-up form. Contact him at grine@adelphia.net if interested.

Jim Bedinger, Nominating Committee chair, reported that the TPDS Executive Board slate for 2005 officers has open positions for secretary and vice-president. He encouraged the new docents to volunteer, or to make nominations. Other Nominating committee members are Eva Armi and Brett Lear (2004 graduate). Election will be at the November general meeting.

Barbara Wallach demonstrated the new, 5-minute segment of the general meeting, "A Bag of Tricks." The objective is to share our interpretive tips, or unique findings at TPSR. Barbara explained how docents can use common objects to illustrate size and/or shape of specimens seen on an interpretive walk: a rope with knots at one-foot lengths to illustrate length of a snake, or the height of native vegetation. Pebbles or seeds can be used to show insect sizes, and so on.

Children's Program: Volunteers are urgently needed; a once-monthly commitment is welcome. The number of participating schools and students has greatly increased over previous years.

Nominations are open for **Docent of the Year**. Contact Board President Walter Desmond with your nomination. Darren Smith, CA Parks and TPSR ecologist is requesting volunteers to help at the plant nursery, and for planting of natives on Flintkote Trail. Leave him a message at the Rangers' office if interested.

Docent Training Coordinator Janie Killerman announced that the Lodge decorating would be on Saturday 12/4, 9-11 a.m. coordinated by the 2004 graduates. Volunteers are welcome. Bring green boughs. The Holiday Potluck will be on Saturday 12/11, 10 AM to noon. Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the November meeting. Update: Volunteer forms for posting docent service hours are under revision in order to eliminate duplication. The goal is to create a single form that includes all necessary information for the staff and TPDS. Until these forms are completed, please continue to log your hours using the existing system. **The service requirement of 6 hrs/month and 72 hrs/year has not changed.**

More Children's Program news –

Laura Lowenstein says the Geology section is popular with this year's school groups. There are eight more Geology sections scheduled for the 2004-05 school year. For those docents who are not entirely comfortable with this topic, there will be a special training session on Thursday, Nov. 11, from 9 AM to noon. Laura says, "We'll explore different ways to make geology fun for kids and docents and provide tips to use out on the trails. If time allows, we will cover the whales, dolphins and a sea life presentation, too. Hopefully many of you can join us."

The November and December sign-up calendars are posted on the Children's board. Laura says, "Thank you to everyone who has helped so far. Without you, the program wouldn't exist!" Laura says that anyone thinking about joining is welcome to drop by any Thursday or Friday morning. (There is a handout on the board with the schedule.) Or send Laura your e-mail address (adventuresahead@cox.net) and she will add you to a distribution list for CP updates. "Two of the new docents signed up to lead groups: Brett Lear & Karen Woods are naturals with the kids," says Laura. "Anyone else wanting to get comfortable can just join in with another docent a few times and see what someone else does with the kids out on trail. Before you know it, you will be leading some young naturalists out on trail!"

Learn more about TPSR geology --Don Grine will conduct a beach geology walk for Docents and friends on **Thursday, November 11**, Veterans Day. We will meet at 1:00 PM at the steps across from the entrance restrooms. Low tide is -0.8 at 2:32 PM. We will go past Flat Rock to look at the faults about 500 meters south. The whole walk will take 2 to 2.5 hours.



Making the music of OZ

by Wes Farmer

Last month Ranger Olson said I could have the dead agave at the entrance to the lodge, so long as I cleaned up afterwards. My idea was to make a didgeridoo of the dead stalk. [The didgeridoo, also spelled as Wes has it in the photo, is a musical instrument handcrafted and played by Australian Aboriginals. It requires a complicated kind of circular breathing. Ed.]

The smaller didgeridoo pictured is in the key of "F." I purchased it at the Pine Valley Days Rodeo, Parade and Fair. It is made of yucca stalks or something similar. I took up the challenge, thinking, "why not make another one so two can play them?" I don't know what key mine is. This is one more resource for Torrey Pines chaparral. I'm not sure our local natives made such an instrument, but it occurred to me that we might form a docent "band" whose members would play additional instruments made from items found in the Reserve, i.e. a skin stretched drum; a couple of sticks; and the flute made from those tall bamboo-like grasses in the marsh.

The "other" Torrey pines

by Sue Randerson

In the July Torreyana Jack Paxton announced a ranger-led boat trip to all five Channel Islands in August. I went, as did Jack and his wife Sally. The first morning we arrived at Santa Rosa Island, and hiked up into the beautiful grove of Torrey pines. They are on a hillside, and very lush and green with dense foliage, probably due to the very frequent fog of the Channel Islands, especially at Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands.

We visited all five islands, and took hikes led by docent naturalists from Channel Islands National Park. They shared their extensive knowledge of the plants, Native American lore and the history of the islands. We saw ancient middens (one had a bone needle!), sea lion rookeries, endemic plants and much more. Then we snorkeled in the kelp forest. These trips are sponsored by the Sierra Club and more are planned for the spring. For further information call Joan Holtz at 626-443-0706 or e-mail her at jholtzhl@aol.com.

Birds of Torrey Pines State Reserve - October 2004

Pied-billed Grebe 6	Cooper's Hawk 2	Heermann's Gull 30	American Crow 35	Townsend's Warbler 1
Western Grebe 7	Red-shouldered Hawk 1	Ring-billed Gull 1	Common Raven 17	Common Yellowthroat 3
Brown Pelican 4	Red-tailed Hawk 6	Western Gull 10	Rough-winged Swallow 35	Wilson's Warbler 1
Brandt's Cormorant 6	American Kestrel 4	Royal Tern 4	Barn Swallow 2	Belding's Savannah Sparrow 7
Double-crested Cormorant 18	California Quail 15	Forster's Tern 4	Bushtit 10	Song Sparrow 10
Great Blue Heron 2	American Coot 1	Rock Dove 2	Bewick's Wren 9	White-crowned Sparrow 13
Great Egret 4	Black-bellied Plover 9	Mourning Dove 12	House Wren 5	Dark-eyed Junco 1
Snowy Egret 4	Snowy Plover 18	White-throated Swift 6	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4	Red-winged Blackbird 1
Black-crowned Night Heron 6	Semi-palmated Plover 15	Anna's Hummingbird 34	California Gnatcatcher 2	Western Meadowlark 1
Gadwall 4	Killdeer 7	Belted Kingfisher 2	Hermit Thrush 1	Wrentit 5
American Wigeon 17	Willet 6	Nuttall's Woodpecker 2	Wrentit 5	Brewer's Blackbird 9
Mallard 6	Whimbrel 2	Northern Flicker 2	Northern Mockingbird 3	Lesser Goldfinch 25
Blue-winged Teal 8	Long-billed Curlew 2	Black Phoebe 9	California Thrasher 7	Red-breasted Nuthatch 7
Cinnamon Teal 2	Marbled Godwit 1	Say's Phoebe 11	European Starling 1	
Northern Shoveler 2	Sanderling 81	Cassin's Kingbird 6	Phainopepla 1	
White-tailed Kite 4	Western Sandpiper 7	Cassin's Vireo 1	Orange-crowned Warbler 2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Least Sandpiper 36	Western Scrub Jay 24	Yellow Warbler 1	

Tidings from the TPA

by Peter Jensen, Vice President

On a rainswept day in the Terrace, with Via Grimaldi painted mustard-yellow by a torrent of sand-laden runoff, I searched for the house number that marks the trail to Maryruth Cox's home. Few of us who live in the vicinity of Torrey Pines Reserve can say we have an honest-to-gosh trail to our front door, but Maryruth and her oceanographer husband Chip can. They've been hiking its short-but-challenging length daily since 1955. That's the year they built their earthy, concrete block and wood house deep in a Torrey-laced canyon.

Readers of this newsletter know Maryruth for her writings on natural history. She evokes a strong sense of "being there" as she describes with a keen eye how she stoops to examine a butterfly clam, or digs for baby sand crabs. This eye was developed by many years of living with nature in their window-wall home, where the trees seem as much a part of the structure as the beams themselves.

Recently Maryruth had been reviewing and organizing many of the loose papers, letters, photographs, and other archival materials that relate to Torrey Pines Association. She re-read a number of comments and letters pertaining to the acquisition of the Extension, starting in the late 1960s and continuing to its formal dedication on August 20, 1977.

With our Board of Counselors once again considering land acquisition possibilities at the margins of the Reserve's lagoon (possibilities too remote and wishful to speak of yet), I thought it a good time to pay a visit to someone who experienced our Association's part in the most astonishing achievement of all: the acquisition of the Extension.

Maryruth let her five children "grow up" in the privately owned lands that would one day make up the Extension. "Even when they were less than 10, they just made a lunch and went off for the day," she reminisced over a cup of hot water at her dining table. (No tea leaves; just water. I did have tea, and the loose delicate leaves floated in a small cup like birds on the lagoon.) "They built rafts in the slough, and went across to look for hawk nests. They considered this whole province their backyard." Her philosophy is both permissive and inclusive. A visitor gets the strong impression that she and others didn't fight for adding land to the Reserve just so that it would be "off limits" except via a few trails and overlooks. "To be really interested in natural

history you have to be given a hands-on approach. You can't just let children look from behind the fences. It doesn't 'take.'" Access has other benefits, she continued: "My friend and neighbor Jesse LaGrange has always had the attitude that 'if you keep all the good people out the bad people can do what they want.'" A good example was when a large marijuana nursery was found near the sewage station in the lagoon.

One of Maryruth's daughters donated her savings to the Extension campaign, which attracted letters and donations that "poured in from all over the country," she recalled. "But all that's been forgotten by many area residents today. People need to know how it happened."

Those of you who are already members of Torrey Pines Association have joined the ranks of friends and neighbors like Maryruth who have long watched over these pines and their golden hills, and want to remember how it happened. The future will hold new challenges as well. Bring them to us. Keep your eyes and ears open, but above all, be out there in the best living room of all: your park.

Recent TPA actions and discussions :

- New membership levels and rates are being discussed. Changes to rates (if any) will go into effect in 2005.
- Darren Smith, resource ecologist for state parks, reported to the Board that re-vegetation projects are underway and eradication of veldt grass and other invasives is planned. Darren is also working on a trails plan for maintenance, development, closures and a new lookout.
- TPA's new guide to "being a good neighbor" will suggest ways in which homeowners and businesses in the Penasquitos Lagoon watershed and park vicinity can help prevent damage from runoff, invasive plants, etc. Your comments are welcome. Contact Peter Jensen at pjensen@san.rr.com.
- Bridge over lagoon mouth is scheduled to be completed May 2005.
- Counselors voiced objections to California Performance Review, a state reorganization that may move park rangers and lifeguards to a new Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security, among other measures.
- Counselors continue to review drafts of the environmental impact reports for LOSSAN (Los Angeles-to-San Diego Proposed Railroad Improvement Studies). A recent TPA position letter advocated removal of the railroad from the Reserve completely: A result possible only with the Del Mar Tunnel Under Interstate 5 option. Read a complete copy of the letter at the TPA website: www.torrey PINES.org