



# TORREYANA

PUBLISHED BY THE  
TORREY PINES  
DOCENT SOCIETY

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September 2005

## "On the Wing" with Will Sooter

TPDS presentation – August 20, 2005

by Steve Usher

Will Sooter is a photographer, an artist and a naturalist. A graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Will honed his photographic skills while serving in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Upon returning to the US, he spent five years as a scientific observer with the NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service and then one year as a marine technician at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Will's portfolio includes everything from people to landscapes to wavescapes to wildlife. He shared with us a collection of magnificent photos of Peregrine Falcons, taken both on Torrey Pines State Beach and within the Reserve.

After suffering an alarming decline in North American populations in the 1950s and 1960s, due to the use of the pesticide DDT, the Peregrine – at the top of its food chain - has made a remarkable comeback. Will noted that DDT is still used in some parts of Latin America, and affects birds that migrate throughout



### Torrey Pines Docent Society Calendar of upcoming events

Next membership meeting -	Sept. 17
October meeting	Oct. 15
Beach party and movie --	Oct. 22
Moonlight trail walk --	Nov. 16
Membership meeting, election of officers, and vote on bylaws --	Nov. 19
Lodge decorating party --	Dec. 3
Docent holiday party --	Dec. 10

the Americas. The Peregrine is considered to be the world's swiftest bird, reaching speeds of 80 mph in flight and upwards of 200 mph in a dive, or "stoop." Will photographed a male and female in TPSR between November 2004 and March 2005, and it was these photos, achieved through his patience and keen photographer's eye, that he shared with the Society. (Photo copyright 2005 © Will James Sooter, all rights reserved.) Will spent many hours observing and photographing the birds and, over time, the male, nicknamed "Stretch," appeared to have accepted the photographer's presence. Will's images effectively captured the regal bearing of these beautiful birds. The unique personalities of the falcons also emerged in the photo sequences. This was a wonderful reminder of the rich diversity the Reserve offers. Not only the home of the Torrey pine, the Reserve also provides the opportunity to observe such magnificent birds as the Peregrine. Will's presentation was an absolute delight!

For those interested in learning more about the Peregrine Falcon, Docent John Neville recommends "On the Wing," by Alan Tennant (available in the Docent Library) and "The Peregrine," by J. A. Baker. Will's photos can be seen on his website, [www.sharpeyesonline.com](http://www.sharpeyesonline.com).

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## President's message -- "What were you guys doing in there for 4 hours last Thursday afternoon?"

Yes, on Thursday before each general meeting, your Executive Board meets to "set policy and carry out the major administrative functions for the Society." We always want docents to be informed of Board business...but without unnecessary distraction from docenting pleasures, that is, doing what you joined to do.

You elect nine officers each November (don't miss that meeting!), with specific job functions as well as general Board responsibilities. During the year, they meet monthly, with the baton passed from the old Board to the new in January, plus one or two half-day strategic planning retreats.

Most Board business is included in the general meeting agenda. Longer-range projects and those relating to Board internal functions will be reported periodically **or** may be reviewed in the Board minutes posted in the Library.

**A**re you curious? Currently, your Board is working to: revise Bylaws to reflect evolving non-profit organizational standards and changes in our own membership and priorities; revise Standing Rules – these are Board-specific operating rules, such as meeting hours, set by the Board; find an appropriate new meeting place nearby – an urgent matter; develop an Endowment plan to give our programs more stability, with less dependence on the yearly state budget vagaries; renew, after a year of intense study and negotiation, our Cooperating Association contract with the state; set up the Nominating Committee for November election slate; analyze and monitor our expenditures, including major allocations for trail maintenance, volunteer supervision, and graphics modernization; prepare for the quarterly meeting with District administration and resource staff, to ensure they know our activities and concerns and vice versa; and prepare Monthly Progress reports, evaluations and projections for each Board member's functional area. These include communications, training, speaker programs, Children's Program, Lodge duty and finance.

**F**inally, we are nearing the end of a two-year project to establish written process descriptions including a revised policy and procedures manual; board position descriptions, training manual, budget and annual report for each office; yearly calendar; and officer responsibilities for all non-Board committees and functions – in order to move from an "oral tradition" to a more codified, accessible written body of knowledge.

I hope this answers that docent's question of what was going on back in the Docent Library for 4 hours. (Not to discourage potential Board members, half the time was spent-unusually-on the imminent bylaws revisions. Most Board meetings complete an agenda in two hours.)

All this is particularly relevant now as our Nominating Committee begins their search for next year's Board candidates. If you have any interest in helping the TPDS in such important work—please let the Nominating Committee know. No experience needed—only the dedication and love for TPSR that all docents have. The rest is taken care of by the remarkable synergy that occurs as nine such people get together. As you can see from above, they get a lot done!

*Walt Desmond*

President, Torrey Pines Docent Society

This issue was produced with help from assistant editor Karen Woods, contributing editor Carroll Allman, technical advisor Roger Isaacson, proofreaders Walt Desmond and Judy Schulman, our docent contributors, and Eva Armi, who coordinated the mailing. Many thanks to all.

*Linda Martin*, Editor

## The Dance of the Yucca Moth

Text and photo by Tom Polakiewicz (Class of '05)

Every year the Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) and its sole pollinator, a species of yucca moth (*Tegeticula yuccasella*), perform a complex *pas de deux* that is essential to the reproductive life of both the yucca and the moth. The dance requires precise timing, complex footwork, and cooperation from Mother Nature to set the stage for the two performers.

The dance begins in the Spring when increased daylight length and warmer temperatures cause the Mojave yucca to produce its dramatic cluster of flowers. The flowers bloom in a sequence of flowering that lasts about two weeks, but only the flowers produced in a five-day window actually manage to produce mature fruits after fertilization. Remarkably, the window period is unpredictable—it happens in a different part of the two-week period each year, and does not appear to be associated with any particular environmental factor. Thus, for a pair of yucca moths to be successful in reproducing, they must be lucky enough to come out of their subterranean cocoons to mate, and the female must lay her egg in the yucca flower, at just the right time.

If all goes right, the male and female moths will rendezvous, lured by the soft scent that the yucca flowers give off during the night. After mating in a yucca flower, the female gathers a ball of the sticky yucca pollen in special antenna-like appendages, and goes off to a different yucca to lay a single egg in each of the flower's special receptacles. Each yucca flower has a ready-made chamber in the central pistil into which the female deposits her eggs. She then plugs the chamber with the pollen carried from the mating flower. In that way, the flower is sure to be fertilized so that it will grow into the familiar green yucca fruit—giving the larva that develops from her egg a place to live and eat throughout its larval stage.

Inside the fruit are six columns of seeds, each in a separate chamber. When the moth larva hatches, it begins to feed on the maturing seeds, eating only a small percentage. In the late Fall, some of the plant's fruit split open and release the uneaten seeds, but the yucca moth larva does not emerge until the first

rains. At that time, the ground is soft enough for the larvae to burrow into the ground and construct their cocoons. Some of the fruits on each plant will take several years to ripen and release their seeds and moth larvae. As a result, some larvae emerge in years in which the yucca plant may not have been able to produce any fruit at all.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the pollination of the yucca plant, however, is that the yucca plants reject most of the efforts of their pollinating moths. No matter how many flowers are fertilized by the yucca moths, only about 6% of the flowers each year produce mature fruit. The rest are simply jettisoned by the yucca plant. Some scientists believe that this limitation on the process helps control the moth population and prevent depredation of the yucca's reproductive resources.

The exuberant Spring bloom of the Mojave yuccas is the most obvious sign that the plants are ready to begin their reproductive cycle. We should remember though, that even when the flowers have fallen and only the ripening yucca fruit remain on the plant, the dance between the yucca and its pollinating female moth is still going on behind the scenes, ready to come onstage again in the next Spring. ♦



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## Legless lizards (*Anniella pulchra*)

by Maryruth Cox

A serious dig in our backyard often turns up one or two legless lizards, who wriggle away quickly in the soft sand. They look like small snakes or giant earthworms, but their eyes have moveable eyelids, which set them apart from snakes. Their large size, 5-6 inches long and 1/4 inch in diameter, and their scales, differentiate them from annelid worms.

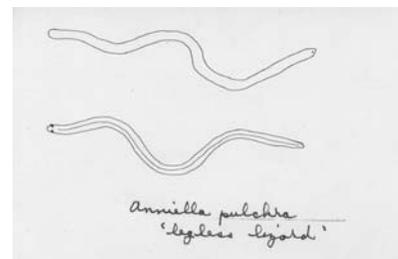
Our home is in Del Mar Terrace, which is sandwiched between the Torrey Pines Extension and the main part of the Reserve. We can safely assume that the legless lizards must be in the Reserve, too.

They are not easy to find. They burrow 1-4 inches underground or conceal themselves in thick leafy litter. The legless lizard is only found in California and the northwestern corner of Baja and is considered a sensitive species. They feed upon insect larvae, beetles and spiders, protecting us from an excess of arthropods.

*Anniella* vary in color from a silvery gleam to yellow-white to dark brown. If the tail is darker than the rest of the body, it may have grown back after an accident.

If you pick up *Anniella*, it may whip around and bite you. However, its small fine teeth can barely prick the skin.

*Anniella* lead a quiet life, bearing live young in the Fall, and never wandering very far (2-27 feet in two months of observation). Very little is known about their habits or life history, and many questions come to mind. For instance, how have they spread throughout California? How do they cross bodies of water? Perhaps a serious digger will help us answer these questions. ♦



# The archaeology of you...

by *Therese Muranaka*

On any Monday morning, the State Parks district archaeologist (with a large mug of coffee) starts working her way through the weekend's e-mails and phone calls. Sometimes the calls are routine, for example, the staff at Silver Strand State Beach scheduling the week of October 3 for excavation of an internet telephone line. Sometimes the calls are not routine as in the case of the Old Town supervising ranger detaining a man on suspicion of looting archaeological sites.

One such Monday morning, early last year, I got a call from Ernie Rivas of State Parks' North Sector, saying he was at the Torrey Pines Lodge. He had been given the task of bringing the audio-visual room's fireplace back to a more historic look. After taking out the old screen and a layer of plywood, he'd found piles of ash and charcoal trapped behind it. He joked that the district archaeologist should look at it -- that I might be interested in modern refuse.

Dutifully, I found out a bit of history: that this fireplace from the Fleming Era Lodge had been walled in the late 1960's. The refuse had been trapped there from before then. Since I can take a joke, I collected the buckets of ash Ernie carefully scraped out of the fireplace and took them back to the office lab. With a facemask, because the dust was so thick, I ran the ash through a series of 1/8" screens, a standard procedure, to see what was left. Little bits of things began to emerge: a piece of foil gum wrapper (Juicy Fruit from the smell of it), burnt metal nails in six sizes, scraps of wood from many partially-burnt fires, a burnt seed husk (an as yet unidentified species), a clear piece of burnt bottle glass, three thumb tacks, several staples of different gauges - most likely the archaeology of the Torrey Pines docents, "the archaeology of you."

Also jammed into a pile of ash was a narrow (ca. 5.5 x 1.8 cm.) fragment of burnt newspaper. The font was small and cramped, and the paper was matted and pulpy similar to late 1930's newsprint. Under the microscope, I found and pieced together five even smaller sections onto the larger part (like working with the Dead Sea Scrolls). I finally got the words:

"Reg...Tow...All...needs to be...mour girl...fun"  
and it was signed "By Debut". It appeared to be a small advertisement for glamour products, endorsed by a "Debutante." Anybody recognize it?

Torrey Pines' real prehistory dates back 7100 years in a fabulous array of Early Archaic Indian sites (from the Early Holocene Geologic Era) that predate the use of the bow and arrow or fired pottery. Late Prehistoric material is known to date after 1800 years ago, but nothing (yet) of the Spanish or Mexican Era settlements has been found in the park. Historic ranch sites in the lagoon area are known, and of course, Broken Hill Trail "picnic" sites leave evidence of the advent of the soda pop bottle, and the omnipresent automobile. But the archaeology of you, the docents and the TPA, is the best of all. I can't tell if the gum wrapper is from Judy Schulman, or not. (Judy, did you like "Juicy Fruit" at one time?) Or if the thumbtacks have Bob Wohl's fingerprints on them, but I do know that a lot of your blood, sweat and tears are reflected in that fireplace, and not just the archaeologist knows it. [Read the history of the Docent Society in the *Torreyana* archives, July 2002. Ed.]

Regarding the scope of work for this fiscal year, Cultural Resources Division and the Cultural Stewardship Program in Sacramento contributed \$28,000 toward trail updates, and some initial archaeological testing at two of the sites damaged in last winter's rains. We just requested grants totaling another \$74,500 for finishing Reserve surveys. Torrey Pines State Reserve has never been completely surveyed for archaeological sites, and I am not just talking about Indian Canyon. This funding will allow test-excavating trails that have eroded to expose hearths and features of unknown ages, and help speed up trail repairs.

In the meantime, thanks to all of you who are vigilant, especially the trail stewards, in keeping people on the trails and lessening their impacts. And if you get back from a hike and find one of your earrings gone, know that one of our archaeologists will find it for you - in about a hundred years- and probably in a fireplace. ♦

*Therese Adams Muranaka, Ph.D., R.P.A. is the Associate State Archaeologist for California State Parks, San Diego Coast District. You can reach her at 619-778-2553 or e-mail her at [TMURANAKA@parks.ca.gov](mailto:TMURANAKA@parks.ca.gov).*

## Simply stunning: Synopsis and references

by *Christina Bjenning*

[The first part of this article on manroot toxin was published in the August issue of *The Pinecone*. Ed.]

Many plant families contain saponins, including many present at Torrey Pines: *Amaryllidaceae*, *Convolvulaceae*, *Dioscoreaceae*, *Lamiaceae*, *Lecythidaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Loganiaceae*, *Meliaceae*, *Menispermaceae*, *Papilionaceae*, *Solanaceae*, *Sapindaceae*, *Sapotaceae*, *Scrophulariaceae*, *Solanaceae*, *Verbenaceae*.

But what is the active fish-stunning ingredient in manroot? Interestingly, the April 1883 issue of *American Journal of Pharmacy* (Judy Schulman, this is for you!) mentions that the root of *Megarrhiza californica*, Torrey Pines, aka *Marah fabaceae* California manroot, contains a saponin-like glucoside extracted by Wilfred M. Young (2,3).

Young called this glucoside *megarrhin* and subsequently found that it dilates the pupils. This could easily be tested by mashing manroot in water and watching for bubbles. Chuck Krizon (1) mentions that it is the seeds from the cucumber that were used, not the root. This sounds plausible as the seeds are much easier to obtain (not to mention, portable). The author, Gary Olson, and Judy Schulman will attempt above mentioned experiment. Stay tuned!

Today, fish are easily anaesthetized by MS222 (Alpharma Animal Health Ltd., originally manufactured by Sandoz), a water soluble isomer of benzocaine (4). MS222 is rapidly absorbed through the gills, and acts like a local anesthetic. References:

1. Krizon, Chuck 2003, Fishing with Poisons [http://www.primitiveways.com/fish\\_poison.html](http://www.primitiveways.com/fish_poison.html) (19 June 2005).
2. American Journal of Pharmacy Ed.: John M. Maisch - Vol. 55, 1883. April issue.
3. Young, W.M. Proc. Cal. Coll. Phar., 1883, p. 52
4. Alpharma Animal Health Ltd: MS222 technical bulletin 5/2001 Rev. 9/01. <http://www.alpharmaanimalhealth.co.uk> (19 June 2005).

# Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey August 5-6, 2005

Total of 66 species (**unusual sightings shown in bold**).

Gadwall 1  
Mallard 5  
California Quail 3  
**Common Loon 1**  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Double-crested Cormorant 3  
Great Blue Heron 8  
Great Egret 21  
Snowy Egret 9  
**Little Blue Heron 1**  
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1  
Osprey 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
American Kestrel 1  
American Coot 1  
Black-bellied Plover 7  
Snowy Plover 4  
Semipalmated Plover 8  
Killdeer 2  
Black-necked Stilt 2  
Willet 42

**Wandering Tattler 1**  
Whimbrel 6  
Long-billed Curlew 5  
Marbled Godwit 3  
Peep *sp.* 25  
Sanderling 7  
Western Sandpiper 2  
Heermann's Gull 163  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
California Gull 10  
Western Gull 88  
Caspian Tern 3  
Royal Tern 110  
Elegant Tern 22  
**Common Tern 1**  
Forster's Tern 1  
**Least Tern 1**  
Rock Pigeon 1  
Mourning Dove 28  
White-throated Swift 1  
Anna's Hummingbird 18  
Nuttall's Woodpecker 3  
Black Phoebe 10  
Cassin's Kingbird 3  
Loggerhead Shrike 1  
Western Scrub-Jay 8  
American Crow 11  
Common Raven 13  
Bushtit 35  
House Wren 2  
California Gnatcatcher 6  
Wrentit 7



Northern Mockingbird 1  
Orange-crowned Warbler 2  
Common Yellowthroat 2  
Spotted Towhee 2  
California Towhee 35  
Savannah Sparrow 12  
Song Sparrow 8  
Black-headed Grosbeak 1  
Red-winged Blackbird 11  
Brewer's Blackbird 18  
Hooded Oriole 1  
House Finch 113  
Lesser Goldfinch 13

*Weather:* cloudy  
*Lagoon mouth:* open  
*Observers:* Hank Baele, Will Cox, Kathy Estey, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, and Gary Grantham

**Photo of Red-shouldered hawk lunching on a small animal -- by Don Grine**

## News from the Children's Program

by Laura Lowenstein

On July 26, twenty-seven docents, including many new graduates, showed up for the first Children's Program (CP) summer training. Barbara Wallach led a lively and animated review on how to inspire children during the trail hike. Then we all headed out to the trails. Don Grine accompanied the group to provide answers to our geology questions. It was exciting to see so many of the newly trained 2005 docents eager to participate.

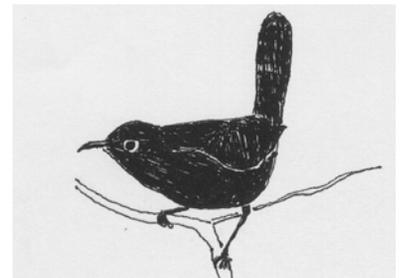
The following Tuesday, August 2, many docents again joined in to clean out the CP closet in the library. They also cleaned, repaired and took inventory of the program props. Many hands made light work and the closet now looks beautiful.

The CP will begin again on Thursday, September 15, and will continue every Thursday and Friday (except for holidays) until the end of May 2006. We'll have a long break during the holidays from December 17-January 4, 2006. Again, as was true last season, anyone can sign up to lead a hike by e-mailing me at [lloenstein@adelphia.net](mailto:lloenstein@adelphia.net) (new e-dress) or by signing up on the CP board in the library. [It was announced at the August general meeting that all school dates for this coming academic year have been filled. We'll need lots of docent helpers! Ed.]

The CP wouldn't be possible without our wonderful volunteer leaders. On review, I found that many docents donate extra hours helping with the program. Whether it was one time or twenty-five (the latter would be Edigna Hansen - class of '02), everyone was appreciated and provided a child a unique experience exploring nature. In addition to Edigna, docents who

helped 15 times or more during the last season are: Diana Davis, Wes Farmer, Margaret Fillius, Cecily Goode, Don Grine, Anita Musser, Tony Summers, Barbara Wallach, Paul Whitby, and Cindy Wollaeger. We thank them all for their many volunteer hours, and welcome the very capable and enthusiastic docents of 2005. We look forward to seeing everyone in September. ♦

## Wrentit by Maryruth Cox



In the shiny  
green toyon,  
verdant with  
spring,  
we glimpsed a brown shadow,  
a flicker of wing;  
then heard the burr-ratchet  
of a perky wrentit,  
who was finding his breakfast,  
bit by bit.

# Docent Chronicles September 2005

**September Sneak Preview:** We have all seen the red tides this summer. Come to the September 17 meeting to hear Lilian Busse talk about "Harmful Algal Blooms along the Californian Coast." Lilian obtained her Ph.D. from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, and came to Scripps Institution of Oceanography for postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Latz, looking at long time scale changes in phytoplankton biodiversity. She is currently a Research Specialist at Scripps and has documented the presence, in San Diego seawater, of a neurotoxin that may poison marine mammals, birds and human consumers of shellfish. Come to learn more.

## Notes from the August membership meeting (from Steve Usher's minutes)

**D**ocent of the Month - Bea Stoyla and Frank Burham are the Docents of the Month for their dedicated work restoring the Whitaker Garden to its previous glory, resulting in a dramatic improvement appreciated by all. The additional Docents who have contributed were also recognized. Bea and Frank are the first two Docents of the 2005 graduating class to be recognized as Docent of the Month.

**Duty Calendar** - Irene Larrimore reported that the Duty Calendar is operating smoothly and has only a few openings in September. She reminded Docents to consult the list of "last minute substitutes" if unable to fulfill their lodge duty. List copies are located inside the duty calendar and in the desk drawer at the Lodge.

**Library** - Sharon Rose thanked new Docent Addie Scholfield for her work updating the Library files to focus on articles relevant to the TPSR. Sharon also reminded us that the circulation period for books and videos is two weeks. Docents

with overdue items will be contacted. Steve Rose informed us that the Library catalog is now on the docent computer. The logon password is "docent."

**Docent Computer** - Roger Isaacson reminded Docents that there is a computer now available in the Docent Library. It can be used for viewing the photo reference library, archived copies of the *Torreyana*, the library catalog, park and nature related web links, e-mail and Internet access. Walt Desmond thanked Roger, Gene Walker and the rest of the website committee for setting up and maintaining the computer. Following the meeting Roger conducted a well attended introduction and tutorial on the computer in the Docent Room.

**B**ookstore - Steve Usher reported that there are several new books available in the Bookstore including the Sibley field guide, 50 Common Insects, 60 Hikes in 60 Days, and California State Parks Day Hikes. While plagued by some typos, The Guide to the Wildflowers of the Guy Fleming Trail has been very well received by visitors to the Reserve and will soon be available in bookshops outside the Reserve as well. Steve also asked that any Docents who picked up the TPSR caps before they were formally priced should please pay for the caps at the Bookstore or leave an envelope in the Treasurer box. Finally, the Bookstore will hold an Inventory Clearance Sale of overstocked items at the September meeting. Dated and worn Library items will also be available for distribution. This will be a great opportunity to do your Holiday shopping early!

**Torreyana** - Linda Martin extended an invitation to all members to contribute to the *Torreyana*. Space is extremely limited in the *Pinecone*, but articles, interviews, poetry, educational pieces and photos are all appreciated in the bi-monthly *Torreyana*. Linda reminded everyone that the deadline for the September issue is Tuesday, August 22.



**D**ocent Shirts - Steve Usher announced that the new docent shirts have arrived and will be distributed at this and subsequent general meetings. Given the popularity of the shirts, a second order will be placed following the September meeting. Anyone interested should sign up at the next meeting or contact Steve directly by phone or e-mail. The shirts come in three colors: white (both men's and women's sizes and both long and short-sleeved), olive (only men's sizes with long and short-sleeved) and pistachio (only women's sizes and only short-sleeved). Short-sleeved shirts are \$21 each and long-sleeved shirts are \$25 each.

Walt Desmond thanked the Park Aides for their hard work over the past summer in improving the overall appearance of the Reserve. In particular, Walt thanked the Aides for picking up trash along the North Torrey Pines Grade. There is a noticeable improvement as a result of their efforts.

**B**arbara Wallach invited all those interested in making holiday decorations to be sold at the Lodge during the holiday season to join with her and other artists, such as Margaret Fillius and Judy Schulman. Dates to be announced.

Georgette Camporini announced that the San Diego Docent League is arranging a visit to the USS Midway for Monday, October 17th. Contact Georgette for details.

(Continued on next page)

## Docent Chronicles (continued)

Steve Usher reminded everyone of the details of the motion which the Society adopted at the last meeting which read:

-When the general membership is required to vote (per the Standing Rules) on expenditures exceeding \$3,000, members will be notified in advance of the upcoming vote.

-When such a vote is taken, time will be allowed for discussion by the members in attendance.

-Steve proposed a follow-up which, as amended, read: In the event of an emergency expenditure, as declared by a majority vote of the Executive Board, the notice requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the members in attendance at the next general meeting. Following a brief discussion regarding the meaning of "emergency expenditure," the motion passed by voice vote, with only one dissent.

Supervising Ranger (SR) Jody Kummer announced the dates for upcoming TPDS and DPR Staff events. Volunteer Appreciation Night will be Saturday, October 22 from 5:30 pm. Jody will be showing that icon of mid-century cinema, "The Man Who Understood Women," starring Henry Fonda and Leslie Caron and featuring important scenes actually filmed in the Reserve. Meet on the beach near lifeguard tower #1. Wednesday, November 16 will feature a moonlight trail walk under a nearly full moon. Bring a flashlight and meet at the Lodge at 6:00 pm. The annual TPDS Holiday Party will

be Saturday, December 10 from 11:00 am at the Lodge. This is a potluck event so bring your favorite dish and please plan on servings for 10 people. Decorating of the Lodge by the new Docent class will be December 3. There will not be a Docent Picnic on October 1 as earlier contemplated.

**S**R Kummer announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has finally come through with \$56,000 for repair of the trails damaged by the rains last winter. While the Reserve had requested \$148,000, the funds granted will be very helpful in restoring the trails. SR Kummer invited anyone interested to participate in the regularly scheduled volunteer group for trail repair which meets every second Saturday of each month. Depending on interest, this may be expanded to every other Saturday. For further information, contact either SR Kummer or Ranger Gary Olson. SR Kummer reminded us that progress on repairing the trail has been slow in part due to the meticulous efforts to preserve archeological sites, endangered plants and other valuable resources under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Assistance with Trail Patrol will be vital during this restoration to have as few hikers on the trails as possible interfering with the work. Ranger Gary Olson announced that, with the support of the TPDS, the Reserve staff is planning additional educational and informative publications about the Reserve. All those

interested in submitting photographs to be included in the materials should contact Ranger Olson at the Lodge or at [golson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:golson@parks.ca.gov). Be sure to include the name of the person that took each photo. Ranger Olson drew attention to the new sign over the entrance to the Lodge and mentioned that new signs would be also put up at the trailheads. Ranger Olson noted that the mysterious animal mentioned at the July general meeting has been identified as a long-tailed weasel, a native of the Reserve habitat. It feeds on mice, rats and other varmints and, accordingly, there will be no effort made to eliminate it from the Reserve. [However, please continue to report your sightings. Ed.]

SR Kummer reviewed the closing procedure at the Lodge. The last Lodge Docent of the day should close, lock and bar the doors if there is no member of staff still on duty. Otherwise, it will be the responsibility of the last departing staff member to secure the Lodge. Docents were reminded, however, to close the windows to the Docent room whenever they leave the room. The mice use the windows as a key point of entry and greater care by Docents and Staff will help to keep the mouse population down. SR Kummer announced that Mike Winterton has become a father. On August 15, his wife gave birth to a healthy baby boy named Alec. Congratulations to the Winterton family! A Docent training application will be sent to Alec soon.



## VIP - TPDS duty log guidelines

Active Torrey Pines Docents must log a minimum of 72 hours per year, a requirement set by our park district, to qualify for volunteer privileges. There are many fun ways to accumulate those hours each week; even attendance at docent meetings. Board committee work is another way to log hours; and, of course, work as a Board member qualifies.

Other ways to see your hours add up:

- Lodge Duty.
- Lead a scheduled weekend walk at 10 or 2.
- Get involved in the Children's Program.
- Participate in a docent-sponsored activity or event,

or approved park or docent administrative project.

- Teach an interpretive training class.
- Work in the book store or library.

**W**ant more exercise? Try exotics removal, weeding, habitat restoration or litter removal. Get closer to the plants and animals by participating in wildlife surveys, wildlife tracking programs or scientific research projects. Working on trail or Lodge maintenance projects gets you moving, as well, as does work as a member of the Trail Patrol. See Paul Whitby for training and procedural requirements regarding Trail Patrols. Any required training counts, too!

Photography, writing, or marketing about Torrey Pines Reserve for publication, including work on the Pinecone and Torreyana, will help you accumulate volunteer hours, as long as the work is approved or assigned.

If you have a special project in mind that doesn't seem to fall in any of the above categories, speak to the Supervising Ranger or Volunteer Coordinator. With approval, your project may qualify for volunteer hours.

Remember, private activities, although productive in their own right, do not count as volunteer hours. For example, leading your family or friends on a walk through the Reserve will gain you admiration and camaraderie, but not increase your volunteer hours. ♦