



# TORREYANA

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE RESERVE

Volume 7, Issue 2

March 2006

## Jim and Irene Larrimore, docents working for peace

by Linda Martin

On December 10, 2005, a Torrey Pines docent proudly celebrated in Del Mar as his colleagues received one of the world's most prestigious tributes -- the Nobel Peace Prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an organization Docent Jim Larrimore has worked with since 1985, and its leader, General Director ElBaradei, "...for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

Jim and Irene Larrimore, 2004 TPDS graduates, met on the ski slopes of St. Moritz in 1964. At that time, both worked for the European Atomic Energy Commission. Jim trained in nuclear technology and completed his doctorate at M.I.T.; Irene, with a degree in International Law and Diplomacy, worked as a translator and interpreter for the Commission. Although German born Irene was fluent in five languages, she says she "hated English." Nevertheless, Irene and Jim were married the following year.



Their work took them to a nuclear research center on the shores of Lake Maggiore, about 50 miles north of Milan. In a small fishing village without radio, television, or even reliable phone service, they set up housekeeping and started a family, crossing the border to Lugano, Switzerland for their wedding and the births of their children. Mark was born in 1966; Corinne came along three years later. (The photo above shows the family celebrating Jim's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia.) Shortly after Corinne's birth, Jim decided 6 years was enough time in Europe: he was ready to return to the U.S. But, he says, "I had a problem." They'd been living in a travel poster setting on a lake surrounded by mountains, an

Alpine wonderland on the border between Switzerland and Italy. "Where could I move this wonderful German lady, where could I find comparable natural beauty?" Jim wondered. He did know a place, however, of inordinate, if not equal splendor. While he was in graduate school at M.I.T., Jim worked three summers for San Diego-based General Atomic. He knew the Del Mar area and, as luck would have it, General Atomic had a job for him. Jim and Irene found a lovely Del Mar home overlooking the Pacific, a residence they've been wise enough to maintain for more than 35 years, leasing it out in 1985 when they returned to live in Europe.

While Jim commuted past  
**(continued on page 3)**

The **Torrey Pines Docent Society** publishes the *Torreyana* bi-monthly. Items for publication may be submitted to Roger Isaacson at [risaacson@ucsd.edu](mailto:risaacson@ucsd.edu) or left in the *Torreyana* mailbox at the Lodge. On alternate months, TPDS publishes the *Torrey Pinecone*, edited by Walt Desmond. The *Pinecone* includes the monthly duty calendar, announcements and information concerning membership meetings. Items for publication in the *Pinecone* should be e-mailed to [walterdesmond@aol.com](mailto:walterdesmond@aol.com). Submissions for either publication are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month.

Please send postal address changes to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society

P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014

Attn: Jean Smith

TP Visitor Center phone (858) 755-2063

E-mail changes to [Jeannie@ucsd.edu](mailto:Jeannie@ucsd.edu)

Websites:

TPDS [www.torreypinesreserve.org](http://www.torreypinesreserve.org)

TPA [www.torreypines.org](http://www.torreypines.org)

#### **TPDS Board Members:**

President, Steve Usher

Vice-president, Tom Polakiewicz

Treasurer, Rick Vogel

Secretary, Barbara McCardle

Dir. of Communications, Roger Isaacson

Dir. of Children's Program, Cecily Goode

Dir. of Programs, Christina Bjenning

Dir. of Training, Jeff Spivak

Dirs. of Duty Coordination, Lillian Lachicotte  
& Irene Larrimore

To obtain extra newsletters contact

Vernie McGowan 858-755-2065.

#### **TPSR Staff:**

Supervising Ranger:

Jody Kummer [jkummer@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jkummer@parks.ca.gov)

Rangers: Kyle Knox, Gary Olson  
and Mike Winterton

Park Aides: Larry Adelson, Kara Gerber,

Laura Lowenstein, Daniel Williford  
(interpreter)

**Torrey Pines Docent Society**  
**Since 1975**

**All rights reserved**

Many thanks to the Team Torreyana docents contributing to this newsletter, Editor Emeritus Linda Martin, assist. editors Karen Woods and Victoria Schaffer and copy editor Lillian Lachicotte. Many thanks to Vernie McGowan for mailing and distribution.

*Roger Isaacson*  
Dir. Of Communications

## From the President

The year is off to a great start! New docent training has begun under the guidance of Jeff Spivak. A total of 47 trainees and many current docents attended the first session on February 11. Many of those trainees also attended the February General Meeting, pushing attendance over 100 for the first time in the Society's history. The Society is settling in nicely to our new meeting venue at National University thanks to the efforts of Paul Majkut and Dave Hokstad. We are making progress on the Library remodeling and should have final plans in place by late March to early April. We are still looking for completion of the project by mid-to late summer. Lots of progress with much more to look forward to!

While things look great for the Society, the Reserve itself is facing an increasingly challenging situation. As reported by the Los Angeles Times on January 29, the list of overdue maintenance projects at California state parks is reaching \$1 billion. Not only is the state park system dramatically under funded, there is little likelihood this situation will be remedied any time soon. This has been particularly evident at the Reserve. A year after the damaging rains of 2005, the beach access trail remains closed. As people continue to use the trail despite the closure, the damage becomes worse. Last year it took several months to begin work on repairing the trails because the money was simply not there. Not until your Society provided \$10,000 for park maintenance and trail repair, generously matched by the Torrey Pines Association, was any work begun. The lack of proper funding and the concurrent understaffing is contributing significantly to the deterioration of the Reserve. Furthermore, projects that would significantly improve access and community outreach, by necessity, are ignored.

The mission of the Society, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation, is to "promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Torrey Pines State Reserve". Often times our financial support of the Reserve has been narrowly defined by our mission statement. I would suggest that unless the Reserve is more effectively maintained, our ability to fulfill our mission will become significantly undermined. It is important to remember that our mission also includes the duty to "assist in the preservation...of the Reserve." Accordingly, I suggest that the Society take a more proactive financial stance in protecting and preserving this precious site. We should become more involved in identifying and funding improvements to the Reserve. We need to make our collective voice heard not only by Jody and Gary, but also by District, Regional and State administrators. Where possible, we should take it upon ourselves to implement needed projects. The exemplary work of the Whacky Weeders in restoring the Whitaker Garden and the entrance to the Lodge is an excellent example of what can, and should, be done. We are dedicated to the preservation of the habitat of a unique tree. We cannot let the financial irresponsibility of government allow this treasure to erode away.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. See you around the Reserve!

*Steve Usher*

President, Torrey Pines Docent Society

(continued from page 1)

Torrey Pines to General Atomic during the week, Irene found a home for her linguistic and multi-cultural skills at U.C.S.D. She volunteered her services with the Friends of the International Center, a support group for spouses of visiting academics.

Weekends, the Larrimores took Corinne and Mark hiking in Torrey Pines. Their favorite trek was the old "Fat Man's Misery," closed now for nearly thirty years due to hazardous trail conditions and rescues that depleted the ranger staff's time and resources. Many adult park visitors reminisce about hiking this challenging trail in years' past. In 1985, after 15 years in the corporate world, Jim says, "It was time to return to Europe and work for world peace at the IAEA." Jim received the Distinguished Service Award during Director General Hans Blix's tenure. (Blix is best known for his

role as Chief UN Weapons Inspector in Iraq.) Although Jim is retired from the permanent Safeguards and Verification staff, he continues to work as an independent consultant to the IAEA, traveling to Vienna three times a year, staying about a month each time. Jim sees his current role as one of transferring knowledge from one generation to the next. "I'm passing my knowledge along to the next inspection team," Jim says. But one gets the impression that he enjoys the challenge of the IAEA's much-changed political agenda. "The IAEA mission took on a greater scope after 1991," says Jim. "Everything changed when undisclosed weapons programs were discovered in Iraq." Since the first Gulf War, the IAEA has been involved in the disarming and monitoring of Iraq, verification of disarmament of South Africa, verification of dismantling in Libya, and the careful and steady progress

toward resolution of the non-compliance of Iran, according to Jim's Powerpoint presentation for their Nobel Prize celebration party.

In Vienna, Irene (named for the Greek Goddess of Peace) was an active board member of the UN Women's Guild, serving several times as President. The Guild is a charity organization that raises funds through a major annual bazaar in Vienna and other activities, and funds projects for needy children in countries around the world. Membership is open to spouses of UN and Embassy employees, many of whom have never traveled or worked abroad. The Guild sponsors many different activities, like language classes, sports, seminars,



IAEA logo

field trips, etc. "We help children in need and foster international friendship," Irene says. She stays connected with the European community in the area, too, and was having breakfast with the French Women's club recently. Of course, the Torrey Pines Docent Society membership knows her as the cordial telephone voice of the TPDS duty, and frequent friendly face on the Docent Desk. She and Lillian Lachicotte (another graduate from the Class of '04) have just been re-elected and will share the calendar scheduling responsibilities for 2006.

When interviewed in late January, the Larrimores were packing for a 3-week stay in Australia where they will meet their new grandson, born in November 2005. Daughter Corinne, her husband and two boys live north of Melbourne. Then they fly to Vienna for a month consulting with the IAEA, returning to Del Mar in late March. The Larrimores, who spend a significant part of every year on another continent, have become very savvy travelers. They packed California weight clothes for summertime in Melbourne and

shipped their heavy winter coats and suits to Vienna.

For years, Jim and Irene talked about enrolling in Torrey Pines docent training. Every year they were frustrated by the scheduling conflict with their spring trip to Vienna. In 2004, after spying the big banner at the entrance on North Torrey Pines Road, they called and connected with new Training Coordinator Janie Killermann. Janie offered to accommodate their travel schedule and let them do make-up work and graduate in September.

The rest, as we say, is history. □

## Docent Training Schedule

- March 4- **Native Americans of Torrey Pines** - Rich Rodriguez
- March 11- **Geology of Torrey Pines** - Don Grine
- March 18- General Meeting - No formal training. Please attend!
- March 25- **Plants of the Reserve** - Margaret Fillius
- April 1- **Interpretation to the Public** - Ranger Gary Olsen
- April 8- **Reptiles and Amphibians** - John Neville
- April 15- Easter Weekend - No training session
- April 22- Earth Day- Activities at TPSR Extension
- April 29- General Meeting - No formal training. Please attend!
- May 6- **History of Torrey Pines** - Judy Schulman
- May 13- **Birds of Torrey Pines** - Barbara Moore
- May 20- General Meeting - No formal training. Please attend!
- June 17- General Meeting & **Graduation** of the Class of 2006

### For additional information, consult:

[www.torreypiresreserve.org](http://www.torreypiresreserve.org)

Torrey Pines State Reserve at

**858-755-2063**

or TPDS Training Coordinator Jeff Spivak at **858-509-5994**

Calling all docents – come help with the training sessions. Refresh your knowledge of the resource and meet these enthusiastic wannabes!

You'll be glad you did!!

# Docent Chronicles

## March 06

Next General Meeting:  
March 18, 2006 9 AM

**National University** just across the highway from the Torrey Pines Golf Course (15 min walk from the Visitor Center) at 11255 North Torrey Pines Road.

Program: Dr. Lea Corkidi is a mycologist who runs the mycorrhiza program at Tree of Life Nursery, largest provider of Native Californian Plants. She will give a presentation on the basics as well as how to develop local inoculums.

March 4 Photographic workshop  
(details on page 7)

April 22 Earth Day (details on page 7)

### Highlights from the February General Meeting from Barbara McCardle *edited by Team Torreyana*

TPSR President **Steve Usher** announced that **Gabrielle Ivany** was named Docent of the Month for her “steady, dedicated and reliable” work with the Children’s Program and Lodge Duty.

Children's Program: **Cecily Goode** encouraged participation in the children's walks, explaining that one shouldn't be concerned about giving a long talk, as the kids greatly enjoy the hiking itself. Trainees and active docents are welcome to join the scheduled walks on Thursdays and Fridays, but should not sign up until they are ready to actually lead a walk. Sign-up sheets are posted on the south wall of the docent library. Laura Lowenstein oversees the scheduling and provides weekly e-mail updates. **Diane Greening** is assisting Cecily with the Children's Program. Docent trainees will learn more about Children’s Program activities at the February 25 training session.

Bookstore: A form is available for docents to suggest new items for bookstore suggestions. in the back of the Lodge Duty Manual, on the bulletin board in the Docent Library, and on the Web site. Mat cards will be printed next month.

Weeding groups: **Barbara Wallach** informed docent trainees of the work of the Whacky Weeders who meet weekly on Monday mornings from 8:30-10:00.

Retirement Party: Barbara announced carpools will be formed for those docents interested in attending the retirement party for former TPSR Head Ranger Bob Wohl. The party will be April 1 from 5-9 p.m. at an Old Town restaurant. Information is posted in the Docent Library. Seating is limited. For more information contact Donna Renner at 619-688-3343 or e-mail at [drenner@parks.ca.gov](mailto:drenner@parks.ca.gov)

Library: **Steve and Sharon Rose** announced a number of new additions to our library collection, to be featured in a "New Books" section, including: *Beyond the Beach Blanket: A Field Guide to Southern California Coastal Wildlife* by Marina Curtis Tidwell and *The Thermal Warriors: Strategies of Insect Survival* by Bernd Heinrich.

Library Remodeling: Steve Usher reminded docents of the \$25,000 grant received in January from the Josephine Stedem Scripps Foundation for a remodel of the Docent Library. The committee to oversee the remodel includes: Sharon and Steve Rose, **Lillian Lachicotte**, Steve Usher, a TPA representative, and Doug Dawson from the Scripps Foundation. Completion is expected by mid-to late summer. Interested docents should contact Steve or a committee member.

Santa Rosa Island Update: Steve Usher thanked **Tom Polakiewicz** for his research and for his writing of the

Board resolution opposing the use of Santa Rosa Island (see Map on page 4) for anything other than its current use. Steve explained the history of Santa Rosa Island and the proposal of its transfer to the Department of Defense: Congressman Duncan Hunter’s proposal calls for the Department of Defense to transform the 53,000-acre island into a military operation, effective Jan. 1, 2009. The goal, the proposal said, was to provide “morale, welfare and recreation activities to members of the armed forces and their dependents, veterans, official guests and such other persons as the [Defense] secretary determines to be appropriate, including paralyzed and disabled persons.”

**Do you have a red "D" on your address label? If you do, that means that we have no record of your 2006 dues. If you believe this is an error, please contact Jeannie Smith, [Jeannie@ucsd.edu](mailto:Jeannie@ucsd.edu) (858) 481-5046. If you haven't paid your dues, please send \$10 for Full Membership, or \$25 for Supporting (only those members who have completed two years Full Membership are eligible for Supporting) to PO Box 2414, Del Mar CA 92014. If you have a red "D" on your label and you do neither of these things, your membership in TPDS will lapse.**



## The Santa Catalina Island Conservancy

by Victoria Schaffer

Christina Bjenning, Programs Director, introduced the speaker, William (Dr. Bill) Bushing. Bushing is an ecologist from Avalon, Catalina Island, where he has been a resident scientist since 1969. After graduating cum laude from Harvard College, he worked as head of the science and math department at the Catalina Island School for Boys, and taught marine biology and SCUBA to high school students while becoming involved with programs from the Jean-Michel Cousteau Institute and working for Project Ocean Search Catalina. He later worked with Jean-Michel Cousteau and father Jacques Ives Cousteau, and was consultant for the filming of the Channel Islands episode in "Cousteau's Rediscovery of the World" series for Turner Broadcasting. He earned his Ph.D. in marine ecology from UC Santa Barbara, for which he conducted groundbreaking research in the use of satellite remote sensing and geographic information systems to study the giant kelp forests around Catalina Island.

From the 1990's to 2000, he was active in conservation in Catalina as VP for Science, Education and Ecological Restoration (SEER) for the Santa Catalina Conservancy. He now does research on the giant kelp of Catalina and creates public education programs on our underwater world and its preservation. He focused today's presentation on the Santa Catalina Conservancy activities.

William Wrigley Jr., a Chicago magnate of Wrigley's chewing gum fame, purchased shares of Santa Catalina Island Company (SCIC) in 1919 and eventually bought

out his partners with the aim of developing a recreational place while preserving the undeveloped island interior. Recognizing the uniqueness of the island's endemic flora and fauna, the Wrigley family formed the non-profit Santa Catalina Island Conservancy in 1972, to promote educational, scientific and recreational use of the land consistent with the conservation goals. By 1975 SCIC had assets that included 88% of the island, and in 1996 it merged with the Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Garden to work jointly in the preservation effort.

Catalina Island has a land



Of the eight islands only San Clemente, San Nicolas and Santa Catalina are *not* part of the Channel Islands National Park. As indicated in this article, most of Santa Catalina falls under the care of a private endowment, the Santa Catalina Conservancy.

mass of over 48,000 acres with 250 miles of interior roads. Its complex geology and a combination of wet, desert, and coastal habitats, allow for incredible flora, with various species endemic to the island. Avalon is its only significantly populated area, and the only place where property ownership is permitted. The island's history, however, revolves around ranching. The Spanish explorers brought goats as meat source, and in 1928 goats and sheep were introduced as livestock, with herds reaching up to 30,000. The herds decimated native sage scrub and desert species. Pigs, introduced to control rattlesnakes,

added to the negative impact on native plant communities. Mule deer and wild bison, brought in after efforts to decrease livestock herds had some success, created a new challenge. Recreational activities such as hiking, biking, boating and camping, through the Santa Catalina Company tours, have had an impact also.

Exotic plant species are highly invasive and displace the native species. Their seeds come from various continents in hayseed, vehicles wheels, hikers clothing, and are further spread by bison "chips."

The work of SCIC and the Science, Education and Ecological

Restoration, now includes the implementation of strict guidelines for recreational activities, the development of nurseries for native species propagation, docent training, education of employees, rangers, tour guides, visitors and general public, vehicles inspections, and the publication of a Native

Plants Guide. Thanks to their efforts, endemic Ironwood and Mountain Mahogany and other native species are now prospering, while

scientists, educators, backpackers, birdwatchers, tourists and others have access to the island, and scientists from around the world participate in various research programs.

Additional information about the Conservancy is available at the Web site: <http://www.CatalinaConservancy.org> , or by calling the office at (310) 510-2595.

Additional information about Bushing's giant kelp research programs is available at the Web site <http://www.StarThrower.org> .

## Trail Tales

Excerpts from the Log  
submitted by Paul Whitby

Since Paul Whitby (Class of '02) took on the Trail Patrol Coordinator job in August, 34 active docents have signed on. Sporting their handsome "Volunteer" vests and ball caps, these dedicated docents monitor the Reserve Trails and gently admonish those visitors who ignore posted regulations, often taking the opportunity to interpret the resource, as well. The job requires a little extra training, so, if you're interested in joining up, please contact Paul for information on the next training session.

Paul reported 33 Trail Patrol members with 16 participating in January, each averaging 1-4 patrols. Gill Williamson had 12 and Frank Burham had 10. Trail patrol members are becoming roving interpreters and email communication is good among the group.

Following are a few of the more interesting entries from the January/February Trail Patrol Log.

"...on the Guy Fleming trail three college age people that had climbed the dunes and had established a relaxing area on top with blankets and cameras. I climbed up and patiently explained the reasons for not climbing these fragile sand dunes. They were polite and gave the usual explanation that they saw footprints so figured that it was ok to go up there. (Of course, ignoring two closed area signs.) I tried to smooth over the numerous footprints, including my own. I later spoke to Jody, who I met on the trail doing her own patrol, and she said that she used a small broom for this. Earlier I had the best viewing of whales in my entire time at TPSR. I saw numerous whale spouts, in 4 different locations, one breach and one fluke along with watching 4 dolphins for about 5 minutes, rewards for my day on patrol in Torrey Pines." Paul Whitby 1/16-06

"The presence of whales has made this month a great time to be out and interface with the public. On most of my outings the last few days, I have spotted whales galore. Sharing this with visitors and helping them spot whales has been very rewarding. It takes patience...but if you stop and scan the ocean for half an hour to an hour or so, you will see whales. Then you can help visitors spot them. Frank Burham 1/25/06

"I made a couple of loops of both Razor Point and Yucca Point trails in the late morning and was rewarded by being treated to a surprising abundance of lizards (side-blotched and western fence). At least half of the people I encountered asked me questions. Most were about reptiles (especially rattlesnakes)! Tried the Parry Grove Trail in the afternoon and got an up-close and personal experience

as a huge red-tailed hawk followed the thermals and almost flew in my face. Less human contact on that trail. Felt like I was cheating as I logged my hours." John Neville 2/7/06

"I spoke to a group of college age adults and discovered that they were living here in the US on a program to learn better English. Three were from Switzerland and one from France. I directed them to the Guy Fleming Trail. About 7 people appeared on the trail below. I informed them the trail was closed. We then had a lively conversation about whales, dolphins, diving water birds and a couple claimed that they had seen a shark and a seal or sea lion. However I did not. A shark? They said it swam like a shark and that it positively was not a dolphin. Maybe so, but I did not see it. Maybe next time. Nature is surprising." Paul Whitby 2/18/06

## The Ranger Reports

### Poles & Runners

TPDS President Steve Usher informed me of your concerns regarding the peeler poles vs. the post and cable throughout the Reserve. Here is the problem: when a post breaks, it remains in the trail way until the staff has time to repair it. This is a time-consuming process requiring several people pulling wire through a bunch of poles to fix a single broken one. If a peeler pole breaks, it does not affect the trails and can be fixed quickly with only one person. The plan is to have lower poles that don't obstruct the views. Also, instead of having post and cable down the whole trail, it will only be situated where there isn't brush to form a natural barrier. The District Superintendent has not made a final decision on the trail plan so the peeler post may or may not be the final choice. Since I also have staff and budgeting issues to deal with, I can appreciate Maintenance Supervisor Brian Gaudet's preference for peeler poles.

As for runners, the trail plan states that runners would be allowed only on the Broken Hill and Beach Trails. It is good in theory -- the problem comes in the enforcement of the rules. Like children at the swimming pool, you can tell them to walk, don't run, but as soon as you turn your back, they're off to the races. We do need to do something, but what and how?

I hope I addressed your concerns. As always, I want to thank you for your care and devotion to our little 1700 acre woods.



*SR Jody Kummer*

## Ranger Reports (cont)

**Trail News:** The Broken Hills Trail connecting to the Beach Trail will soon reopen. However, there will be no beach access. The lower canyon trail to the beach will remain closed indefinitely. Brian Gaudet, the maintenance supervisor, is working on the plans to build a simple staircase through the canyon to the beach. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews (See figure at right) have been actively working on the trails and have completed the installation of new stairs, repaired footbridges, filled-in washouts, and have improved the trail surface. Soon you will be able to hike the repaired areas and enjoy the fruits of their hard work.

**Earth Day:** We are looking for volunteers to participate in Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will need volunteers to assist with signing people in, leading volunteer crews on work projects, helping with the BBQ, and set-up and clean-up. Please sign-up at the April General Meeting. If you are interested in helping to gather food donations and raffle prizes, or contacting vendors, please call Gary Olson at 858-755-2063 or [www.torrey PINESRESERVE.ORG](http://www.torrey PINESRESERVE.ORG) and click on Contact Us.

**Photography workshop:** On Saturday March 4, I will conduct a photography workshop. Bring your camera, hiking shoes, and your questions. The workshop will run from 3:00 PM to sunset. Meet at the visitor center.

**Photo Contest:** We have decided to hold a photo contest for a new Torrey Pines 2007 calendar. If you have a favorite photo that you would like to submit, please pick-up an entry form at the lodge. We will display the photos at the Earth Day event and have the public vote for their favorite pictures. The calendar should be available in December, sold only at the visitor center. Information on the rules for the contest will be available in the visitor center.

*Ranger Gary Olson*



## What's Blooming and Where

By Margaret Fillius

This is a fantastic year for the **Lemonadeberry** everywhere, but check out two near the foot of the steps down from the Lodge. The one closest to the steps is small but the color is wonderful. They normally bloom February to May.

Photos copyright Margaret Fillius



The **Milkmaids** are starting to bloom. There is one just before the pedestrian cut-through as you go up the grade. Look for them near the entrance to the Guy Fleming trail, and on the south side of the trail to the leeward side of the north overlook on the same trail. They normally bloom February to May.

The **Blue-eyed grass** should start blooming soon. Good sites are opposite the parking area for the Guy Fleming trail and on the left side of the road as you go up the hill from the Guy Fleming trail. They normally bloom February to May.

The **Wartystem Ceanothus** has been blooming for some time, but they tend to bloom at different times. Good locations for it are in the zig-zag part of the Razor Point trail down from Red Butte, where the trail is almost north-south. Another big bush is on the Guy Fleming trail on your right just after you pass the Torrey pines on the SE part of the trail. Normal blossom time is January to April. □

## Of Strong Shoulders and Big Shoes

By Victoria Schaffer

The *Oxford American Dictionary* defines "transition" as a passing or change from one place, state, condition, style, to another. Appropriate synonyms are "changeover" and also "passage." The year 2006 brings a transition in the *Torreyana*. An editorship transition and with it an opportunity for reflection.

The Torrey Pines Docent Society got started in 1975. As TPDS historian Judy Schulman has recorded, (*The Pinecone*, April 2005) the publication of the *Torreyana* started that same year with Sunny Rankin as editor until 1977. Since then, editors have been Judy Schulman 1978-1979, Millie Horger 1980-1983, Isabel Buechler 1984-1988, Marion Dixon 1989-1994, Wes Farmer 1994, John Carson 1995, Pamela Dreschel 1996-1997, Del Roberts 1997-2000, Theo Tanalski 2000, and Linda Martin 2001-2005. Gene Barber edited a 1-time, 1-page *Parryscope* around the time the *Torreyana* got started. Elizabeth Nicoloff edited an alternating month *Torrey Lite* in 1996, with Glen taking over in 1997 and 1998 and John Carson in 1999. Cynthia Dukich edited the alternating month *Pinecone* in 2001-2003, and Ken Baer in 2004-2005. Last year Linda Martin introduced a team approach, by bringing together the Team *Torreyana*, which integrates editing and technical expertise. An incoming editor can now stand on an array of strong shoulders to look way ahead in the horizon, and also has enormous shoes to fill.

Over the years, the *Torreyana* has been the voice of our docent assembly, of this self-appointed guardian of a legacy, that is now more precious than ever. Through the writings of talented and enthusiastic contributors, the *Torreyana* has reported our TPDS celebrations, accomplishments, commitments and interactions with TPSR staff and the TPA; inspired us with recounts of the Reserve and TPDS history; reminded us of our purpose and informed us of new involvement opportunities. With your support we will continue. Past editors have found their dedication to be quite rewarding, and in her 2001 Docent Year in Review (*Torrey Pinecone*, December 2001) Linda Martin reflected on the erudition, generosity, patience and dedication of this talented group of volunteers who cherish the Reserve.

Encroachment of the Reserve by urbanization and development is our ongoing challenge. We now ponder the looming threats of global warming and of our freshly diagnosed, so-called addiction to oil. An added *Torreyana* task may well be to rationally assess

these and other relevant issues, such as the state and federal budget priorities, and their possible implications for our TPDS purpose of interpretation and preservation of the Reserve. The *Torreyana* can, at a minimum, contribute to its readership education on such matters and point out options. We docents can choose to sidestep the issues or throw our arms up in despair and opt for non-involvement. I am all for considering the advice of Philip Pullman, author of *His Dark Materials*, as recently quoted in *The New Yorker*, "But that doesn't mean that we should give up and surrender.... I think we should act as if. I think we should read books and tell children stories, ... as if it would make a difference... We should act as if the universe were listening to us and responding. We should act as if life were going to win." I propose for the *Torreyana* the option of this added educational task, so that we can all march into the future as better informed and thus better prepared docents and citizens. □



**Young California Sea Lion at Little Flat Rock on February 20, 2006.** Although they resemble seals, sea lions differ in two major ways. They have external ears (rather than just holes), and their hind flippers can face forward allowing them to walk on land (seals just drag themselves along in the sand). Although large groups of sea lions can often be seen from the beach with their flippers out of the water, they very rarely come ashore at Torrey Pines. Photo and text by David Blue.

# Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: February 4-5, 2006

Ed. Note- People occasionally ask why the bird list is not alphabetical. Showing the list with **family headings** (this month only) may explain why.

Total of 87 species  
(unusual sightings shown in *italics*)  
Photo of Surf Scoters  
by David Blue

## Ducks

Gadwall 33  
*Eurasian Wigeon* 1  
American Wigeon 125  
Mallard 126  
Cinnamon Teal 2  
Northern Shoveler 39  
Northern Pintail 38  
Green-winged Teal 5  
*Redhead* 2  
*Ring-necked Duck* 2  
Lesser Scaup 14  
Surf Scoter 302  
Bufflehead 21  
Ruddy Duck 30

## Quail

California Quail 3

## Loons

Loon sp. 30  
Common Loon 10

## Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe 8  
Eared Grebe 1  
Western Grebe 6

## Shearwaters

Black-vented Shearwater 4

## Pelicans

*American White Pelican* 1

Brown Pelican 23

## Cormorants

Brandt's Cormorant 2000  
Double-crested Cormorant 4

## Herons and Egrets

Great Blue Heron 2  
Great Egret 7  
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1

## Ibises

White-faced Ibis 8

## Hawks

White-tailed Kite 3  
Northern Harrier 1  
Accipiter sp. 1  
Cooper's Hawk 2  
Red-shouldered Hawk 2  
Red-tailed Hawk 4

## Falcons

American Kestrel 1  
Peregrine Falcon 1



## Coots

American Coot 100

## Plovers

Black-bellied Plover 25  
Snowy Plover 71  
Semipalmated Plover 12

## Stilts and Avocets

American Avocet 2

## Sandpipers

Whimbrel 3  
Long-billed Curlew 1  
Marbled Godwit 10  
Sanderling 25  
Least Sandpiper 1  
Dowitcher sp. 25

## Gulls

Heermann's Gull 11  
Ring-billed Gull 106  
California Gull 1  
Western Gull 27

## Doves

Mourning Dove 17

## Hummingbirds

Anna's Hummingbird 29  
*Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird* 1

## Woodpeckers

Nuttall's Woodpecker 4

## Tyrant Flycatchers

Black Phoebe 8  
Say's Phoebe 3  
Cassin's Kingbird 4

## Jays and Crows

Western Scrub-Jay 11  
American Crow 4  
Common Raven 44

## Swallows

Swallow sp. 2  
Tree Swallow 2

## Bushtits

Bushtit 60

## Wrens

Bewick's Wren 4  
Marsh Wren 1

## Kinglets

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2

## Gnatcatchers

California Gnatcatcher 8

## Thrushes

Hermit Thrush 4

## Babblers

Wrentit 11

## Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Northern Mockingbird 1  
California Thrasher 4

## Starlings

European Starling 1

## Wood-Warblers

Orange-crowned Warbler 2  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 51  
Common Yellowthroat 4

## Towhees and Sparrows

Spotted Towhee 8  
California Towhee 26  
Savannah Sparrow 51  
Song Sparrow 21  
White-crowned Sparrow 66

## Blackbirds

Red-winged Blackbird 210  
Western Meadowlark 6  
Brewer's Blackbird 70

## Finches

House Finch 90  
Lesser Goldfinch 12

*Weather:* clear

*Lagoon mouth:* closed

*Observers:* Hank and Jane Baele,  
David Blue, Will Cox, Kathy  
Estey, Blair Francis, Jack Friery,  
Gary Grantham and Don Grine

Previous months are posted on the TPSR web site at [www.torreypinesreserve.org](http://www.torreypinesreserve.org)  
On the menu bar point to **Activities** and then click on **Bird-sightings**.