

TORREYANA

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Specializing in Old Things

By Victoria Schaffer

Programs Director Christina Bjenning introduced our June meeting speaker as “Someone who specializes in old things.” Indeed, as in our coastal area geology and species that thrived in it millions of years ago. Dr. Thomas A. Deméré, Ph. D., is Curator of the Department of Paleontology and Director of Paleo Services at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, where he has occupied the Joshua L. Bailey, Jr., Chair of Paleontology since 1994. He studies the evolutionary history of pinnipeds and cetaceans, and the geology and paleontology of Southern and Baja California. While reading Patrick L. Abbott’s “The Rise and Fall of San Diego” for your training quizzes, you may have noticed frequent references to his research findings.

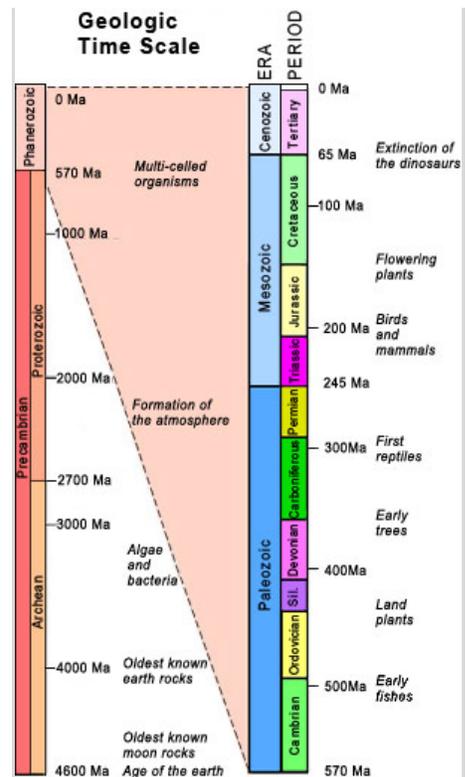
Tom spoke of ancient times, of the Cretaceous, Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene epochs, of tectonism and subductions, fossils and formations, and made geology and paleontology data entertaining, even humorous. He spoke of our coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and yes, our beloved *Pinus torreyana*, as botanical overburden that intrudes in the appreciation of our rich geology. But his description of the area

discoveries was so compelling that we soon forgave his iconoclasm, and sat back to learn while laughing.

The coastal San Diego County area is of great geological interest. Located in a complex boundary system on the edge of the Pacific plate that extends to the Pacific Northwest, it moves along the North America plate. Movement of the plates around this boundary system, the San Andreas Fault, causes earthquakes. They are as yet unpredictable and it is best “not to take them personally.”

San Diego County shows two areas of sedimentary formations, along the coastal plain and in the interior, and a large middle section of igneous origin. The sedimentary rocks are rich in Pliocene history. Geologists have a name for them: “The San Diego Formation.” The Pliocene-age strata of the San Diego Formation crop out in the southwestern portion of the county, from Pacific Beach south to Border Field State Park and on into Mexico as far as south as Rosarito. They reveal abundant fossils, of which 90% are species that still exist. At the Reserve, a look at the cliffs along the beach helps to reconstruct the formation process of the Eocene-age strata of the Delmar formation and Torrey Sandstone. Patterns are recognizable: tidal flats and massive sandstone formation by tidal creeks

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Torrey Pines Docent Society

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Many thanks to the Team Torreyana and other docents contributing to this newsletter, editor Victoria Schaffer and copy editors Walt Desmond and Lillian Lachicotte. Many thanks to Vernie McGowan for mailing and distribution.

Roger Isaacson

Director of Communications

From the President

As we enter the summer, I think it is an appropriate time to reflect on the progress we have made over the last six months and to consider the challenges ahead for the remainder of the year. It has been an exciting and productive year thus far. The incredible commitment of the Whacky Weeders, as well as the not so whacky weeders, has improved the appearance of the Reserve immensely. Their efforts were recognized, thanks to the input by Ranger Gary Olson, by the DPR Southern District through a grant of the Stewardship Award to the team. Under the leadership of Brett Lear, we now have an expanding nursery filling with native plants and Torrey pine saplings. With the help of our friends at National University, especially Paul Majkut and Dave Hokstadt, we have successfully moved into a more comfortable venue for our monthly meetings. The inspiration of Christina Bjenning, our Programs Director, resulted in a delightful field trip to the Oceanview Mine, the first such field trip in some time. The dedication and hard work of the Library Committee, and a generous grant from the Josephine Stedem Scripps Foundation, has us on the verge of a fully remodeled and upgraded Library and Docent Room. Our Communication Director, Roger Isaacson, has been instrumental in upgrading our computer system while the Communications Committee has transformed our website into as special a web destination, as is the Reserve in the real world. We have voiced our opposition to change in the status of Santa Rosa Island. Finally, under the leadership of Jeff Spivak and the efforts of many volunteer presenters and supporters, we have inducted another 27 members to our Society.

In addition to these particular projects, we have also staffed the Museum through the coordination of Lillian Lachicotte and Irene Larrimore, maintained the Children's Program under the watchful eyes of Cecily Goode and Diane Greening, patrolled the trails through the oversight of Paul Whitby, led Special Walks under the organization of Don Grine and led Guided Walks on weekends and holidays. What is most impressive about the last six months is the depth of the involvement in these many activities by our membership.

The challenge facing us as we go forward, particularly over the summer, is to maintain this momentum. A key component of our responsibilities is the staffing of the Lodge at all times. While it is certainly more entertaining and inspiring to walk the trails during Trail Patrol, it is important to remember that the key interface with the public is in the Lodge. It is there that we can educate visitors to the Reserve as to the opportunities and limitations within this unique and fragile environment. In this way, we can hopefully help to prevent problems before they occur. Lodge Duty is also a delightful opportunity to share our knowledge and understanding of the Reserve with a sometimes less informed public.

I would also like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors to contact Don Orahod, our Nominating Committee chair. Service as a Director is a special opportunity to have an impact on the direction and activities of the Society, as well as to work with a great group of dedicated fellow Docents. If there are questions about the responsibilities and time commitment, I will be happy to discuss the details of Board membership. Please contact me directly.

Once again, 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)

as water receded at low tide, and wood fragments and mollusk shells that deposited and fossilized. Pliocene time was 5.3 to 1.8 million years ago, and its most important climatic feature is the Ice Age, when stable ice sheets covered the Northern Hemisphere, starting 2.67 million years ago. Sea level changes associated with cyclical melting and forming of glaciers are reflected in the Reserve, in the succession of marine

terraces and cliffs from the beach to the Lodge that has been described as a giant staircase. During the Pliocene high sea levels, a bay formed along the San Diego coast. Palms, avocados, oaks and mangroves grew, and whales and dolphins adapted to fresh water and thrived. Fossils of kelp-eating sea cows and of gummy (toothless) walrus have been recovered. We are all familiar with the rich beds of mollusc fossils.

Above all, Tom's decidedly paleontological, entertaining presentation was a refreshing challenge to our botany-centered minds. He rocked! □

For more information go to www.sdnhm.org. Visit the exhibit of the fossil mysteries of the San Diego Formation at the San Diego Natural History Museum, starting July 1st, 2006.

26 Graduating Docents for June 2006



Top Row, left to right: Rhea Bridy, Joan Adamo, Sherry Doolittle, Sharon Laws, Marion Casazza, Ann Neumeister, Carla Beach, Bob Lawhead, Joellen Barnett, Herb Knufken, Sally Whitlock, Renate Berthold, Ann Heinemann, Patricia Burke, Chris Richter

Bottom Row, left to right: Vivianne Thomas, Arianne Neigh, Dave Schumacher, Barbara McCabe, Peg Ferrier.

Not Present: Chuck Anders, Susan Buxbaum, Marcia Durso, Matt Estes, Peggy Fiorentino, Gil Walter.

Photo by Roger Isaacson

Children's Program Training

"Dear Tall guy...I forgot your name. It was fun seeing plants." "I learned the biggest tree is 1,000 or 100 years old." "I like the time when we discover green stuff in the mountain."

These quotes are from the many thank you letters docents receive from the children each week following our hikes. The children's program is finished for the summer, and resumes in mid Sept. I encourage all docents to participate or just tag along.

There will be 3 workshops this summer to help improve our skills. (For date see Docent Chronicles.)

School reservations for the upcoming year will start on Aug. 15th.

Cecily Goode

Director of Children's Program

Future Events

August 19 General meeting- Christina's Tontine

September 16 General meeting- **Pat Abbot**, Very colorful Prof. of Geological Sciences at SDSU.

September 17-19 Docents Channel Island Cruise.

Docent Chronicles

June 06

Next General Meeting

July 15, 2006 9 am
at

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

Program: "Amphibians and Reptiles"
by John Neville

Highlights from the June General Meeting

By Barbara McCardle, edited by Team
Torreyana

Docent of the Month: Jeannie Smith was recognized for her work with trail patrol and as chairman of TPDS Membership. Jeannie recently added the Society's group e-mail to her list of duties.

Training: Jeff Spivak announced, "It's over!" Approximately 25 trainees will graduate today with an additional 5-7 graduating in September. Jeff thanked **Cecily Goode** and **Lillian Lachicotte** for hosting refreshments for the trainees and also those docents who led walks following the training sessions.

Treasurer: Rick Vogel reported that we took in \$1,700 more than we spent in May. There was a \$4,800 Earth Day expenditure but a \$2,500 grant from the State and \$2,000 from TPA helped to cover those expenses. Special Walks brought in \$1,075 for the month of May while we spent about \$1,000 on busing for the Children's Program. TPDS assets total \$102,000.

Duty: Roger Isaacson reported for Lillian Lachicotte who was covering Lodge Duty during the meeting. Sign ups for Lodge Duty have increased and most spots are now being covered. Suggestions are encouraged for updating the Lodge Duty Manual.

Communications: Roger Isaacson explained that separate two-sided Z fold brochures, one for flowers and one for shrubs & cactus are being developed. Roger reminded docents to visit the TPSR Web site at torreypine.org; docents are to

use the password "calendar" to access the Lodge Duty calendar.

Bookstore: Nancy Woodworth reported that a workshop for the bookstore will take place June 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The time will be used to decorate gourds and trail signs. Docents are encouraged to bring any new ideas and supplies.

Children's Program: Cecily Goode reported that the Children's Program has ended for the 2005-2006 school year. The following workshops are planned over the summer to prepare docents for the program next year:

July 14 – 9:00 am Don Grine will lead a walk on the topic "TPSR Geology for Kids".

August 11 – 9:00 am A workshop to repair, mend and move props.

August 25 – 9:00 am Diane Greening will talk about plants, habitats and the Reserve, specifically for the Children's Program.

Cecily introduced and thanked Laura Lowenstein, docent, coordinator of the Children's Program and park aide.

Trail Patrol: Paul Whitby shared that the Reserve was full of picnickers over the Memorial Day weekend. The Trail Patrol helped police this and temporary signs helped slow picnickers. Permanent signs are slowly replacing temporary signs. Seven docents completed recent training for Trail Patrol, raising the total membership to 43. Once-a-month participation is encouraged and vests are "semi-required". While docents may use their own vests, they must display a State of California badge. Docents who need a badge should see Paul.

Santa Rosa Island: Duncan Hunter's resolution to change the use of Santa Rosa Island is included in the 2007 Defense Appropriations bill which has already passed the House. Senators Boxer and Feinstein's resolution against Hunter's is tied up in committee. Steve Usher sent letters to Senators Feinstein and Boxer expressing appreciation for their resolution and he will copy them to Congresswoman Lois Capps. Senator Feinstein's office has contacted Steve for a meeting to discuss future plans to express opposition. Docents may e-mail Congresswoman Lois Capps by Googling to find her Web site.

Santa Rosa Island Field Trip: There are 45 sign-ups for 35 spots for the September 17-19 field trip. Thirteen couples have signed up for the 13 double bunks and the Board decided that seniority will take precedence for filling the single bunks,

allowing existing docents to go and trainees (or newly graduated docents) will make up the waiting list. A final list will be made from those docents who pay their \$410 at July's General Meeting.

Oceanview Mine Field Trip: Steve Usher reported everyone enjoyed the trip which involved a great tour with opportunities to view spectacular wildflowers. The trip will likely be repeated next year.

Nominating Committee: Don Orahood has agreed to chair the committee for TPDS Board nominations again this year and those docents interested in serving on the Board for a January-December term should contact Don. The nine position slate will be voted on at the November General Meeting. Newly graduated docents are encouraged to consider Board positions.

Docent Library Remodel: Steve Usher reported that we are in a bit of a quiet time with this project. The committee will meet soon to select paint color and wood finishes. Brian Gaudet has submitted the PEF and Eric Schulken, a professional house painter, has volunteered to donate the 3-4 days it will take him to paint the library. Steve asked that docents remember Eric when they have painting projects.

Coffee Mugs for sale: Jack Paxton shared that Barbara Wallach has coffee mugs for sale for \$1. These mugs may be used for meetings and cut down on the need for paper cups.

Kudos: Steve Usher recognized **Walt Desmond** for his work with the organization of the Greater San Diego Science Fair.

Ranger's Reports: Jody Kummer announced that parking ID's are available today. Gary Olson thanked the docents for their support and kindness while his wife Valerie is being treated for breast cancer. Good news came after two surgeries; all lymph nodes are clear and she will now undergo chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Gary announced that the **Whacky Weeders** received the Stewardship Award from the district. Recognition also came from the State for those docents who have volunteered more than 200 hours including: **Jim Cassell, Margaret Fillius, Cecily Goode, Roger Isaacson, Lillian Lachicotte, Linda Martin, Sharon and Steve Rose, Marge Stettbacher, Rick Vogel** and **Barbara Wallach**. These docents will receive a pass for free admission to all California State Parks. □



Photo by Frank Burham

A Native Plants Nursery!

I'm happy to report that our native plant propagation is almost ready to go!

Last year the Whacky Weeders asked our esteemed Ranger Jody if there was anything special she would like us to work on. She mentioned native flowers in front of the Lodge as a good idea. I first thought she might want roses from a Kumeyaay flower shop, but then realized that she wanted us to grow flowering plants native to the Reserve.

I had heard that a plant propagation area was started but never completed behind the maintenance yard. So, on a day my wife failed to update my Honey-Do List, I ambled over there to nose around a bit. I found three benches of rabbit boxes, two of them set up with sprinklers and rodent-proof wire screen. They were even equipped with heaters to keep the seedlings warm. I found about 100 tubes for starting cuttings, complete with holding racks, but they were old and crumbly. There were numerous half-gallon pots and lengths of plastic pipe. After chatting with folks who have been here a while, I learned that several years ago a group at TPSR got interested in growing native plants. They built the three benches, and went to a lot of trouble to do it correctly.

We're well on the way to get the native plants effort re-started. We've

repositioned and leveled the benches. We dug a 50 foot trench to run water lines. We fabricated new door frames for easier access to the bench interior. We need to complete the wire screen lining of the benches, and follow that with a layer of clear plastic. Some sprinklers need to be changed to drip irrigation, as the seeds will germinate more readily when watered from below. And last but not least, we need to collect seeds from around the reserve so Jody can have her flowers next spring.

Brett Lear,
with the help of the Whacky Weeders and other nice folks.

Trail Tales:

Excerpts from the Trail Patrol Log

Edited by Team Torreyana

Our Trail Patrollers have been extremely busy patrolling and writing. Here are some of their entries. Ed.

"This Memorial Day weekend will be remembered for the number of visitors to the reserve. They set world-records while snacking and/or picnicking at the overlooks, amphitheater benches, near the restrooms, or tailgating in pickup trucks. There were dogs and who knows what else on the trails. Families trying to get from the Lodge to the beach in swimming suits,

carrying boogie boards, found the access closed. The need for more signage was never more evident. We did have a brand new "Beach Trail" sign. That certainly fooled people, not knowing that the Beach Trail did not go to the beach. But don't despair. Ranger Kummer quickly approved "No Food," "No Beach Access" signs, after which, no more violations!

After a calm Tuesday, more excitement on Wednesday, when 150 6th graders arrived unannounced. Some ran down the trails ahead of teachers and chaperones. Then, two boys ran back to the Lodge, out of breath and stammering about rattlesnakes and someone "bit." They calmed down and reported the "attack" occurrence near Yucca Point. After failed attempts to summon emergency assistance through SURCOM, someone reached 911, and an Emergency Response team arrived. They determined that the attack victim, who had meanwhile been carried up by her dad, had been bitten by a Gopher snake after stepping on it." Paul Whitby, 5/28-31/06.

"Monday was such a beautiful day, I couldn't stay in. So, what to do? Why of course, Torrey Pines for a Patrol walk. It was a benign afternoon with few visitors, despite the glorious weather. Steve Usher at the Lodge reported low turnout. I did find a few people needing attention. A couple of ladies and a young child having a tailgate picnic near the Lodge responded well to my telling them that was not permitted. Then I helped a young couple, with two young boys from Pennsylvania, find the Razor Point Trail. Finally, I came across two young Russian visitors, off-trail at Yucca Point, ready to take pics over the edge. I warned them about erosion, and the risk of ending 300 feet down on the beach. Other than that, I enjoyed the walk in peaceful solitude." Mayo Stiegler, 6/12/06.

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“Inspired by Paul’s notes, I walked the beach yesterday and today. Yesterday, the big discovery was the row of 10 cabanas South of the parking lot. Ranger Olson explained that it was a new program, fee paid, with the Lodge at Torrey Pines. They bring their guests down in a limo service and offer hotel amenities on the beach. The cabanas are put up early each morning and taken down each evening. A very nice, professional looking operation. I also saw an Osprey monitoring the beach from a perch on the cliff, just above Black Rock. I went out this morning, with Brett Lear and 8 senior ladies from Carlsbad. With the recent interest in the Scripps report of an imminent earthquake, we walked down and reviewed the Carmel Valley fault. I again saw the Osprey, same place. We returned to the beach near the South kiosk, just on time to see Ranger Knox removing a small rattlesnake from the rocks. The ladies were so excited with the tour they put together a \$25 donation for our Docent Society. We received a lot of requests for a repeat tour.”
Frank Burham, 6/21-22/06.

“Yesterday I went on the trail without my vest. Down Broken Hill, a gentleman was tossing a rock trying to scare-off a two-foot long snake. I stopped to chat and explain that snakes are protected, and this one would leave on its own, if left alone. A runner came down, ears plugged with an MP-3 player. I got her attention by waving my arms in her face. She thanked me. Another runner, also plugged, came down. I waved my arms until she stopped. After asking if the snake “was rattling her tail” she ran off-trail around it. I stayed with the snake for more possible warnings. Then, I saw it calmly and slowly slither into the bush. Today, I enjoyed my first Real Patrol very much. No snakes, no off-trail runners, just 40 well-mannered 6th graders walking Razor Point on a field trip.” Sherry Doolittle, 6/21,22/06.

“Today was my first day as a Graduate and Trail Patrol walker, in my spiffy new vest, with proper logo and pins. I waited until late in the day to give it a test drive on Guy Fleming. With pride and trepidation I inspected the trail, and the Mariposa Lilies in the coastal scrub. I felt righteous, as I picked some trash, while checking up on an alligator lizard terrorizing an ant colony. I could hear a lonesome mourning dove cooing his case on top of a scraggly Torrey Pine. “Be careful, little dove,” I thought, “Didn’t mom teach you about camouflage?” I heard other birds sing and then stop. It didn’t take long to spot a Red Shoulder Hawk in his gliding search for tasty dove or squirrel. The ravens, no slouches, pestered the poor hawk until it came dejectedly to a stop on a wind-swept Torrey Pine, just uphill from the North overlook. A few strolling visitors stopped, and we stood together admiring the dejected silhouette. The beautiful bird had enough admiration, flapped its wings and disappeared due East, dinner-less. There would be some unfortunate, plump and tasty mourning dove in that direction. At the Southern overlook a young side-blotched lizard spied his target ant colony nervously. What was I to do but wait motionlessly. He cocked his head and took side glances, as if to say “Hey, you’re no tree, missy.” Then, leaping lizards, he surprised me and thrust himself upward and forward, caught his breath, and disappeared into home sweet home. Oh, yes, and two visitors stopped and asked what those odd-looking black cylinder things were doing on the trees. “Well, M’am” I thought, “I am glad you asked.” After all, I had graduated and had studied my Trail Patrol manual. I was ready.”
Rhea Bridy, T. Patroller AND GRADUATE. 6/12/06.

Ranger News

The Beach Trail is hoped to be open by August 1. Brian Gaudet has submitted the PEF for a temporary fix and a more permanent fix is likely in the future.

Darren Smith has asked those docents who are interested in helping him identify exotic species off trail to contact him. He also hopes to update maps of the Reserve.

SR Jody Kummer

Notes from the Bookstore

A fun workshop was held on Saturday, June 24th to create gourds and trail signs for sale in the bookstore.

Thanks to Barbara Wallach for coordinating a very talented group of docents including**Jeannie Smith, Bobbi Krueger, Peg Ferrier, Marian Casazza, Sharon Rose, Sherry Doolittle, Irene Geist, Darlene Farnes** and her daughter. **Nancy Woodworth** rewarded us by providing a treat of home baked brownies. So much fun and good food to boot!! These are “one of a kind” creations available soon! Check out “who gives a hoot at Torrey Pines” and “Having a whale of a time at Torrey Pines”.

Watch for future workshop dates and be included in an activity with a great group.



Stage coach connection at the Lodge. Photo from collection of Docent *Judy Schulman*

A poem by Maryruth Cox

On the Fleming Trail

I never saw a Zulu,
the Zambezi is strange to me,
but I’ve been on the Fleming trail
and gazed upon the sea.
The gulls, they streamed to
windward,
the plovers paced the shore,
while I sat on the trail-side,
waiting, still, for more.

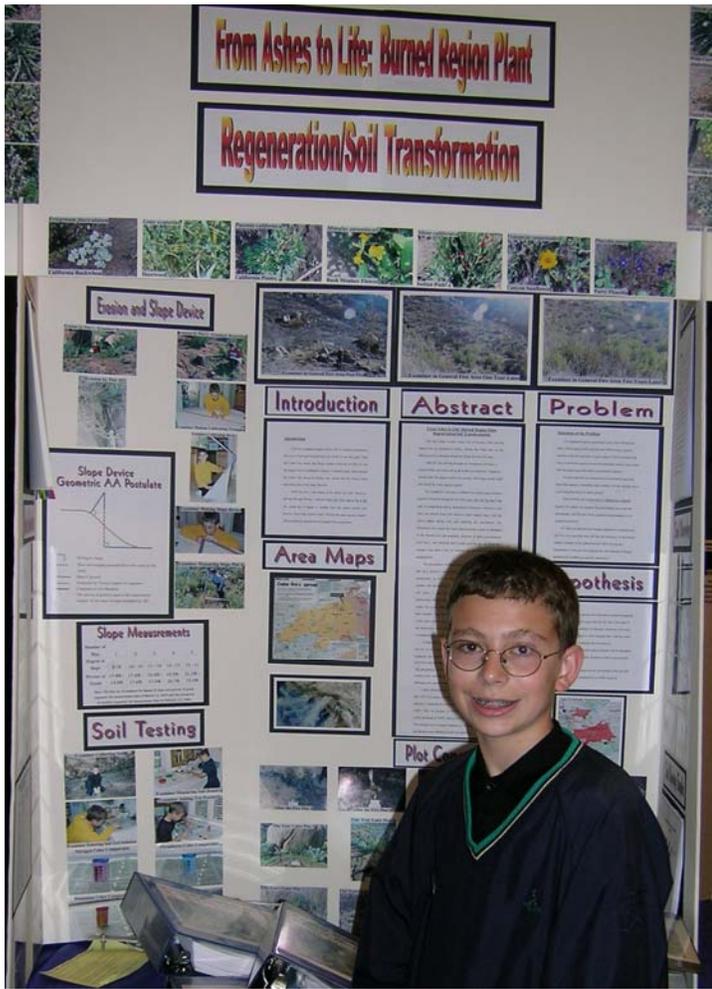


Photo by Lillian Lachicotte

Docent Society Science Fair Awardee David Cohn III Presents at Meeting

Seventh grader David Cohn III discussed his award-winning project “Burned Region Plant Regeneration” at our June 17 docent meeting.

After wildfire burned the chaparral close to his home, he wanted to know what the effect was on soil and plants, and if the plant community would recover. Using his intelligence, focus, and devotion, and encouraged by his parents and The Rhoades School advisor Mrs. Roxanne Hunker, he mastered many subjects not taught for many grade levels—geometry, botany, taxonomy, chemistry—in order to achieve his aim.

He postulated that non-natives would regrow in the biological

preserve after the fire due to lack of competition and abundance of nutrients.

He combined a protractor, plumb bob, metal rulers and rope with his understanding of geometric principles to create a slope-measuring device. He exposed native soils to several temperatures, and compared the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to those found in unburned and burned soils. He compared the plant community before and after the fire.

His conclusion was that his hypothesis was not supported because large numbers non-natives were not noted in the preserve. Also, levels of macronutrients did not decline over time and were stable. However, his findings did support his soil-burning hypothesis because fire can volatilize nitrogen or burn it off as a gas. Fire can increase or decrease pH, depending upon the amount of ash created. Ash has a level of alkaline earth metals, potassium and calcium, which increase pH.

The docents were pleased to hear from David and Roxanne. His talk was among the most focused and erudite we have had from any awardee, of any grade level.

David wrote me: “I am continuing to study the effects of wildfire on the biological preserve indefinitely and I

am developing other experiments to further my project.”

Thank you David Cohn III for honoring us with your visit!

*Theo Tanalski, TPDS GSDSEF
2006 Judging Committee Chair*

Baby King Snake Rescue

By David Blue

This baby California Kingsnake was rescued from the surf south of Flat Rock on June 23 by Linda and David Blue and taken to the Lodge where it delighted many of the visiting children.



This is our fifth most abundant species in the Reserve. Shown above, being held by new Docent Rhea Bridy.

Note below the protective coloration as it blends in with the Torrey Pine needles.



What's Blooming and Where?

TPSR general

By Barbara Wallach

Our rare *Dudleya brevifolia* is blooming (photos below) and can be seen from the road heading south out of the reserve.



Photos by Margaret Fillius©

It is so small it is easy to miss.

Skunkweed is the big bloomer all along the road south from the lodge and there are many Mariposa Lilies on the Broken Hills trail.

Guy Fleming Trail:

Summer solstice flower walk

Text & Photos By Eva Armi

The bright red dots on the hillside along the road up are the Mexican Pinks. There are gorgeous Yellow Mariposa Lilies in bloom (photo below) around the G. F. parking lot.



We have some late bloomers like the little aster **Three-Spot** found along the southern and western

path. The **Dodder** has its tiny flowers all over those strands of red "hairs". Also, **Our Lord's Candle** blooms along the South fork. The **Chamise** is flowering and so is the **Buckwheat**, profusely. .

I see lots of **Climbing Milkweed** on the ocean side. **Suncups**, **Sand-Verbena** will keep on flowering for a while. Look for the **Bird's Beak flowers** (photo below).



Now is a good time to compare the looks of the **Del Mar Sand Aster** and the **Fleabane Aster**. The latter grows on the north fork of the G. F. trail, close to where the blooming **White Sage** stands. The other day I spotted some **Wide-throat Monkey Flower** across the path from the sage. A plant I have only seen in the Extension before.

The **Redberry** has fruit right now. You won't see that for very long. They get eaten right away. Look for **Canchalagua** and **Splendid Mariposa Lilies** along the other trails in the Reserve. The flower season is definitely not over yet.

TPSR Extension

Mike and I took our last <sigh> hike through Torrey Pines Extension this

morning. The **Scarlet Larkspur** displayed bright red buds as they bid us farewell. By the time the *Torreyana* arrives in docent mailboxes, these spectacular natives will be in full bloom throughout the Extension, but mainly on Red Ridge this year. Another lovely native unique to the Extension trails is **Cleveland Sage**, just beginning to bloom along Red Ridge, regaling visitors with its wonderful fragrance.

We will certainly miss Torrey Pines, but many of our TPSR natives survive in WA State's cooler climate. We recognized several dozen blooming species in Olympic National Park last July -- another reason we expect to make this transition with some ease.

On our way....

Linda Martin and Mike Cornforth

We miss you already, especially at press time. Ed.



Camping out...?



On-line Torreyana Supplement

See the on-line *Torreyana* supplement at www.torreypinesreserve.org for more articles.

By the way, remember the print version is in **color** on the web. Ed.

Birds of Torrey Pines: *Northern Fulmar Rescue*

Text and Photo by David Blue

A Northern Fulmar was found stranded on Torrey Pines State Beach on June 15. It was captured by TPSR Docent Linda Blue and me, and the TPSR staff called Wildlife Assist to transport the bird to a rehabilitation center.



These pelagic (deep water) birds are typically found well off shore, and only rarely can be seen from shore. Northern Fulmars breed in the higher latitudes of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, but migrate south in the winter. They arrive in Southern California waters in October and typically depart in April, but a few stragglers may remain through the summer. They are rare at Torrey Pines, and have never been reported on the monthly bird surveys conducted here over the last 23 years. However, I have seen them on five

occasions since 2000, including a dead bird found on the beach in July 10, 2004.

The rescued fulmar was most likely a first year bird that was not mature enough yet to breed, and had stayed south rather than migrating north. As the ocean warms up, less prey becomes available, and the fulmar was probably starving when it ended up on the beach.

Fulmars, along with albatrosses, shearwaters, and petrels, are members of the order Procellariiformes, also known as tubenoses. This is because their nostrils are situated in tubes on the upper part of the bill as shown in the photograph. (For more information on Northern Fulmars, see the January 2004 *Torreyana* p. 6. which is on-line at www.torreypinesreserve.org)

Unusual sightings for June Survey: (photos from Google Images)



Clark's Grebe

Clapper Rail
Photo by Jim Zingo



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: June 3-4, 2006

Total of 65 species (unusual sightings shown with an asterisk and in italics)

Gadwall 10

Mallard 9 (with young)

Cinnamon Teal 1

Pied-billed Grebe 1

Western Grebe 5

*Clark's Grebe** 1

Brown Pelican 12

Double-crested Cormorant 5

Great Blue Heron 5

Great Egret 7

Snowy Egret 12

Green Heron 2

Black-crowned Night-Heron 2

White-faced Ibis 4

White-tailed Kite 2

Red-tailed Hawk 6

American Kestrel 2 (carrying food)

*Clapper Rail** 1 (heard only)

American Coot 3

Killdeer 6

Black-necked Stilt 2

California Gull 8

Western Gull 53

Caspian Tern 2

Royal Tern 2

Forster's Tern 11

Rock Pigeon 2

Mourning Dove 25

White-throated Swift 12

Black-chinned Hummingbird 1

Anna's Hummingbird 15

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1

Black Phoebe 5

Ash-throated Flycatcher 1

Cassin's Kingbird 4

American Crow 9

Common Raven 16

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow 21

Cliff Swallow 22

Barn Swallow 2

Bushtit 1 (at nest)

Bewick's Wren 5

House Wren 2

Marsh Wren 1 (heard only)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1

California Gnatcatcher 3

Wrentit 19

Northern Mockingbird 5

Phainopepla 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 1

Yellow Warbler 1

Yellow-breasted Chat 1

Spotted Towhee 9

California Towhee 16

Savannah Sparrow 5

Belding's Savannah Sparrow 2

Song Sparrow 18

Black-headed Grosbeak 2

Red-winged Blackbird 35

Brewer's Blackbird 8

Brown-headed Cowbird 2

Hooded Oriole 2

House Finch 118

Lesser Goldfinch 14

American Goldfinch 1

Weather: clear

Lagoon mouth: open

Observers: Hank & Jane Baele, David Blue, Kathy Estey, Jack Friery, and Gary Grantham

Previous months are posted on the TPSR web site at www.torreypinesreserve.org

On the menu bar, point to **Activities** and then click on **Bird-sightings**.