



Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the
Torrey Pines Docent Society

August 2006

Who Will Care for Our Natural World in the Future?

Richard Louv to speak at August TPDS Meeting.

Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 AM

Richard Louv, a nationally-known author, journalist and speaker on family, nature and community will be our speaker at the August docent meeting. Author of "*Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*" (in the docent library), Mr. Louv is a weekly columnist for the San Diego Union Tribune. His focus on "the nature-child reunion" fits perfectly with our docent children's program--in fact with our whole educational mission. Mr. Louv's "*Last Child in the Woods*" calls attention to the alienation of today's children with the

natural world, and all the benefits of making the reconnection.

Reviewers' comments on "*Last Child*": "every parent, teacher and student of nature should read it"; "eloquent, urgent and timely...remedies for parents, schools and communities"; "an eye-opener for adults involved with children." For more info go to

www.thefuturesedge.com/RichardLouvBio.htm

REMEMBER: THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, 11255 North Torrey Pines Rd.

July Docent Meeting

Notes from the TPDS General Meeting, July 15, 2006. (complete minutes, by Barbara McCardle, TPDS Executive Board Secretary, are in the docent library)

Docent of the Month: Wes

Farmer was recognized for his many contributions to the Museum, his work with the Children's Program and his hosting of a TPSR booth at the San Diego County Fair.

Treasurer Report: Rick Vogel indicated that expenditures were not unusual this month. Receipts of \$2,500 from the State of California and \$2,000 from TPA for Earth Day. Special Walks have brought in double the budgeted amount. Docents are invited to propose Reserve projects--money is available.

Children's Program: Cecily Goode reported a good turnout (24 docents) for **Don Grine's** Geology walk. Two more Children's Program

workshops are scheduled: August 11, 9:00 a.m., working on props; August 25, 9:00 a.m., Reserve plants and habitats by **Diane Greening**. Children's Program Coordinator **Laura Lowenstein** described the new system for reservations via our website, where teachers can sign up and get information. Signs-ups for 2006-07 will begin August 15 for visits beginning in mid September. TPDS offers bus vouchers for needy schools, last year donating about 15 of them.

Training: Per Jeff Spivak: "My fledglings have been set free and are leading walks and doing Trail Patrol." T-shirts were distributed for new docents. A few extra white XL and XXL polo shirts are available for sale. Docents can order shirts or magnetic nametags (\$5) through Jeff. There are already 6 signups for the 2007 training class. Steve Usher thanked **Cecily Goode, Lillian**

Lachicotte and **Barbara McCardle** for providing refreshments for the training this year. Jeff asked this year's graduates to consider forming a refreshment committee for next year's training. Also, Jeff shared **Barbara Wallach's** idea of forming a group of docents who live near the Extension to adopt this area, working there as the Whacky Weeders do in the main Reserve.

Programs: Steve Usher reported for Christina Bjenning that author Richard Louv is scheduled to speak at our August General Meeting (see above).

Duty: Lillian Lachicotte reported that Lodge Duty sign-ups are going well. New docents who feel they need support for their first solo Lodge Duty should call Lillian. The Lodge Duty Docent Manual is being updated: please make notes in the book of any suggestions or revisions.

Communications: Roger Isaacson announced that **Victoria Schaffer** has

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agreed to be the editor of the *Torreyana*. Docent bios will be included in future newsletters. Ideas for new flower brochures are still being revised.

Bookstore: Update from Nancy Woodworth: 41 one-of-a-kind gourds are for sale for \$5. New T-shirts will be ordered as well as visors and coffee mugs. A TPSR logo wide mouth water bottle with the TPSR logo is also being considered.

Anyone interested in developing a TPSR poster should see Nancy.

Library: Steve and Sharon Rose described new software now in the library, Thayer's "*Birds of California*." It contains over 300 birds and Steve has preloaded all the birds spotted in the Reserve in June. Docents can identify and compare birds and even test themselves with a custom-designed quiz. The Roses asked for recommendation of other TPSR-relevant software. Sharon thanked **Roger Isaacson** for loading the new software. Don't forget the many books that can be checked out in preparation for Children's walks. Sharon announced a Quail Gardens tour for TPDS docents, probably on a Monday or Tuesday morning in September. Sign-up at the August and September meetings.

Trail Patrol: Paul Whitby shared that 12 of the new docents are now serving on Trail Patrol, bringing the total to 52. 22 docents participated last month, averaging 5.5 hours.

Santa Rosa Island Update: Steve Usher updated the Santa Rosa Island situation. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 passed by the Senate did not include the Duncan Hunter proposal for veteran recreation and hunting on Santa Rosa. This issue will now be resolved in House/Senate conference committee. Steve also informed Representative Lois Capps of our opposition to the Hunter proposals and has written letters to the editors of the San Diego Union-Tribune and the Los Angeles Times on the TPDS

position, Steve asked docents to tell their own representatives of our position on Santa Rosa Island uses. Details are on the TPSR Web site.

Santa Rosa Island Field Trip: Tom Polakiewicz reported that space is available for all who signed up (including the waiting list) for the September 17-19 trip. Send the \$410 check to Tom ASAP. Also, consider giving a \$35-40 tip. A bus may be chartered for trip to and from San Diego. Trip details next month.

Library Remodel: The project was approved by DPR, and will begin in mid September. A schedule will be available at the August meeting and volunteers will be solicited for packing and unpacking. Check the schedule and sign-up at the August meeting to help out. The video room will be closed for the three-week project to allow storage of Library materials.

Beach Trail Grant:

Steve Usher announced a Scripps Foundation grant for the Beach Trail opening. A PEF has been submitted by Brian Gaudet for metal steps to the beach scheduled for installation in mid August.

Guy Fleming Desk:

The St. John family from the Bay Area has donated a handmade wooden desk to the DPR. The one-of-a-kind, slant top secretary made in New York in 1774 has been appraised at \$14,500. The TPDS paid \$1,400 to have the desk shipped to the district office in Old Town. It will eventually be placed desk in the Reserve, possibly in the Museum in a Guy Fleming display.

Ranger's Report:

- Gary Olson's wife is home again after her recent hospitalization for an infection.
- Gary explained the cabañas on TP State Beach this summer: The Lodge at Torrey Pines obtained a special event permit to provide their guests a beach experience. Their \$5,000 monthly fee goes directly to TPSR where it may be used for a permanent interpreter. Nine cabañas,

taken down nightly, are near Tower 1 and it is unlikely this seasonal plan will be expanded.

- The project to widen Carmel Valley Road has begun. A description and plans for the project are available on the Web.
- Volunteers may be used for the Beach Trail project; Gary will have dates and times soon.



Torrey Pines North Beach

By Bobbi Krueger

Walking on the beach

In the early dawn

The steady waves

Overwhelmingly calming.

The simple poking of the

Godwit's beak

Seeking breakfast buried

Beneath the surf-washed sand.

A haven for emersion in

Relationships long gone,

Those in progress.

Feelings of warmth,

Hurts that ease,

Reveling in nature's magic,

Beauty, sense and focus.

And then there's someone

Cell phone in ear

Oblivious if the sand-poker

Is a Whimbrel or Sanderling.

Sure to miss the occasional

Egret

The rarer Heron.

Does he walk only to burn

Last night's wine?

To exercise corporeally?

When does he take time

To exercise his soul?



Docent Society Science Fair Awardee Jessica Chan Presents at Meeting

Eighth grader Jessica Chan discussed her award-winning Science/Engineering project "Eel Grass and White Sea Bass?" at our July 15 docent meeting. Jessica conceived her project while doing volunteer data entry for a fish restocking program. She wondered if something could be done to decrease fish mortality, and this motivated her experiment.



Jessica speaking to the TPDS
Photo by Don Grine

Her abstract is a model product, so I quote it to describe her work. Any remarks I make are in brackets "[]."

"Since the 60's, the species of the White Sea Bass (WSB) have been dwindling. Sea World's Hubbs Research Institute has teamed up with the San Diego Oceans Foundation (SDOF) in an effort to restock the WSB in pens along the southern California coast. The pen is 7x10 feet and as many as 4,000 fish can be kept in it at one time. Many of the fish died from stress related symptoms and bacteria/virus infections while in captivity. Another related factor is water quality inside the pen. If the

water quality could be improved, the WSB would have a higher survival rate.

"My project involved growing eelgrass hydroponically in the fish pen. Eelgrass is an important part of ecology not only for fish, but also for our oceans. Through photosynthesis, this sea plant can add more dissolved oxygen (DO) and decrease pollution to the water in the fish pen.

"The water quality data were collected (before and after the eelgrass was transplanted and after the fish were in) for 3 months and the mortality rate compared to those from 2003-2005.

"The results show that the eelgrass increased the overall DO level, but did not decrease the mortalities of the fish [compared to years 2003-2005]. However, the extreme high death rate of the fish (43%) this time, after the initial transfer, indicated abnormal process. [Compared to the control years 2003-2005, in her experiment year the fish had been handled more, an identification chip implanted, and the death rate was much higher.] However, a clear trend could be observed (when comparing the data of DO and number of dead fish): when DO level increased, the number of dead fish decreased and vice versa."

We were honored to have Jessica Chan and her mother Esther Chan participate at our meeting!

*Theo Tanalski, TPDS GSDSEF 2006
Judging Committee Chair*

July General Meeting Speaker

At the July docent meeting John Neville gave a great talk on herps (reptiles and amphibians), punctuated with humor and words of wisdom. To make it even more interesting, he had a collection of live snakes for docents to admire after the talk. He emphasized he is always available to discuss anything at all relating to herps. His Powerpoint presentation is

available on CD, as archived in the Docent Library and a copy is on the docent computer. □

Upcoming events

Children's Program Workshops:
Fri. Aug 11th, 9 am, Review and move props.

Fri. Aug 25th, 9 am, Diane Greening addresses plants, the Reserve and habitats.

General Meeting
Sat, Aug 19th, 9 am

Santa Rosa Island Field Trip
Sept. 17-19

A Southern Pacific Rattler Encounter in the TPSR Extension

A few weeks ago I was walking home via the Margaret Fleming west trail in the Extension, just about to reach the Mar Scenic trailhead. With shorts on I especially watch where I step. I was looking straight down at my right foot, when I noticed a blackish snake head within a foot of my foot. Fortunately, his head did not appear to me as the classic triangular head burned into my brain, so I was very calm. (At least my heart never speeded up.) Only when I got 5-6 feet away, turned and started getting out my camera, did I see the rattles that you see here, about 13.



The amazing thing is that after I snapped this--not so clear--picture, he coiled a little more, began rattling loudly, and then went bouncing down a sandstone gully at very high speed, still rattling all the way. So, just as John Neville emphasized at his informative talk at the July General Meeting: "rattlesnakes are very rarely aggressive".

Roger Isaacson

This article first appeared as an on-line supplement to the May 2006 *Torreyana*.

New TPDS meeting space has special meaning for one docent

By Ken King (Class of '02)

Thanks to the generosity of National University, the Torrey Pines Docent Society holds its monthly meetings at facilities on North Torrey Pines Road, just a few yards south of the Reserve's southern boundary. My first San Diego office was in this very same building complex. On December 1, 1980, the 110 employees of The Signal Companies moved into our new corporate headquarters.

The Signal Company, founded in 1929 and named after Signal Hill near Long Beach, decided to move from Beverly Hills to San Diego and hoped to find suitable land to build its headquarters. In the late 1970s, the city-owned Torrey Pines Mesa area was designated "Science/Research," but the idea of having a large (\$4 billion) NYSE-listed company build a beautiful headquarters here appealed to San Diego decision-makers. Signal was able to purchase the land and

break ground in 1979. R. J. Marvick & Associates designed the 100,000-square-foot building in the "Spanish Mediterranean" style, with multiple entrances, a half-acre courtyard surrounded by arcades, and broad central corridors in each of the wings. Oriental rugs, Spanish tile floors and oak woodwork contributed to the building's elegant look.

It was a special place to work; at lunch we could walk across Torrey Pines Road and north along the old highway down to the Park Headquarters. Another option was to use the recreation center behind the building and above the underground parking garage. Yes, there was a swimming pool, tennis and racquetball courts, a weight room, lockers and showers. I wonder if the "split S" logo-shaped spa is still there?

Some of the original amenities are gone. There was a large chandelier at the entrance that's missing, and the restaurant type kitchen is gone as well. The chef was hired away for Lubach's, but in those days hot lunches were \$2.00 and a cold meal was just one dollar. The room the docents now meet in was the "Oak Room" where

employees ate their lunches on linen-draped tables with an immense fireplace, now missing.

One of my old photos shows us planting three 15' Torrey pines. They were soon moved further away from the building, but are much taller today and look healthy. The pond in the courtyard used to have lilies, algae, and koi -- today it is devoid of life. The koi turned out to be a bad idea as a Great Blue Heron found them to his taste. Besides watching the herons deplete the koi population, on a few late working evenings, I observed a bobcat that came within inches of my office French door.

Signal employees felt privileged indeed to work next to Torrey Pines with wild areas to the north and east, and a world-class golf course to the west. But things change; the Company was acquired by Allied Corporation in New Jersey, and a few years later we were gone and the building was up for sale. I feel quite fortunate that I can still hike Torrey Pines any time, and can even visit my old Corporate Headquarters every month. □



What's Blooming and Where?

Text & Photos By Margaret Fillius

As you are aware most of the annuals are a thing of the past for another year, but there are still lots of plants to enjoy. Here are a few. The Laurel Sumac continues to bloom, but it is also getting lots of tiny red berries (we will soon be able to enjoy seeing the birds feast on these).



A promise of red berries for Thanksgiving/Christmas is with us now in the form of blossoms on the

Toyon bushes (normally blooms June to July).

We can enjoy patches of yellow throughout the Reserve - this is mainly Goldenbush in bloom.



In the TPSR Extension look out for bushes that look like a cross between Goldenbush and Telegraph Weed. These are Golden Aster, a relative of Telegraph Weed.

Following the extensive trail work done earlier this year we now have quite a lot of Jimson Weed popping up along the Beach trail, as well as near the beach.



If you are hiking early in the day, stop and enjoy the fragrance of those wonderful big blossoms, and while you do that, look at the unfurling of the bud - amazing!

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 1-2, 2006

Total of 67 species (unusual sightings shown with an asterisk and in italics) Weather: clear Lagoon mouth: open

Gadwall 8 (With young)	Royal Tern 6	Belding's Savannah Sparrow
Mallard 8	Forster's Tern 6	2
<i>Ruddy Duck</i> * 1	Mourning Dove 23	Song Sparrow 6
California Quail 1	White-throated Swift 3	Black-headed Grosbeak 1
Pied-billed Grebe 3	Anna's Hummingbird 26	Red-winged Blackbird 11
Brown Pelican 7	Nuttall's Woodpecker 4	Brewer's Blackbird 15
Double-crested Cormorant 6	<i>Downy Woodpecker</i> * 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 2
Great Blue Heron 1	Black Phoebe 1	Hooded Oriole 3
Great Egret 10	Ash-throated Flycatcher 2	House Finch 119
Snowy Egret 11	Cassin's Kingbird 3	Lesser Goldfinch 35
<i>Little Blue Heron</i> * 1	Western Scrub-Jay 5	House Sparrow 3
Green Heron 2	American Crow 35	
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1	Common Raven 20	Observers:
<i>White-faced Ibis</i> * 2	Northern Rough-winged	Will Cox, Kathy Estey, Blair
<i>Turkey Vulture</i> * 1	Swallow 26	Francis, Jack Friery, and
Accipiter sp. 1	Cliff Swallow 22	Gary Grantham, Don Grine
Cooper's Hawk 2	<i>Barn Swallow</i> * 1	
Red-tailed Hawk 2	Bushtit 13	
American Kestrel 1	Bewick's Wren 1	
American Coot 3	House Wren 1	
Black-bellied Plover 1	California Gnatcatcher 5	
Killdeer 5	Wrentit 25	
Willet 14	Northern Mockingbird 5	
<i>Sanderling</i> * 6	European Starling 2	
Heermann's Gull 12	Common Yellowthroat 17	
Ring-billed Gull 2	Yellow-breasted Chat 1	
California Gull 1	(heard only)	
Western Gull 43	Spotted Towhee 14	
Caspian Tern 5	California Towhee 32	
	Savannah Sparrow 1	



Sanderling, photo by David Blue



White-faced Ibis, from www.ci.washougal.wa.us/attractions/winter_birds.htm



Downy Woodpecker, from www.fnal.gov