



# Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

June 2008

## Docent General Meeting Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.

National University, 11255 N. Torrey Pines Road

Our speaker this month is David Holway, Associate Professor of Biology at UCSD, specializing in Ecology, Behavior and Evolution

He will speak to us on Argentine Ant Invasions in Southern California.

[www.invasivespecies.ucsd.edu](http://www.invasivespecies.ucsd.edu)

## A Virtual Walk on the Beach!

by Sharon Clay Rose



Photos by Herb Knufken and Don Grine

Brett Lear (2004) led docents into a deeper understanding of what's to be found on a beach with his excellent presentation at the May Docent Meeting. With an on-the-ball description he succinctly showed what causes tides and how high and

low tides are affected by the phases of the moon. The beach itself is a "sandy intertidal zone" which is a tough habitat to live in with low species diversity and potentially high total numbers of organisms. Brett presented an array of fascinating photographs and with lively dialogue he described the wide variety of creatures that can inhabit this zone. He wove the facts from populations of clams, remnants of surf grass, scallops, beach hoppers, sand dollars, giant sea kelp, soft shelled crabs to larger mammals and pinnipeds into a comprehensive picture of what's happening on the beach. He even revealed why there are holes in some of the rocks that are to be found scattered along the beach. Finally he explained the oblong hole in our own flat rock—how this came to be and how it is now our very own tide pool.

Docents will surely look at the sandy



intertidal zone a lot differently after Brett's presentation. Maybe we'll even turn over a wrack or two!

*Note: Diana Wenman videotaped this presentation so a DVD is coming soon to our own Docent Library!*

Upper photo: Kelp Crab

Lower Photo: Bean Clam and Hydrozoan



## May Docent Meeting Notes

*Excerpted from notes from the TPDS General Meeting, May 10, 2008 by Secretary, Ann Williamson. Complete minutes are in the docent library.*

### Docents of the Month:



*Photo by Herb Knufken*

**Bill and Flo Eckles** (2007) are our Docents of the Month. They have provided refreshments every week for the training sessions and are also frequent Lodge Duty volunteers.

**Ranger Report:** (Ranger Jody Kummer)

**Live Scan:** Live Scan will probably be here in July.

**Parking Machines:** Machines are now operational located in the lower parking lots. Eventually there will also be a machine in the upper lot. To avoid a ticket, leave your Torrey Pines ID on your dashboard to indicate you are a volunteer. Jody again asked that we not park between the Volunteer Parking sign and the Staff Parking sign. If you must park on the road, park south of the Staff Parking sign. If cars are parked between the Volunteer Parking sign and the Staff Parking sign, it encourages visitors to park in this area, and this creates a problem for the ranger staff.

Next week the parking machines should make correct change as well as accept credit card payments. Torrey Pines income from parking fees is good this year. However, this income is distributed among all state parks. It does not just go to Torrey Pines. **Norm Lewis** suggested we have a procedure whereby the Lodge Duty docent could give a parking

permit to a visitor who makes a donation. Jody will look into this.

**Restrooms:** The restrooms at the upper level have been closed by the Health Department. We currently have chemical toilets. These are expensive. We have had to resolve some issues including gnatcatchers in the area before work on the leach lines can start. We will use state equipment to save money. Since there is only one heavy equipment operator for the entire District, scheduling the operator is difficult. We had hoped to schedule the work for mid June, but it may now be later because of Health Department involvement.

**Lagoon dredging:** The annual lagoon dredging was completed recently. This year the channel was dug deeper than it had been in past years.

### Smart As A Fox Road-Crossing

**Signs:** (Sherry Doolittle) Work continues on this project. Medium density fiberboard (MDF) may be used to make the signs. A jigsaw is needed to cut the fox footprint template. If anyone has a jigsaw, please contact Sherry.

**Treasurer:** (Priscilla Lewis) For January through April of 2008, we have taken in approximately \$15,000 from bookstore gross sales, \$2700 from bookstore donations and \$3200 from Special Walks. We are in the black by \$4,000 for this four-month period.

**Children's Program:** (Cecily Goode) There are three weeks left in the program. Anyone is welcome to tag along on a walk. We have been pleased to have seven of the new docents come along on walks. Cecily shared a recent letter to Docent **Frank Burham** from a student attendee (see p. 4). There will be a Children's Program evaluation wrap-up June 5.

**Docent Training:** (Jeff Spivak) Next week is the last week of training with graduation at the June General Meeting. Jeff will order the trainee pins soon. If you need a docent pin

and you are not a trainee, contact Jeff. Pins for non-trainees are \$10 each.

**Lodge Duty:** (Irene Larrimore) Docents are needed to lead the Nature Walks for Mother's Day. **Frank Burham** and **Rhea Bridy** volunteered.

**Communications:** (Roger Isaacson) Each month we print some extra copies. Roger brought newsletter copies to the meeting for anyone who needs one.

The deadline for the June *Pinecone* is May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Flower Brochure committee will meet after the General Meeting to decide on a meeting time.

**Update on Video at Visitor Center:** TPA purchased a new screen. Roger has the old DVD player working again, so we should now be able to show the video to museum visitors.

**Special Walks:** (Margaret Fillius) There are fewer walks scheduled now than during the peak flower season. Margaret asked for walk leaders for Thursday, May 22 and Sunday, May 25. Docents volunteered for both dates.

**Trail Patrol:** (Sherry Doolittle) There were 155 Trail Patrol hours recorded last month. All trails were covered. Guy Fleming Trail had the most coverage. This is appropriate because of the high number of visitors on that trail.

**Recycling:** (Alan Bennett) The summer recycle schedule starts this week. This means recycle pickups increase to two pickups per week. We need more volunteers. Please contact Alan if you are willing to help with recycling.

### Cuyamaca State Park Docent

**Exchange:** (Alan Bennett) On Saturday, May 17, TPSR docents have the opportunity to go to Cuyamaca for special nature walks led by Cuyamaca docents. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Torrey Pines to carpool, or meet at the Cuyamaca Visitor Center off Highway 79 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Alan for further information. The Cuyamaca docent

visit to Torrey Pines, scheduled for today, has been postponed.

### **Announcements (Steve Usher)**

**Non-docent volunteers:** Brett Lear has prepared an appreciation certificate for two of our hard-working non-docent volunteers, **Steve Brown** and **Bob Doolittle**.

Both these individuals have been very helpful with the weeding, bench refinishing and other Torrey Pines projects. **Science Fair Mentoring:**

**Mike Yang** is preparing a summary of docent impressions for the Science Fair winners. Please give your comments to Mike. [see page 5]

**Museum Exhibit:** San Diego Natural History Museum will feature an exhibit of aerial photography by geologist John Shelton. John is author of *Geology Illustrated*, one of the best geology reference books available.

He is a member of the Torrey Pines Association. Exhibit dates are May 11<sup>th</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>. **U.S. Open:** Our next General Meeting will coincide with the U.S. Open as well as opening day of the San Diego County Fair. National University will have a security guard at the parking lot entrance. Please bring docent identification to be admitted to the parking lot. It is suggested you leave home early to allow for possible extra traffic that morning. **Shirley Grain:**

Docent **Shirley Grain** has passed away. Those who knew her remember her peppy personality and big smile. She was faithful to Lodge Duty and active with birding activities. We have a sympathy card to sign for Shirley's family. **Bird Count:** We need more people to help with bird counts. Please contact **Jack Friery** to help with this.

**Plein Air Festival:** Scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>, the event will be called "Through Different Eyes." The following docents have volunteered to be coordinators for this event:

Chair—**Connie Beardsley**

Catering—**Steve Usher**

Music—**Dawn Thieding**

Children's Activities—**Diane Greening** and **Laura Lowenstein**

Nature Walks and Guy Fleming House Tour.—**Irene Larrimore** and **Lillian Lachicotte**

This year the rules will be changed so that an artist can do some of the work in studio. This will allow the artists to spend more time on each piece and should increase the quality of work at both the live auction and silent auction.

We hope to have an exhibition by local artists on Sunday.

## New in the Library this Month

by *Mike Yang, Librarian*

The publication **Journal of California Historical Society Vol.85 No. 2 (2008)** containing the article "*Preserving Nature's Artistry: Torrey Pines During Its Formative Years as a City and State Park*" by Dr. Victor A. Walsh was placed in circulation on May 15. In addition, a CD copy of the same article has been made available. Both are in the "new books" section of the open shelf in the library. It is an excellent article and well worth your time to read. The Journal was donated by the California Historical Society and the CD copy was made with the permission of the permissions office of the California Historical Society, publisher of the Journal. Finally, two copies of the DVD entitled "*A Walk in Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve: An Introduction to Plants and Animals You May Encounter When You Visit*" have been placed in circulation in the new books section.

This 27 minute DVD was narrated by Barbara Wallach, videographed and produced by **Diana Wenman** specifically for the recently launched Pinecone Club program.

## Lodge Duty Docents:

When the entry kiosk is not open/staffed by a park aide, and if a visitor has driven up the road without paying at the parking machines, lodge duty docents may offer a temporary parking pass if the visitor gives you \$8.00 for the donation box.

Temporary mini-passes, kept in the cash drawer, can have the current date written in. The visitor would need to display the mini-pass on their car dash while they are in the reserve. There are plans to have a pay machine in the upper lot in the future which will help with this problem.

SR **Jody Kummer**

## Museum Makeover?

by *Diane Greening*

I am forming a committee to explore renovating the museum. We are focusing on four areas of improvement: facilities (lighting, wiring, and painting); bookstore (desk, storage, register); interpretive mission (small children, school children, local adults, visiting adults) and interpretive subjects (flora and fauna, geology, park history, Kumeyaay people, and temporary displays.)

Some of the questions to be considered are: What do we want to say to these people? What do we want to convey about our subjects? How should we organize the space? Any help with any portion of the project would be helpful. Or, maybe you only want to organize the painting. That would be wonderful! **Diana Coram** has already started working on the Children's Table for our youngest visitors, and **Nan Danning** is doing some initial investigation on lighting, and of course, **Nancy Woodworth** will head up the bookstore section.

If you are interested in any aspect of this project, please send an email to **Diane Greening** at [greendi@mac.com](mailto:greendi@mac.com)

## Docent Question of the Month

June 2008

Courtesy of Jim Larrimore

Q: At this time of year, visitors to TPSR often see ground squirrels scurrying about. One thing on the squirrels' minds is outwitting rattlesnakes, whose favorite meal is a squirrel pup. Ground squirrels have evolved a battery of defenses against the rattlesnakes that have preyed on them for millions of years. The DQOM for December 2007 presented how, in an aboveground encounter, a heated tail can keep a rattlesnake at bay. This month we ask "What trick does a ground squirrel use to keep a rattlesnake from entering its burrow?"

A: (See p. 7)

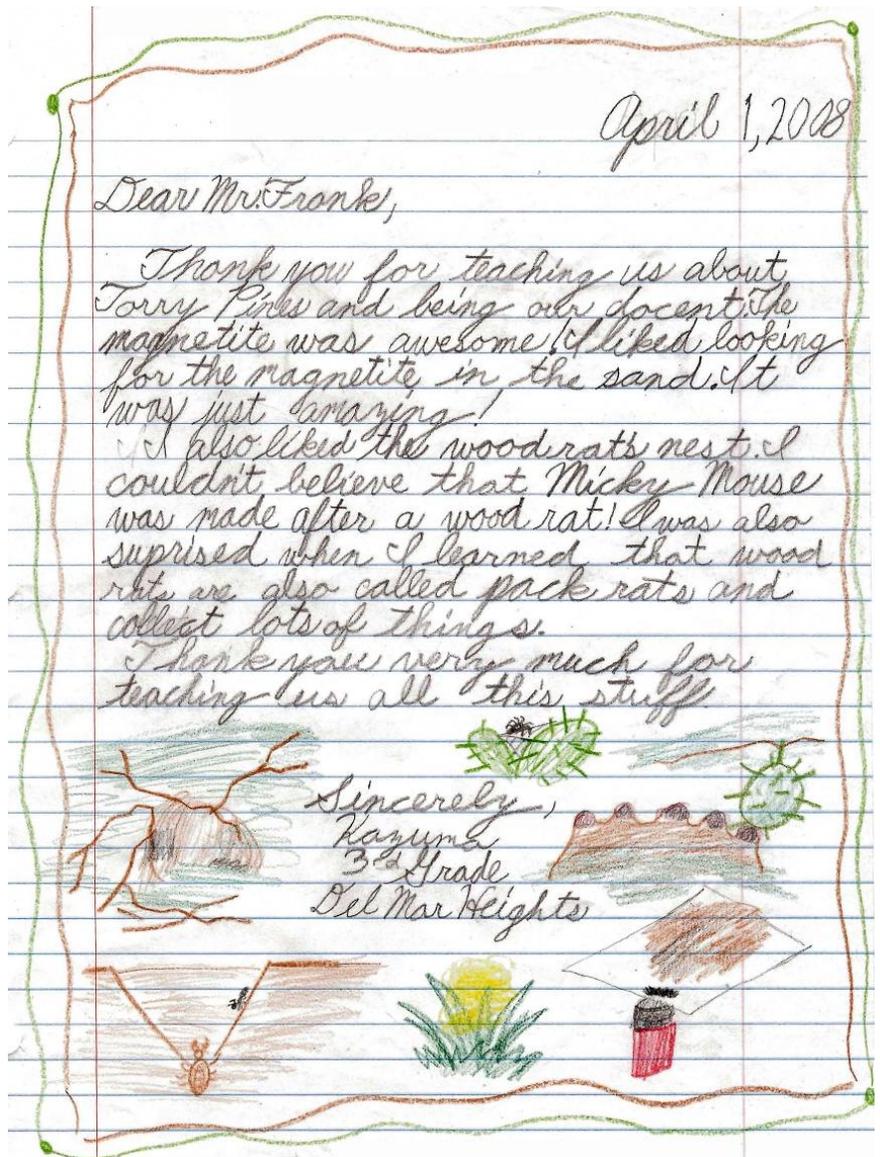
## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

June 2008

The last week of May ended the school year for the Children's Program. There is a wrap-up and evaluation for all Children's Program docents, as well as trainees who attended the hikes on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the amphitheater.

Two future workshops during July and August will be scheduled at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Last month a group of Children's Program docents met for a training session on the Kumeyaay with **Barbara Wallach** sharing her knowledge on the trail. Comprehensive notes were taken and will be presented at the June session.



Above is a letter from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student to **Frank Burham**.

Thanks to all docents for your participation in the Children's Program.

**Cecily Goode**

Children's Program Director

**Laura Lowenstein**

Program Coordinator

## Docent Graduation!

Formal training has ended and Jeannie and I are most happy with the efforts of our latest class. Twenty-four new docents will take their place within our society June 14<sup>th</sup> after

finishing their remaining requirements. They are a diverse and energetic group whose enthusiasm for the reserve and interest in service should bring benefits to Torrey Pines in the years ahead. Welcome Aboard. See you on the trails!

**Jeff Spivak**

## Lodge Duty Request for Month of June:

Please look at the Calendar (p 10) and if you are able to help out, especially as a 2<sup>nd</sup> person on weekends, call the desk and sign up for one of the more than 48 empty slots. Thanks!

Irene Larrimore and Lillian Lachicotte

## Observations on Human

### Motivation:

#### Year 9 of TPDS GSDSEF Professional Organization Awards

by Mike Yang. Docent quotes provided by Cindie Leonard

Rhea Bridy reported that TPDS has provided a series of cash, mentoring and encouragement awards for the last nine years “to promote understanding of the nature and the natural resources of the TPSNR region” (Torreyana, May 2008).

I am intrigued by the possibility of turning the psychological table around and invite you to imagine the ongoing TPDS philanthropy as an experiment in which the docents themselves are the subject of the study. The title of such a study might be something like “**Determination of the Euphoric Effects of Picking a Science Winner**”. The hypothesis might be stated thusly: “Does sponsoring, selecting, mentoring and rewarding talented young scientists produce a mental high in TPDS docents?”

We have completed the 2008 phase of the ongoing project, consisting of selecting six out of approximately 1500 middle- and high school science fair participants to recognize, mentor and reward. The winners and their achievements are reported elsewhere and will not be covered here. Data collected on May 10, 2008 on the subject docents’ response to the above mentioned stimuli are as follows:

1) Twelve mentor-judges spent an estimated total of more than 350 hours reading, studying, listening, selecting, coaching, refining, suggesting and otherwise encouraging six student awardees. They smiled the whole time.

2) For the ninth time in the recorded history of TPDS the meeting room at National University was opened at 8:30 a.m. (The other eight times was for

previous GSDSEF student presentations.)

3) Docent Sally Whitlock brought a large CHOCOLATE CAKE.

4) In addition to the official computer provided by Roger Isaacson, two other docents brought “back up” laptops for the students’ use.

5) Ranger Jody Kummer happily gave away three precious annual TPSNR parking passes.

6) A sampling of statements made by docents: “Outstanding young scientists!” “Their projects were timely.” “The students held the audience’s attention.” “I was blown away. I have renewed confidence in the school system.” And finally: “Would YOU have tried that when YOU were in seventh grade?”

7) Steve Usher informed the awardees, with a huge smile, “The check is in the mail!”

8) The data appears to confirm the hypothesis. Docents are happier, more on time, work harder, smile more and bake more chocolate cakes when deliberately exposed to the stimuli of “Picking a Science Winner”. In a word, they get mildly euphoric.

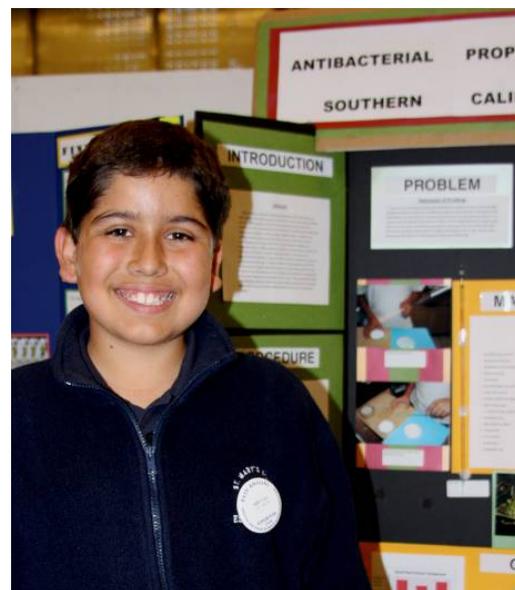
## Antibacterial Properties of Three Southern Californian Native Plants

By Alec Calac

Photo by Mike Yang

Plant remedies are the most commonly used medicines in many countries. More than three quarters of the world use herbs as their primary medicine and over 5 billion people are treated for acute and chronic diseases with herbal remedies. Over the years, pharmacists and scientists have concentrated herbal medicine into tablets and oral solutions.

A prime example is digitalis which is a commonly used medication for heart disease and is derived from foxglove. Many other Southern California plants were used by local Native American tribes for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Juniper, chaparral, elderberry, mustard, licorice, and others were commonly used plants for treatment of multiple diseases. In this project, the indigenous plants of elderberry, sage, and willow were collected and plant extracts were combined with nutrient agar. Common skin flora, were then plated and growth was assessed based on the method of grid



counting. Growth of both staphylococci and streptococci was easily obtained and serial dilutions showed relative increasing growth patterns when compared to stock solutions of pure extract. When performing a head to head comparison, elderberry showed the greatest relative bacterial growth retardation when compared to sage and willow; although all showed some level of antibacterial properties. This project was great, but it had a few limitations due to the short time to grow bacteria and to obtain out of season wild plants.

Names of people & organizations that helped: Mrs. Germain, Dr. Dan Calac -- Indian Health Council Inc.

## What is the Wisest Type of Owl Box?

by Jayne Caputo

Photo by Wes Farmer

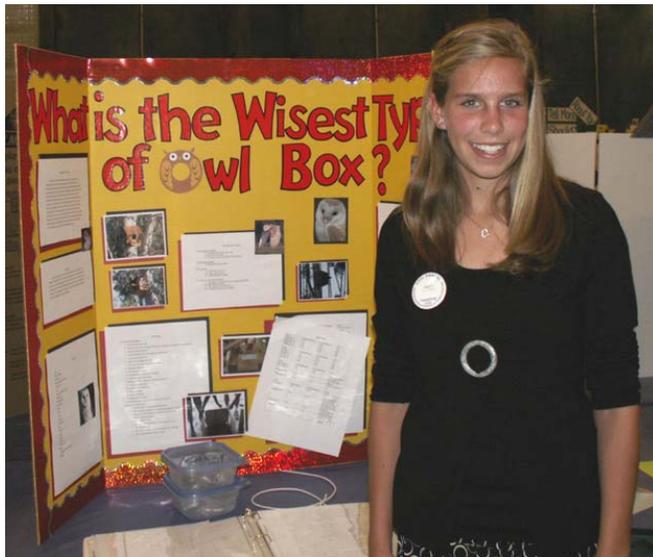
Nobody thinks much about owls, except at Halloween and in Harry Potter. But as humans develop land, owls are losing their natural habitat, hunting grounds and nesting places. Owls are also being killed by BB guns, hit by cars, flying into electric wires, eating poisoned rodents and falling out of unsafe nests.

Owls in captivity live about 18 years while the lifespan of an owl in the wild is only 2 to 3 years. Marshall Middle Schooler Jayne Caputo wanted her 8th grade Science Fair project 'What is the Wisest Type of Owl Box' to help the owls.

Owls don't usually build their own nests. They nest in old nests, natural cavities or holes. Some of these aren't very safe or well-suited for raising an owl family. Research showed that most owl boxes are shallow, allowing owlets to fall out before they are mature enough to fly. So Jayne designed a new, deeper kind of owl box aiming at increasing owlet survival. Her owl box featured a ten-inch depth between the entrance hole and the box floor.

Jayne and her Dad built and hung three owl boxes before mating season. Location, food source, owl visibility, weather and opportunity for human intervention were carefully considered. Seven months of observation has shown evidence of owl activity in two of the three boxes. Feces, feathers and owl pellets were

found in and around Box #2 and #3. Recently an owl was found incubating eggs in owl box #3. Unfortunately, owl box #1 suffered first vandalism and later was found to have a bee hive.



Evaluation of the idea that deeper owl boxes can increase owlet survival is on-going. Future studies should include more boxes in more variant [1] locations. Jayne hopes to donate an owl box to TPSNR. The box could be a useful education tool for the many school field trips that visit. Most importantly, it may be able to safely house owl families who can serve the Reserve with rodent control and amazing beauty.

## Hello All From Theo!

[Chair Theo Tanalski was unable to attend the meeting, but sends this note. -Ed]

Photo by Sally Whitlock

I have heard from **Rhea Bridy** about our awardees' presentations, evaluations, cakes, and celebrations at today's General Meeting, and I would here like to share the good news.



**Sally Whitlock** brought a most tasty CHOCOLATE cake to celebrate our winners! If you want to attract Argentine Ants, sugar is great; if you want to attract Humans, chocolate is the recipe! Thank you, Sally.

Our team created sacks of treats the students could take away for later, as they were busy responding to docents and taking down their exhibits. Thanks to whomever thought of and did that.

I hear that mentoring continued after takedown and all went well. We certainly achieved our educational ends and made memories for all concerned. Thank you, **Suzan Potuznik, Bobbi Krueger, Mike Yang, Frank Burham, Bill Key, and Sally Whitlock.**

**Rhea Bridy** did a masterful job of collaborating with me to write the pitch, then organizing, coordinating, listening, and reporting to me after she went home. Thank you, Rhea.

I heard **Roger Isaacson** deftly resolved any PowerPoint/ USB /PC/whatever concerns and the PowerPoint pitches went well. Thank you, Roger.

By the way, part of our future instructions to mentors and to awardees will emphasize that ANY type of presentation is great as long as it communicates effectively. I have heard terrible PowerPoint presentations and great talks without props, and vice versa, and so have you. Abraham Lincoln wrote his Gettysburg Address on a brown piece of paper and it has been remembered reverentially since. Be not beguiled by technology and instrumentation: communication is the beginning and end.

I hear **President Steve Usher** was very accommodating and helpful allowing our awardees to speak. Thank you, Steve.

I heard the presentations varied in style, polish, and sophistication. That is part of the learning process. I trust our mentors highlighted the good parts as well as those which could be refined, or as an individual matures

and practices such things. I trust the awardees learned from each other's presentations, and from the comments of our interested docents.

Thank you, **Matt Friedman**, **Julia Slupska**, and **Sara Zlotnik** for sharing your learning experience with us and allowing us to affect you with kindness, friendliness and respect.

Thank you parents and advisors for giving your years and days of support, for being part of this exciting event, and bringing your interest, caring, and support today.

Thanks to our docents, trainees, and staff for being a good audience and helping with the mentoring.

Thanks to our other boss, **Super-  
vising Ranger Jody Kummer** for her parking passes and more so for her trusting and kind support of this project!

This is the first year of a one-on-one all-mentored publication, presentation, and review project. From all reports it went miraculously well. When everyone knows what is expected and chooses to achieve it, such things do happen.

If I forgot anyone, thanks to them as well.

Thanks to all!

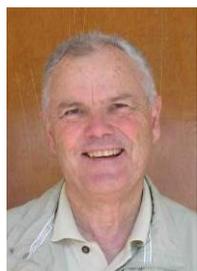
*Theo Tanalski*

TPDS GSDSEF 2008 Judging  
Committee Chairman

### Docent Question of the Month:

June 2008

By *Jim Larrimore*



**Q:** At this time of year, visitors to TPSR often see ground squirrels scurrying about. One thing on the squirrels' minds

(a) California ground squirrel



(b) Rock squirrel



Chewing rattlesnake shed

SSA to flank

is outwitting rattlesnakes, whose favorite meal is a squirrel pup. Ground squirrels have evolved a battery of defenses against the rattlesnakes that have preyed on them for millions of years. This column for December 2007 presented how, in an aboveground encounter, a heated tail can keep a rattlesnake at bay. This month we ask **“What trick does a ground squirrel use to keep a rattlesnake from entering its burrow?”**

**A:** The California ground squirrel chews on the molted skins of the rattlesnake, and applies the scent to its body by vigorously licking its fur. This eau de snake acts as camouflage, covering up the squirrel's own scent so a meal-seeking rattlesnake will leave it alone. Adult males are resistant to snake venom and don't do it. Squirrel pups do the chewing, as do their mothers, who are resistant. Juvenile ground squirrels are the most susceptible to predation by rattlesnakes because their small size limits the volume of venom they can neutralize, and

because they are less likely to evade predators. Adult females actively protect their offspring from rattlesnakes, share burrows with vulnerable related juveniles, and generally deal more directly with predators than do adult males (e.g. through alarm calling).

In recently reported research from the University of California, Davis<sup>1 2</sup>, testing sites were established near an active ground squirrel burrow. A shed skin of the

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Clucas, Donald H. Owings and Matthew P. Rowe, “Donning your enemy's cloak: ground squirrels exploit rattlesnake scent to reduce predation risk,” The Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, Vol 275, No. 1636, April 7, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Barbara Clucas, Matthew P. Rowe, Donald H. Owings and Patricia C. Arrowood “Snake scent application in ground squirrels, *Spermophilus spp.*: a novel form of antipredator behaviour,” Animal Behaviour, Vol 75 Issue 1 Jan 2008, p 299-307.

local rattlesnake species was staked out using fishing line tied around the skin and hooked to a stake that was driven into the ground. The activity of 17 of 30 California ground squirrels (11 adults and 6 juveniles) in chewing snake skin was recorded on video. A sequential pattern in applying scent was noted: chewing the shed skin, twisting to the side and licking the flanks, grabbing the tail with forepaws and then licking along the length of the tail from base to tip. The most snake scent was applied to their flanks and tail.

The reactions of hungry rattlesnakes were tested to pieces of filter paper with rattlesnake scent alone, squirrel scent alone and a combination of the two. The snakes flicked their tongues over the squirrel-only scent, but not over the combined scent or the snake-only scent. This suggests that if a rattlesnake is hovering over a squirrel burrow, it can be tricked into thinking that there are no squirrels there.

## **SMALL BEGINNINGS: THE STORY OF THE TORREY PINES DOCENT LIBRARY**

*by Bonnie Hornbeck, Librarian*

I became a TPSR docent in 2007 and my love of books prompted me to volunteer to help **Mike Yang** with the library when **Steve** and **Sharon Clay Rose** announced they were stepping down. I began thinking about when and how the library got its start. I learned that **Marc Gittelsohn**, whom I knew from my UCSD Library days, was the first to organize the materials, so I contacted him.

Here is his story: "I became a docent in 1985 and one of my

classmates was **Grace Martin**, who became president a few years later. *Grace urged me to do something about the library, which was in sad shape. As I recall, the collection had about 35 volumes in no particular order in one narrow bookcase that the pack rats could nibble on without even standing up. There was a handwritten catalog on 3x5 cards in a recipe box. There were many missing books...lost or stolen. It nevertheless contained some good things, especially the *Heizer's Handbook of California Indians*. There was no docent training manual in existence then, but there were some useful works on interpretation which were required reading for trainees. Additional shelves had piles of unsorted periodicals, whose contents appeared to be consulted only by a variety of spiders."*

Marc got started and initiated a simple system of classification into broad categories and arranged books alphabetically by author in each group. He placed charge cards in each book for home use and marked each book with call numbers and placed ownership stamps on book edges and spines. Regular inventories began. Marc's goal was "to add quality books that would enhance docent performance in interpreting the natural history of the reserve as well as good field guides essential to the mission." Former docent **Parker Foster** gave a bequest to fund new shelving.

Marc ended his active docent service in 2001 and **Georgette Camporini** took over management of the library. By this time the collection had grown to over 400 items. Georgette was in charge until 2004 and by her own admission, just kept the status quo and continued to manage it as Marc Gittelsohn had organized it.

In 2004, **Steve** and **Sharon Clay Rose** assumed management of the library. At that time colored stickers on the book spines were used to identify the different categories developed by Marc. Over time this system had become cumbersome. Therefore, all the books, CDs, videotapes and DVDs were inventoried and relabeled. The card catalog system was replaced with one that could be used on the library computer. Steve started to videotape the docent training presentations, burn them to DVD and accession them into library. During their stewardship, the library was remodeled (2006) thanks to contributions of the Josephine Stedem Scripps Foundation [see Spring, 2008 issue of the *TPA Journal*]. The library shelves now have glass doors, the docent room is able to accommodate small meetings and quiet study and there are two computers for internet searches.

In 2007, **Mike Yang** and I took over responsibility for the library. We inherited a wonderfully diverse and (as much as space allows) growing collection. As of 2008, the library contains 551 books/print publications, 47 DVD's and 10 CD's. According to Mike, the CD/DVD collection is actually the fastest growing part of the library. Many of these are created by docents on subjects such as interpretation, children's program guides, reproduction of archived materials, and talks given at docent society meetings and other high-relevance topics. Mike has made a valuable contribution with an electronic (internet) catalog of TPSR library books/print publications for member use.

We invite you to check out the library and use it to learn about the myriad of subjects that can be passed on to docents and in turn to the visitors of the Reserve. □

## WHO PICKS WILD CUCUMBER SEED PODS?

By *Barbara Wallach*

Photos by *Roger Isaacson*

I was leading a group of school-children along a trail recently when a squirrel ran across the path in front of us. We stopped and quietly waited hoping to see it again. It had crossed in exactly the spot where I planned on stopping to talk about the Wild Cucumber Vine since I knew a Manroot and a large seed pod were visible right beside the trail.



Seed pod "exploded"

In thirty seconds the squirrel appeared with my seed pod in its mouth as it tried to run back across the trail. The pod was so large it was difficult for the squirrel to hold it for very long. It kept dropping it, picking it up, dropping it, etc. moving only a few inches at a time. Very frustrating work! Obviously not a squirrel to be denied, it moved in front of the pod, rose up on its hind legs and used its front feet to roll the seed pod toward the opposite side of the trail. Great gains were made and we all gasped at what we were witnessing! Eventually it went back to picking the pod up in its mouth and finally succeeded in getting the pod into the underbrush. We gave the squirrel a big hand of applause for having worked so diligently to accomplish the job.



Three seed colors from one pod

Guaranteed, the children will remember this squirrel and the pod for a long time. As for me, I now had to look for another Wild Cucumber Vine along the trail so I could tell the children about the plant and its seed pod. □

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 2, 3 & 7, 2008

Total of 75 species (unusual sightings shown with an asterisk and in italics)

American Wigeon 4	Red-Tailed Hawk 4	Western Tanager 1	Caspian Tern 20	Black Phoebe 6
Mallard 2	Sharp-Shinned Hawk 1	Spotted Towhee 20	Royal Tern 30	Ash-Throated Flycatcher 1
Cinnamon Teal 1	Cooper's Hawk 1	California Towhee 24	Elegant Tern 10	Cassin's Kingbird 1
Surf Scoter 1	Peregrine Falcon 2	Savannah Sparrow 9	Forster's Tern 2	Western Kingbird
California Quail 5	American Coot 3	Song Sparrow 10	Rock Pigeon 3	Western Scrub-Jay 5
Pacific Loon 1	Common Moorhen 1	Black-Headed Grosbeak 2	Mourning Dove 11	American Crow 12
Pied-Billed Grebe 1	Willet 2	Red-Winged Blackbird 10	Great-Horned Owl 1	Common Raven 17
Western Grebe 60	Sanderling 24	Brewer's Blackbird 2	White-Throated Swift 5	N. R.-Winged Swallow 8
Brown Pelican 40	Hermit Thrush 1	Hooded Oriole 1	Anna's Hummingbird 23	Cliff Swallow 8
Dbl-Crested Cormorant 2	Wrentit 22	House Finch 29	Rufous/Allens Hummer 4	Barn Swallow 1
Great Blue Heron 2	Northern Mockingbird 1	Lesser Goldfinch 21	Nuttall's Woodpecker 2	Bushtit 3
Great Egret 4	California Thrasher 2	American Goldfinch 1	Olive-Sided Flycatcher 1	Bewick's Wren 4
Snowy Egret 14	European Starling 3	Ring-Billed Gull 2	Western Wood Peewee 1	Marsh Wren 3
Blk-Crowned Nite-Heron 3	Yellow Warbler 1	California Gull 70	Gnatcatcher Sp. 2	California Gnatcatcher 1
White-Faced Ibis 4	Orange-Crowned Warbler 1	Western Gull 4		
Red-Shouldered Hawk 2	Common Yellowthroat 7			

**Observers:** Will Cox, Blair Francis, Hank and Jane Baele, Herb Knufken, Jack Friery

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."



Torrey Pines Docent Society  
 PO Box 2414  
 Del Mar, CA 92014  
 (858) 755-2063 or 755-8219  
 www.torreypinesreserve.org

*The Pinecone*, a calendar of events, notes from business meetings, and other items of specific interest to the docent membership, is published bi-monthly (even months). Please submit items by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to Editor **Sharon Clay Rose** at [clayrose@roadrunner.com](mailto:clayrose@roadrunner.com). For odd months submit to **Bobbi Krueger** at [bkreu@earthlink.net](mailto:bkreu@earthlink.net). Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the Visitor Center. Roger Isaacson, Director of Communications

June 2008 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- Updated 5/29/08						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 L- Richter/ W- J. Smith L- Buxbaum W- Anders L- Hartung/Reichert	2 L- L- Heinemann	3 L- K. Heldman L- Marshall L-	4 L- Parsick L- L-	5 L- Lombardi L- Sabella L- Coram	6 L- Lombardi L- Stiels L- Benton	7 L- Blantz/Goode W- Farness L- W- Kamen L- /
8 L- J. Smith/ W- Rowbottom L- / W- Stiegler L- /	9 L- B Arnold L- F Doolittle L- B&F Eckles	10 L- L- Heinemann L-	11 L- Grantham L- L- B&F Eckles	12 L- Lettiere/Benton L- Tarkington L- Coram	13 L- Randolph L- J. Smith L-	14 Meeting L- / W- Yang L- / W- L-
15 L- Tarkington/ W- Friery L- / W- L- Hartung/Reichert	16 L- B. Arnold L- Sabella L-	17 L- Woods L- Ivany L- S&S Rose	18 L- Neumeister L- Oppenheimer L- Heinemann	19 L- Woods L- Stiels L- Coram	20 L- P. Burke L- Woods L-	21 L- / W- Sanseverino L- Nagamine/ W- Geist L- /
22 L- Rowbottom/ W- Friery L- / W- L- /	23 L- Randolph L- F. Doolittle L- B. Krueger	24 L- A. Marshall L- Ivany L- B&F Eckles	25 L- C&B Hornbeck L- Oppenheimer L-	26 L- Russell/Danninger L- Heinemann L-	27 L- P. Burke L- Lundstrom L-	28 L- / W- Sanseverino L- Nagamine/ W- Stiegler L- /
29 L- Schulman/ W- Friery L- Schulman/ W- L- Hartung/Reichert	30 L- L- Heinemann L-		Lodge Duty Hours L- 9-12 (DST) L- 12-3 L- 3-6		Walks W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00)	
To sign up for an opening, call docent on duty (858 755-8219) to confirm the time & write your name in the Logbook. If you cannot do your duty, please try to find your own substitute by switching with another docent or using the short-notice list. Then call the docent on duty to make the change in the Logbook. <b>Coordinators:</b> Irene Larrimore (858 509-9604) & Lillian Lachicotte (858 481-6237)						