



# Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

Online version- August 2008

## Docent General Meeting Saturday, August 9th 9 a.m.

National University, 11255 N. Torrey Pines Road

Scott Harrison from the SURFRIDER FOUNDATION will update us on several ocean-impact issues, including the proposed San Onofre Toll Road and the proposed Carlsbad desalination plant.

## Aggression in the Ant World

by Sharon Clay Rose  
Photo by Herb Knufken

Dr. David Holway, Associate Professor of Biology at UCSD gave a lively presentation to docents at our July general meeting.



He focused on the Argentine ant invasion as he explored four questions:

1. WHERE ARE THEY FROM? Argentine ants (*Iridomyrmex humilis*) originate in the subtropical area of northern Argentina, they are found most commonly in woodland areas. There is a lot of competition and as Dr. Holway said, "They came from a rough neighborhood." In Argentina they are called "sugar ants." The first records of these ants in Southern California go back about 100 years ago with reports of established colonies near Los Angeles.

2. HOW DO THEY INVADE? Humans have brought about distribution of these ants which are found in great numbers in the southeastern and southwestern areas of the U.S. and in the Mediterranean areas of the world. They are even found mid-ocean on Easter Island and the Hawaiian Islands. The plant nursery trade has been instrumental in the spread of these tiny invaders. The Argentine ant nests do not have much infrastructure. With multiple queens and supercolonies, they spread slowly but relentlessly, aggressively replacing native ants. Argentine ants

raid colonies of native ants and demonstrate great flexibility in finding food and are resourceful. The native Red harvester ant, (*Pogonomyrmex californicus*) is the species of particular concern at TPSNR, but there are a number of other species that are displaced by the aggressive Argentine ants. Dr. Holway reported on a number of studies he has conducted which show that the Argentines' abundance is directly correlated with soil moisture.

3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY INVADE? The area becomes "functionally homogenized" with the loss of medium and large-bodied ants. The decline of the coastal horned lizard which prefers the Red harvester ant in its diet has been noted in recent years. Loss of native ants also affects ant-plant interactions. Two plants mentioned were: the tree poppy and the barrel cactus.

4. HOW DO WE GET RID OF THEM? They are here to stay. Reducing moisture by xeriscaping can help keep their numbers down. Clearing dead wood, flowerpots and removing food sources such as pet food and citrus trees are also helpful.

Dr. Holway recommended a website with excellent photos of ants and info on ant behavior:

<http://www.myrmeecos.net> .

His presentation was clear and informative and we are now more knowledgeable and aware of the ecology and behavior of the aggressive Argentine ant. □

## July Docent Meeting Notes

*Excerpted from notes from the TPDS General Meeting, July 12, 2008 by Secretary, Ann Williamson. Complete minutes in docent library.*

**Science Fair:** (Susan Potuznik) The three Science Fair winners, Jayne Caputo, Alec Calac, and Ronit Abramson gave a brief report on their individual projects. Each student received a Torrey Pines parking pass.

**Trainee Graduation:** (Jeff Spivak and Jeannie Smith) We welcomed the new graduates. Jeff announced there would be a special graduation cake at the break. New graduates will provide refreshments for the 2009 training sessions and organize the Holiday Party as well as do Lodge Duty and other docent service activities.

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

**New docents:** Jody welcomed the new graduates from the class of 2008.

**Restrooms update:** The State has a plan for septic system repair and has the money to implement the plan. However, Resource Ecologist Darren Smith has stopped the project, saying the plan would do too much plant damage. Darren has an alternate proposal that would do less damage by putting leach lines in a different area, but this would cost \$100,000 instead of the \$35,000 for the State method. Hookup to a sewer line has been investigated, but this is very expensive. Jody reminded us that the group that works here now did not

create this problem. The problem is the result of lack of maintenance in past years.

**Visitor Center Children's Corner:**

We have some very nice plaques that children can use to make brass rubbings. The plaques will go in lidded wooden boxes. The boxes will be on rollers so they can be moved to different locations depending on the weather.

**Overlooks:** The California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews are unfortunately busy in other parts of the state fighting fires, so the work on the overlooks is delayed. Yucca Point is the first scheduled for completion. Each new overlook is to be a rock-based temporary structure, thus avoiding the necessity of Coastal Commission approval. Each will include a rock seating area.

**New docent IDs:** ID cards for new docents are not ready, but parking passes will suffice.

**Flintkote Trail question:** Jody was asked about overgrowth on the Flintkote Trail, a problem for birders. Jody said that Scripps Assist should be able to help with this.

**North Parking Lot Concession**

**Stand:** The stand is required to be open six days a week, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Someone tried to steal the concession stand generator and caused about \$10,000 damage. Temporarily, a noisier generator is in place. There has been other vandalism in the north parking lot including car break-ins. Jody suggested we remind Special Walks visitors not to leave valuables in their cars. Think security.

**Lodge at Torrey Pines beach chairs and cabanas question:** Use of beach chairs is free. Use of cabanas is by paid reservation only.

**Rattlesnake bite question:** Jody outlined the procedure for handling a rattlesnake bite victim.

1. Get the victim to lie down with the bitten body part below the heart.
2. Calm the victim.

3. Remove restrictive clothing or jewelry near the bite.
4. Calmly call 911 with a good description of where you are. The responders need to know if you are closer to the top or closer to the beach. Report the snake size.
5. Call SURCOM, 951-443-2969. Ask for San Diego Dispatch.

The biggest dangers from a bite are rapid swelling and the possibility of infection. Do NOT walk the victim out. In the future Jody hopes we will have GPS markers at each trail turn. GPS coordinates are especially helpful for helicopter rescue. Local hospitals have rattlesnake antivenom.

### Docent of the Month:

Congratulations to Rhea Bridy (2006 ) who is Docent of the Month.



*Photo by Herb Knufken*

A dedicated and versatile docent, she has stepped in at the last minute to help with Desk Duty, worked the Science Fair, and has helped protect Lion's Paw as part of her Trail Patrol duties.

**Announcements:** (Steve Usher)

**Sally Paxton:** Docent Jack Paxton's wife passed away this week in Carlsbad. Steve asked that our thoughts and prayers be with Jack.

**Torrey Pines jewelry designer visit:** We are fortunate to have Joann Miale

visiting from Rome today. Joann is the designer of the Torrey Pines jewelry we sell at the Visitor Center.

**Trail Patrol Coordinator Change:**

Sherry Doolittle is resigning as coordinator to allow her more time to devote to her teaching career. We presented Sherry with an REI gift certificate, thanking her for all her good work in Trail Patrol. Mike Pisor will take over for Sherry.

**Vice President Change:**

Tom Polakiewicz is leaving for an extensive South American trip and is resigning as vice president. Steve presented Tom with the DVD, *Motorcycle Diaries*. Rick Vogel was appointed by the Board as vice president, filling the position in the interim before elections.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Steve Usher for Priscilla Lewis) Our income through June is approximately \$34,000. Our expenses through June are approximately \$30,000, giving us a positive cash flow. The next several months we will have more expenses, however, and we will probably start seeing a deficit.

**Children's Program:**

(Cecily Goode) Children's Program participants held an evaluation wrap-up meeting and potluck on June 5. Twenty-two docents including five trainees attended. Cecily and Laura Lowenstein presented appreciation certificates to those who had participated in more than one Children's Program. There will be a training program on insects and presentation techniques, Thursday, July 24 at 9:00 a.m. The second summer training session will be Friday, August 15.

**Lodge Duty:**

(Lillian Lachicotte) There are eleven openings in the calendar before our next meeting. Lillian encourages two persons per Lodge Duty slot, particularly on weekends. **If you remove your name from a Lodge Duty slot, please notify Irene or Lillian.** The purple folder by the Lodge Duty desk has Lodge Duty procedure descriptions.

Please also look at the Lodge Duty manual. Send suggestions on how to improve this manual to the Duty Coordinators. If you have a particularly interesting Lodge Duty experience, please send a note or email to Lillian and to Irene Larrimore. Lillian and Irene will collect these anecdotes for a newsletter article.

**Communications:** (Roger Isaacson)

**Torreyana:** Ninety docents went online to see the falcon photos in the July *Torreyana*. **Pinecone:** Submit material for the Pinecone to Roger and to Sharon Clay Rose.

**Special Walks:** (Margaret Fillius)

Please use [torreypine.org](http://torreypine.org) for Special Walks contacts, not Margaret's phone number. Margaret is not always able to deal with telephone calls when out of town. We have received a Special Walk request from a non-profit educational group. The group is organizing a field trip for a group of Chinese teenage students who are unable to pay the Special Walk fee. Margaret asked the docents if we want to do educational walks like this anyway. We discussed this briefly and took a vote. Most, but not all, docents indicated we should do this. Margaret will proceed with setting up this walk. Steve recommended, however, that we consider such walks on a case-by-case basis instead of adopting a general policy.

**Library:** (Mike Yang) We have a new DVD, *A Walk on the Beach*, the recording of Brett Lear's presentation on the ocean and the intertidal zone. A number of books and DVDs are missing from the library. Mike will send out the list via email.

**Bookstore:** (Barbara Wallach for Nancy Woodworth) Our new iron-on patch is on sale in the bookstore. Nan Danninger, Barbara McCardle, and Barbara Wallach designed the patch.

**Whacky Weeders:** (Barbara Wallach) Barbara thanked us for bringing plastic grocery bags for the Weeders. Please bring more bags to

the docent library. Weeders often ask visitors to help carry bags of weeds from points along a trail to the trailhead. Small bags are not so heavy and easier for visitors to carry. Yucca Point has been 99% cleared of invasives. There is good progress on Guy Fleming as well.

**Bookstore:** (Rick Vogel) When doing Lodge Duty, please be sure any check you receive is made out to TPDS, not TPSR. If you are a third shift person, please do not seal the cash envelope so we can reuse it.

**Membership:** (Walt Desmond) Approximately 100 docents are on schedule with their hour requirements. About 50 are well below the number of hours they should have for midyear. If you did not receive a 2008 membership roster, you can pick one up in the docent library. If long trips or other circumstances prevent you from doing service, please let Walt know at [tpdsmembership@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tpdsmembership@sbcglobal.net)

**Trail Patrol:** (Sherry Doolittle) There were 105 Trail Patrol hours recorded last month. The Beach and Guy Fleming Trails had the most coverage. Paul Whitby logged the most Trail Patrol hours.

**Plein Air Festival:** (Jeff Spivak) Next month there will be sign-up sheets for set up and break down for the Plein Air Festival. We will know more next month about possible local artist participation.

**State Park Pass:** (Steve Usher) The State Park Access Pass Program proposed by Assemblyman John Laird has not been included in the budget proposal. However, Assemblyman Laird plans to initiate separate legislation. To register support, go to [www.savestateparks.org](http://www.savestateparks.org)

**Membership Requirement**

**Committee:** (Bobbi Krueger) Several months ago the Board designated this committee to come up with a recommendation on member requirements. The change to require

96 hours per year for Active status and the limitation of only two years for a Supporting member has been controversial. The committee is sending out a survey to get member opinions on requirements and also on Lodge Duty. If you have listed an email address, that is how you will be contacted. Otherwise, you will get a paper survey in the mail.

**Dues Increase:** (Steve Usher) The Board has recently proposed a dues increase to help with our financial problems. This is the first dues increase in over thirty years. Starting in 2009 an Active Member will pay \$25 instead of \$10. Each Supporting Member will pay \$40 instead of \$25. This should cut our deficit in half. Ken Baer is looking into grants from local industry including docent employers to further reduce the deficit. The Board is also looking into some cost reduction measures. There should be time for discussion of the increased dues at the next meeting.

### **Docent Question of the Month August 2008**

*Courtesy of Jim Larrimore*

*Q: How many of the ways we are in motion while standing still at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve can you name and explain?*

**A:** (See p. 6)

### **Library Bumper Crop in July**

*by Mike Yang, Librarian*

This was a good month for the TPDS library. In addition to the latest DVD featuring Brett Lear's ocean ecology presentation "A Walk on the Beach" recently made available for check out, we received several new books from donors. The three described below are the best of the bunch. Find them in the "New Books" section in the library.

**Introduction to California Birdlife** by Jules Evens and Ian Tait  
This is not a field guide but rather a book for docents who want a more in depth look at California's birds and their respective bioregions. Containing over 300 pages of easy reading prose with tongue twisting taxonomy only when needed, plus pin sharp photos, it won't put you to sleep as a textbook might. This book may in fact keep you up way past your bedtime. (Gift of docent John Hacklander.)

**Just Before Sunset** by Lora Cline  
Tom Lucas, born Tomus Lugo in 1903, is the last known full blooded Kwaaymii (a sub-group of the Kumeyaay) Native American. He is the father of Kwaaymii elder Carmen Lucas, whom some of you may recall spoke to us passionately about her Native American heritage at the December 2007 TPA sponsored symposium "10,000 Years at Torrey Pines State Reserve: the Land, the Sea, and the People." This is his story. Lora Cline's book brings us right into the Lucas living room. Read it. (Gift of docent Cecily Goode.)

**Anza-Borrogo: A Photographic Journey** by Ernie Cowan  
Desert, nature and photography lovers will devour this book. The desert has moods. The animals have personalities. If you were a bee you might try to land on one of the flowers. Enjoy it. (Gift of Sunbelt Publications Inc.)

### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

#### **August 2008**

On July 24<sup>th</sup> a training session for the Children's Program was held. Barbara Wallach led us in a discussion and hike about the most common birds and insects found along the trails. She touched on giving presentations and how to put the story together for the children. The next session will be Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Come help

repair the props we use and make new photo books. Online signups for the coming school year start August 15<sup>th</sup> so please refer all teachers to the website at [torreypine.org](http://torreypine.org) and click on the Education heading.

*Cecily Goode*

*Children's Program Director*

**Lodge Duty Request for Month of August:** 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 56 empty slots. Thanks!

*Irene Larrimore and Lillian Lachicotte*

### **July Graduation**

*by Jeff Spivak, Director of Education*  
Hurray!! The new class has graduated and *twenty-one docents* have been added to the Torrey Pines Docent Society. They are already sitting lodge duty, shadowing the children's program, turning into Whacky Weeders, becoming involved in the monthly bird count, and some intrepid souls are even leading walks. Jeannie and I are excited about this new class and all that they will bring to the reserve. Welcome aboard!!

### **Science and Engineering Fair Presentations at July General Meeting**

*by Suzan Potuznik*

Three recipients of the Torrey Pines Docent Society Award for an outstanding project entered in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair presented their research at the General Meeting in July. Our 2008 student awardee participation was a successful 100%.

The presentations by Jayne Caputo, "What is the Wisest Type of Owl Box?" and Alec Calac,

"Antibacterial Properties of Three Southern Californian Native Plants," and Ronit Abramson, "Diatoms as Biological Indicators of Pharmaceutical Runoff," were a great success. The two ninth graders spoke with confidence and clarity, while the high school senior exhibited her readiness for college and beyond.

Our goal for the TPDS Science and Engineering Fair project is to encourage and award students for conducting research related to the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and to provide the students a quality educational opportunity. We offer assistance in publishing, presentation and review, with kindness, friendliness and respect. Docents were invited to play their part by listening and giving feedback during the break.

Alec learned from the docents of new plants to consider for his future projects. Jayne was delighted by Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer's request to place her owl box on display at the Visitors Center and for her design plans. Ronit piqued everyone's interest on the quality of our water in the estuaries, in the ocean and in the glass on our dining room table.

Our award criteria are specific: "A quality science or engineering project (especially novel research or development) enhancing understanding or ability regarding nature, conservation, preservation, or interpretation in the region of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Awardees must demonstrate excellent written and verbal communication skills."

We seek to recognize originality, innovation, diligence and communication skills. Such abilities, recognized and nurtured, can carry each awardee far in ANY endeavor they might choose.

To learn more about the student projects see the 2008 *Torreyana* (May and July) and *Pinecone* (June) issues. □

## On the Trail with Barbara

by Kathy Dickey

March 21st was a gorgeous day, and also the best day of my training to be a docent at TPSR. On that day, I "tagged along" on a children's walk focused on the Kumeyaay. The hills were covered with new wildflowers, the ocean sparkled under a clear blue sky, and we could hear the California quail in the distance.



The children seemed captivated by the presentation, especially when the willow bark skirt and cradle board were placed upon one of the girls who volunteered to be a Kumeyaay maiden. But the part the kids seemed to like best was our walk to Red Butte with Barbara Wallach. We barely left the presentation area when we stopped to examine all the amazing activity going on in the sandy soil nearby: a lizard track, an ant lion cone, a darkling beetle (stink bug) and some coyote scat. The kids loved it, and their excitement grew as we hit the trail. Barbara taught them to howl like coyotes whenever we passed another group of students, and they gladly obliged. She has an infectious love of nature. She taught with a teacher's firmness, asking lots of questions, but also with an obvious love and respect for the children. They were learning a lot, but it was also FUN.

Once on Red Butte, she had the kids all sit for a while to rest, listen, and play a Kumeyaay dice game. After our walk and a visit to the lodge, she passed out TPSR buttons to everyone. As the years pass, the children may



forget the names Kumeyaay or lemonade berry or monkey flower, but a certain spark was lit that day: a curiosity and enthusiasm for the natural world.

## Fox Prints in Place

by Sherry Doolittle

The fox prints on the road leading up to the lodge are finished and appear to be helping. The lifeguards who park at the base of the hill have reported a marked increase in the number of visitors who cross over the road where the fox prints begin. The fox prints are located at the first posted pedestrian sign part way up the hill, at the second pedestrian sign at the sharp turn just before the Guy Fleming parking area, and at the start of High Point Trail. The first prints were upgraded to a longer stride after it was realized it looked like the fox might be tip-toeing across. It took the team effort of Bob and Sherry Doolittle, Jeff Spivak, and Rangers Kyle Knox and Martin Urbach to accomplish the task. Hopefully, the road leading into the reserve will be a much safer place for all concerned.

## WHY I LOVE LODGE DUTY!

by Lillian Lachicotte

When I returned home Sunday from a short trip, I had phone messages from docents who could not fill their Saturday slots. When I found that Sherry Doolittle had worked the shift after hers, I called to thank her for her

amazing generosity and received the following email in return:

*Hi Lillian*

*Thank you for the phone call and kind words. It was a little complicated Saturday.*

*I was supposed to meet Peggy Farness for a Trail Patrol after my 9-12 duty, but no one came to relieve me. So Peggy and I decided to stay on Lodge Duty. Then Paul Whitby came in from Trail Patrol and said he'd watch the desk while we went on a patrol. He worked from 12:30 to 1:30 for us. We returned and let him go. Then Iris Geist came in for the 2 PM Guided hike, but said she didn't think she could do it because she was too hot. Peggy had to leave, so I told Iris I'd do her 2 o'clock walk if she did the rest of the lodge duty. She gladly accepted my offer. I took 17 people out on Guy Fleming and left Iris cooling off at the Lodge. So a whole "village" of docents covered that middle Lodge Duty.*

*A new docent this year (John Hacklander) has been really nice about trying to fill in the Lodge duties. He came in for the 3-6 slot Saturday, and said if no one filled the slot next Saturday at 12, he would. He is a gem of a newcomer. Anyway, like I said, it was a bit complicated, but it all worked out.*

*Thanks again. See you up there soon.  
Sherry*



So... many thanks to Sherry, Peggy, Paul, Iris and John for so creatively filling a huge need. I am touched by your innovative solutions and your dedication to TPSNR!

And docents, just a reminder, if you cannot work during your shift, please call docents on the short notice list which is clipped to the front page of the calendar to find a replacement for your shift.

## **Whacky Weeder's News**

*by Steve Tarkington*

The last few months have seen thousands of pounds of invasive carpobrotus, crystalline iceplant and various exotic grasses carted off to the land fill. By last count Ann Smith-Mercandetti alone has filled over 380 bags with weeds from the Guy Fleming Trail. The beautiful and lush spring flower bloom on all our trails was ample evidence of how the Weeders efforts make a difference for our native plant survival and robustness. Later blooming flowers are still evident on all the trails so be sure to take a look. We all remember why we first began coming to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve even if for some of us it was 30 years ago. Spending time out-of-doors in a natural setting of trees, flowers, the ocean and cliffs and birds singing is hard to beat. The Whacky Weeders renew that experience every week as together & alone they pull invasive plants throughout the Reserve. This is a Special Invitation to all the new docents to join us for this experience

on Monday mornings from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It's always more of a come-when-your-schedule-allows, but definitely come out and help. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE with just a little time. Your contribution of plastic bags at the last meeting was greatly appreciated.



Bea Stoyla diligently removing unwanted exotics along the road in the lower Reserve

Join these regular Weeders and learn which weeds to pull: Barbara Wallach, Diane Russell, Roger Isaacson, Ann Smith-Mercandetti, Marian Casazza; Bea Stoyla, Joellen Barnett, Elaine Slack, Wes Farmer, Barbara Zirino, Stu Smith, Sherry Doolittle, Jim Patterson, Nan Danninger, Susan Buxbaum, Lynne Small and Dave Economou, Weeder Extraordinaire on the Parry Grove Trail. Carol Martin, our park aide, guides us with priorities from Darren Smith, our park ecologist.

Send me your email address and interest and I'll keep you informed of where we are working every week. We look forward to getting to know you. [starkington@adelphia.net](mailto:starkington@adelphia.net)

## **Docent Question of the Month: August 2008**

*Courtesy of Jim Larrimore*

**Q:** *How many of the ways we are in motion while standing still at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve can you name and explain?*

**A:** We are in motion **nine** ways, from very fast to very slow (see table). We don't feel any of them, although some do have effects that we can recognize. Here they are:

*The first five motions come from our planet Earth and its galaxy whirling through the cosmos in various directions at high speeds.*

- **First**, galaxy superclusters formed after the huge cosmic explosion 15-20 billion years ago are rushing apart at more than a million miles per hour.
- **Second**, the "Local Group" of galaxies, which includes our Milky Way, is moving towards the Virgo supercluster at 150 miles per second.
- **Third and fourth**, our Milky Way galaxy is careening towards the Great Andromeda galaxy at 50 miles per second, and also spinning like a giant Ferris wheel at nearly 140 miles per second.
- And **fifth**, our Solar system is speeding toward the bright summer star Vega at 12 miles per second.

*And here are four more ways that we are in motion at TPSNR.*

**Sixth**, our earth is revolving around the sun, 91 million miles away. It

*takes a year and we move 287 million miles. So our Earth is moving at 18.5 miles per second. The plane of the earth's revolution is tilted, which brings us the seasons. Here at Torrey Pines, the biggest seasonal effect is the length of our day, a little less than 10 hours long in winter, with sunset before 5 p.m., but over 14 hours long in summer, with sunset after 8 p.m. And that affects the hours when Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve is open.*

**Seventh**, our earth is rotating around its own axis. It takes 24 hours for a rotation, and we move some 22 thousand miles. So we are rotating East at 900 miles per hour. That, of course, brings us day and night. Revolving around Earth is our moon, every 27.3 days, and that brings us the tidal changes – but that is the ocean moving, not us.

*The last two motions are very much slower, caused by tectonic plates. At TPSNR, the vast Pacific tectonic plate is bumping into the vast North American continental plate, after their collision along the western North American coastline more than 150 million years ago.*

**Eighth**, our local piece of the Pacific Plate is slowly moving north,

*averaging 2-1/2 inches a year. This has been going on for a long time. Since the plate broke apart from the coast of Mexico 5-1/2 million years ago, it has opened up the Gulf of California while moving north by 185 miles. At that rate, we would make it to Los Angeles in another 3 million years, if Los Angeles stays where it is.*

And **ninth**, our local piece of the Pacific Plate is also rising ever so slowly. Over the past million years, it has risen at an average rate of 5-1/2 inches per thousand years. So, we are rising 450 times slower than we are moving north! When the Spaniards sailed by and saw the pine trees on this hill, 500 years ago, it was only 3 inches lower. When the first humans came here, moving south along the coast, around 10,000 years ago, the hill was only about 5 feet lower. But at the start of the ice ages, around a million years ago, this hill was 500 feet lower and deep under water.

References: Dennis Mammana, "Earth whizzes through the galaxy", San Diego Union Tribune, April 17, 2008; World Almanac; TPDS geology information.

<b>IN MOTION AT TORREY PINES STATE NATURAL RESERVE</b>	<b>SPEED, mph</b>
Galaxy superclusters moving apart.	> 1,000,000
"Local Group" of galaxies moving towards Virgo supercluster.	540,000
Milky Way galaxy moving towards Great Andromeda galaxy.	180,000
Milky Way galaxy spinning.	504,000
Solar system moving toward star Vega.	43,200
Earth revolving around the sun.	66,000
Earth rotating around its own axis at TPSNR.	900
Pacific Plate moving north at TPSNR.	0.0000000045 (4.5x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
Pacific Plate rising locally at TPSNR.	0.0000000001 (10 <sup>-11</sup> )

## Keeping the Dream Alive: Preserving Open Space

by Maryruth Cox

Photos by Barbara Wallach

More than 40 years ago the Torrey Pines extension was only a dream that stood little chance of becoming reality. The 'back-country' between Del Mar and Del Mar Terrace was owned by absentee landlords, but people felt free to wander over the hills through the sage and pines, picnic and party while taking potshots at errant rabbits, dump trash, dig up the rare trees, and even make shelters from bottles and tins. In those days most of us took the open space for granted and abjured any responsibility for its treasures. But when bulldozers began to carve a road through the pine-clad hills in 1964, people woke up. A committee 'to save the Torrey Pines' began raising money to buy the land for the state park. By 1969 hundreds of donors had contributed amounts ranging from one or two to thousands of dollars. The children at the John Adams School in San Diego sent \$127.49. 63 Sierra Club members donated \$1632. 181 T.P.A. members gave \$3064; the Scripps Foundation \$20,000; the D.A.R. gave \$4912; and

the state of California designated \$900,000 from the Park Bond Act of 1964.

Who were these ardent supporters of Torrey Pines and the projected extension? Luckily, some of their letters are still in the archives, along with hundreds of thank-you letters written by Tom Whitaker and others:

*Letter to Ed Butler (chairman of the extension campaign) from Clara Carr, La Jolla, October 28, 1969: "I am one of millions of individuals who regret very much the bulldozing of even one tree. Let them start real estate developments and new cities of land that has no trees and then plant some."*

*Letter to Butler from Joanne Fenn, Orange, CA, November 3, 1969*

*"I grew up on 10 acres in Iowa with nature all around and part of me. During my 15 years in Orange, I have gradually been divested of natural surroundings due to the clearing out of orange groves for houses. This must not go on and I want to do something to help preserve nature wherever it is threatened."*

*Letter to Butler from Theodor B. Goetz, editor, White Plains, N.Y., October 14, 1969:*

*"In 1919 (I wasn't yet 15), on a rented car trip from Beverly Hills to San Diego, we went over the heights above La Jolla and a bobcat leaped across the road in front of the car opposite a Torrey pine that hung precariously over the cliff. I never forgot it. And I'll bet the gnarled tree is still there at the summit."*

Today we enjoy the extension because these donors gave their money, time and effort to secure it. I was reminded of them when I watched about 30 parents and children walk to school on Earth Day on the Margaret Fleming Trail A. The children were so excited: a bunny stared at them from the brush; a hummingbird perched on the sumac; perhaps that curvy track in the sand was made by a snake! I thought -- maybe one or more of these children will remember this close contact with nature some time in the future when a bit of wilderness is threatened. Maybe they, like Mr. Goetz, will be moved to contribute their time and money to preserve a natural open space. □



**Scarlet Larkspur**

*(Delphinium cardinale)*  
found in the Extension, not in the main Reserve.



Marbled Godwit



Whimbrel



Black-bellied Plover in breeding color



Long-billed Curlew

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*Photos by Herb Knufken*

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 5, 2008

Total of 64 species (unusual sightings shown with an asterisk and in italics)

Mallard 6	Greater Yellowlegs 1	Anna's Hummingbird 19	Bushtit 75	California Towhee 33
California Quail 15	Willet 6	Rufous/Allen's Hummer 2	Bewick's Wren 6	Belding's Sav. Sparrow 11
Pied-Billed Grebe 9	Whimbrel 3	Nuttall's Woodpecker 3	House Wren 2	Song Sparrow 6
Great Blue Heron 1	Heerman's Gull 20	Black Phoebe 6	Marsh Wren (With Juv) 3	Black-headed Grosbeak 1
Great Egret 7	Ring-billed Gull 12	Ash-throated Flycatcher 2	California Gnatcatcher 5	Red-Winged Blackbird 31
Snowy Egret 11	California Gull 8	Western Scrub-jay 5	Wrentit 20	Brewer's Blackbird 6
Blk-Crowned Nite-Heron 1	Western Gull 26	American Crow 16	Northern Mockingbird 2	Hooded Oriole 1
Osprey 1	Royal Tern 20	Common Raven 14	California Thrasher 3	Bullock's Oriole 1
White-tailed Kite 2	Elegant Tern 11	Rough-winged Swallow 15	Orange-Crowned Warbler 3	House Finch 230
Northern Harrier 1	Forster's Tern 6	Cliff Swallow 12	Common Yellowthroat 17	Lesser Goldfinch 14
Cooper's Hawk 2	Least Tern 3	Barn Swallow 1	Yellow-breasted Chat 7	American Goldfinch 2
Peregrine Falcon 1	<i>Eurasian Collared Dove</i> *1	Swallow Sp. 20	Spotted Towhee 12	House Sparrow 3
American Coot 3	Mourning Dove 21			
Killdeer 2	White-throated Swift 1			

**Observers: Gary Grantham, Will Cox, Herb Knufken, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, Don Grine, Kathy Dickey, John Hacklander**

Previous months are posted on the TPSR website 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  
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 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 [bkrue@earthlink.net](mailto:bkrue@earthlink.net). Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the Visitor Center. Roger Isaacson, Director of Communications

August 2008 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- Updated 7/28/08							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Aug 31 L- Ketner/ W- L- J. Davis W- L- Hartung/Reich	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)			1 L- B. Arnold  L-  L-	2 L- Blantz/Goode W- Farness L- McGee W- King L-
3 L- Bogan/ W- Bedinger L- J. Davis/ W- Stiegler L-	4 L- Fiorentino  L- Leonard  L- B&F Eckles	5 L- Tarkington  L- Leonard  L- McCardle	6 L- Fiorentino  L- Oppenheimer  L-	7 L- Justice  L- Richter  L-	8 L- D. Davis  L- Lundstrom  L-	9 Meeting L- W- Burham L- Geist/ W- L- Sabella/	
10 L- / W- S. Doolittle L- J. Davis/ W- L- Dewhurst/	11 L- B. Arnold  L- Leonard  L-C&B Hornbeck	12 L- Woods  L- Ivany  L- B&F Eckles	13 L- Neumeister  L- Oppenheimer  L-	14 L- A. Marshall  L- Woods  L- Dickey	15 L- P. Burke  L- Tarkington  L-Lombardi	16 L- Kind/ W- Farness L- J. Smith/McGee W- Geist L- /	
17 L- Schulman/ W- Cassell L- Schulman/ W- Brav L- J. Davis/	18 L- Lombardi  L- F. Doolittle  L- B&F Eckles	19 L- Burke  L- Danninger/Russe  L-	20 L- Grantham  L- Fiorentino  L-	21 L-  L- Leonard  L- Killermann	22 L- Scholfield  L-  L-	23 L- Kind/Bedinger W- Steve Rose L- / W- L- /	
24 L- Rowbottm/Kind W- L- Whitlock/ W- L- Whitlock/	25 L- Fiorentino  L-C. Smith/J. Adamo  L-	26 L-  L- Ivany  L-	27 L-C&B Hornbeck  L- Oppenheimer  L-	28 L-  L- Stiels  L- Larrimore	29 L- P. Burke  L-  L-	30 L- W- Farness L- W- Stiegler L-	

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. **Coordinators:** Irene Larrimore (858 509-9604) & Lillian Lachicotte (858 481-6237)