



Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the
Torrey Pines Docent Society

October 2008

Docent General Meeting Saturday, October 11th 9 a.m.

National University, 11255 N. Torrey Pines Road

Liz Santos, San Diego State University, (Master's student of Professor Janet Franklin)
will present findings from her Torrey pine census in the Reserve and Extension.

A Rapt Audience Learns about Birds of Prey

by Sharon Clay Rose

Photos by Herb Knufken

Ken Baer, our Programs Director introduced the speaker for the September TPDS meeting with the remark that we would be entertained, and entertained we were!



Nancy Conney, Director of Sky Hunters Raptor Education and Rehabilitation, has spent the last 21 years devoted to rescuing, releasing

and caring for birds of prey. Her presentation was liberally laced with humor and dozens of insightful comments on raptors. Accompanied by two of her "education" birds, a magnificent Red-tailed Hawk and a delightfully inquisitive two-year old Common Barn Owl, she explained many facts about birds of prey starting with the fact that females are larger than the males. Guesses from docents as to the weight of the 13-year old "girl" hawk came close to her actual weight of 4 lbs. Life expectancy of birds in captivity is far longer than in the wild: the red tailed hawk would only live about four years in the wild but may live 30 years in captivity. The most common injuries to raptors come from humans: injuries from moving vehicles, power lines and poison (which comes indirectly to them through rodents that were poisoned).

There are currently 25 non-releasable birds being cared for by Sky Hunters. This is a time consuming job, but one that Nancy does with great enthusiasm. Offering educational presentations is her way of helping to ensure that wildlife remains wild.

Rescuing and releasing rehabilitated birds of prey is done whenever possible. Volunteer veterinarians are most helpful in caring for injured birds. If an injured bird is found, keep it in a dark place, put it inside a box (be sure to poke holes in the box first), and shut the top firmly! Call immediately for wildlife rescue. We all learned many facts first hand about raptors.



Barn Owl

Nancy showed off the wide wing-spread of the Common Barn Owl, who also seemed quite willing to show us his wide open beak and his asymmetrically placed ears.

For more information contact Nancy Conney at 619-445-6565 or visit her online at www.SkyHunters.org

September Docent Meeting Notes

Excerpted from notes from the TPDS General Meeting, September 13, 2008 by Secretary, Ann Williamson. Complete minutes in docent library.

Docents of the Month: (Steve Usher) For September we honor **Anke Hartung and Steffen Reichert**. Anke and Steffen are an outstanding Lodge Duty team, often working weekend shifts together. They are enthusiastic and cheerful and give each visitor a warm welcome. The team has done Lodge Duty seventeen times since January.



Photo by Herb Knufken

Treasurer's Report: (Steve Usher for Priscilla Lewis) TPDS had a net income of approximately \$6100 as of August 31. Steve pointed out that this amount might be misleading. We are committed to help pay for Guy Fleming House repairs and other projects to support the Reserve, and we have not yet paid these expenses.

Children's Program: (Cecily Goode) **Online Signups:** Since school online signup opened August 15, **Laura Lowenstein** has confirmed thirty-three schools. Docent online signup is now open. **Kumeyaay training:** On Thursday, September 11, twenty-eight docents went to Kumeyaay Community College for a training session. We learned about Kumeyaay ethnobotany, customs, language, and food preparation. One

of the instructors, Martha Rodriguez, a Kumeyaay woman from Mexico, spoke to us in Kumeyaay and described how to make shawii. The college also provided sandwiches and cookies for lunch. **Offsite program:** Friday, October 3, two docents are needed to do presentations at the Del Mar Pines School as a part of the school's annual Science Discovery Day. Docents will put on half-hour programs for small groups of children from 8:30 to 11:30. Please contact Cecily or Laura Lowenstein if you can help.

Lodge Duty: (Lillian Lachicotte)

Calendar: Now that we have only two shifts during the week, the calendar is looking better. We do have some open slots for Saturday/Sunday guided walks. Please sign up for those if you can. Lillian said it is OK to be a second person on a Lodge Duty shift even though you have not signed up. This can be a good learning experience, and you get to know a fellow docent. If anyone would like special training, contact

Lillian or Irene Larrimore to arrange a mentoring session. **Museum labels:** It is important that museum items be labeled. If you bring in a new rock or bird for the museum, please give it to Diane Greening who will label it appropriately. **Questions:** When you do Lodge Duty, Lillian assured us that it is OK to answer a question with "I don't know."

Calendar initials: **Diana Davis** reminded us to put the first name initial in the calendar because we have multiple docents for some last names. **Tracker:** **Jeannie Smith** asked how to enter visitor numbers in Tracker if you have multiple persons on a Lodge Duty shift. Lillian explained that you can split the visitor numbers, or one person can enter all zeroes for the visitor numbers. You will get a warning for entering zeroes, but Tracker does allow this. **Manual:** **Nancy**

Woodworth said if you have ideas for improving the Lodge Duty Manual please leave your suggestions in the Bookstore mailbox in the docent library. We have two docents who are willing to work on this improvement, but their identities are secret. **Tea price:** **Judy Schulman** asked if anyone knew why tea had been so expensive relative to dinner on the Lodge menu. **The answer:** This was for British high tea. **Restaurant dishes:** Judy answered a question about the restaurant display in the museum. The dishes are not the original ones used in the Lodge restaurant. The place settings are antiques, purchased to match Lodge dining room photos.

Communications: (Roger Isaacson) Roger brought a computer to the meeting. We were invited at the break for a demonstration of TPDS Google Groups. Also Roger will be at the Visitor Center Monday, September 15, at 11:00 AM for a computer tutoring session. If you have questions about TPDS Google Groups or other computer topics, Roger will be available to help you then.

Library: (Mike Yang) Mike has located a paper, "The Ethnobotany of Torrey Pines State Reserve", written in 1983, by D. Coles. Three paper copies are in the Library. Mike has scanned the document, so we have a DVD copy also, as well as a file on the TPDS Google Group. The article describes plant uses by Native Americans and early settlers. Mike told us about the medicinal uses of California sagebrush by Native Americans, in particular how sagebrush was used in the lives of women.

Bookstore: (Nancy Woodworth) We have been selling two cases of bottled water per week. (Each case has twenty-four bottles.) To date not a single water bottle from the Bookstore has been found by Trail Patrol. Bottled water sales are still

on trial until September 30. Alan Bennett picks up the water cases for us from Costco.

Trail Patrol: (Mike Pisor) **August statistics:** Mike thanked those Trail Patrol docents who do a variety of activities, not just Trail Patrol. In the month of August we had twenty-eight docents who did Trail Patrol. Total hours were 133 in 121 trips.

Carvings: Trail Patrol volunteers have completely rubbed out the carvings in the sandstone by the beach stairs. There is still work to do on the carvings in the Extension. Ranger Kyle Knox has thanked Trail Patrol for their good work.

Beach: Mike emphasized the importance of patrolling the beach in light of the recent cliff collapse. Mike expressed thanks to Bill Key and his wife for their responsible handling of the recent emergency.

Weekends: These are the busiest time at the Reserve. If you can do Trail Patrol on weekends, it is especially helpful. Currently we have three patrols on a typical Saturday or Sunday.

Recycling: (Alan Bennett) We now have eighteen docents on the recycling team. Alan welcomes more docents to join the group.

Lake Hodges Trail Announcement: A marked nature trail at Lake Hodges is a good place to learn native plant medicinal uses.

Crafters: (Barbara Wallach) On Saturday, October 18, the crafts group will start working at 9 a.m. on items to sell at the Bookstore for the holiday season. Please join the group at the tables behind the Visitor Center. No expertise is necessary. Please bring any shells, pine cones or other craft materials you may have. Contact Barbara for more information.

Ranger Report: (Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer) **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** The dinner is Saturday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. Jody needs to know by Monday noon

if you will be attending and if you will bring a guest. A guest fee of \$10 or less will be collected at the event. The staff is putting a huge effort into planning this event.

Overlooks: The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is working on the overlooks repair. After completing Yucca Point, the CCC will move on to Razor Point. A handicapped accessible bench with ocean view is planned as part of the trails repair and enhancement work.

Restrooms: The CCC workers are digging into the area behind the restrooms to install a giant septic tank. They have hit hardpan, so the work is proceeding slowly. The plan is to pump out the giant tank monthly via a pumper truck. Hooking up with sewer is on hold. Sewer hookup will cost several million dollars.

New interpretive signs: Three new interpretive signs are up. The sign topics are cliff failures, the historic road, and Guy Fleming. In regard to cliff failures, **Alan Bennett** asked Jody for guidelines in informing visitors about what is a safe distance from the cliffs. Jody suggested we be vague on this. **Don Grine** said that historically fifty feet has not been sufficient to be safe. Jody noted that at thirty feet you are safer than you would be immediately next to the cliffs.

Interpretive evaluation: **Diane Greening** will be accompanying trail guides to evaluate their presentations. Diane will represent the State of California in this work. She will check that we cover content and that we adapt to the people we are guiding. **Don Grine** suggested we have the blank evaluation form available from the TPDS Google Groups.

Live Scan: Scanning is on hold.

Flintkote trail: In response to the bird counters' requests, Jody announced that ScrippsAssists has agreed to help remove overgrowth.

Cliff collapse: Jody again thanked **Bill Key** and his wife for their rapid response to the emergency.

Bark beetles: We have had a big problem with bark beetles recently. However, counts have dropped in the last week. In the part of the Extension near Longboat Way there are two dead Torrey pines and two threatened trees. All four trees will have to be removed. Currently there are no more pheromones available. If you see a tree with a lot of sap, please let Jody know, and she will have the tree checked. **Alan Bennett** noted that another sign of a stressed tree is one that has put out an unusually large number of cones.

West Nile: **Sally Whitlock** asked about West Nile disease. Jody said the staff is cleaning out the birdbaths more often as a West Nile preventative measure.

Visitor Center Walls: We are looking into washing the museum inner walls and possibly painting them. We would like to have the walls looking better for the Plein Air. We may ask the Geriatric Patrol to help with this. **Diane Greening** and **Laura Lowenstein** will coordinate this effort.

Visitor Center Lighting: An electrician has given us a bid of approximately \$2200 for repairing and improving the museum lights. The plan would include two ceiling light fixtures where there had been chandeliers in the past. Jody would like to move our good paintings to the video room where visitors could still view them, but they would be protected from the UV light.

Earth Day: The State Parks Foundation has grants available for Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, 2009. To obtain a grant, a park should have at least seventy-five Earth Day volunteers. We need someone to head up the grant application for this event. Please see Jody if you are interested.

Plein Air Festival: (Connie Beardsley, Coordinator) **Date:** The Lodge at Torrey Pines has changed the date to November 1. **Flyers:** Connie brought flyers and asked that we each take one or more flyers to post in public places. **Music:** This

year we will have quiet music, a guitarist.

Art activities: **Laura Lowenstein** and **Diane Greening** will coordinate nature-inspired art activities for both children and adults. **Painting locations:** Each artist will come to the Reserve on Thursday, October 30, to select a location. TPDS docents will guide the artists during the selection. Lauren Fisher of the Torrey Pines Association (TPA) will coordinate the artists.

Food: **Steve Usher** and **Barbara McCardle** will coordinate the food. This year you will be able to buy sandwiches and other items separately instead of buying a fixed price lunch.

Logistics: **Jeff Spivak** is in charge of logistics. Jeff needs volunteers to help with booth setup and teardown.

Guided walks: **Irene Larrimore** will coordinate guided walks. Irene needs trail guides for 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon walks. **Guy Fleming**

House: Bob Wohl will give a guided tour of the Guy Fleming House at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. **Banners:** Karin Wilson, TPA, is in charge of banners.

Publicity: **Barbara McCabe** is heading up publicity. Both the Torrey Pines website and the TPA website have Plein Air information. **Hotel activities:** On Saturday, November 1, afternoon and evening, we need docents to work at the Lodge at Torrey Pines Hotel to help with a silent auction and a live auction. Several prizes will be awarded to competing paintings on Saturday evening. TPDS and TPA are jointly awarding the Spirit of the Reserve prize. On Sunday morning, November 2, there will be a food, wine and crafts showcase and another auction at the hotel. We need volunteers for the Sunday morning auction as well. Contact **Jeff Spivak** if you can help with the auctions. Connie was asked who could go to the events at the hotel. Connie explained that these are public events, but one must purchase a ticket in advance to attend. **Auction**

proceeds: **Steve Usher** explained that this year half of the auction sales will go to the Reserve for certain projects. The other half will go to the Endowment. Steve said that this year Plein Air artists will be allowed to do some work in studio. This should result in more polished works with potentially higher value at auction. **Theme:** Connie said the idea of this year's theme, Through Different Eyes, is seeing the Reserve as an artist would see it. **Extension:** Jody reminded us to encourage artists to paint at locations within the Extension this year.

Quail Gardens Tour: (Sharon Rose) Tuesday, October 28, at 10:00 AM, there will be a free tour of Quail Gardens for Torrey Pines docents. Parking at Quail is \$1.00. The tour will include the show, Sculpture in the Gardens, which is on display through the end of October. Contact Sharon to sign up. This is part of a reciprocal docent exchange between Quail and TPDS. We will give free tours for Quail docents here, probably during flower season.

Endangered Species Act: (Lou Adamo) Lou alerted us to the recent government proposal to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Go to commondreams.org for more information. Lou encouraged each of us to register our objections by the Close of Business (COB) Eastern Time (ET) on Monday, September 15.

Announcements: (Steve Usher) **Paintings by Wes:** Wes Farmer has produced two more interesting art works, a bird painting and a spider painting. **Docent of the Year:** **Rick Vogel** is heading the selection of Docent of the Year. Please contact Rick with your nominations. The following are considered when selecting Docent of the Year.

- Recent contributions
- Total hours volunteered in the last two years

- Variety of contributions
- Complexity and unique character of contributions
- Exemplification of the character and ideals of the Society

Visitor Center cleaning: A new cleaning service, The Maids, has been hired to replace the previous janitor service. The Maids is doing a more efficient and more thorough job. This change is part of the Board's cost reduction measures.

TPA Symposium: The symposium theme is Ants, Plants, Fire and More. The event will be 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Saturday, September 27, at Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla. More information is on the TPSNR website. □

Docent Question of the Month August 2008

Courtesy of Jim Larrimore

Question: If you want to really be able to see the birds at TPSNR, or are thinking of getting involved with the monthly TPDS Bird Survey, what binoculars should you use?

Answer: (See p. 8)

Library Finds – October 2008

by Michael Yang, Librarian

How many species of pine trees live in the world, the United States and the Pacific coast of North America? Not an unfair question to ask readers of "Pinecone," don't you agree? The answers: 70, 34 and 17. Now, here's a more relevant question for TPSNR docents: Of the 17 species of pine that live in the Pacific coast, how many have fascicles of 5 needles? I was surprised to discover that the correct answer is 7! That totally blows away my cherished bias about the uniqueness of *Pinus torreyana* among pines, in having 5 long

needles in each bundle. Curious to know more? There's a gem of a book in the TPDS library entitled "Cone Bearing Trees of the Pacific Coast" authored by Nathan A. Bowers, Ph.D. and published by McGraw Hill way back in 1942 that will provide you with a step by step method to positively identify 54 species of Pine, Cedar, Fir, Hemlock, Juniper, Larch, Spruce and Sequoia. Systematic observation of a specimen's shape, color, foliage, cones, bark and habitat turns tree identification from a wild guess into a logical process. Take this book to your neighborhood park and you'll go home at least one tree wiser! It's in the "TREES" section of the library bearing call letters "BOWE-N".

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

October 2008

Sept. 19th started the school year off with the topic of geology to a group of sixty 4th graders. There was a good turnout of docents for this first Children's Program hike. Come tag along often before taking a group out or buddy up with another docent. A good source of knowledge about the topics presented is the teacher's guide: "Docent-Led Children's Programs at Torrey Pines State Reserve Teacher's Manual" which can be found in the library or purchased from the bookstore.

In planning for the Children's Program docent-led hikes it would help the Program Coordinator if we

could sign up online at least a month in advance. The calendar for this year is already full through the end of December.

The last workshop day at the Kumeyaay College Sept. 11th proved to be another informative one. Twenty-eight of us listened as Martha Rodriguez sang to us in Kumeyaay. She immigrated to the United States 2 years ago and just recently learned English. Plant use was discussed as were the religious customs and ceremonies.

Cecily Goode

Children's Program Director

Laura Lowenstein

Program Coordinator

Kumeyaay Training

by Laura Lowenstein

Photo by Wes Farmer

A total of thirty-two docents traveled to the Kumeyaay Community College located in the Sycuan Nation in El Cajon on two dates, Aug. 15 & Sept. 11. The docents attended a two part training about the Kumeyaay culture, history, games, plants and animals used when living off the land. We found out that when cooking a woodrat, which was the Kumeyaay's favorite meat, on the fire, it whistles when done! Acorns were a staple food like flour/rice or beans; and being high in fat, supplemented the wild meat, which was low in fat content.

The docents were treated to a warm welcome and snacks & lunch were

provided. (Not woodrat!) The names of our trainers in the picture (back row) on the second training date are: John Bathke, KCC educational coordinator; Carl Shipek, archivist; Martha Rodriguez, Sycuan Education Dept.; Richard Bugbee, KCC Ethnobotany instructor. See if you recognize any of the twenty-eight docents in the photo below! The attending docents hope to reciprocate and show the KCC group around the reserve this fall.

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[a monthly series]

Lodge Duty Librettos

More stories by Judy Schulman

One of my most rewarding experiences came on a rainy Easter Sunday in the park. There were no visitors that day. So one of the rangers, one of the parks aides and I sat around the fireplace to keep warm. Our conversation turned to religion. We talked about what made us different and what made us the same. We were a Jew, a Greek Orthodox, and a Native American traditionalist. We represented three very divergent views, yet all questions asked were done with love and respect. We were not trying to challenge each other's viewpoints, but to better understand them.

This is an old one that was told to me years ago. A little girl came into the lodge with her parents and asked the docent at the desk where the buffalos were. No one, including her baffled



parents, seemed to know what she was talking about. The docent jokingly asked her where she thought the buffalos would be. She said near the cliffs. Still not sure what the little girl was talking about, the docent kept probing and asked why they would be there. She said because she had seen a sign on the cliffs to be careful about dangerous buffalos. Mystery solved. She had mistaken the word bluffs for buffalos!

One woman asked me why we didn't get rid of the snakes in the park. I don't think she appreciated my answer that they had more of a right to be here than we did.

I'm usually skeptical about what little kids say they have seen in the park. I'm not so anymore. One day a six-year old kept telling me that the big doggie (the coyote) was following her with its eyes. I gave her an unconvinced "that's nice" look and thought that the child probably spent too much time out in the sun that day. Despite her insistence, I did not believe. But when she left and I was alone with the coyote, I stood in front of it to see if I could see what the child had experienced. Nothing...that is until I started walking toward the ranger's door-- Hmmm...those eyes were following me! Then I walked back to the left. Yes indeed, the coyote's eyes do follow you. It is the result of the reflection of the light on the marble-like eyes. I'm going to start having to believe what little kids tell me.

The PLEASE TOUCH display is a treasure trove of getting children and adults to interact with you. I usually start with asking people what they think the bottle nose dolphin skull is. Common answers are crocodile, alligator and dinosaurs. So how many crocodiles have you seen here? Or alligators or dinosaurs for that matter!

Lodge Duty Request for Month

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

Irene Larrimore and Lillian Lachicotte

MISSING GEOLOGY

by S. Gill Williamson

It has always been a struggle for me to muster the requisite sense of awe when presenting the geology of TPSNR to visitors – especially the well-informed professionals that go on our Special Walks.

“The age of the oldest formation in this park is 500,000 times the age of a very old human.” The visitors stare at me for a moment and then squint into the distance hoping for guidance. After many such failures, I decided to be honest and share the reason for my lack of enthusiasm by creating a handout that I now give out at the beginning of each Special Walk. I'd like to share this handout with all of you. You are welcome to use it for your own interpretive events.

Go to Missing Geology near the top of my home page www.cse.ucsd.edu/~gill, and follow the link [Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Missing Geology](#).

Painting Notice

from Alan Bennett

You've all heard about the restoration that Ed Vodrazka, Supervising Lifeguard, has underway at the historic Guy Fleming House. He plans to start putting the new roof on the house about October 6th. The next step after that will be the exterior painting of the stucco walls. We'd like your help on prepping the walls and painting. In addition, anticipating the Plein Air Festival, Diane Greening would like to clean and paint the interior walls of the

museum to put our best foot forward for the guest anticipated to attend the festival. If you would like to help, please get in contact with Alan Bennett: (619) 955-3275 or alanbennett@hotmail.com.

A Clean Sweep

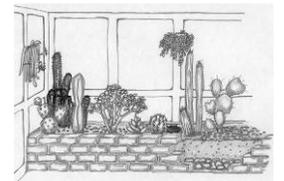
From Alan Bennett

A big thank you to all who helped sweep the parking lot on Monday, Roger Isaacson, Stu Smith, Wes Farmer, Marion Casazza and Nan Danninger. We took about six wheelbarrows of debris off the lot in the two Mondays we worked on it. We will do this again for the Plein Air festival and have a "big sweep" on Monday, October 27th, from about 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If you have a favorite broom, bring it. Steve Rose has promised to bring a leaf blower. Jody will have a ranger cordon off the driveways Sunday night so we should have a clear area to work.

Succulent Swap

Got succulents? Got too many? Bring clippings to the next regular docent meeting and help the rest of us save water, too. As you all know, succulents are a wonderful garden choice. Share your extras by participating in a monthly exchange. **Barbara Wallach** set the perfect example at the last meeting. She brought her assorted clippings in a cardboard box and provided extra plastic bags. She found takers for all of her clippings but was prepared to take back home any that were left. The rule is if you want any, take as many as you want. If you bring any, provide some extra bags for people to take some samples. Then make sure you take home any of your leftovers.



Benches for Little People

Frank Burham, our talented docent carpenter, made this cute sample of a child-size bench for the lodge. It didn't take long for these three children to find it. "Look, they have a bench just for kids", they said as they sat to rest after hiking our trails.

Obviously they were delighted to find a place to rest where their feet actually touch the ground. They will remember Torrey Pines not just because they saw lizards and birds but because someone thought about them. Thanks so much Frank!

Submitted by Barbara Wallach



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

by Barbara McCabe

Mark your calendars for the Plein Air Art Festival on Saturday, November 1. That's the day when dozens of the country's finest landscape artists will be capturing the extraordinary beauty of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve on canvas.

The festival, which is being held in conjunction with the Torrey Pines Plein Air Invitational hosted by The Lodge at Torrey Pines hotel, will take place outside the Visitor Center between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Live music, special art projects for children and adults, guided nature walks and architectural tours of the historic Lodge and Guy Fleming House will be offered. Sandwiches and drinks will be on sale on a cash only basis from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to staff the various activities. All activities will reflect the theme of the festival, "Through Different Eyes,"

encouraging participants to see the Reserve through the eyes of an artist.

If you feel creative, you can help out with the various art activities, including watercolor pencils, sand painting and crayon rubbings. Volunteers are also needed to staff the book store, lead the nature walks, help with the sale of food, and provide the artists with guided tours of the Reserve. (Docents will escort the artists on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. as they scout for locations where they would like to set up their easels.)

The paintings they create will be sold at auction events at the Lodge at Torrey Pines hotel on Saturday evening, Nov. 1 and throughout the day on Sunday, Nov. 2. The proceeds will benefit the Torrey Pines Reserve Endowment Fund and the Reserve directly. Volunteers also are needed at the hotel to help with these events.

If you can help with any of these activities, contact Docent **Jeff Spivak** jspivak@san.rr.com.

No Dogs, No Food in the Reserve?

by Bill Eckles

September 20, 2008

As docents approached the Torrey Pines Reserve Kiosk a little after five, it was apparent that fall was nearing. The developing marine layer produced a hard, gray sheen to the ocean and there was a distinct cooling in the air as we headed up to the lodge for Jody's "Docent Recognition Dinner." As we climbed the hill, sign after sign informed us in different languages that we were being thanked. Troy had made probably a dozen signs in a dozen languages saying "Thank you, volunteers." It was a greeting that warmed and brightened the darkening surroundings of the Reserve.

In front of the lodge, docents and rangers and lifeguards, friends and family mingled with snacks and drinks in hand, chatting with old friends and making new ones. A festive

Jody addressing her guests in fading light. *Photo by Steve Tarkington*



feeling filled the air.

Soon groups collected, the lines formed and food was served to the hungry guests, rangers and lifeguards combined with *El Pollo Loco* and *Coldstone Creamery* to provide juicy chicken, beans and salad, salsa and chips and a delicious ice cream and brownie dessert. This party was gaining momentum.

By seven o'clock, the group moved from the parking lot to the common area in front of the Torrey Pines Lodge where the porch served as a stage and CFL bulbs illuminated the location for *Feudin' in the Pines*. We were introduced to both families, the Torreys and the Parkers who engaged in a bitterly fought battle of wits and wisdom anticipating the responses of reserve visitors to questions about the area. "Princess" (a well disguised Jody) as the apparent leader of the Parkers and the Torreys fought valiantly as Ed Vodrazka provided a well-paced banter and impression of a woodsy Drew Carey. The final score showed our Park Rangers really knew their stuff as they topped the Torreys by a 45 to 40 point margin.

By the time we all returned to our transporters (some had walked to the lodge) it was very clear that the staff at Torrey Pines Reserve valued the volunteering docents. In spite of the growing seasonal chill, we were all warmed by the heartfelt, generous "thank you" delivered by a clever and caring ranger and lifeguard staff. This is a wonderful group to belong to!

Docent Question of the Month

August 2008

Courtesy of Jim Larrimore

Question: *If you want to really be able to see the birds at TPSNR, or are thinking of getting involved with the monthly TPDS Bird Survey, what binoculars should you use?*

Answers:

Will Cox - I've always found the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to be a pretty good source for binocular information. (See www.birds.cornell.edu/Publication/s/LivingBird/Winter2005/Age_Bino_s.html)

Kathy Estey - My binos are Eagle Optics 8 X 42. They are excellent for the price, and can be ordered online. However, I would always recommend when looking for binos that you try other people's, and then go to a store which sells a lot of varieties, and try them there. Each person's eyes and needs are so different, that it is difficult to suggest a pair for anyone.

Blair Francis - I called Eagle Optics and they recommended the Platinum Series 10x42. They are not too heavy and I love them!

Jack Friery - I recommend 7x or 8x binoculars. This means they magnify seven or eight times. Any less than that is probably ineffective, and greater magnification results in binoculars that are heavy, and prone to shaky images. Where to buy your binoculars? One of the best places is online, at Eagle Optics www.eagleoptics.com. On their website, the "Product Buying Guide" for birding binoculars gives excellent suggestions for binoculars in all price ranges. I carry the Eagle Optics Ranger Platinum Series 8x42.

Gary Grantham - I use Bausch and Lomb 10 X 42 Elites which at the time I bought them were in the \$800 range. For a beginner or casual birder I would recommend 7 or 8 X 42's which are a little easier to use than a 10 power. Having used the 10 power for years, I am used to it and enjoy

the increased magnification. My wife uses Eagle Optics 8 X 32 Ranger Platinum Class. We were trying to get minimum weight hence the 32 mm lens. They make the same binocular in the 42 mm (8 X 42), which would give you better optics. These run about \$375 and are a great value for the price. We have purchased all of our binoculars through Eagleoptics.com and I would highly recommend them.

Herb Knufken - Having worked for Zeiss in Germany, I decided to use the Zeiss Victory 8x32 T*FL and have been impressed. Not the cheapest!

Don Grine - My initial choices for binoculars for beginners would be Audubon Raptor 8x42 for \$190, and Bushnell Natureview 8x42 for \$149 (prices are MSRP, you can find them lower). Kenneth Rosenberg, in the useful article referred to by Will Cox, "The Age of Binoculars," gives the following simple plan for choosing binoculars.

1. *Decide how much you want to spend. Useful binoculars range from \$130 to \$1800. The higher prices get you better images and ruggedness.*

2. *Decide on power and objective diameter. Birders use 7 to 10 power in binoculars. Lower power gives a wider field of view, making it easier to find birds or follow flying birds, but higher power shows more detail for identification. Most compromised on 8 or 8.5 power. Objective lens diameter is a compromise, larger gives more light and weight. Birders settle on 30 to 50 mm.*

3. *Decide on other features: Wide field of view, depth of field, quickness of focusing, weight, quality of view, and consider eyeglass friendliness, eye relief and ease of use of retracting eyecups.*

4. *Test them!*



Photos by Herb Knufken



Dinner the hard way-It took four drops from high up before the clam was cracked open.



Fighting Willets

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Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: September 5, 2008

Total of 68 species (unusual sightings shown with an asterisk and in italics)

Gadwall 10	White-faced Ibis 15	Red-necked Phalarope	Cliff Swallow 5	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard 13	Osprey 2	3	Swallow sp. 1	8
Cinnamon Teal 2	White-tailed Kite 1	Heermann's Gull 28	Bushtit 35	Spotted Towhee 8
Surf Scoter 13	Red-shouldered Hawk	California Gull 1	Bewick's Wren 2	California Towhee 12
California Quail 51	1	Western Gull 22	House Wren 8	Rufous-crowned
Pied-billed Grebe 5	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Royal Tern 3	Marsh Wren 1	Sparrow
Black-vented	American Kestrel 2	Rock Pigeon 2	California Gnatcatcher	2
Shearwater	Peregrine Falcon 2	Mourning Dove 20	5	Savannah Sparrow
42	Sora 1	Anna's Hummingbird	Wrentit 19	(Belding's) 8
Brown Pelican 43	Kildeer 7	13	Northern Mockingbird	Song Sparrow 18
Brandt's Cormorant 16	Greater Yellowlegs 2	Nuttall's Woodpecker 1	1	Red-winged Blackbird
Double-crested	Willet 17	Black Phoebe 10	California Thrasher 6	105
Cormorant 11	Whimbrel 14	Cassin's Kingbird 9	European Starling 10	Brewer's Blackbird 16
Great Blue Heron 2	Long-billed Curlew 2	Western Kingbird 3	Orange-crowned	House Finch 209
Great Egret 10	Marbled Godwit 6	Western Scrub-Jay 7	Warbler	Lesser Goldfinch 6
Snowy Egret 9	Western Sandpiper 8	American Crow 12	1	House Sparrow 2
Green Heron 2	Least Sandpiper 4	Common Raven 19		

Observers: Gary Grantham, Herb Knufken, Will Cox, Jack Friery, Don Grine, Kathy Dickey, Kathy Estey

Previous months are posted on the TPSNR website at www.torreypinesreserve.org
On the menu bar point to "Activities" and then click on "Bird-sightings."



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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 20th of the month to Editor **Sharon Clay Rose** at clayrose@roadrunner.com
 For odd months submit to **Bobbi Krueger** at bkrue@earthlink.net. Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the Visitor Center. Roger Isaacson, Director of Communications

October 2008 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- Updated 9/28/08						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lodge Duty Hours L- 9-12 (wkends) or 10-1 L- 12-3 (wkends) or 1-4 L- 3-6 (wkends)		Walks W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30	1 L- Arnold L- Nagamine	2 L- Pfleeger/Sticher L- Killermann	3 L- Burke L- Lombardi	4 L- Rowbottom / W- Farness L- Blantz/ W- Stiegler L- Hartung/Reichar
5 L- Lombardi / W-S Doolittle L- Lachicotte W- L- Lachicotte	6 L- B. Arnold L- Tozer	7 L- Ivany L- A Marshall	8 L- C&B Hornbeck L- Sticher/Pfleeger	9 L- Fiorentino L- Nagamine	10 L- Bogan L- Nagamine	11 Meeting L- / W- L- Dewhurst/Bogan/ W- Ugalde L- /
12 L- Kind W- Ugalde L- Durso/ W- Kamen L- B&F Eckles	13 L- McCardle L- F. Doolittle	14 L- A Marshall L- K Dickey	15 L- Neumeister L- Oppenheimer	16 L- B&F Eccles L- Nagamine	17 L- Hill L- Lundstrom	18 L- Rowbottom/ W- Bedinger L- Lachicotte e W- Ugalde L- Lachicotte/
19 L- Truong W- L- Geist/Hartung W- Brav L- Hartung/Reichar	20 L- C. Smith L- Heinemann	21 L- Ivany L- McCardle	22 L- Schofield L- Oppenheimer	23 L- L- Nagamine	24 L- P. Burke L- Lombardi	25 L- Schulman W- L- Schulman W- Stiegler L-
26 L- Ketner W- Bedinger L- S McGee W- L- /	27 L- B. Hornbeck L- F. Doolittle L-	28 L- Danninger/ L- Larrimore	29 L- L- Oppenheimer	30 L- Fiorentino L- Nagamine	31 L- P. Burke L- Tarkington	

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)