

TORREYANA

*A newsletter for
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL
RESERVE*

Volume 10, Issue 3

May 2009

Geologic Evolution of the San Diego County Coast and Lagoons

Talk by Keith Meldahl, Professor of Geology and Oceanography, Mira Costa College

Recapped by Barbara Krueger

Keith Meldahl's fascinating and easy to follow explanation of how, over the past 18,000 years, the mesas, terraces and lagoons, that now characterize San Diego County's coast, came to be.



Photo by Don Grine

Eighteen thousand years ago, during the last ice age, glaciers were at their maximum on the planet and sea level was 330' lower than today. Coastal

beaches were two miles further out to sea. Sea level has been much as it is now for the past 6,000 years, fluctuating up and down only some 20 feet.

While the planet cooled and heated, and ice increased and melted, rivers formed carrying inland elevation water to the Pacific. Where the rivers met the ocean, lagoons and marshes formed. Rivers flow to the ocean in a set mathematical curve, dropping steeply at first and more shallowly as they approach the sea. When sea levels rise, the river-fall curve changes, and shallow portions of the river bed, closest to the ocean, fill with silt. This causes further change in the fall-curve, affecting the higher elevations of the river bed.



Aerial photo by John Shelton (1940's) from Meldahl's presentation. San Clemente

Table of Contents

Gen. Meeting Speaker	p. 1
President's Message	p. 2
Docent Chronicles	p. 3
Children's Program	p. 4
Docent Exchange Event	p. 4
Whacky Weeders	p. 5
Science Fair articles	p. 5-7
HisTorrey A-Z	p. 8
New meeting site history	p. 8
Nature photos	p. 9
Monthly Bird Survey	p. 9
Duty Calendar	p. 10

Island, similar to parts of the coastal mainland before California was settled.

This rise and fall of sea levels eroding and re-silting, change the river beds and form cliffs or terraces inland from the San Diego coast. Changes in sea level and rising up of the land over the past 18,000 years, and pressure from Pacific plate movement against pressure from North American plate movement which caused uplifts and fault movement, created the terrain of coastal San Diego County.

Successively higher terraces are what is left from previous erosion and rising water. These are features that were once beneath the sea. Each terrace represents an ancient lagoon that was filled in by rising sea and sediment and the westerly edge results from wave erosion.

(Continued on p. 3)

The **Torrey Pines Docent Society** publishes the *Torreyana* bi-monthly which is edited by Docent Bobbi Krueger. In alternate months, the TPDS publishes the *Torrey Pinecone*, edited by Lillian Lachicotte. Both publications include the monthly duty calendar, announcements and information concerning membership meetings. Submissions for either publication are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be submitted to Editors@torreypine.org.

Please send postal/email address changes to:
Torrey Pines Docent Society
P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014
Attn: Walt Desmond or to
Membership@torreypine.org

Web sites:

TPDS www.torreypinesreserve.org
or www.torreypine.org

TPA www.torreypines.org

Visitor Center phone **858.755.2063 dial 0**

TPDS Board Members:

President, Rick Vogel
Vice-president, Judy Schulman
Treasurer, Ken King
Secretary, Bill Eckles
Dir. of Communications, Ann Williamson
Dir. of Children's Program, Cecily Goode
Dir. of Programs, Sherry Doolittle
Dir. of Training, Jeff Spivak
Drs. of Duty Coordination, Irene Larrimore &
Barbara McCardle

Extra newsletters are available in the Docent Library.

TPSNR Staff:

Interim Supervising Ranger:

Mark Allen

Rangers: Kyle Knox, Mike Winterton and
Martin Urbach

Park Aides: Larry Adelson, Jamie Burton,
Kyle Conner, Tamara Folland, Troy Garcia,
Diane Greening (Interpreter), Laura
Lowenstein (Vol. Coord.), Vanessa, Rivera,
Louis Sands

© **Torrey Pines Docent Society**
Since 1975
All rights reserved

Many thanks to Editor Bobbi Krueger and the docents contributing to this newsletter and to Copy Editors Walt Desmond and Ann Williamson. And thanks to Vernie McGowan for mailing and distribution.

Roger Isaacson

Publication Coordinator

From the President

The first order of business: Steve Usher suffered a stroke while on business in Japan. Fortunately, he has received excellent care and has recovered gross motor control and his balance, and can now walk. Steve tolerated needed surgery well and after recovery, Steve, Hitomi and Maya will return home. They expect to return in mid- to late May. Steve is expected to make a full recovery, and we hope he can join us for a meeting in June or July.

On a brighter note, the lighting in the Museum has been replaced and improved. We can now see the displays up on the shelf. If you have not been in the Lodge recently, you should see it. When the cash register is installed, we will actually be able to read the screen without squinting. The lighting has disclosed some issues we now need to address. The better visibility has exposed the need for patching and painting.

Congratulations to Shel Krueger and Frank Burham on the reactivation of the Seabees. This is the name they have chosen for the hardy volunteers who will be going out into the Reserve to make some much needed repairs. Anyone willing to push a wheelbarrow up a hill should come out and join us! Great exercise! Call Sheldon or Frank to get started.

Kudos to Laura Ohman for her great work on the Earth Day celebration on April 18. With limited resources and an extremely short time frame, Laura was able to put together an inspirational event. About 50 volunteers removed 1-1/2 large dumpsters of *carpobrotus* from along Carmel Valley Road and another 30 volunteers cleaned about 100 pounds of trash off the Beach.

On August 22, the Torrey Pines Association and the Docent Society will be holding a 35th birthday party for the Extension. Lots of activities are planned, including dedication of new interpretive signs, Docent led walks, native plant displays and other interpretive opportunities. Keep the date clear on your calendar.

Come up to the Reserve and we can talk.

Rick Vogel

President,
Torrey Pines Docent Society

(Continued from p. 1) Our present development encroachment on the closest terrace or bluff to the ocean is standing in the way of the rising sea level and the erosion that it brings.

Meldahl said rising sea level today is narrowing our beaches as it erodes the bluffs. He also pointed out that river silt and sand eroded from bluffs is carried southerly by the natural ocean drift. At Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve we are aware that the southerly drift carries sand into the La Jolla submarine canyon, where it is forever lost to the land. Currents in the canyon are fierce, preventing attempts to divert sand drift and loss. Lagoons along the coast are further affected by causeway barriers for roads and railway traffic which interfere with the flow of river water and the tidal deposit of sediment in the lagoon and river bed.

You can download Prof. Meldahl's presentation from his web site at miracosta.cc.ca.us/home/kmeldahl/ or just Google his name. □

outstanding managing of refreshments for the new docent-trainees.



Photo by Herb Knufken

She has organized the refreshments with the help of her daughter, Isabel, and received smashing reviews for quality and timeliness! Thank you Lynne!

Treasurer: (Ken King) Bookstore sales were \$5000 for the second highest recorded month. Special walks also provided significant income. A net \$1500 outflow occurred because of unexpected expenses such as hangtags for all docents and the unbudgeted lighting improvements at the Visitor Center. Ken has pursued information on acquiring a cash register for the Visitor Center. The target date for installation remains June of this year and looks good. The goal is to make it easier for docents on Lodge Duty. He is seeking volunteers for training on a new cash register. Contact Ken directly if you are interested.

Ranger: Rick reported that interviews for a Supervising Ranger have been postponed. Disposition will be communicated as soon as it is known. The Interim SR is Mark Allen.

Lodge Duty: (Barbara McCardle) Things have been going fine, although there have been too many recent cancellations without

replacements. Please find a replacement from the Short Notice List or contact Barbara.

Communications: (Ann Williamson) **Lillian Lachicotte** will be the new *Pinecone* editor. Ann requested contributions to either of our newsletters be sent to Editors@torreypine.org.

Library: (Mike Yang) You can use the TPSNR website to locate books in which you are interested.

Bookstore: (Nancy Woodworth) The geology/earth history chart is available for \$2. Nancy thanked Frank Burham for refinishing the kids table and chairs. She thanked **Cecily Goode** for volunteering her husband to pick up water purchases on occasion. She thanked **Nan Criqui** for four years of managing the T-shirt business. Nan is being replaced by our Docent of the Month, **Lynne Truong**.

Trail Patrol: Brian Ketterer has informed us that, until more information is received, if a geocache is detected, the rangers should be informed, but the cache should not be moved.

Whacky Weeders: (Steve Tarkington) Monday sessions will continue at 8:30 a.m. On alternate Saturdays, ice plant will continue to be removed from in front of Roberto's restaurant on Carmel Valley Road.

Seabees: (Sheldon Krueger) There is renewed activity in this group and we request volunteer assistance in repairing and replacing trail guide poles.

Special Walks: Margaret Fillius reported a special walk for English as a Second Language personnel from UCSD Extension.

TPA: Pat Masters announced the 35 year anniversary celebration of the Torrey Pines State Reserve's Extension, scheduled for August 22 at Del Mar Heights Elementary

Docent Chronicles
April '09
Next General Meeting
May 9, 2009 9 a.m.

St Peter's Episcopal Church
Rec Hall
334 14th St
Del Mar, CA

Program: Presentations by Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair awardees.

Torrey Pines Docent Society (TPDS) General Meeting
April 11, 2009

Excerpted from notes from the TPDS General Meeting by Secretary, Bill Eckles. Complete minutes in docent library.

Docent of the Month: (Rick Vogel) **Lynne Truong** is this month's featured docent based on her

School. TPA will help improve signage and emphasize outreach to the reserve neighbors. There will be a scavenger hunt for kids along trails monitored by docents. There will be a photo contest for K-6 children. The celebration will tie in with water issues, expected to amplify by summer time by stressing native plants, habitat and control of invasive plants.

Science Fair: **Bill Key** reported that 750 total projects yielded 22 competitive TPSNR-interested projects. These yielded five projects winning awards for their representatives.

Other news:

Don Grine announced a docent beach walk on May 3 at 10:45 a.m. Participants will meet at the beach steps.

Gary Olson, a ranger whose influence on TPDS is still being felt, will be transferred to the Sacramento area and will be missed here.

Nelson Brav informed us of a replanting program for Cuyamaca Park following the Cedar fire of 2003. Called Sodas to Seedlings, Coca Cola and Stater Brothers are helping to fund replanting. Information can be found at reforestcalifornia.com website.

Restrooms in the west parking lot are now functioning!

President **Rick Vogel** attended Park Advocacy Day and requests a volunteer to monitor advocacy legislation activity. Contact him directly to volunteer. □

Children's Program March 2009

On April 9, fifteen docents from the Children's Program traveled to the Kumeyaay-Ipai Center in Poway where their docents presented the story of the Kumeyaay way of life. (See following article.)

In return the Poway docents visited TPSNR on April 24th and hiked with our docents and children from Silver

Gate Elementary. Thanks go to Steve Rose for coordinating these educational visits.

May is a busy travel month for some docents who normally do children's programs so any extra help will be appreciated. Go to the TPSNR website and sign up on dates highlighted in red. The 2009 trainees are also welcome to come and hike with us. Their comments have been positive.

Friday, June 5, is the wrap-up evaluation of our year and annual potluck. If you served with us, watch for an email later in May.

Cecily Goode

Children's Program Director
Laura Lowenstein
Program Coordinator

TORREY PINES DOCENTS VISIT KIIC AT PAUWAI

By Barbara Justice
Photo by Sharon Clay Rose

Did you know that not far from the busy intersection of Poway and Pomerado Roads there was once a large Kumeyaay settlement of perhaps 200-300 people and perhaps up to six

different villages? Thanks to **Steve Rose**, who arranged the training session on April 9th, a group of fourteen Torrey Pine Docents went to the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center (KIIC) at Pauwai (Poway). Ipai is the language spoken by this particular group of Kumeyaay. The five acre cultural site has been acquired in various parcels since 1987 through the joint efforts of The Friends of the Kumeyaay, the San Pasqual Band of Indians, and the City of Poway.

The center's modular classroom-museum is located on a hillside at the base of large granite boulders. These beautiful boulders helped to discourage early commercial development and were also important to the Kumeyaay settlement. The Kumeyaay lived primarily on the east side of the boulders for shelter from the prevailing winds, plus these boulders gave them the highest vantage point in Pauwai Valley to look out for game and predators...and may have even played a role in their cultural rituals.

Up the hill from the classroom is a

(Continued on p. 5)

KIIC docents Greg Erickson and Sandee Horan (in the yellow shirts) with Torrey Pines and Quail Botanical Gardens docents





Whacky Weeders Make a Difference

by Steve Tarkington
Photos by Eva Armi and Roger Isaacson

The first sighting of the Ehrharta grass at Torrey Pines was in the early 1990s by **Claire Brey**, now an honorary docent. Brey first sighted this unfamiliar grass near the golf course. She was curious enough to send samples to botanists around the country to see what she could learn. She eventually heard from St. Louis. She was congratulated on finding a new invasive grass from South Africa, Ehrharta (veldt grass). We have been trying to get rid of it ever since.

(Continued from p. 4)
larger than life replica of an "ewaa" (Kumeyaay house) and adjacent shade ramadas. On the relatively short trail among the boulders there are native plants, ancient grinding rocks (see photo below), and evidence of an old campfire location.

Also to be appreciated on this trail is the view of the Poway Valley below through which Poway Creek flows. Try to imagine it 1200 yrs ago as the Kumeyaay would have known it. This central location gave them year round access to fresh water and was a base for their travels to the ocean at Torrey Pines via Peñasquitos Canyon and out to the Cuyamaca Mountains for acorns.

During our day at the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center, we were educated and entertained by the KIIC docents who enthusiastically shared their knowledge of this historical site and their techniques for working with third grade school tours. Like the docents at Torrey Pines, the KIIC docents have various interests and passions ranging from weeding to the documentation of the painted rocks found in the nearby area.

The Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center is visited by more than eight hundred school children each year. Docents also lead trail tours every Saturday between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. For more information call: 858-668-1292 or visit the City of Poway website, www.ci.poway.ca.us/kiic/ "Try it, you'll like it!"



The photos on the Guy Fleming Trail show two views of the same spot on the Reserve. One was taken in 1997 by Eva Armi (the other this month) as the Weeders were struggling to control the spread of South African veldt grass (Ehrharta). These photos show how really pervasive it once was. (Not obvious from the 2009 photo is the "carpet" of tiny flowers among the mostly non-invasive grasses.) Eva and other early weeders like Vernie McGowan and Diana Gordon certainly made our present work easier. But Whacky Weeders shudder, moan and groan when we come across a bunch of Ehrharta where we previously thought it under complete control. Consistently weeding the many invasives has made a striking difference.

Our enjoyment of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve is immeasurably

enhanced by the efforts of all docents. Please take a minute to thank these regular weeders and even ask them to take a walk and show you what invasives we are trying so hard to eliminate for the good of the Reserve. This is the list of the Monday 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. regulars: **Diane Russell, Wes Farmer, Barbara Wallach, Bea Stoyla, Joellen Barnett, Stu Smith, Elaine Slack, Nan Danninger, Marian Casazza, Jim Patterson and Roger Isaacson. Ann Smith Mercandetti and Dave Economou** pull weeds on their own schedules. Thanks to the other docents who help on holidays and special events like Earth Day. Any of you, come join us when you can.

Lodge Duty Request for Month of May: Please look at the Calendar (p. 10) and sign up for an empty spot if you're able to help, especially as a 2nd person on weekends. Thanks!
Irene Larrimore and Barbara McCardle

Five Docent Awards Presented to Science Fair Projects

The docent science fair judges selected five student's projects to be recognized for awards and they each will also receive a parking pass. Winners will present their projects to the docents as the meeting

programming permits. Write-ups by the winners, about their research, will appear in the *Torreyana* and *Pinecone* as space and timing permit. We present four here:

***Rhus integrifolia*: Investigating Antibacterial Properties of Leaves, Berries and Bark**

By Rebecca Tsai
Photo by Mike Yang

I am interested in microbiology. I heard myths about a local plant that is a member of the native coastal sage scrub community. The purpose of this project was to see if Lemonade Sumac leaf, berry or bark contained phytochemicals which might possess antibacterial properties.



In this experiment, I tested Lemonade Sumac leaf, berry, and bark water soluble extracts. I prepared culture plates composed respectively of leaf, bark and berry extract mixed with equal volumes of contaminated creek water, as collected and diluted to 10% concentration, combined with Coliscan Easy gel media. I plated positive controls and negative controls to show the creek was contaminated and the media and dilution water were sterile. I verified the pH level of each extract. I obtained creek samples and repeated my experiment twice more for the bark and berry extracts only, since these extracts showed greater antibacterial effects. All samples were incubated and observed after forty-eight hours. There were a total of 54 tests in three different trials. Berry and bark extract demonstrated definite antibacterial effects while leaf extract showed a less pronounced

effect. My last two trials included bark and berry extracts only. The number of non-coliform colonies were remarkably low in the bark and berry extract plates. The total Coliform and E. coli numbers were significantly reduced compared to the control plate numbers. The ability of the berry extract to reduce the number of bacterial colonies may in part have been due to its low pH level, pH 2.7, but the bark extract had a pH of 4.0. The bark extract may have been able to decrease bacteria numbers due to its high concentration of soluble tannins. Bark extract eliminated most E. coli colonies and nearly all the non-Coliform colonies. The types of non-Coliform colonies eliminated were not identified, but these colonies may have included pathogens.

Thanks to my mother and father who kindly drove me to locations numerous times to obtain plant samples, water samples and perform tests. Thanks also to my science teacher for guidance and support.

Testing Coastal Pines Efficiency to Condense Water from the Air

By Brock Oury
Photo by Jack Paxton

I tested the efficiency by which the native Torrey pine is able to condense water from coastal fog in comparison to three other non-native pine trees.



I became interested in this project after studying pine trees in my sixth grade project.

The four species I tested this year were the Aleppo pine, the Canary Island pine, the Torrey pine and the Japanese Black pine. My hypothesis was that the Torrey pine is able to condense water from coastal fog with such efficiency that it is able to supplement the minimal San Diego coastline annual rainfall in order to naturally survive in this typically arid climate.

I constructed a fog chamber using two humidifiers. I monitored the humidity using a hygrometer. Of the four species I tested, the Torrey pine was the most efficient species at condensing the humid air and was significantly more effective at collecting water than the next most efficient species, the Canary Island pine. I measured the water precisely and graphed three sets of data that recorded how much condensation was produced, the hourly rate at which the water condensed, and the percent of efficiency to condense the fog. I concluded that the Torrey Pine tree has unique adaptations that successfully turn the fog of the San Diego coast into condensed water, creating "rain" for its own root system.

Based upon this experiment, I would like to test whether the efficiency of condensing water is due to needle length, number of needles in each bundle, or whether there are microscopic features of the needles that are responsible for the efficiency of condensation.

Investigating Bird Populations in a Recently Restored Lagoon

By Annmarie Delfino
Photo by Jack Paxton

The San Dieguito Lagoon is a newly restored wetland with recently created homes for waterfowl. I wanted to see which bird populations would come to these restored wetlands.

I hypothesized that Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers would take advantage of new nest sites. I also hypothesized that there would be many ducks on the lagoon because it is a part of the migratory route called the Pacific Flyway.

I visited the lagoon whenever possible and brought along the necessities of an avid birder. These



included field guides, binoculars, a camera, and a journal to record data. I also used an anemometer to measure wind speed, a thermometer to record temperature, and a hygrometer to measure humidity.

I observed and documented 310 birds and sixteen different bird species at the lagoon. Since I did my testing during the winter, and Least Terns are migratory birds, none were sighted. Because of this, I thought that Western Snowy Plovers would take advantage of the nest sites while the terns were away. However, the plovers had not discovered the new nest sites and were not present at the lagoon.

I found that the lagoon seems to be serving its purpose since the restoration project began. Many birds are returning even though no Plovers or California Least Terns were sighted. I plan to come back during their season to see if they return or not.

I hope that by recording the species making use of the wetland, we can better provide for these birds in the

future. As the breeding season approaches, I may be given special permission to observe endangered bird nests and fledglings and collect more data.

This project for me was educational, yet enjoyable and a pleasure to undertake.

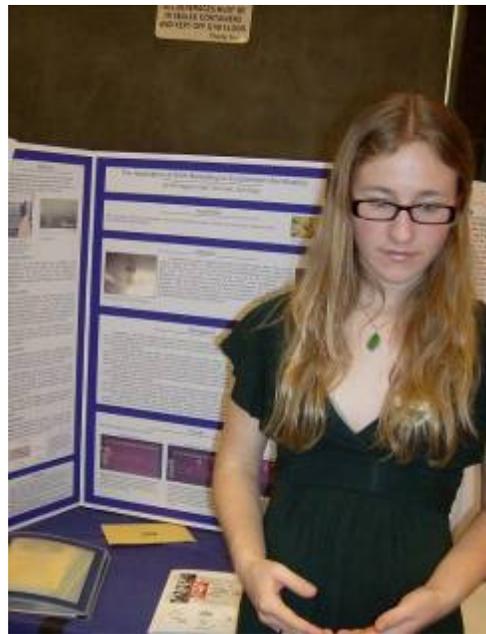
Thanks to the many who helped me with my project including San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy resource specialist Leslie Wollenweber and ornithologist Steve Schroeter.

The Application of DNA Barcoding to Plankton Identification

By Kit Haggard

Photo by Jack Paxton

The objective of this study was to find an alternative method for the identification of San Diego Bay zooplankton.



Currently, the most typical and effective way of discerning differences in the species is manual observation, requiring a good sample and a well trained-eye able to differentiate the subtle differences in morphology. DNA barcoding, first

developed by the researchers at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, is a method of species identification that uses DNA samples and focuses the attention on a select segment of DNA to identify a species. If DNA barcoding could be used to identify different species of zooplankton in a given body of water, it would not only be a more efficient method, but also more accurate.

Plankton from the San Diego Bay was isolated and, using a modified mouse tail procedure, DNA was extracted. The DNA samples were amplified using a process called polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and separated on an electrophoresis gel, where many samples showed a presence of distinct DNA. The amplified DNA was sequenced, and while only a small percentage of the samples were positive for the suspected species, this renders the experiment a success. It is in fact possible to use DNA barcoding methods to effectively and efficiently identify the plankton species.

The environmental ramifications of plankton DNA barcoding, while seemingly narrow in application, are, in effect, broad. Zooplankton have long been used to assess the health of a body of water. With more efficient, more effective ways of distinguishing between species, lakes, rivers, bays and oceans can be tested far more often. Acting as the canary in the coal mine, zooplankton can be used as indicators of pollution, pH levels and invasive species. With this method of zooplankton identification, researchers will be able to identify zooplankton faster and more successfully.

I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Jay Vavra, for his support.

[Ed note-You can find out more about the GSDSEF organization here:

www.gsdsef.org/home.asp]



Historrey A-Z

By Judy Schulman

On to the letter **B**! Ever wondered how **Black's Beach** got its name? Was it after a person, a group of people who used to frequent the area, or the color of the sand? If you guessed the first one, you are correct! It was named after William F. Black, a former Texas oil millionaire and real estate developer, who served on the board of a number of local banks. He died in 1967 while playing golf at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club.

Shortly after WWII, Black bought 200+ acres of an area called the "Biological Cliffs Hunting Reserve" from the Scripps family. He changed the name to La Jolla Farms and began to develop the area. In 1948-49, he built barn stables, training track, and a polo field where he trained race horses and polo ponies. Referred to as Black Gold stables, it had riding trails that led down to the beach. Thus the beach began to be called Black's.

He subdivided the remaining property into one and two acre parcels for luxurious homes. One of those was the adobe-style home he built in 1950. The property was sold in 1967 for the UCSD chancellor's residence.

At two miles in length, Black's Beach is one of the largest nude beaches in the U.S. Parts are state park property, city beach and UCSD property. It is one of the most popular U.S. nude

beaches and may also be one of the oldest (references to being a nude beach go back to 1939).

It was officially declared a swimsuit optional zone in 1974 by the City of San Diego, and rescinded in 1977. Nudity is illegal on the city beach portion, but tolerated on the state beach due to the 1979 Cahill Decision. Cahill was a former California State Park director who ruled that any area traditionally used for clothing optional activities could continue to do so unless there was a complaint.

Black's Beach is known to surfers as one of the most powerful beach breaks in Southern California. Hence UCSD is ranked as the top surfing campus in the U.S. Because of the powerful beach breaks, it was the site of a 2-1/2 month study for rip current research in fall 2003.

On a glamorous note, advertisements and magazine photos have been filmed there. In the 1960s, a Camel cigarette ad was shot. Famed photographer Annie Leibowitz did a *Vogue* magazine photo shoot of Olympic athletes on the beach for the April 2008 issue.

St. Peter's Church: New site for docent meetings

By Barbara McCardle

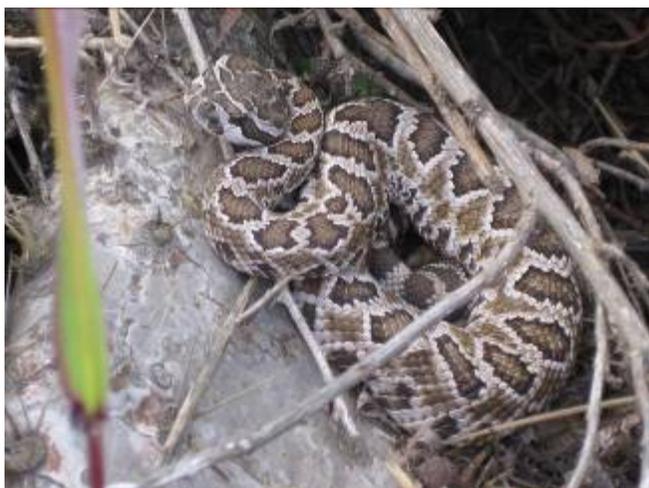
When we needed to find a new monthly meeting place a committee

was formed. After checking many locations in North County the Parish Hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in village of Del Mar was selected. The church has a commitment to share their unique meeting space with the community and it is currently used monthly by numerous service groups.

In the late 1800's St. Peter's services were held in private homes. In 1923 services moved to an open-air amphitheatre and collections began for a church building. Ground was broken on the current site in 1940 when the land was donated by the South Coast Land Company. The clear redwood for the church was a donation from Herschel Larrick, a parishioner and owner of Solana Lumber Company. The church, designed by architect Carlton M. Winslow, resembles churches in New England and is "Carpenter Gothic." Donations for construction came from local citizens as well as church members. The first services in the present structure were held Christmas Day, 1940 with an attendance of some 65 people.

In the 1950's the church property expanded to its current size, adding land donated by the Jocoy family. In 1965 the church structure was enlarged into a cruciform design able to seat 250. The Parish Hall, our current meeting room, was dedicated in 1966. By 1995 St. Peter's was building again and a "north campus" was created to house offices, a library, a nursery and a youth room.

Many of us met Paul Walt, the church's sexton, at our March meeting. He "runs the house" at St. Peter's and is familiar with the many ways the campus is used during a typical week. The church's single wall, redwood construction gives Paul a special job on Mondays following St. Peter's four weekend services. The redwood walls have a few large cracks and Sexton Walt searches out the small prayers, concerns and wishes tucked into the cracks by parishioners. □



While weeding on the Yucca Point trail on April 13th the Whacky Weeders encountered this very small Southern Pacific rattlesnake that was sitting on a dead Prickly Pear pad (only half visible in the picture). While the weeding was being done nearby, he /she remained there for at least 1-2 hours. The wide, green-red grass blade on the left is the invasive, *Ehrharta*, discussed on p 5.
Photo by Barbara Wallach

A Greater Roadrunner has been making itself at home near the visitor center in recent weeks. It runs around with its daily breakfast lizard in its beak before taking it up to a branch of a Torrey pine.
Photo taken March 27
by Tony Summers

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: April 11, 2009

Number of species: 83

Canada Goose 1
 Gadwall 7
 American Wigeon 3
 Mallard 17
 Blue-winged Teal 7
 Cinnamon Teal 6
 Northern Shoveler 11
 Green-winged Teal 17
 Lesser Scaup 2
 Bufflehead 9
 Ruddy Duck 25
 California Quail 28
 Pacific Loon 29
 Common Loon 2
 Pied-billed Grebe 10
 Eared Grebe 1
 Western Grebe 69
 Brown Pelican 18
 Brandt's Cormorant 2
 Double-crested Cormorant 10
 Great Blue Heron 2
 Great Egret 7

Snowy Egret 12
 Black-crowned Night-Heron 1
 White-faced Ibis 87
 Northern Harrier 1
 Cooper's Hawk 2
 Accipiter sp. 1
 Red-tailed Hawk 8
 Peregrine Falcon 1
 American Coot 58
 Snowy Plover 5
 Semipalmated Plover 26
 Killdeer 2
 Willet 13
 Sanderling 54
 Heermann's Gull 1
 Western Gull 22
 California Gull 8
 Caspian Tern 30
 Royal Tern 4
 Mourning Dove 8
 Greater Roadrunner 1
 White-throated Swift 8
 Anna's Hummingbird 32

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 6
 Belted Kingfisher 1
 Nuttall's Woodpecker 1
 Black Phoebe 9
 Cassin's Kingbird 1
 American Crow 16
 Common Raven 11
 Tree Swallow 6
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow 42
 Cliff Swallow 19
 Barn Swallow 3
 Bushtit 33
 Bewick's Wren 2
 House Wren 7
 Marsh Wren 3
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
 California Gnatcatcher 6
 Hermit Thrush 1
 Wrentit 22
 Northern Mockingbird 1
 California Thrasher 1
 European Starling 3

Orange-crowned Warbler 3
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 12
 Common Yellowthroat 13
 Spotted Towhee 9
 California Towhee 32
 Savannah Sparrow 3
 Savannah Sparrow (Belding's) 8
 Song Sparrow 22
 White-crowned Sparrow 17
 Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
 Red-winged Blackbird 40
 Brewer's Blackbird 5
 Brown-headed Cowbird 1
 House Finch 40
 Lesser Goldfinch 25
 House Sparrow 1

Observers: Blair Francis, Herb Knufken, Will Cox, Jack Friery, Gary Grantham, Kathy Dickey, Don Grine, and Anonymous.

Previous months are posted on the TPSNR website at www.torreypine.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) 755-2063/755-8219
www.torreypine.org

May 2009 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- Updated 4/26/09

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Walks W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00)			Lodge Duty Hours L- 9-12 L- 12-3 L- 3-6	L- Burke L- B Krueger L- Lombardi	L-McGee/ W-Sanseverino L- W- Kamen L-
L-Ketner W-Rowbottom L- W- Dickey L-	L- B Arnold L- Parsick L- Heinemann	L- Marshall L- B Krueger L- Killermann	L- Sogo L- Bogan L-	L- Tarkington L- Stiels L-Larrimore	L-Blantz L- Bogan L- B&F Eckles	L- / W- L- Bogan / W- L-
L- Tarkington W- Geist L- W- L-	L- Sogo L-F Doolittle L- Heinemann	L- Blantz L- Donnelly L- Killermann	L-Neumeister L- L- Heinemann	L-Lettiere L- Oppenheimer L-	L- Lettiere L- Lundstrom L-	L- Bedinger / W- Sanseverino L- W-Stiegler L-
L-Ketner W-Rowbottom L- W- Brav L-	L- Arnold L- F Doolittle L-	L-A Marshall L- Ivany L-	L- Fiorentino L- L-	L- M. Lewis L- Killermann L- Larrimore	L- Burke L- L- B&F Eckles	L- McGee/ W- L- Sabella W- Geist L-
L- W-Grantham L- W-Steve Rose L-	L- Parsick L- Sabella L-	L- Marshall L- L- S&S Rose	L- Fiorentino L- L- Heinemann	L- Tarkington L- L-	L- Bogan L- Dickey L-	L- Schulman/ W- L- Schulman W- L-
L- W- L- Geist 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 & Barbara McCardle					