



Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the
Torrey Pines Docent Society

June 2010

Science Fair Presentations

by Sally Whitlock

Our program for the May meeting featured informative and entertaining presentations given by our four Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair awardees:

Maia Moran - *The San Diego River and the Factors Affecting Its Water Quality*

Kylie Tumalak - *Ocean Waves, Size Them Up, Do They Change Sand Buildup?*

Avery Van Houten - *Preserving Coastal Marsh Habitat for the Belding's Savannah Sparrow*

Brock Oury - *Coastal Pines: Ability of Needles to Condense Moisture-Year II*

Each student received a check and an achievement award from TPDS, plus an opportunity to present his/her project at our May meeting and publish an article in our newsletters. Kylie's and Maia's articles were featured in the May *Torreyana*; Avery's and Brock's articles are in this month's *Pinecone*.

Pat Masters presented each student with a one year parking pass to the Reserve, compliments of TPA. Walt Desmond started with a brief history of the Docent Society's involvement in the Science Fair and gave recognition to TPDS member, Theo Tanalski, for his dedication and contribution in developing judging and mentoring techniques. Walt

stated that the Docent Society is one of very few organizations that offers outreach activities for each of the awardees. The students' parents felt that the mentoring provided by our judges, that continued after the day of the Fair, was of great value.

We are very excited to learn that Maia, Avery and Brock qualified to compete in the California State Science Fair. Brock placed 1st in Plant Science and Avery placed 3rd in Zoology. Congratulations for outstanding achievement by these very bright 7th and 8th graders! Again, a huge "thank you" to our judge/mentors for a job well done: **Joan Adamo, Lou Adamo, Bill Key, Walt Desmond, Lillian Lachicotte, Wes Farmer, Sheldon Krueger, Rick Vogel, Paula Shaw, Sally Whitlock, Frank Burham**. Also, thank you to **Rick Vogel** for presenting the awards, **Gill Williamson** for moderating the meeting, **Roger Isaacson** for technical support and **Sharon Thompson** for designing the award certificate. Most of all, THANK YOU to TPDS for supporting our youth as they step forward into their future. □

DQOM (Docent Question of the Month) June 2010
Torrey Pine Needle Groove
Courtesy of Jim Larrimore

Question: *Are Torrey Pine needles 'grooved'?*

Answer: See page 4

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Docent General Meeting Saturday, June 12th, 9 a.m.

Location: **St Peter's Episcopal
Rec Hall, Del Mar**

Speaker: **Ione Stiegler, Architect**
Program: *How to build and how
not to build with adobe: A case
study of the Torrey
Pines Lodge*

The presentation will briefly introduce the history and materials of adobe construction. Adobe construction styles evolved from the Mexican era period into the American era period. Adobe construction never completely disappeared and continued to be used on a modest scale through to today. Architects Richard S. Requa and Herbert Lewis Jackson developed modern methods of using an ancient building material, adobe blocks. The discussion will review how unique the lodge building materials and the associated restoration challenges are.

March Docent Meeting Notes

Excerpted from notes from the TPDS General Meeting, May 8, 2010 by Secretary, Bill Eckles. Complete minutes in docent library.

President Rick Vogel called the business meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following refreshments. The general meeting had begun with four presentations by winners from the Science Fair. Rick presented them awards, Pat Masters presented parking passes and **Sally Whitlock** closed the presentation with thank-yous all around.

Walt Desmond provided glowing comments about the quality of Science Fair entrants and, especially, the winners.

The Docent of the Month is **Suzan Potuznik** recognizing her excellent work as the Art in the Pines Artist Relations Coordinator.



Photo by Herb Knufken

Signature gathering for the Park Access Pass exceeded expectations. "Yes on Parks" postcards contain substantial information and can be used to answer questions from our interested acquaintances.

The San Diego Women's Foundation's final list will be released in about two weeks.

For the time being, docents are authorized to provide parking envelopes to requesting visitors at the

Lodge and hold their money for Ranger retrieval. Envelopes will be held in the desk in the Ranger office.

Treasurer Report: (Ken King) Museum Shop sales of \$6,500 were another record month; donations to the society were down for the month. Art in the Pines also contributed substantial revenue, though final accounting has not yet been conducted.

Rick Vogel reported for the Rangers that Lisa Urbach, wife of Martin, will be a new ranger and will serve as our Cooperating Association Liaison effective June 1, 2010. The supervising ranger position is again being posted.

Torrey Pines Association: (Pat Masters)

Pat has again been elected as president of this organization. She announced that TPA would purchase a PA system for the Children's Program. They will also print 33,000 trail maps for use by Reserve visitors. TPA will fund repairs to the Parry Grove Trail steps and also the Guy Fleming Trail.

Connie Beardsley requested that the TPA support *Art in the Pines*. This year's event enhanced the presence of the TPNR and supported the Children's Program. The TPA will donate all revenues to the Children's Program and pay costs associated with the event. Pat thanked **Connie Beardsley, Suzan Potuznik, Steve Rose, Irene Larrimore, Diane Greening, Sharon Thompson, Barbara McCabe, Nancy Woodworth, Nan Danninger, Joan Adamo** and **Laura Lowenstein** for their leadership roles in *Art in the Pines* this year.

Communications: (Lou Adamo) **Carol Smith** has taken over for **Walt Desmond** to send out email broadcasts to the membership. **Roger Isaacson** has trained **Laura Lowenstein** and **Diane Greening** to edit the website information.

Training: (Sherry Doolittle)

Only the final project remains for this dynamic group of trainees. Special thanks to **Jeannie Smith** for her extra efforts in filling in for an absent Sherry.

Trail Patrol: (Mike Pisor)

Thank you to **Christie Anderson** and **Richard Chance** for their CD. Trail Patrol buttons are in to be picked up by recent trainees. Mike gave Jeff special thanks for support of the Trail Patrol over the years.

Steve Tarkington for the Whacky Weeders and **Walt Desmond** for Membership sang the praises of their groups and admonished the docent body to *enter their hours* promptly.

Rick adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Children's Program

We are at the end of the school year, which gives us all summer to reflect on two pieces of good news for the Docent Society in general and the Children's Program in particular.

First, the San Diego Women's Foundation has awarded a grant of \$33,900 to the Torrey Pines Docent Society for the primary purpose of funding the salaries of **Laura Lowenstein** and **Diane Greening** in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Laura and Diane are crucial to the success of the Children's Program. While docents put in many volunteer hours, we rely on Laura and Diane for the day-to-day organization, scheduling, communication with schools, and a myriad of details. Without the grant, their positions, our program, and a valuable service to the community would all have been jeopardized.

The grant was secured largely through the efforts of Pat Masters, who is now president of TPA, and **Diane Greening**. The two of them prepared and filed the grant application. While considering the

application, the San Diego Women's Foundation visited the Reserve and observed **Ann Williamson's** presentation to a school group on the topic of plants, habitats, and the reserve. The Foundation's representatives spent considerable time questioning people involved with the grant application and the Children's Program. There were a number of organizations competing for the grants, and the award to the Society gives us reason to be both proud and grateful. **Rick Vogel, Pat Masters, and Diane Greening** will attend the formal presentation of the award and express the deep appreciation of the Docent Society and TPA.

The second piece of good news was more of a surprise. Children from La Vorgna Elementary School (Temecula Valley District) made a generous contribution of over \$170 to the Children's Program following their field trip to the Reserve. The funds will help with grants to pay for bus transportation so that schools that lack resources to pay for buses can participate in the children's program.

The contribution by the La Vorgna students reflects the high reputation of the Children's Program and its importance to the schools. To receive a gift that comes from children's own contributions is especially gratifying. The Society can take pride in its ongoing support of the program, and the children from La Vorgna should take particular pride in themselves for their sense of generosity.

What better feedback could we ask for? Thank you, San Diego Women's Foundation and La Vorgna students.

Tony Summers

Children's Program Director

Children's Notes to Docents

Here are some of the cute cards sent to us by the students this year.



Typical letters inside:

I was very fascinated by the stuff you showed us. I was surprised of how big the seed on the cucumber vine was. When we saw the road runner it was so cool. Thank You for showing us around TPSNR and the plants.

Thank you for tiching me and showing me.

Thank you for teaching us about nature.

I had a lot of fun yesterday and I learned that the Torrey Pine tree is really important and only grows there. I told other people the story about the rat's nest.

Thank you for teaching us all the cool things like the pack rats and what they do and when they come out.

...It's never boring working with children!

Kathy Dickey

Tip of the month for the POS

Over the last few weeks, I've noticed a recurring error in using the POS system. You've entered the item(s) that the visitor wants to buy and announce the amount that's to be paid. The visitor hands you a card and you swipe it. The credit card number goes into the system, but WAIT. The system was looking for the amount tendered! Uh oh, the system now shows hundreds of thousands of dollars tendered! Time to back out of the system and start over. The easiest way to do that is to close the window by clicking on the x at the top right of the screen. Re-open the "sales" screen and give it another try.

A. If the customer is a docent or TPA member go through the "customer" procedure that you already know.

B. Scan or enter the item(s) to be purchased in the usual way.

C. Enter the payment amount.

D. Since it's a credit card transaction, click on the "exact change" button on the screen.

E. Click on the appropriate type of card, Visa, Master Card, or Discover.

F. NOW, once it prompts you to swipe the card, you can swipe!

G. Print out the receipts. Have the customer sign one and keep one. Put the signed copy in the POS cash drawer.

Not so tough, is it? So the message summary is: Don't swipe the card until the POS system tells you to!

Thanks for doing lodge duty!

Ken King

A short message from the President: Day Use Permits

As you all know by now, there has been considerable confusion about what to do about visitors who come

Please, don't forget to sign up for desk duty. IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL, PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE OR INFORM Barbara McCardle or Irene Larrimore. See p 10 for Duty Calendar.

to the docent desk asking to pay for parking. We have received approval from District management for a parking procedure that should serve both our visitors and the Docent Society well. We now have a supply of the “iron ranger” envelopes available in the Docent desk. If a visitor makes it to the Lodge without paying for parking, the desk duty docent can hand him or her one of the envelopes. The visitor can fill out the envelope, put the day use fee inside, seal the envelope and give it back to the docent. The visitors will then have a day use permit to place on their dashboards, and the docent will deposit the sealed envelopes in the right hand desk drawer of the Staff desk in the front staff office. This way, docents don't have to handle the money directly and the visitor doesn't have to go back down the hill. The staff will collect the full envelopes and account for them. Thanks to all.

Rick Vogel

Refreshments

by *Chuck Anders*

What a pleasure it has been over the years to organize our general meeting break-time refreshments.

All calorie contributors, many eager assistants (you know who you are, THANK YOU) helping with set up and break down, additional event organizer's cooperation and Lodge employees have made break time so successful.

Without all the cooperation, assistance, suggestions and encouragement from the membership it would not have been possible. Our General Meetings are truly a great expectation and joy for me.

Let me start with encouragement. Two months ago a docent made a comment how pleased she was that she did not have to prepare lunch because of the great variety of food provided during break time. Wow. It would be wonderful to have that much variety of food at every meeting.

The second topic is suggestions. A Lodge employee suggested that we encourage docents to prepare their favorite dish for consumption at the meetings. Great idea... homemade salads, breads, casseroles, chilies etc. have all been a big hit. This will provide a little fun internal completion as well; way cool.

So with Board Approval I propose for the July 2010 General Meeting that Docents with last names beginning with A-D bring a real food dish to share, homemade or not. The others bringing real food items to share every month feel free to continue.

Others can provide the donuts, candies, fruits etc as usual. Sadly the sign up sheet for this type of refreshment has not been very successful. If you want to sign up I will email you a reminder.

If you have not been a supplier recently you could place a couple of bucks in the can.

Suggestions are welcome.

DQOM June 2010- **Torrey Pine Needle Groove** *Courtesy of Jim Larrimore*

Question: *Are Torrey Pine needles 'grooved'?*

Answer: *“[Torrey Pine] needles are about 8 to 10 inches long, and are grooved,”* says the green handout *“The Torrey Pine (Pinus torreyana).”* That's the same information in my 2004 Docent Training material. And my answer to Question 2 of Joan Nimick's Training Program Quiz on Flowers of Torrey Pines, April 3, 2004, *“Why is the Torrey pine able to grow naturally here at Torrey Pines State Reserve?”* was *“Because of the frequent and persistent fog, which both screens out the sun and condenses on the needles. The condensed water runs down the grooves in the needles and falls to the 'drip line' of the tree.”* Is that answer fully correct?

At the Docent Society monthly meeting on May 8, 2010, Brock Oury presented his award-winning San Diego Science Fair project (see p. 5) about fog condensing on pine needles, comparing the rates or amounts of condensation on four pines, one of which was our Torrey pine. Brock had refined and extended his initial study of this topic in 2009, which also won one of our Science Fair awards. For 2010 he had photographed pine needles at 60x magnification, and measured the angle between the bottom two sides of needles. Here's what he found.

A bundle of pine needles starts at its top as a solid cylinder that divides into symmetric parts, normally 5 needles for the Torrey pine, but Brock also found 4-needle and 3-needle bunches. Therefore, a pine needle has a rounded outside and two flatter under sides, meeting at a particular angle. The bottom angles he measured were 72 degrees for 5-needle, 90 degrees for 4-needle and 120 degrees for 3-needle bunches. Of course! The sum of the angles for each bunch of needles has to add up to 360 degrees.

The magnified photos were stunning - they show many parallel ridges - they show many parallel ridges, made up of tiny outgrowths - let's call them 'bumps' - running along the length of the needle, with equally tiny channels in between the ridges. These ridges are more pronounced on the outer side of the needle, but they are also there on the two under sides of the needle. Look at a needle with a normal magnifying glass and you will just see tiny lines running along the length.

But where is the “groove”? There is no single groove on a live needle, as the geometrical description above makes clear. But if you look at a dry fallen needle, you will find a groove running down the underside. That groove would seem to develop as the needle shrivels around the two vascular bundles running through the diploxylon Torrey pine needle.

Brock found that Torrey pine needles are somewhat better than the other pine needles he tested in condensing fog and postulated this is due to the larger surface area associated with their larger - but still tiny - bumps. So, it is correct to say that the Torrey pine needles are especially good at raking water out of the marine-layer fog, as I like to tell visitors. But, the story about water running down a groove in the needles needs to be changed. There is no single groove. The tiny parallel channels between the ridge lines may guide the water in channeling down the upper side of the needles. In any case the water does drip off the ends of the needles into the 'drip line,' helping it to go into the ground and be available to nourish the tree.

HisTorrey A through Z: the letter N (the Nolen Plan)

by Judy Schulman

If John Nolen would have had his way, San Diego would now be a city of natural parks interconnected by parkways and boulevards. The Torrey pines area would have been one of those featured parks.

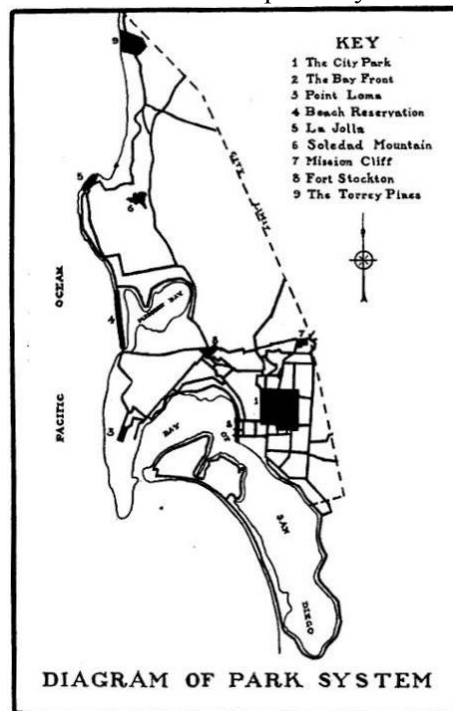
John Nolen (1869-1937) was a nationally noted city planner/landscape architect. He was considered an innovative urban planner. He felt that San Diego's greatest assets were its location and variety of natural beauty.

His professional philosophy included community planning, building codes, zoning and affordable housing. He felt that city planning should be for the long term. It should take into account what is best for all people, not just for one class or special interest group.

Hired by city father George Marston, in 1908 he published *San Diego: A Comprehensive Plan for its Improvement*. His plan had 5 main elements.

These were a public plaza and civic center, a great bay front, small open spaces, streets and boulevards, and a system of parks. He stated that in a city like San Diego, stretching for more than 20 miles up and down the coast, with an almost infinite variety of scenery, no single park is sufficient. A system of parks is unquestionably demanded. This system of parks would be connected by boulevards and parkways. He selected the following natural areas as most important: City Park (Balboa Park), Bay Front (Embarcadero), Point Loma, Beach Reservation (Pacific Beach area), La Jolla, Soledad Mountain, Mission Cliffs (Mission Valley area), Fort Stockton (Old Town area) and the Torrey pines area.

He stated that "the final feature, the Torrey pines, would form a unique addition to the park system, one that the city could not on any account afford to omit. It is probably the



rarest tree our earth has ever produced, and by restoring the growth near Del Mar, a park reservation of singular input would be secured. Connect this system of parks by the boulevards and parkways already planned, develop it naturally,

simply, harmoniously and then confidently invite comparison with any park system in the world. It would give to the citizen's health, joy and more abundant life, and to the city itself, wealth and enduring fame."

Science Fair Projects

Abstract from Brock Oury

Project title: *Coastal Pines: Ability of Needles to Condense Moisture, Year II*

School: Rhoades, Grade: 8

I tested the efficiency with which the native Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*) is able to condense water from coastal fog in comparison to three other non-native pine species. The four species tested were the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), the Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*), the Torrey pine and the Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*). My hypothesis was that the Torrey pine is able to condense water from coastal fog with such effectiveness that it is able to supplement San Diego's coastal annual rainfall in order to survive in this typically arid climate. I also hypothesized that the surface area of the Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*) needle is greater than that of the other three pine species, which allows the Torrey pine to be more efficient at collecting and condensing water from the air. This surface area advantage was studied to determine any advantages in the microscopic structure of the Torrey pine needle.

I constructed a fog chamber using two humidifiers. I monitored the humidity using a hygrometer. Last year I compared the same number of bundles of needles in my tests. This year, to compare the four pine species, I instead compared the same weights of needle samples in each of the five trials.

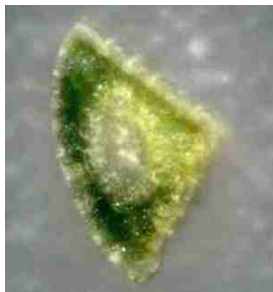
From the results of the twenty tests, the Torrey pine was the most effective species at condensing the humid air and was significantly more effective at collecting water than the

next most effective species, the Aleppo pine. I measured the water precisely and graphed five trials of data that compared the four species. I 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 seems to have unique adaptations which successfully help turn the fog of the San Diego coast into condensed water, creating “rain” for its own root system.

I then examined the needles of the four species under a 60x microscope to look for differences in the surface of the needle structure. The Torrey pine needles appeared to have a greater density of microscopic projections along its needles than the other three needle types.



I also examined cross sections of each of the needles to find out the shape of the needles to see if that would have any influence on the surface area of the needles. I found that Torrey pine needles come in bundles of three, four or five.



Based upon the findings, I would recommend further study of the microscopic features of the Torrey pine’s needles to discover how this might be related to the efficiency of condensation. □

Abstract from Avery Van Houten

Project Title: *Preserving Coastal Marsh Habitat for the Belding's Savannah Sparrow*

School: Rhoades, Grade: 7

The Belding’s Savannah Sparrow is an endemic and endangered species that lives year round in the salt marshes of Southern California. This bird is sedentary and requires long, continuous stretches of Pickleweed, Salt Grass and Shoregrass habitat for its survival. The goal of my project was to test which watering maintenance schedule, biweekly watering or weekly watering, would best promote the growth of Salt Grass and Shoregrass at the San Elijo Lagoon. Another goal was to document the Belding’s Savannah Sparrow’s presence and to also record other bird species observed at the lagoon.

In October, I planted 90 Salt Grass and Shoregrass plants in a two to one ratio in three plots at the southwestern end of the San Elijo Lagoon. One plot was to be watered weekly, one was to be watered biweekly, and the third plot was the control. I recorded over 500 measurements. Plant heights, air temperature, windspeed, relative humidity, soil temperature, soil pH, soil moisture and the tide levels were noted each time I visited my plots. I watered weekly for the first six weeks due to drought conditions. I observed the Belding’s Savannah Sparrows’ activities and recorded the many birds I observed each time I visited the lagoon.

The first few weeks the Shoregrass and Salt Grass were watered, animals uprooted the plants, and I had to replant. I installed rabbit wire. Then rainfall finally came to San Diego. Invasive weeds took over the plots,

crowding out my native plants. After a few weeks, I decided to weed since it looked like the native plants might not otherwise survive. The Belding’s Savannah Sparrows were always present in the Pickleweed, Salt grass and Shoregrass that grew in my plots. I documented more than 30 bird species, including the Green-Winged Teal, the Northern Pintail, the Northern Shoveler, the Peregrine Falcon, the Black-bellied Plover, and many more.

Due to intermittent rainfall, I was unable to discover which watering schedule, biweekly, weekly, or no additional water, would best support replanting efforts for Salt Grass and Shoregrass. However, I did discover that replanting efforts would likely need providing protection from animals, such as installing chicken wire. The invasive weeds were so numerous and aggressive in my plots that I had to remove them to keep the native plants alive. I would suggest weeding be required. The Belding’s Savannah Sparrow (below) and many other bird species appear to be thriving at the San Elijo Lagoon.



Photo taken in parking lot at last minute.

I plan to continue monitoring my three plots and documenting the birds at the lagoon. □

From the Torrey Pines Historical Files:

The Struggle or the story of the Guy Fleming house, 1975 to 1981, Part 2 of 3

by Maryruth Cox

In 1975 the Guy Fleming house was nearly 50 years old and badly needed repairs. The state park, short of money, wanted to tear it down to save on maintenance costs. But others, led by the TPA, prized the house for its part in Torrey Pines history. They also felt that a live-in ranger was needed to protect the park. The unresolved controversy stalled for two years till Tom Whitaker sent a letter of concern to the state park officials in the fall of 1978. This spurred Jack Welch, DPR manager, to send a private memo to Ron McCullough, the superintendent of District 6: "I do not think our plan to remove all structures and relocate the public facilities to south entrance is very well known. We have not publicized it in the interest of avoiding conflict. The association feels very strongly that the Lodge and residence have valid historical values."

Pressures built in the media. James Britton II (architectural critic) wrote a 'sensitive, caring article' about the Lodge and the residence in the San Diego Union-Tribune, stressing the role the residence had played in the history of Torrey Pines. When Welch's memo leaked to the press, the TPA decided to appeal to higher authorities, namely State Senator James Mills and Assemblyman Bob Frazee. They pointed out that local residents across the lagoon had often noticed accidents on the highway or small fires in the park and had been able to telephone for help to the resident ranger, Kent Hartwell. Carol Hartwell, (Mrs. Kent Hartwell), said she "believes the ranger residence will soon be demolished, is troubled at the thought of the frequent night time intruders, smokers or illegal



Lodge parking lot filled with artist booths.

Photo by Roger Isaacson

campers." The TPA again argued that the occupancy of the residence was necessary for the security of the reserve. Furthermore, the association stood ready to help restore the building.

No doubt ruffled by pressures from Sacramento, Ron McCullough reiterated his belief that "continued occupancy of the residence was not vital for adequate protection of the Reserve; the residence is an intrusion in the Reserve." However, he did promise the TPA that no action would be taken until a General Plan for the Reserve was submitted to the Coastal Commission. Unfortunately, a cypress tree, planted by Guy Fleming in front of the Lodge, had just been cut down without prior notification, despite similar promises.

The TPA renewed their efforts. They asked an independent contractor to estimate the cost of bringing the residence up to code. Worried at being over-run, the DPR staff asked that two of their people be present at the assessment. Imagine the scene: The TPA, the contractor, and the DPR staff, all gathered around the little house, trying to be polite to each other. How did they all feel when the contractor made an estimate of \$15,000, just half of the DPR estimate?



Art in the Pines Festival Raises Awareness and Funds

Over 80 artists participated in the *Art in the Pines* Festival making it a huge success. The Torrey Pines Association underwrote the event at \$6,500, while Coldwell Banker, EDCO, and California State Parks also contributed to the festival.

The TP Docent Society earned over \$4,800. The exact amount is undetermined as commissions and checks are still coming in. Funds from *Art in the Pines* will go directly to help the Children's Program at the Reserve. That model program serves so many children in the San Diego area with an exemplary curriculum tied to the school curriculum. Where else can you go to have a great hike, see dolphins, trap-door spiders and learn about geology, all in a half-day visit to the Reserve?

Interest in the event was much higher than we anticipated, with over 1000 attending, many of whom purchased art. Attendees were pleased with the quality of the art and of course the beauty of the Reserve as a place to hold such an event, particularly with the wildflowers in bloom. Because of the unexpected numbers of people there were long waits for the shuttle at the two parking lots which will be noted for next year.

Fifty artists entered the Plein Air Art Competition. Three judges, Richard Keely, Scott Prior and Anna O’Cain announced the winners who were:

Ying hui Feng, first place for her watercolor painting, “Morning”; **Stanislav Prokopenko**, second place for his untitled oil, **Marjorie Taylor**, third place for her oil, “Pines on a Cloudy Day.” **Jeffrey Field** and **Margot Wallace** both received honorable mentions.

The Minerva Classical Quartet and the Meow Now Band provided music while food was served in front of the Lodge. The nature walks were full and the workshops and demonstrations well attended.

Many docents helped with the event. It couldn’t have happened without them. Many commented on the numbers of capable, competent and enthusiastic volunteers who were working that day. The participation was truly fantastic. In particular the Committee worked many long hours to develop and implement *Art in the Pines*. The following docents deserve special recognition for their commitment to making this a success:

Artists’ Relations-**Suzan Potuznik**;
Logistics-**Steve Rose**; Children’s Activities-**Diane Greening**;
Graphics-**Sharon Thompson**; TPA Representative-**Pat Masters**;
Museum Shop-**Nancy Woodworth**,
Nan Danninger; Docent Booth-**Joan Adamo**;
Volunteers-**Laura Lowenstein**;
Publicity-**Barbara McCabe**;
Nature Walks-**Irene Larrimore**.

Kudos to all.

Connie Beardsley and Cindy Wollaeger

Co-chairs, *Art in the Pines*

Zoo Nooz Magazines needed for the Visitor Center-

Please bring old *Zoo Nooz* magazines to the ranger/aide office so we can keep the supply going for kids to pick up a free copy when they visit the Museum Shop. Thanks.



Photo by Roger Isaacson

BioBlitz: Scientists

by Ann Williamson

On May 21-22 the San Diego Natural History Museum brought BioBlitz to our Reserve. Fifty-five scientists from the Museum and from several universities searched the Reserve for 24 hours. Some of the scientists did their identification work on the front porch of the Visitor Center, so we got to talk with them and learn more about some local species. There was a wonderful trapdoor spider to watch, live scorpions, and beautiful algae.

At 3:00 p.m. Dr. Michael Wall, Director of Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias and Curator of Entomology at the Museum, announced the BioBlitz results. The final results will be available online in a few weeks. The Museum is still working on the counts. Some very preliminary numbers are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Insects | 516 |
| Spiders and relatives | 79 |
| Snails and clams | 8 |
| Algae and diatoms | 28 |
| Birds | 72 |
| Mammals | 25 |
| Reptiles and amphibians | 11 |
| Plants | 324 |
| Grand Total | 1063 |

There was excitement about a salamander found close to the surface, an unusual plant, and possibly a new spider species. Definitely better than the Academy Awards!



Microscopes were in use everywhere, in and around the Lodge. Photo by Roger Isaacson

BioBlitz: Docents

by Ann Williamson

Diane Greening designed six education tables so that docents and other volunteers could help visitors learn more about the Reserve while attending BioBlitz. **Paleontology** was especially popular with young children who used paintbrushes to brush away sand and discover fossils. **Mammology** was a delightful station. Kids and adults tried to match each track with an animal. Then they tried to match a scat photo with the corresponding animal.



Joe Allen (Audubon Soc.) with visitor. Photo by Ann Williamson

Ornithology featured an amazing



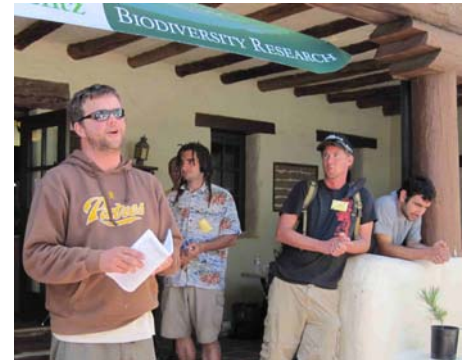
Trapdoor Spider on exhibit. Photo by Barbara Wallach

Hawk's nest, a Cooper's hawk, and a Pacific Loon. Diane's wingspan board allowed a visitor to spread his arms and compare his own wingspan with that of an osprey, brown pelican, and other local birds. At **Entomology** you could select an insect specimen and follow a tree diagram to identify the insect type. **Botany** included samples of several coastal sage scrub

plants and several chaparral plants for visitors to learn before going on trail. One of the biggest draws was **Herpetology** (Photo above). Visitors loved interacting with **John Neville's** snakes. Besides the fantastic docents at the tables we had docent guided walks every hour for our visitors.

Michael Wall noted in his 3:00 p.m. remarks that this was the best set of education tables he had seen at a

BioBlitz. Other scientists said it was helpful to have the tables there for the public because it provided activities in addition to the interaction with the scientists. This allowed the scientists to focus more on identification and determining the counts.



Michael Wall (on left) announcing results. Photo by Ann Williamson

Laura Lowenstein recruited and organized the BioBlitz volunteers. Laura and Diane thank everyone who did such a good job staffing the education tables, guiding walks, setting up the displays, and taking down all the tables and canopies. What a team!

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 6, 2010

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gadwall 30 | Double-crested | Total of 80 species | Cassin's Kingbird 1 | Northern Mockingbird |
| Eurasian Wigeon 1 | Cormorant 6 | Long-billed Curlew 10 | Western Scrub-Jay 5 | 1 |
| American Wigeon 61 | Great Blue Heron 1 | Marbled Godwit 3 | American Crow 37 | California Thrasher 3 |
| Mallard 11 | Great Egret 8 | Least Sandpiper 44 | Common Raven 12 | European Starling 1 |
| Blue-winged Teal 9 | Snowy Egret 7 | Bonaparte's Gull 60 | Tree Swallow 113 | Orange-crowned |
| Cinnamon Teal 6 | Black-crowned Night- | Heermann's Gull 13 | Violet-green Swallow | Warbler 1 |
| Northern Shoveler 13 | Heron 1 | Ring-billed Gull 20 | 1 | Yellow-rumped |
| Northern Pintail 21 | White-faced Ibis 20 | Western Gull 17 | Northern Rough- | Warbler 14 |
| Green-winged Teal 17 | Osprey 1 | California Gull 18 | winged Swallow 48 | Common Yellowthroat |
| Lesser Scaup 22 | Cooper's Hawk 1 | Mourning Dove 9 | Cliff Swallow 2 | 8 |
| Surf Scoter 19 | Red-shouldered Hawk | Greater Roadrunner 1 | Bushtit 22 | Spotted Towhee 7 |
| Bufflehead 2 | 1 | White-throated Swift | Bewick's Wren 2 | California Towhee 25 |
| California Quail 17 | Red-tailed Hawk 5 | 70 | House Wren 7 | Savannah Sparrow |
| Red-throated Loon 1 | American Kestrel 2 | Anna's Hummingbird | Marsh Wren 5 | (Belding's) 2 |
| Common Loon 2 | Peregrine Falcon 1 | 31 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Song Sparrow 12 |
| Pied-billed Grebe 2 | Common Moorhen 1 | Rufous/Allen's | 1 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Western Grebe 290 | American Coot 28 | Hummingbird 2 | California Gnatcatcher | 28 |
| Brown Pelican 5 | Killdeer 2 | Nuttall's Woodpecker 4 | 3 | House Finch 51 |
| Brandt's Cormorant 10 | Willet 7 | Downy Woodpecker 1 | Wrentit 37 | Lesser Goldfinch 12 |
| | Whimbrel 2 | Black Phoebe 11 | | |
| | | Say's Phoebe 2 | | |

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



Torrey Pines Docent Society
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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). For odd months we publish the *Torreyana*. Please submit items by the 20th of the month to the Editor Editors@torreypine.org. Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the docent library.

| June 2010 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- updated 5/30/10 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | L- Marshall L- Ivany L-K Dickey | <i>Maids</i> L-C&B Hornbeck L-Fiorentino L- | L- L- M Lewis L- | L- L-Vogel L-Isaacson | L- W-Sanseverino L- Geist W- L- |
| L-Rowbottom W-Farness L- Dewhurst W- Kamen L- | L- L- Vogel L- | L- L-Alper L- | L- L-Fiorentino L- | L- L-M Lewis L- | L- Burke L- L- | 2x hrs-Meeting L- W-Farness L- W- L- |
| L-C&B Hornbeck W-Bedinger L- W- L- | L- L-F Doolittle L-S&S Rose | L- Alper L-Ivany L- | <i>Maids</i> L-C&B Hornbeck L- L- | L- Bogan L-Dewhurst L- | L-Martineau L- Vogel L- | L- W-Sanseverino L- Hill W-Stiegler L- |
| L- Schulman W- Rowbottom L- Schulman W- L-Benton/Hartung | L- Arnold L- Vogel L- | L- Marshall L- L- Lombardi | L- L- L- | L- Bogan L- L- | L- Burke L- L- | L-McGee W-Bedinger L-Hill W- L- |
| L- W-Brav L- Phillips W- Geist L-Benton/Hartung | L-Arnold L-F Doolittle L- | L-Tarkington L- L-Lombardi | <i>Maids</i> L- L- L- | Lodge Duty Hours L- 9-12 L- 12-3 L- 3-6 | Walks W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00) | |

To sign up for an opening, call docent on duty (858 755-8219) to confirm the time & write your name in the Logbook. If you cannot do your duty, please try to find your own substitute by switching with another docent or using the short-notice list. Then call the docent on duty to make the change in the Logbook. **Coordinators:** Irene Larrimore & Barbara McCardle