



# Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

October 2010

## Restoring Plant Communities of Southern California

*Lecture notes by Lillian Lachicotte*

From the informative introduction given by our Program Director Ann Williamson, docents learned that Bryan Endress is an accomplished and dedicated scientist and researcher. Bryan holds a PhD in botany and is currently Director of Applied Plant Ecology at the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research.



*Photo by Herb Knufken*

His work includes restoration of Southern California coastal sage scrub habitats and developing the Native Seeds for Native Americans program. Bryan also works with local communities in Mexico and Peru on sustainable palm harvest techniques.

### Docent General Meeting

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

9 am

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

**Speaker:** Prof. James Nieh, Associate Professor of Biological Science at UCSD

**Program:** *Those Amazing Bees: The Secret Lives of Honey Bees*

Honey bees play an important yet often unseen role in our lives. They pollinate a wide variety of agricultural crops and are key pollinators for many native plants. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of honey bees is their complex social structure and the communication that they have evolved. The talk will discuss different aspects of honey bee life, address some common myths, and reveal that the truth is actually far more amazing than one might suspect.

Another of Bryan's projects is to conserve habitat for the rare Tonkin snub-nosed monkey of Vietnam, as well as projects to conserve habitat for the kangaroo rat and the pocket mouse in Southern California. Bryan's group collaborates with London's Kew Gardens to preserve native seeds in international seed banks.

The Institute for Conservation Research is the largest zoo-based research team in the world and is funded by three sources: 41% from the zoo, 32% from grants and 27% from donations. Their focus is on seed banking, habitat restoration and sustainable use. They merge research and application with a focus on solutions.

The Institute collects and stores seeds for long-term preservation, with a focus on San Diego County. First, the

research team searches for populations of plants and monitors when seeds are produced and mature. In the case of buckwheat, few seeds are produced each year so the team must be extra vigilant to collect them at the right time. Torrey pine seeds need to be collected while still on the tree. A machine pulls the seeds out of the cones. The seeds are then frozen and stored in Escondido.

After seeds are harvested, the collection is assessed for insect damage, empty and immature seed pods and malformed seeds. After collection and assessment, the seeds are cleaned, sealed in bags and placed in a freezer with low humidity. Preserved seeds can remain viable for hundreds of years. Some of our seeds go to Kew Gardens to a special storage place; some stay here.

Germination is stimulated in different ways in different plants. The seeds may need cold or warmth, running water, hot water soak, heat shock, boiling water or scarification (which mimics the digestion process of animals that consume the seeds). Some seeds germinate best when subjected to chemicals in smoke that permeates seed coats.

An example of habitat restoration in action is in the Wild Animal Park's 900 acre nature preserve which is dedicated to the preservation of sage scrub. The biggest threat to native scrub habitat is exotic degraded grassland, so control of non-native plants is essential. Another example of restoration is the work on land denuded by the Witch Creek fire, which killed the cholla and prickly pear cactus. The Coastal Cactus Wren only nests in cactus, so restoration was essential for them to have a place to reproduce.

Habitat restoration is complex and is as much of an art as a science. Numerous plant species are reintroduced into restoration areas; cacti, buckwheat, sagebrush, laurel sumac to name a few. Finding a balance of plants in relation to others is a challenge. And restoration can be difficult due to the destruction caused by coyotes, rabbits, wood rats and deer.

Returning by popular demand: Docent Doings-- If you are involved in or know about docent activities that might interest other docents, send your information - docent name, date of the activity, a brief description of the activity if needed and contact information to [editors@torreypine.org](mailto:editors@torreypine.org).

### Docent Doings

Oct. 9, 9am- General Meeting  
 Oct. 10, 1-3pm- Lodge Hosting workshop  
 Oct. 11, 9-1am- Lodge Hosting workshop  
 Oct. 14, 5pm- Docent Appreciation Potluck at the Lodge  
 Oct. 23, 9am-noon-TPA Symp. on Historic Structures at TP, at UCSD  
 Nov. 17, 4:30-8:30pm-Wedding Expo  
 Dec. 1, 10am-noon Field trip to SD Archaeological Center in San Pasqual.

Restoration is a team effort and the Institute members work with different groups in order to achieve good results. This work is gratifying and the researchers have a great time as they better our land.

To learn more about the Institute for Conservation activities, go to <http://www.sandiegozoo.org>, go to „Safari“ and click on „Conservation.“

## September 2010 Docent Meeting Notes

*Excerpted from notes from of TPDS Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, by Secretary Bill Eckles. Complete minutes in docent library.*

Following an interesting presentation on native plants and habitat maintenance by Bryan Endress and the routine socializing on the patio of St. Peter's, the business meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by **Ken King**, filling in for **Rick Vogel** who was attending the recent birth of his grandson.

The Docent of the Month is **Bob Doolittle** thanks to his hours dedicated to not only Lodge hosting, but also the Seabees, computer support and general involvement with the Docent Society. Thank you, Bob, for your many faceted help!

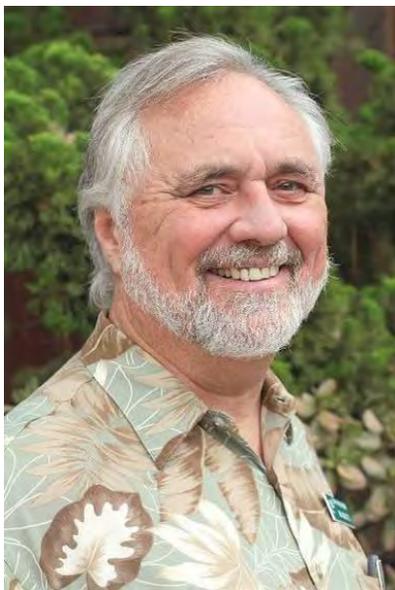


Photo by Herb Knufken

**Kathy Dickey** announced a field trip scheduled for Wednesday, December

1st to the San Diego Archaeological Center in San Pasqual. [see p. 4]

**President's Report:** (Ken King for Rick Vogel)

- A thank you goes out to the Seabees for their significant work projects, especially the new peeler poles in the west parking lot across from the Lodge. **Barbara Wallach** also volunteered thanks to the Whacky Weeders for their work in cleaning up the area set off by the new peeler poles.
- Live Scans were being done during the meeting and Ken made it clear that docents (1) needed to be scanned and (2) were free to use other sources of scanning, though only the one provided at the meeting or at our vendor's office would be reimbursed by the Society.
- Dylan Hardenbrook, our new Supervising Ranger, announced a wedding exposition would be held on Nov. 17 between 4:30 pm and 8:30 pm [Ed: note date change]
- Dylan also informed us that Brian Gaudet intends to resume work on trail overlooks, especially on the Guy Fleming Trail, and to do so with minimal interruption of visitor traffic.
- Finally, Dylan requested feedback from the docent group regarding the dead tree that forms an arch entering the Guy Fleming Trail. The majority of docents seemed to support a "don't touch" policy.
- Our "mascot" Coyote is now returned to the Lodge with a repaired nose, which had been damaged by wood rats. The subject of acquiring a new stuffed wood rat was broached.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Ken King)  
 Credit card use is attributed with keeping Museum Shop sales at a high level this month. Year to date income is above budgeted levels, the result of a grant from the San Diego Women's Foundation, shop sales and the Art in the Pines event.

Ken announced for Pat Masters that the TPA Symposium would be held Sat., October 23. For more info: [torreypines.org/news-and-events/tpa-symposium](http://torreypines.org/news-and-events/tpa-symposium)

**Children's Program:** (Laura Lowenstein for Tony Summers)  
The program is filling up quickly with 35 of about 60 slots already filled. Please sign up for participation.

**Training:** (Sherry Doolittle)  
Sherry thanked the members for supporting training and reminded the mentors to continue to make themselves available to new docents. She also requested using word-of-mouth promoting to recruit docent trainees.

**Lodge Hosting:** (Irene Larrimore and Barbara McCardle)  
Thanks to all who participate, the September calendar is effectively full. The Lodge Hosting (also called Lodge Duty) training is scheduled for October 10 (1:00-3:00 pm) and October 11 (9:00-11:00 am).

**Museum Shop:** (Nancy Woodworth)  
Water sales are high and Nancy requested help in restocking it. She also reminded us that the upcoming holiday season provides an opportunity to support the Reserve by buying gifts at the Museum Shop.

**Whacky Weeders:** (Barbara Wallach for Steve Tarkington)  
The weeders work Mondays 8:30 to 10 or 10:30 am at locations given in the group email list.

**Membership:** (Carol Smith)  
New membership lists will be published in January, so if you see needed corrections, please advise Carol.

**Ranger Report:** Lisa Urbach, told us of the upcoming wedding exposition. Also, the rules for weddings have not changed. While this activity is expected to increase revenues, the weddings will be closely monitored by the ranger staff to prevent damage to the Reserve. She requested docent help for the expo.

## Children's Program

The Docent-led Children's Program has been receiving many teachers' requests for field trip visits on our Thursday and Friday program dates. Our opening date to accept requests was Aug. 15th. Believe it or not, a teacher tried to put a request in at midnight on Aug. 15th! As of Oct. 1st, all of the fall dates will have been filled! A change this year is more requests for the topic of geology. A majority of requests are still for the Native American-Kumeyaay topic which is studied mostly in third grade.

Typical of this time of year, we still need many docent leaders and presenters for these eager teachers and kids. If you're on our children's program list to lead kids, please check out the details on-line at our website docent page to see which dates we still need help. And if not on the list and want to check the program out, please drop by any Thursday or Friday and tag along on days we have kids. The schedule is posted on the Children's Program bulletin board in the library or on-line for anyone to view.

Please refer any teacher requesting information about field trips to our website [www.torreypine.org](http://www.torreypine.org) where information and an application can be found under Education/Teacher's Corner/Field trips. We now have a wonderful brochure, created by Diane Greening, of all educational programs at the Reserve. It's at the docent desk to hand out to any interested visitors requesting a copy.

We hope to see many of you this fall as we start out again with our stellar program!

*Tony Summers*

Children's Program Director

*Laura Lowenstein*

Children's Program Coordinator

## POS "Tip(s) o' the Month"

Over the ten months that the POS (Point of Sale) system has been in place, we've had two or three instances when the Internet connection went down. It lasted for a few hours one time, and only a few minutes another time, but it may happen again. The only issue with the system is that credit cards don't go through. You have a couple of options: plead for cash or a check, or write down all the information (name, address, telephone number, cc type and number, expiration date) and give them the purchases. When the system is restored, you can key in the data when asked. It's pretty intuitive, since the system asks you for that information when you scan the item, tap "exact change" and the key for whatever type of credit card is to be used. Another tip has to do with the removable cash tray. Sometimes, docents remove it (No need to, as the credit card receipts and checks go in the tray just like the dollar bills.) and get it back ALMOST right. It seems to be seated in the drawer, but if the drawer is stuck open, that's why. Just tug the drawer gently all the way open, and settle that removable tray properly into the drawer and you're good to go!

A final tip: for docents on the last shift of the day, remember to leave the cash drawer open. Place ONLY big bills (20s and larger), credit card receipts, and checks in an envelope for the safe. All other bills go in the locked desk drawer with the big clip on them. And the coins stay right where they are.

Thanks for doing Lodge hosting!

*Ken King*

### DQOM (Docent Question of the Month) October 2010

Changing Plant Names at TPSNR  
*Courtesy of Jim Larrimore*

**Question:** Are you keeping up-to-date on the names of native plants at TPSNR?

**Answer:** See page 6.

## Interpretive Trail Patrol

by Mike Pisor

The Guy Fleming Trail needs our assistance. As you may know, work has begun on the south overlook. It has been noted that several visitors are walking into this closed off construction area when workers are not present. In addition, the temporary barrier blocking the entrance to the overlook is at times missing, allowing free access to the closed overlook. If you hike the GF trail, please check to see if this area is secure and free of visitors. On my visit to the overlook on Tuesday, two visitors were present in the construction area and the barriers were moved aside. The large STOP sign that normally adorns the entrance was at the bottom of the overlook. I secured the area with yellow warning tape and replaced the STOP sign. (**Diane Greening** had been notified that the barrier was missing).

The construction area is extremely dangerous and without barriers along the cliff edge. Please do not enter this area and, if visitors are present, call to them to move back up to the main trail. Many thanks.

In addition, when performing Interpretive Trail Patrol duties, please wear your vest (or use one in the Library), name tag and trail patrol button. This uniform clearly identifies you to the visitors and establishes your role as a Trail Patrol docent. Without this proper identification, visitors will take the opportunity to challenge your role in the Reserve.

Many thanks and stay safe.

### Annual Appreciation Potluck Dinner

Volunteers appreciating staff and staff appreciating volunteers!

Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010 at the Reserve Lodge

Beginning at 5 pm with appetizers followed by a potluck dinner at 5:45 pm

Please sign up at the Lodge hosting desk if you're able to make it and what you can bring.

Anyone willing to help with set up & clean up, please contact Laura Lowenstein at [lloenstein@parks.ca.gov](mailto:lloenstein@parks.ca.gov)

## Lodge Hosting Workshop

by Barbara McCardle

Docents... Come One, Come All...  
Lodge Hosting Workshop  
"Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Lodge Hosting but Were Afraid to Ask." New and expanded information includes: Interpretation, Emergency Procedures, POS System and Museum Shop Operations. Many changes have occurred that you'd love to know about.

**Bob Doolittle** and **Frank Burham** will embellish the learning with a skit. This is a perfect time to learn what's new, earn hours, and visit with your docent friends. Mark your calendar...October 10, 2-4 pm and again on Oct 11, 9-11 am.

## San Diego Archaeological Center Field Trip Planned

by Kathy Dickey

A TPDS field trip to the San Diego Archaeological Center (SDAC) is planned for Wednesday, December 1, 2010 from 10 am until around noon.

SDAC is a museum where visitors can learn the story of how people have lived in San Diego County for the past 10,000 years. In addition to its role as a museum, the Center serves as a curation, education and research facility for San Diego County's archaeological artifacts.



Jars or *ollas* from the Cleveland National Forest. See the Center website for more info: [www.sandiegoarchaeology.org/VirtualMuseum.htm](http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org/VirtualMuseum.htm)

We will have a classroom presentation covering how archaeology is done in San Diego, and then break into smaller groups to view 4 different aspects of the Center

- A display of artifacts from the Torrey Pines/Del Mar area
- A tour of the museum displays
- A tour of the vault with a chance to see a typical final archaeological report
- A display to learn how SDAC teaches children about archaeology

Following questions, we will meet outside at the picnic tables for a sack lunch and views of the beautiful San Pasqual Valley.

We will carpool to the Center from the south beach parking lot starting at 9 am. The Center is located on highway 78, about a mile east of the Wild Animal Park. The easiest driving is to take the 56 East to the 15 North, exit at Via Rancho Parkway, head right (east) on San Pasqual Road

and follow the signs past the Wild Animal Park. Look for the parking lot with the yellow flags just past the San Pasqual Battlefield Museum/Park. Admission to the Center is \$2 each.

We hope you can attend! We need a minimum of 15 people for this field trip. The maximum is 40. To join us, please contact **Ann Williamson**. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the October 9 General Meeting.

[Editor note: **Kathy Dickey** is a Torrey Pines Docent and a Research Assistant at SDAC.]

## OAKS WALK

Article & photos by Barbara Wallach

From how the universe began to where it might end is where docent, **Gill Williamson**, took more than 20 docents during an interesting, thought-provoking hike along the cliffs at Torrey Pines State Beach on September 9th. Using his marked walking stick, the colorful cliffs above the beach, fossils in the sandstone and evidence of an earthquake fault, Gill painted a story of the history of our earth and of Torrey Pines as we know it today. The cliffs along the beach have a fascinating history and almost come alive if one only knows the facts. Docents got answers to many questions about the present geological formations as well as where we might be headed tomorrow or millions of years from today. It might be fun to look into the future, but then again, perhaps not as Gill pointed out! Thank you, Gill, for the stimulating afternoon hike. Thank you also to **Don Grine** for his comments about the earthquake fault.

Note: OAKS (Open Advanced Knowledge Sessions) walks are opportunities for everyone to continue to learn about the geology, flora and fauna of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.

If you would like to lead a walk or if there is a topic you would like to learn more about please let me know.



**PLEASE, DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR DESK DUTY. IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL, PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE OR INFORM BARBARA MCCARDLE AND IRENE LARRIMORE. See p 10.**

◆◆◆Lodge Host Gems◆◆◆

[a monthly series]

## "Ouch!"

by Bill Eckles

Ready to interact, Flo and I did our first Lodge hosting since vacation and it turned out to be an event. Late in the afternoon, a young man and young lady asked if we had any first-aid for a bee sting. We scrambled and found some hand sanitizer (primarily alcohol!) and a band-aid and he proceeded to clean his wound and prepare for the rest of his day.

Busy-body me— I, of course, advise him to carry a pocket knife in order to "lift" the stinger out without squeezing more venom into the sting. He asked of his lady friend, "Didn't you scrape it out with your fingernail?" She allowed as how, "yes," she had considered all the issues that I was trying to convey to him and resolved the matter in a much simpler fashion. This evoked my observation that, "She seems to be taking good care of you. You might want to keep her around." "Oh, yes," he replied. "I just asked her to marry me and she said yes! I got the bee sting jumping for joy!"

So, Samuel Prince will soon marry Leandra Moreno, likely in Victorville where they live. Another delightful couple who chose the romantic Razor Point to "pop the question," with unexpected results. Flo cemented the commitment with a memento button from Torrey Pines State Nature Reserve. We're confident this marks the beginning of a delightful union of two delightful young people. Ain't love grand?

## DQOM October 2010

### Changing Plant Names at TPSNR

Courtesy of Jim Larrimore

**Question:** Are you keeping up-to-date on the names of native plants at TPSNR?

**Answer:** In Docent Training we learn the common names of native plants found at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. I decided to compare the names I learned with the recently issued 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Margaret Fillius' "Native Plants." What a surprise! There are quite a few changes in common names, and even some in the Latin names at the Family, Genus and Species levels. As Margaret explains, "I don't know that it is as much that common names change as that there can be multiple common names for the same plant and/or the same common name can apply to multiple plants. For the 1st edition of my book I pretty much used the common names listed in the TPSNR plant list. But I think it makes sense to use the names that are being used through the San Diego Natural History Museum (Jon Rebman) and San Diego State University (Michael Simpson), in the hope those will be standard throughout San Diego County. Therefore, for the 2nd and 3rd editions I have tried to standardize the names used in their „Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County,“ 4th edition published in 2006. This doesn't necessarily mean the „old“ names are wrong."

So, believing that TPSNR docents will want to support Margaret's move toward standardization, I list here the more frequently seen common plant names that have changed (page number in 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition given below):

Our Lord's Candle is now also **Quixote Plant** and **Chaparral Candle** (4).

Pincushion Flower is now called **White Pincushion** (34).

Sea Dahlia has become **San Diego Sea Dahlia** (54);

No more Wand chicory; it has become **San Diego Wreath-Plant** (65).

Yerba Santa or Thick-Leaf Yerba Santa changed to **Felt-Leaf Yerba Santa** (73).

The preferred name for *Mexican Pink* is now **Southern Pink** (105).

Coast Locoweed has become **Ocean Locoweed** (139);

Beach Sand-Verbena is no longer, it's just **Sand Verbena** (184).

Coast Monkeyflower is no longer, it's **Bush Monkeyflower** (208).

Ground Pink has become **Farinose Ground Pink** (222).

Wartystem Ceanothus is now **Wart-Stem Ceanothus** or **Coast White Lilac** (246).

### DQOM Updates

- Docents reported seeing **Blue whale** spouts again in August from Guy Fleming Trail (see DQOM, Pinecones Aug 2007, Aug 2009, Dec 2009).
- Herb Knufken reports that the female and male **Peregrine falcons** seem to have taken up permanent residence on the TPSNR cliffs (see DQOM, Pinecone Dec 2008).
- Docents saw the military's new MV-22 **Osprey** a couple times in August flying along the coast off TPSNR (see DQOM Pinecone Feb 2010).

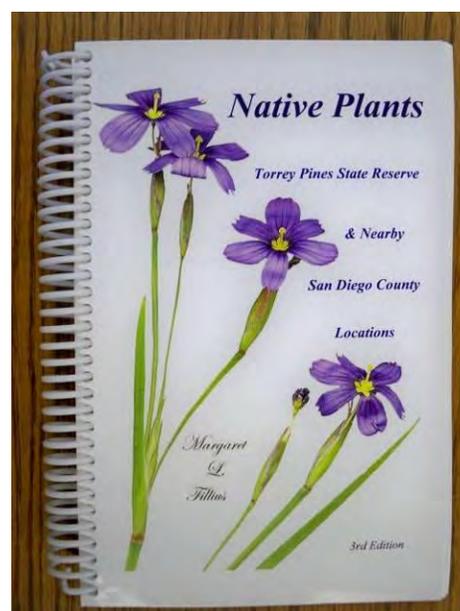
Mountain or San Diego Mahogany is now **San Diego Mountain Mahogany** (250).

Bee-Plant has become **California Bee-Plant** or **California Figwort** (266).

The preferred name for Wild Tobacco is now **Indian Tobacco** (271).

Happily, **Torrey Pine** (210) has remained!

In addition, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition there have been a number of changes in Family names, some changes in Genus, and quite a few added subspecies and variants. (These may be addressed in a future DQOM.) Also, Margaret has added 40 flowering vascular species, and grasses, ferns and mosses. With all these changes and with the holidays not so far off, docents owning the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition may want to do what I have done -- Get the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of "Native Plants: Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations"!



# California Dreaming

by Hank Nicol

[Editor's note: Hank Nicol, former Torrey Pines Naturalist (~1976-1988) and author of *Notes From the Naturalist* and other works, available in the Museum Store.]

Last night I dreamed I went to Torrey Pines again. Isn't that a famous Hitchcock first line? I floated up Torrey Pines Road (transportation is easy in my dreams) but the building I saw was not the Guy Fleming house but a white box big enough to hold a basketball court. Passing that, I saw an art deco resort that would credit Miami Beach—with palm trees. "Where's the lodge," I asked the generic people that populate my dreams. "Oh, they tore that down."

I looked around for someone I knew, Ranger Bob, Colonel Sanders, perhaps. I wandered into a building and down a long hallway. I opened a door and saw, not that basketball court, but an auditorium, large not fancy. Behind another door I found more generic people all wearing earphones and mikes and working levers and dials. Music? I didn't hear any, but I'm deafer in my dreams than I am awake. Back outside I looked over a nice hedge that showed a glimpse of the ocean but obscured all the pines, all the Reserve. Finally I met someone I knew, Ranger Randy Halley, still in green shorts, khaki shirt, Smokey Bear hat, and still young. He said (through telepathy—no sound in my dreams), "They ruined it!"

And THEY will if THEY get a chance, in the name of the economy, a balanced budget, business principles, or efficiency. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

Most of my dreams are short, and soon forgotten. This one lasted a long time. I've forgotten most of it already. But the message lingers on...Protect the pines, protect the Reserve.

## How the Torrey Pines Extension happened

### Part 1 of 2

by Maryruth Cox

Fifty years ago the Torrey Pines Extension was only a vague dream that seemed to have little chance of becoming reality. The pine-covered hills south and east of Del Mar were the "back-country" where people wandered

freely through the sage and pine, enjoying nature, dumping trash, taking pot-shots at rabbits, and even building shacks to camp in. The open space was taken for granted.

But in 1964 the situation changed. Developers had plans for expensive homes; the land could be shut off from the public forever. John Comstock, a prominent naturalist who lived in Del Mar, and Floyd Lemley, ranger at Torrey Pines, went for a hike one day in the hills north of Peñasquitos Lagoon and reported later to Margaret Fleming:

"We made a check of a valley (now part of the extension) immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of Torrey Pines Terrace and contiguous to the north boundary of Torrey Pines park. This valley has a dense stand of Torrey pines and Floyd thinks it should be part of the park ... it is threatened by a subdivision plan that would probably bulldoze out most of the pines...."

The bulldozers did come a month later, in November, 1964. Bob and Gloria Bates, residents of Del Mar Terrace, went for a walk one day in the near-by hills and were shocked to discover bulldozers at work cutting a road through the unique Torrey pines. They dashed home and wrote letters of protest to local and state agencies and to the Torrey Pines Association.

The TPA responded immediately by forming a Citizens' Committee which produced a "Proposal for an Addition to TPSNR" and started a fund-raising

campaign. By 1967 more than \$22,000 had been contributed



Scarlett Larkspur is found in the Extension but not the main Reserve. The elegant looking seed pods are shown on the right.

to "Save the Torrey Pines." This grass-roots movement stirred political interest in Sacramento, prompting Governor Reagan to allocate \$900,000 of park bond funds for the extension. However, he specified that matching funds had to be raised locally by June 1970 or the offer would expire.

It seemed impossible for local supporters of the Extension to raise that much money. But soon fans of Torrey Pines staged bake sales, golf exhibitions, walk-a-thons; school children collected "Pennies for Pines." And because real estate values dropped during a mild recession in San Diego in the sixties, there was a real hope that the Extension might become a reality.

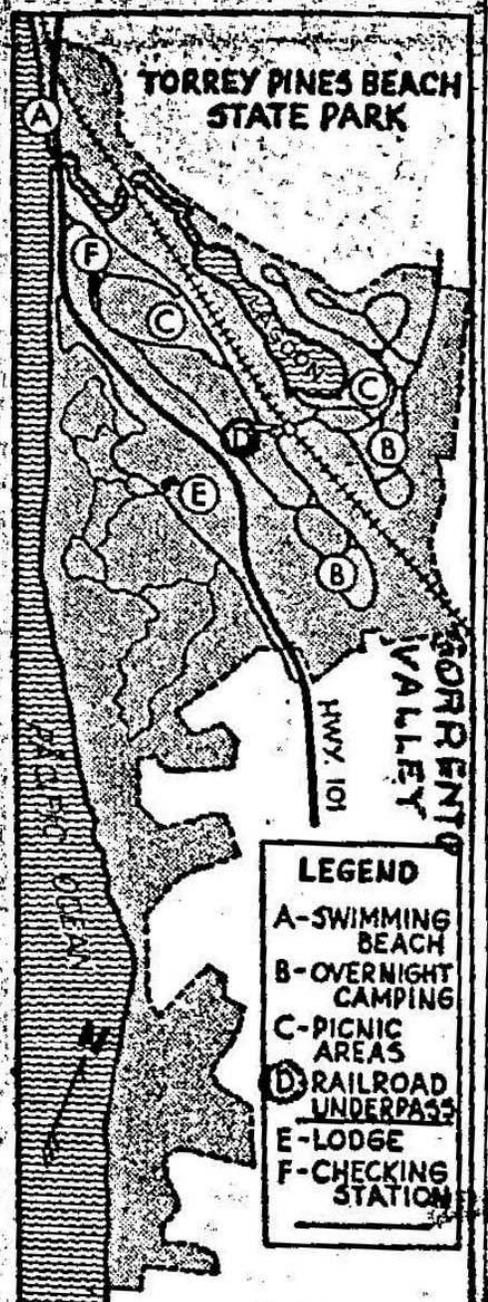
Still, in September of 1969, the campaign was \$300,000 short of its goal. There were only nine months left to go! Undeterred, the workers slogged on. Letters of support with checks included came from all over the country as the need was reported in newspapers nationwide:

"I am very much distressed to learn that still another part of our environment, a unique part of it, is threatened by further suburban sprawl...." R.S. Cowan, Director of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

**(to be continued)**

**HisTorrey A through Z: the letter S  
 (State Park System)**

by Judy Schulman



How did Torrey Pines go from being a city park in 1899 to a state park in 1959?

As early as the end of World War II, it was thought that the park would be better protected by the State rather than the City. The City did not have the funds to protect and develop the park.

On June 5, 1956 a special city election was held asking voters to approve the transfer of the approximately 1,000-acre Torrey Pines Park to the State for development. Proposition I asked the following:

*Shall ordinance No. 6903 (New Series) of the ordinances of The City of San Diego, entitled, "An ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of portions pueblo Lots 1324, 1325, 1336 and 1340, and authorizing the sale and conveyance of portions of Torrey Pines Park, consisting of portions of Pueblo Lots 1324, 1325, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339 and 1340, of the Pueblo Lands of San Diego, not to exceed 1000 acres, to the State of California for park purposes, upon such terms and conditions as may be deemed by the City Council to be in the best interests of the people of The City of San Diego," adopted by Council of said City March 27 1956, be ratified?*

Only the city-owned pueblo lands needed to be approved for this transfer. Because Ellen Browning Scripps had deeded the northern part of the park to the city in her will, this area could be transferred without a vote.

The proposition passed by well over two-thirds majority of the electorate. On May 7, 1959 title was vested in the State of California. Some of the early plans included restrooms, fencing, an administration building, either 100 or 590 camping units, 200 parking spaces, and a lagoon with boating, swimming and picnic facilities. □

Do you have ZOOBOOK or Ranger Rick magazines you'd like to share? The kids love to pick them up in the Museum Shop. Either bring them to the meeting or drop them off at the Lodge. Thanks!

**A New Species of Dove Arrives at Torrey Pines**

by Gary Grantham

During a recent Torrey Pines Docent Society monthly bird survey we counted one of our first Eurasian Collared-Doves, *Streptopelia decaocto*. Before we get too wild with celebration, it should be pointed out that this is an introduced species that is spreading rapidly. We are almost sure to get more in the future.

Where did this exotic visitor come from? The Eurasian Collared-Dove originated in India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar and then, over several hundred years, spread west to Turkey and the Balkans and eventually to Western Europe. Today it is common in small towns and agricultural areas of Europe. It was introduced in the Bahamas in the 1970's and it wasn't long until escapees



Mourning Dove (left) with Eurasian Collared-Dove (right).  
 Photo by Marie Weinstein, Alabaster, AL.

reached the relatively close shore of Florida. As they say, the rest is history. In fewer than 20 years the Collared Dove has spread across the entire width of North America. The ones we are seeing now in the San Diego area arrived from the east after colonizing Imperial County.

To the casual observer, a Eurasian Collared-Dove might be mistaken for a Mourning Dove, the common dove here at TPSNR. But this spreading exotic is larger, heavier, and paler in color and shows a squared-off tail with a broad white band, while Mourning Doves have sharply pointed tails with narrow white borders. Also, it gets its

name from the black collar around the back of its neck. This collar is absent in the Mourning Dove.

The voice of this adaptable species is also a clue. It has a rhythmic, three-syllable hooting call that is slightly lower in pitch than the Mourning Dove's mournful cooing call. It also lacks the airy whistling sound the Mourning Dove's wings make on take-off.

One reason for the rapid spread of this stranger is its prolific nesting habits. A female lays two eggs, but can produce up to six broods a year and in moderate climates can nest almost year-round. With its rapid increase in numbers there

is concern about the Collared-Dove's impact on native species, since they are a large and aggressive dove. However, a recent study at Tennessee Tech University found they were not any more aggressive or more successful competitors than Mourning Doves.

Although their numbers are sure to increase in the short term here in San Diego, experts are hoping that the population may eventually stabilize before we are up to our eyeballs in doves. Meanwhile keep an eye out for these hearty visitors here at Torrey Pines and around your neighborhood. The Eurasian Collared-Dove, coming soon to a feeder near you.

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: September 4, 2010

Total of 64 species (Unusual species bold-italics)

Brant 1	White-tailed Kite 2	Marbled Godwit 8	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 1	California Gnatcatcher 5
Gadwall 13	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Western Sandpiper 3	Belted Kingfisher 1	Hermit Thrush 2
Mallard 9	American Kestrel 4	Least Sandpiper 27	Black Phoebe 7	Wrentit 19
Green-winged Teal 6	Peregrine Falcon 2	Heermann's Gull 38	Cassin's Kingbird 2	Northern Mockingbird 6
California Quail 8	Clapper Rail 1	Ring-billed Gull 8	Western Kingbird 4	California Thrasher 7
Pied-billed Grebe 4	Sora 1	Western Gull 103	Western Scrub-Jay 11	Common Yellowthroat 16
Brown Pelican 10	Common Moorhen 2	Caspian Tern 1	American Crow 16	Spotted Towhee 11
Double-crested Cormorant 5	Black-bellied Plover 9	Forster's Tern 3	Common Raven 5	California Towhee 34
Great Blue Heron 4	Snowy Plover 2	Royal Tern 31	swallow sp. 4	Savannah Sparrow (Belding's) 3
Great Egret 3	Semipalmated Plover 5	Elegant Tern 12	Bushtit 52	
Snowy Egret 6	Killdeer 3	Eurasian Collared-Dove 1	Bewick's Wren 2	
Little Blue Heron 1	Solitary Sandpiper 1	Mourning Dove 15	House Wren 10	
White-faced Ibis 1	Willet 24	Anna's Hummingbird 15	Marsh Wren 5	
Osprey 2	Lesser Yellowlegs 1			
	Long-billed Curlew 4			

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

(Previous Bird Surveys may be found at [torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html](http://torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html))



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*The Torrey 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Editor [Editors@torreypine.org](mailto:Editors@torreypine.org). This newsletter is edited by Docent Lillian Lachicotte. Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the docent library.

October 2010 TPDS Lodge Docent Hosting Calendar- 9/29/10						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
To sign up for an opening, call docent on duty (858-755-8219) to confirm the time and write your name in the Logbook. If you cannot do your session, 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					L-Larrimore L-Isaacson	L- W-Sanseverino L- W- L-Lachicotte
L- W-Farness L- W-Kamen L-Lachicotte	L-Valencia L-Dewhurst	L-Ivany L-Paa	L-Simon L-Woods	L-Fiorentino L-Woods	L-Blantz L-Ugalde	2x hrs-Meeting L- W- L-Geist/Hartung W-Polakiewicz L-
L-Rowbottom W- L-King/McConnel W- L-	L-Glasebrook L-Dewhurst	L-Fiorentino L-Vogel	L-Blantz L-B&F Eckles	L-Griffith/Malm L-Donnelly	L-Burke L-Ugalde	L-J Smith W-Sanseverino L-Phillips W- L-
L-C&B Hornbeck W- L- W- L-	L-Blantz L-F Doolittle	L-Donnelly L-Dickey	L-Tarkington L-Simon	L-J Smith L-Ivany	L-Alper L-Ugalde	L-McGee W- L- W-Geist L-
L-J Smith W- L- W- L-	L-Arnold L-F Doolittle	L-Marshall L-Lombardi	L-C&B Hornbeck L-Woods	L-Vogel L-Howard	L-Burke L-Isaacson	L-McGee W- L-Hartung W-Stiegler L-
L-Schulman W-Rowbottom L- W- L-		<b>Lodge hosting Hours:</b>	(weekends, holidays) L- 9-12 L- 12-3 L- 3-6	(weekdays) L- 10-1 L- 1-4	<b>Walks</b> W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00)	