



# Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

October 2012

## Life at the Reserve Before the Docent Society

by Joan R. Simon

**M**elba Kooyman charmed her fellow docents at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with tales of the early days at the Reserve when she was an enthusiastic volunteer well before 1975 when the Docent Society was formed.



Photo by Herb Knufken

“If someone had told me 42 years ago [when she first became a volunteer] that I would be speaking to a group of this size with this much dynamism and enthusiasm for Torrey Pines,” she said, “I would not have believed it.” The first Docent Society roster was one page long (as compared to our current 18-page compendium!), with 52 in the first docent training class. Before there was a Docent Society, there was the Torrey Pines Wildlife

### Docent General Meeting

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 am

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

Speaker: *Stephen Shunk,*

Oregon Naturalist, Author and Field Ornithologist. Steve recently completed the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America. He leads birding tours and workshops and delivers presentations across North America through his company, Paradise Birding.

Program: *Woodpeckers of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve*

Steve will give us a primer on the natural history of Torrey Pines woodpeckers. Two distinctive species, the Northern Flicker and the Nuttall’s Woodpecker, are found regularly in the Reserve and they live very different lives. Steve will discuss their identification, behaviors and ecological roles in the Torrey Pines woodlands and surrounding habitats. In addition, Steve will introduce other woodpecker species that occur regularly near the Reserve. We are fortunate to have scheduled Steve to speak to us during the week he is in town giving presentations to the San Diego and Buena Vista Audubon Societies and to San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Association, a group of people living in Del Mar Terrace next to the lagoon. They kept a watchful eye on what was going on, seeking to maintain the habitat as a wildlife corridor and a bird sanctuary. They were also “shovel ready”, which is to say they were ready at a moment’s notice to dig out the sand that would periodically block the lagoon. (Today the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation spends up to \$100,000 a year dredging the mouth of the lagoon to keep it open; see “Opening the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, June 2012 *Pinecone*, [tinyurl.com/Pinecone1206](http://tinyurl.com/Pinecone1206)). Those were the days when “Fat Man’s Misery” was one of the most popular trails and picnicking was still allowed in the Reserve – the grove east of the Lodge was a favorite spot.

Melba took us back through the early days of the Reserve when the Torrey Pines Association was incorporated in 1950 with Guy Fleming as its first president and prominent members of

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## Docent Doings

Oct 6, 10-12 pm, Basket Making

Oct 10, 4:30 pm, Appreciation  
Dinner

Oct 27, Volcan Mtn Hike

Mondays, 8:30-10 am- Weeders

Tuesdays, 8:30-noon- Seabees

Send future event info to  
[editors@torreypine.org](mailto:editors@torreypine.org).

the community were active members. During the 50's first the beach, and later in 1959 the Reserve, became part of the California State Parks system.

“When the State took over, the Lodge was not open to the public,” Melba said. It was only used by the Park Rangers. So a small group of volunteers went about setting up a weekend and holiday schedule for Lodge hosting and fashioning displays. “We wanted it to be a place of welcome,” she said. “We wanted visitors to have an experience there that would make them want to come back.” In 1968, Jessie La Grange and Muriel Knight co-founded the Lodge Volunteers, later affectionately termed the “Lodge Sitters.” There was one meeting a year in January when everyone was given a calendar with their Lodge sitting dates (any changes were made by the volunteers themselves). That innovative initiative has evolved into our current 3-shifts-a-day (2 after daylight savings)/365-days-a-year program (with much assistance from Irene and Jan).

Also before the Docent Society was formed, the Torrey Pines Association worked from 1964 – 74 to acquire the land in the Extension. Under the leadership of then-president Tom Whitaker (NB: Whitaker Garden at the top of the Parry Grove trail), they first tried to secure an area containing 260 acres and 3000 trees, stretching across Del Mar Heights Road. The plan was to use State bond money

approved by the voters in 1964. The proposal was turned down by a State committee with the shocking conclusion that “sufficient Torrey pines already exist at the Reserve.” A second proposal, based on money allocated by the State, sought a now smaller area of 214 acres. This, too, failed when the State ran into financial problems and the money was withdrawn.

In 1967, the Torrey Pines Association launched a third and much larger campaign. Botanists, ornithologists, geologists and many other professionals and laypeople joined forces. The State agreed to give \$900,000 if the money was matched from private sources. The reach was nation-wide, supported by strong press coverage. Contributions flowed in, ranging from \$1 to \$20,000. Coffees, wine tastings and other events garnered sums as large as \$500 (a much more impressive amount in those days). By 1974, the Extension Campaign was able to match the \$900,000 and 168 acres with 1500 trees were finally secured (see “The Story of the Extension” by Mary Ruth Cox).

Melba ended her talk with a very affecting story. One day, she said, a man trudged up the hill and came into the Lodge after having wandered the trails at Torrey Pines. He told the host on duty, Jessie La Grange, that he had misplaced his wallet and car keys. At the time there was a discretionary fund available to volunteers. With the money, Jessie called a taxi for the man who was on his way back to New York and she bought him a copy of the “Green Book” (*Torrey Pines State Reserve*), which he had been admiring. It was a prescient act of kindness. The gentleman was Tsuyoshi Matsumoto, now known as Mat to everyone at the Reserve. Not long after his first trip to the Reserve, he returned and spent the next ten years, before he died in 1982, drawing his famous pictures of Torrey pines. He bequeathed his plates to the Reserve and the prints of

his work continue to be popular items at the Museum Shop today.

## September 2012 Docent Meeting Minutes

*Excerpted from notes of TPDS  
September 8, 2012 General Meeting,  
by Secretary Bill Eckles. Complete  
minutes are in the docent library.*

**Ken King**, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am following an informative and nostalgic presentation by **Melba Kooyman** about the Reserve before the Docent Society was organized.

**Bill Sheehan** introduced the “Spotlight On” portion of the meeting, featuring **Hank Beck** who has compiled a “timeline” displaying events and activities at the TPSNR in comparison to other San Diego, California and U.S. historical events (see: [tinyurl.com/HB-timeline](http://tinyurl.com/HB-timeline)). This is a great reference to help put events at the Reserve into historical perspective.

### President's Announcements:

- Docent of the Month is **Lynne Truong** for her contributions hosting at the Lodge, assistance in developing the applications for the POS system and many activities behind the scenes. Thank you, Lynne, for your help and your positive attitude!
- The Parry Grove steps now number thirty-one, with work progressing well. This will be a landmark when it is completed. Work is roughly one third completed and the project is shaping up nicely.
- Work on the road next to the Lodge is again active after a short hiatus. The goal is to have a path on the west side of the road from the hilltop near the lodge to the Guy Fleming trailhead.

- The Trail Information Kiosk (TIK) continues to prove its worth, especially for weekend visitors. **Frank Burham** would like to devote himself more fully to this project and is looking for a replacement to head the Trail Patrol. If you are interested in this job, or know of someone who might be, please contact Frank. [Ed: **Sherry Doolittle** has accepted this job, starting early November. Thanks, Sherry!]
- An interest survey was distributed last month with only a small number of responses. The idea of this survey was to identify areas of activity which interest members, allowing for more focused requests for assistance. Please make others aware of your major interests and talents to help expedite the sharing of project and area responsibilities.
- We will be developing a series of “QR” (quick response) code signs that can be scanned by smart phones featuring maps and information on features in the Reserve. A quick show of hands at the meeting revealed that (maybe?) half of the attendees now have smart phones.

#### Treasurer's Report: **Carolyn**

**Butterfield** reported that last month's income was primarily from the Museum Shop, recycling and charitable donations. Expenses incurred included a significant amount for janitorial services. We had a net positive for the month and for the year.

**Kristine Schindler** reported that the clean-up of No. Torrey Pines Rd., along the side of the Reserve, was a success (although sadly trash is already beginning to appear), with about a dozen docents participating. Cleaning weeds from the bike lane along Carmel Valley Road is also anticipated.

**Museum Shop: Nancy Woodworth** reported a new delivery of assorted animal puppets which she would appreciate your feedback on. The busy holiday season is rapidly approaching and Nancy wants to reorder the most popular gift items.

Ken announced (for **Bob Doolittle**) that a trip to Volcan Mtn. is planned for October 27<sup>th</sup> and a tour of Camp Pendleton's Rancho Santa Margarita is being organized, but not yet scheduled.

**Children's Program: Sue Randerson** announced that the “Getting Ready for the Kids” meeting will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am outside the Lodge. A short walk is also scheduled with this meeting. Thanks to everyone who came to help clean and repair the props for the presentations and walks on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. It was fun and, with everyone working together, we finished in an hour and a half!

Signups are going well with only ten spots remaining.

The Video/DVD program has been approved and funded with proceeds from Art in the Pines. The presentations and four stops on the trails for each of the five study topics will be recorded as training aids for the Children's Program. The videos will also be made available for the Docent Society membership on an *ad hoc* basis.

#### Training: **Janie Killermann**

announced that 44 people have already signed up for training in the winter/spring. Janie expects the number to fluctuate as the start of the program approaches, but it remains a very good beginning to next year's class.

#### Communications: **Lou Adamo**

encouraged more members to join “Google Groups” to help aid in communications and the dissemination of information and activities. Sign up; it's easy! Just email Lou.

**Seabees: Sheldon Krueger** reported that the second group of Eagle Scouts has completed their extension of the perimeter fence in the South Parking Lot. The entire project will be wrapped up soon.

#### Nominating Committee: **Lillian**

**Lachicotte** reported that the nominee selection for next year's Board of Directors is coming along. Only a couple of spots, including President, remain.

The President adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am.

## Docent of the Month: Lynne Truong



Photo by Herb Knufken

**Lynne Truong**, Class of 2008, was selected as Docent of the Month for her dedicated activity in many programs. For the first eight months of the year, she logged over one hundred hours serving as Lodge host, Children's Program docent, Art in the Pines volunteer, recycling worker, and recently as the treasurer's banking assistant. One of the more important tasks she has accomplished is “back office” work with the POS system. “I was one of the runners here,” Lynne said. “I used to run along the beach and up Broken Hill Trail and I always enjoyed the Reserve so much. One day I saw a big banner at the entrance to the Reserve asking for volunteers, so I signed up for the docent training. What has kept me here actively involved are the other docents -- they're all so nice and fun to work with.”

# Children's Program

We had a great turnout of new, prospective and returning Children's Program docents at our two September workshops. Many hands made quick work of cleaning, inventorying and organizing our props on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. We were finished in 1 ½ hours! There was plenty of time to talk and share ideas for creating new materials. Many thanks to everyone who helped and many thanks, also, to everyone who participated in our "Getting Ready for the Kids" workshop on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.



Photos by Ken King

Louis Sands went over docent sign-up procedures, emergency procedures, and other basic information, which he had emailed to us in advance along with other useful handouts.

Four seasoned docents then gave excellent brief presentations on successful trail techniques. **Kay Harry** showed how she organizes the kids at the beginning of the walk. **Ann Williamson** illustrated ways in which she makes the concept of concretions understandable to kids (for example she shows a concretion which she has cracked open so they can see the layers). **Diane Stocklin** showed how she discusses adaptations and **Barbara Wallach** shared how she organizes and structures her walk beforehand.

We then broke into three groups for a walk to share interpretive techniques led by **Barbara Justice** and **Marie Johnson**, **Louis Sands** and **Barbara Wallach**, and **Diane Greening**. The

meeting ended with a fun wrap-up session over refreshing juice and cookies provided by Louis.

Several docents expressed an interest in practical tips on interpreting geology concepts to kids. In response a workshop on interpretive techniques for geology is scheduled for Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am.

The following morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>, our first school group will arrive for the topic of Geology.

**Ann Williamson** will present and six docents have signed up to lead the walks.

After that date the calendar is wide open with many empty spaces for walk leaders and presenters. Many thanks to those of you who have already signed up! We look forward to seeing all of those

dates filled and seeing many of you on the coming Thursdays and Fridays. It promises to be another exciting and fun year!

If you are interested in the Children's Program, even if you were unable to attend the workshops, we would love to have you come to one of our presentations on a Thursday or Friday and join one of the groups for a walk. To find out the time and topic, go to [torreypine.org](http://torreypine.org), then go to Docent Login at the bottom of the page. Log in, then go to Children's Program Online Signup, log in again, and you will see the schedule. If there is any difficulty with logging in, please contact Louis or me. There is no need to sign up, just come.

*Sue Randerson*

*Children's Program Director*

*Louis Sands*

*Docent-Led Children's Program Coordinator*



## Updates from Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook

**ADA Trail roadwork:** Work on the portion near the Lodge was stalled for a while, but should be underway by press time. The contractor had to wait for the correct material (the State had rejected the initial material). The contractor has moved the dirt out of the driveway to the Guy Fleming house and put it with the pile in the West Lot. This has freed the driveway for the next delivery of rock for Parry Grove (see below).

**Eagle Scout fencing in South Beach parking lot:** Two phases are complete, with two more phases to come.

**Extension planning:** The TPA has recently met with State Parks staff in Sacramento concerning their "Master Trails Plan" for the Extension which will include new trails, cultural restorations and erosion control.

**Parks staff changes:** Bill Mennell (Supervisor for Specialists) has retired. Darren Smith will be taking his place as Acting Supervisor. Victor Walsh (State Historian) also retired and Alex Bevel of the Southern Service Center will be filling in until further notice.

**Parry Grove:** Thirty-one steps were completed in early September. The trail crew is down to one regular member because of the end of the seasonal employees, but assistance from the San Elijo staff is sometimes available. The regular trail crew will begin returning to work over the next few months.

## Diane Greening

*It is with sadness and much appreciation that we say goodbye to Park Aide and Docent Diane Greening, who will be moving to Chicago at the end of October. Here is her account of the many productive years she has spent at TPSNR.*

*Photos by Herb Knufken*

I moved to San Diego in September 2004 and signed up for docent training the day before it started in 2005. I had moved from Barrington, Illinois where I'd been working with a group called Citizens For Conservation (CFC) who bought land and restored it to native prairie and woodland.



I knew many Illinois native plants by common and Latin names, but when I got here the only plants that were the same were Blue-eyed Grass and Shooting Stars. The chaparral plants seemed impossible to learn at first: the Scrub Oaks looked like hollies; the California Holly (Toyon) did not look like a holly at all, until December when the berries appeared; the Manzanita and Lemonadeberry all seemed dark green and thick-leaved.

I was one of the founders of the Whacky Weeders and coined their slogan: *veni, weedi, vinci* (I came, I weeded, I conquered). Working with the weeders and going on hikes with **Barbara Wallach** and **Margaret Fillius** gave me my crash course in California native plants. I also joined the California Native Plant Society so that I could learn more from their publications and buy native plants for



*L-R TPA President Pat Masters, Society President Ken King, Diane Greening and Volunteer Coordinator Laura Lowenstein*

my garden. At the same time I was doing docent training, I also trained as a Habitat Steward for the National Wildlife Federation. Habitat Stewards advise people how to make their yards more wildlife-friendly by providing food, shelter, and water and avoiding pesticides. (Native plants provide great food and shelter.) Connections I made through the Stewards led to my freelance work as an environmental educator at Crestridge Ecological Preserve in Crest (near Alpine), the Chollas Creek Earthlab in San Diego and Agua Hedionda Discovery Center in Carlsbad.

When, then-Supervising Ranger, Jody Kummer offered me part-time work much closer to home at Torrey Pines in May of 2007, I accepted cautiously. I loved the volunteer work I was doing at the Reserve, weeding and leading Children's Program talks, and I didn't want the Reserve to become "a grind." I needn't have worried; Jody and her successors have given me the freedom to work on a variety of interpretive projects that easily offset the more mundane parts of the job.

My first and favorite project was building 12 Junior Ranger programs from scratch. Over the years, I have added more program topics and in

2010 introduced Little Rangers for children ages 4-6 who attend with a parent or grandparent. The Camp Callan kiosk was another early project, completed with the help of **Judy Schulman** and Ranger Mike Winterton. I've also created many of the stone interpretive signs around the Reserve; my favorite is the bluff collapse with **Herb Knufken's** amazing photo of the falling cliff. I've cleaned up the museum exhibits in the display cases (thanks to **Frank Burham** for refurbishing those cases), transformed the ratty poster of photos of the yucca flower growing into the vertical display of its rapid growth, and pushed for better lighting in the museum.

When State Parks rudely laid off **Laura Lowenstein** and me in November 2009-- a terse email that said, "Don't come in to work, there's no money to pay you" -- I worked with the TPA's Pat Masters to write the San Diego Women's Foundation grant proposal in three very long days, and the TPDS ultimately received \$33,900 to cover our salaries and expenses and keep the positions of Interpretive Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator active at TPSNR. I worked with the TPA to produce the 12 Webfilms, writing scripts, directing shots, organizing

“talent,” and sometimes appearing myself on film. I've helped with the Children's Program and new docent training. **Barbara Wallach** and I started “Family Discovery Days” on weekends: once a month we set up a table in the Reserve devoted to a theme (say, Bats and Owls in October) and talk to the families that come through. (Park Aide Joy Inton will be taking my place.) I've also set up the educational programs for the Extension Celebration, Bioblitz and Art in the Pines.

Much of what I've accomplished has been with the help of dedicated docents -- I could not have done it without them.

We are planning to live in Glencoe on the North Shore of Lake Michigan this time, close to the Chicago Botanic Garden and a couple of nature centers that I have yet to check out. I intend to go back to my friends at CFC at least once a week for the Thursday morning restoration work, but it's a long drive from Glencoe, so I'm not sure I'll run for the board

again. I'm sure I'll find some interesting volunteer or paid work in environmental education in the Chicago area.

*Diane Greening*

Senior Park Aide/Interpretive Coordinator

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve

## PhoTORREYgraph

by Judy Schulman

Hi Everyone:

Given the wonderful presentation that Melba Kooyman gave us at the last meeting, I thought this photo of her would be fun to see. It comes from an article called “Good Neighbor Policy Works Well For Wildlife At Torrey Pines Park” in the February 18, 1973 issue of the San Diego Union. It tells the story of the Torrey Pines Wildlife Association.



—Staff Photo by Dan Tichonchuk

In the museum at Torrey Pines State Park, volunteer Melba Kooyman talks to visitors about the whale vertebrae and artifacts displayed. (Related story on Page D-1).

## Did You Know?\*

By Tom Polakiewicz

### The Hidden Paint Brush

Have you ever looked at the Coast Paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*, ssp. *affinis*), when it blooms in the spring, and thought that its bright red flowers would be perfect for your native plant garden, only to find out that you can't buy it in any local nursery? There is a reason why the paintbrush isn't sold commercially, but to find out why, you have to search below the surface of the ground.



Photo by Cynthia Parnell

Our coastal paintbrush is one of three subspecies found in California. The subspecies *littoralis* is commonly found in Northern California and Oregon. The rare subspecies *neglecta* or Tiburon paintbrush is limited to a few locations in the Bay Area. Even though all of the subspecies have green leaves, and therefore produce their own food by photosynthesis, they are also parasites. They have suckers on their roots that enable them to extract nutrients from their neighboring plants and shrubs. As a result, paintbrush plants are extremely difficult to grow from seed in nursery production.

Paintbrush plants hold another secret. Their actual flowers are green and yellow, or green and red, and are hidden behind the bright red bracts that give the paintbrush its name. So, enjoy the paintbrush in its natural habitat, since you won't be able to add it to the palette of your own garden.

\* This “Did You Know?” is one of an occasional series from Tom Polakiewicz.

## Eagle Scout Builds Benches for the Reserve

By Drew Dohn

I am a Boy Scout in San Diego County. To achieve Boy Scouts' highest rank of Eagle Scout, I organized and led a group of Scouts and school friends in a project to benefit the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Here is my story.

I enjoy camping and hiking, and when I was five years old my Dad and I joined the YMCA Adventure Guides where we had many fun camping adventures. In the fifth grade, I joined the Rancho Santa Fe Boy Scout Troop 766, where I learned self-reliance, citizenship, and character development while participating in camping, hiking, and educational and career-oriented programs. I learned to apply the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared" to all aspects of my life. When it came time to decide on a service project for my Eagle Scout requirement, I wanted to do a project where I could build something for a local park where walkers, runners, bicyclists and tourists visit and appreciate the vast beauty of Southern California. The scenic views, beautifully maintained hiking trails and the overall friendliness of the Reserve made it a perfect venue for an Eagle Scout project.

My Dad and I met with the Torrey Pines personnel and it was decided that I would build benches for the Reserve's visitors. The benches would be used on the trails and in an area near the Visitor Center. We were given a schematic diagram for the benches, and with the help of **Frank Burham**, my Dad and I built a prototype one Sunday in July 2011. I then built one bench by myself to make sure I knew how to do it before I started to direct Scouts and school friends who would help me build the benches.

Over Christmas vacation and the first part of January 2012, Boy Scouts and school friends helped me build, sand, and paint nine benches for the Reserve. It was a project where I learned budgeting, coordinating the effort and work of others, leadership skills and finally how to deliver a product that met the expectations of the Park Rangers. When my Dad and I delivered the nine finished benches to the Reserve, I felt upbeat as the benches would be in an area to help the visitors enjoy the magnificent views, watch the seals and dolphins play in the ocean, and in general enjoy the Reserve's spectacular and unique beauty. The Reserve is a natural wilderness within an urban setting, and I was happy that my project could help others enjoy this beauty.

*Ed. Note: All of Drew Dohn's benches have a small metal plaque identifying Scout Troop 766. Several are located on the west side of the Lodge and a few are in the wedding area at the West Overlook.*

## The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

by Ranger Lisa Urbach

**When:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 from 4:30-9pm

RSVP by October 4th

**Where:** Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve at the Torrey Circle

**What:** Dinner by *Bitchin Burgers* with service starting at 5 pm; come at 4:30 pm for appetizers and socializing

**What to bring:** Your favorite beverage. A beverage sharing table will be set up for those bringing extra. Please bring your own chair to sit and eat & then watch the movie. A limited number of folding chairs are available in our hospitality closet if someone can't bring their own.

Please join staff and your docent and volunteer friends for a special evening at the Reserve with appetizers starting at 4:30 pm, followed by grilled to order beef, vegetarian, or portabella mushroom burgers and all the fixings including sweet & regular potato fries, topped off with a variety of yummy cakes for dessert.

After some socializing and friendship, the entertainment for the evening will start at approximately 7:15 pm with a unique evening under the stars viewing *The Big Year*, a movie starring Jack Black and Steve Martin. The party will end by 9 pm.

We appreciate that The California Parks Foundation has given a grant to fund most of our dinner and event. This year we're asking everyone to provide their own favorite beverage and extra if you want to share. Due to a fire that burned up the folding chairs we usually borrow from Old Town State Park, we're asking that you bring your own folding or beach chair. For those that aren't able to bring a chair, there are about 60 folding chairs in the hospitality closet and the video room to borrow. There are also benches, but they're not so comfortable for watching a movie!

**Please RSVP by Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> by signing up on the sheet at the Lodge Hosting desk or by emailing Laura Lowenstein at [llowenstein@parks.ca.gov](mailto:llowenstein@parks.ca.gov)**

Please look at the Hosting Calendar on page 10 and see where you can help out, especially as a host or an extra host on weekends.

## The Kestrel and the Crow

By Rhea Bridy

A slight ripple across the sea  
breezed by and lifted up the  
grasses and gray-greens along  
the warm cliffs and in its updrafts;  
a kestrel took advantage to focus and  
spread its soft feathery wings,  
suspending its being upon the breeze,  
a picturesque grayish-whitish-bluish-roanish  
flying-feathered machine  
owning the air of princely might  
where traces of the cliff mouse  
could be spied in its trusty trek.  
Almost, almost, closer, closer, the kestrel  
deftly drifted downward, focusing  
focusing, full on, almost there,  
till that fledgling little black bird appeared,  
purposely thwarting the princely concentration,  
nearly brushing the kestrel's  
streamlined body in a bumping air-block,  
rushing the kestrel back and forth,  
both birds' wings wide and open  
the crow, smaller-leaner, but matching  
each maneuver and with what purpose,  
to taunt, to play, to take its prey?  
The kestrel seemed to ignore the crow,  
only charging the smaller-taunter once,  
then indeed losing its primal focus and its  
track upon the prey, retreated, retreated,  
and with a full pump or two of its pointed wings  
deftly flew east across the sandstoned  
caverns, and chutes, over the hollows of  
sage-scrubbed and chaparraled hill;  
above the torrey pines, windswept and  
waving adieu, the kestrel continued its retreat,  
but  
that little taunting crow flew right behind him,  
almost,  
undaunted, even energized by this new game of  
chase.

## Whacky Weeders Find Unexpected Helpers

by Joan R. Simon

The Whacky Weeders have been tackling the ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), a highly invasive non-native plant, along the connecting trail between Yucca and Razor Points. "Removing any kind of ice plant is a two-part problem," notes Whacky Weeder leader **Lynne Small**. "First you get it out of the ground; then you have to get it out of the Reserve."

Below is a photo of two visitors who helped the weeders several weeks ago carry bags of ice plant up the Beach Trail. They are Mark and Susie Lindenmuth from Ohio who were in town for a trade show. According to **Barbara Wallach** who spoke with them, they come to Torrey Pines whenever they are on the west coast and are big fans of our Reserve.



The following week, as an experiment, the Weeders left two stacks of bags along the trail at 10:30 in the morning when they finished their work. There were 6 bags at the Beach Trail/Yucca Point junction and 5 bags a little further up. They put up signs asking park visitors if they could help by carrying a bag up to the parking lot. **Lynne Small** reports that late that afternoon Park Aide Jake Mumma and Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook went down the trail to see how many were left.

None!  
Anonymous visitors had carried every single one up. Encouraged by these results and working even harder, the weeders left 35 bags on September 24<sup>th</sup>. See photos on next page. Once again, park visitors brought them all up to the west parking lot.

We thank the Lindenmuths and all the anonymous Reserve visitors who help and support us in so many ways.





Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>: bags at Beach/Yucca Pt. Trail intersection



Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: 35 bags, all gone by the next day

## Ravens

by Hank Nicol

I still read the *Torreyana* and the *Pinecone*. One of the few docents mentioned that I remember is Judy Schulman. In a recent story, Judy mentioned ravens having toys. Once upon a time, many summers past, I

watched a pair of ravens cruise down the canyon we called “Fatman’s Misery.” They flew in a quiet version of the pair formation of F-14 Tomcats (now extinct I suspect). One of the birds carried a five or six inch stick in his beak. He (I say “he” because playing with toys, and golf clubs, in maturity is a male characteristic) flipped the stick up, caught it, tossed it again-and-again-and-again until he missed and it dropped into the canyon. The ravens glided on down toward the cliffs.

One day I heard the great granddaddy of all bullfrogs croaking in the twisted trees near those cliffs. How could a bullfrog be that loud? How could one exist on that dry hill? It couldn’t. It was a raven. Another time, in the same area, I heard the squeaking of a fan belt. A junker car on the Guy Fleming trail? No, a raven. A different one? Don’t know. Seen one you’ve seen ‘em all.

The pair of ravens lived in the Reserve for years. Then there were three. The trio stayed together for two years, maybe more (my memory of time is inexact). One sunny day a flight of a dozen or so migrating ravens flew north along the cliff face while I watched from the South

Overlook of the Guy Fleming Trail. The local ravens came up, not to greet them, but to escort them on their way to Oregon. A few days later I noticed that the three again had become two.

*Hank Nicol is a former interpreter/naturalist at TPSNR and author of “Notes from the Naturalist.” He now lives in Eureka, CA.*



Photo by Herb Knufken, common raven, *Corvus corax*

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: Sept 1, 2012

Total of 54 species

Gadwall 8	Cooper's Hawk 3	Eurasian Collared-	Common Raven 43	Rufous-crowned
Mallard 8	Red-shouldered Hawk	Dove 2	Bushtit 40	Sparrow 1
California Quail 20	1	Mourning Dove 13	House Wren 8	California Towhee 46
Pied-billed Grebe 3	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Anna's Hummingbird	Marsh Wren 1	Savannah Sparrow 2
Sooty Shearwater 4	Willet 1	24	Bewick's Wren 4	Song Sparrow 28
Brandt's Cormorant 6	Whimbrel 36	Nuttall's Woodpecker	California Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Double-crested	Long-billed Curlew 8	3	10	3
Cormorant 23	Sanderling 32	American Kestrel 4	Wrentit 17	Brewer's Blackbird 4
Brown Pelican 42	Heermann's Gull 33	Peregrine Falcon 1	California Thrasher 1	Brown-headed
Great Blue Heron 7	Western Gull 43	Black Phoebe 7	Common Yellowthroat	Cowbird 1
Great Egret 6	California Gull 12	Cassin's Kingbird 3	11	House Finch 111
Snowy Egret 1	Royal Tern 19	Western Scrub-Jay 11	Spotted Towhee 6	Lesser Goldfinch 24
White-tailed Kite 1	tern sp. 36	American Crow 17		House Sparrow 2

**Observers:** Gary Grantham, Jack Friery, Herb Knufken, Kathy Dickey, Darby Lewis, Frank Wong, Blair Francis, Eva Armi, and Anonymous



Torrey Pines Docent Society  
 PO Box 2414  
 Del Mar, CA 92014  
 (858) 755-2063 or 755-8219  
[torreypine.org](http://torreypine.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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Editor [Editors@torreypine.org](mailto:Editors@torreypine.org). This newsletter is edited by Docent Joan R. Simon. Items for publication may also be left in the *Torreyana* mailbox in the docent library.

### October 2012 TPDS Lodge Docent Hosting Calendar- Updated 9/30/12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 L-Sabella L-A Paa L-Donnelly	<i>Maid's</i> 2 L-B Hornbeck L-Fiorentino L-	3 L-Colwell L-J Smith L-McCardle	4 L-Tarkington L-Barnard L-	5 L-Schindler/ McConnell L-Sabella L-B&F Eckles	6 L-P&B Whitby W-Sanseverino L-J&L Adamo W-Sheehan L-Mussen/Davis
7 L-Rowbottom W-Fillius L- W- L-	8 L-Arnold L-F Doolittle/ Buckley L-Bogan	9 L-Hroutas/ Walker L-Phillips L-	10 L-Griffiths/Malm L-Small L-J Smith	11 L- Hroutas/ Walker L-Barnard L-Simon	12 L-Burke L-Donnelly L-Martineau	13 <b>Meeting</b> L- W- L- W-Sheehan L-
14 L- W-Fillius L-Bar/Torres W- L-	15 L- Dewhurst L-Woo L-Alper	<i>Maid's</i> 16 L- Hroutas/ Walker L-Phillips L-Bogan	17 L-Blantz L-Beck L-B&F Eckles	18 L-Yehushua L-Barnard L-Heinemann	19 L-Fiorentino L-Humphrey L-Martineau	20 L-McGee W-Sanseverino L- W- L-L&J Adamo
21 L-Lawley/Lewis W-Schindler L- W-Farness L-Heinemann	22 L-Arnold L-F Doolittle/ Buckley L-	23 L-Hroutas/ Walker L-Phillips L-Ivany	24 L-Colwell L-Walters L-McCardle	25 L-Griffith/Malm L-A Howard L-Barnard	26 L-Burke L-Humphrey L-	27 L-McGee W-Geist L-P&B Whitby W-Kamen/Yehush L-Hartung
28 L-Schulman W-Rowbottom L-Bar/Torre W-Geist L-Hartung	29 L-M Lewis L-Inton L-	<i>Maid's</i> 30 L-Tarkington L-Beck L-Ivany	31 L-M Lewis L-Walters L-	Lodge hosting 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 the hosting docent (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 hosting docent to make the change in the Logbook. Coordinators: Irene Larrimore & Jan Lombardi