



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 347

April 2014

## The Bee List

by Pat Finn

No doubt most Torrey Pines docents gathered for the March meeting were already at least vaguely aware of the importance of bees to our ecosystem, but perhaps not so knowledgeable about the spectacular diversity among bees in San Diego.

K. James Hung's talk on bees, pollen and pollination detailed the wild differences in how varying bee families live and survive, painting a vivid picture of these crucial animals and why we need them. Hung, a PhD candidate in ecology at UC San Diego, has been studying bees since he was an undergrad at Dartmouth.

San Diego not only has a hugely diverse bee population, but also has one of the most diverse flora populations in the world, pollinated by wind, birds, flies, bats, beetles, moths, butterflies, wasps and, of course, bees. The roles bees play in pollination are quite specialized. For instance, Hung noted, lupin have large, stiff petals, so the role of pollinator falls to the large bumblebee. Some bees are attracted to oils produced by certain flowers, so they concentrate on them.

Some bees nest in soil. They collect and then store pollen in the soil, mix it with nectar, roll it in a ball, and deposit an egg on the ball. When the egg hatches, the larva eats the ball, forms a pupa and stays put until the flowers bloom. And the cycle starts all over again.

There are bees that nest in wood using pre-existing holes. Others are like cowbirds, nesting in the nests of other bees. There are teeny carpenter bees, large carpenter bees, longhorn bees, leaf-cutter bees, sweat bees, polyester bees, and mining bees.

- 96% of bee species don't make honey.
- 97% do not live in hives.
- 92% are not social.
- 97% can sting.

### Docent General Meeting

Saturday, April 12, 9 am

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

**Title:**

**Speaker:** Philip Unitt

We are fortunate to have Philip Unitt, curator of birds and mammals for the San Diego Natural History Museum (now called The Nat) as our April speaker. His interests are the distribution, status, identification and conservation of the birds of California and Baja California.

He has served as an editor of *Western Birds* and is the author of *The Birds of San Diego County*. His current project for the museum is the ambitious *San Diego County Bird Atlas*, a definitive catalogue of the 492 native, migrant and established exotic species of the birds of our region, which boasts more bird species than any other.

Unitt is expected to talk about the project's integration with and availability through Google Earth. The San Diego County Bird Atlas Google Earth enables users to find the birds of their neighborhood – or indeed anywhere else – using the two layers of the Bird Atlas and the Bird List. The atlas shows where species have been observed and the list shows birds that have been observed in each square of the grid.

All bees are under stress. The familiar honey-making, fruit-tree-pollinating European honey bee is subject to colony collapse in California and across the U.S. But all bees are suffering from the decline of habitat. Hung has some suggestions for bee

(cont. on pg. 2)

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#### **TPDS 2014 Board Members:**

President: Bill Eckles

Vice-president: Bob Doolittle

Treasurer: Gerry Lawrence

Secretary: Annette Ring

Dir. of Communications: Lou Adamo

Dirs. of Children's Program: Barbara Justice & Marie Johnson

Dir. of Programs: Hank Beck

Dir. of Training: Diane Stocklin

Dirs. of Lodge Hosting: Irene Larrimore  
& Jan Lombardi

#### **TPSNR Staff:**

**Supervising Ranger:** Dylan Hardenbrook

**Rangers:** Kyle Knox, Mike Winterton, Jesus "Chuy" Salinas Rodriguez

**Sr. Park Aide:** Louis Sands

**Park Aides:** Joy Inton, Johnson Jou Isabelle Medina, and Jake Mumma

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FLASH From Joy Inton: Don't forget to donate your ZooNooz magazines to the Museum Shop.

conservation for all of us: don't spread invasive grasses, plant native species and visit their natural habitats.

Because if we want flowers, fruits, and nuts, bees are simply not optional for pollination.

To see a recent UCSD article on James Hung and his work, visit [ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/this-week](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/this-week).

## **Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2014**

*Excerpted from notes of the TPDS General Meeting, by Secretary Annette Ring. Complete minutes are in the docent library.*

Meeting called to order at 10:50 am by **Bill Eckles**.

**Spotlight On:** Nancy Walters and Hank Beck led us in a song about the Guy Fleming Trail to the tune of *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*.

**Docent of the Month:** Pat Finn was named Volunteer of the Month for all of her work on the *Torreyana*. We are all very grateful for her efforts.

#### **General Announcements:**

**Ann Smith Mercandetti** is looking for docents to line the road during the La Jolla Half-Marathon early on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>. About 6,500 runners are expected to go through the park in about three hours. Having docents along the road keeps runners from "trashing" the Reserve.

**Bob Doolittle** mentioned that there are signs along the road during high traffic times showing visitors where to walk or run.

**Jeff Harrison** is working on a project to have trail markers along the trails. Recently a visitor broke his ankle, and it was difficult to find him.

There is a long-tailed weasel in the freezer waiting on a visit to the taxidermist.

The Lodge Garden is getting spruced up. There are new plants and signs ready to go in.

**Ken King** urged docents to join the book club, which is interesting and fun. See the March *Torreyana* for how to join.

**TPA:** Symposium on Saturday, March 29 at 9:30 am - 12:30 in the hotel by the golf course. The topic is 'Our Historic Lodge - where do we go now?' The results of the Historic structure report will be presented. See the TPA web site for more details.

**Museum Refresh:** (Janice Barnard and Ken King) A year and a half ago a plan was created to improve interpretation for the museum inside and out. The survey is complete, and now the team is asking for proposals from vendors. When a vendor is selected and approved by the board, the selection will go up the chain to Ranger Dylan, then to the State Curator Karen Berry at the District level. Ranger Dylan and

the TPA are on-board with updating the museum. Several factors that will be taken into account include:

- State Historic Structure guidelines.
- Re-use of what we have.
- Input from docents as we hear what the visitors want to know about.

**Treasurer's Report: (Gerry Lawrence)** Through the months of January and February there were no financial problems. The budget and on-going monthly expense statements are posted on the bulletin board in the Docent Library.

**Ranger's report: (Bill Eckles)** The opening of the Parry Grove Trail may be delayed due to gnatcatcher nesting season. The gnatcatcher is a federally protected species and requires quiet for successful breeding.

**Trail Patrol: (Lynne Truong)** Please help out with protecting the South Fork trail from vandals between 4 and 7 pm.

**Training: (Diane Stocklin)** Doing very well. There are now 32 trainees in the 2014 class.

**Children's Program: (Barbara Justice)** The Children's Program is doing very well.

**Lodge Hosting: (Irene Larrimore and Jan Lombardi)** With daylight saving starting, there are now three Lodge hosting shifts per day, and there are openings.

**Museum Shop:** There are new puppets in time for Easter baskets.

**Whacky Weeders: (Lynne Small)** Due to the rain, the weeds are growing fast, and the weeders need help. Times are Mondays at 8:30 am and Thursdays at 9:30 am.

**Refreshments:** For April's General Meeting docents whose last names start with **P, R, or S** are responsible for snacks.

**Channel Island Trip:** There are still a few spots available. The trip has been changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. This is an opportunity to see the other grove of Torrey pine trees and much more. There is a \$100 deposit. The total cost for the trip is about \$600 for the 4 days. That includes the bus, boat ride, food on the boat and the activities such as kayaking. Contact **Tom Polakiewicz** at [tpolakiewicz@aol.com](mailto:tpolakiewicz@aol.com) or call (619) 255-2245 with questions or to reserve a berth.

Meeting ended at 11:20 am

## Volunteer of the Month:

### Pat Finn

Photo by Herb Knüfken

*It's true that I am not an actual docent. So I was pretty bowled over to be honored at the March TPDS meeting as, perhaps, the Non-Docent of the Month.*

*In my short time working on the Torreyana with Joan Simon and Roger Isaacson,*

*attending meetings, talking with many of you, I have learned about subjects I never would have explored on my own: the San Dieguito Watershed, the patterns of migratory ducks, leaf morphology (still not sure what that is), bats and bobcats. I also am regularly confronted with information I wish I didn't know and can't get out of my head, like how much plastic is in the ocean.*

*I have spent most of my career in public broadcasting, beginning in Los Angeles. After I met my husband, **Walt Burkhard**, who is a 2012 docent, I worked the last 33 years at KPBS in public information, programming and radio and television production. I now work half-time, producing the Roundtable for TV and radio.*

*KPBS is a great place to work where one meets great people, both on staff and from outside. But I have to say that for dedication, caring, hard work and enthusiasm, none of them really measures up to Torrey Pines docents.*



# Children's Program

by Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson, Children's Program Directors and  
Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator

We are enjoying our beautiful weather hiking with the school children in Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, checking for rattlers, lizards, or clues for what the Kumeyaay Indians used for food.

Several docent trainees have joined us on the trails. We welcome you to come as often as you like, whether or not you plan to become part of the Children's Program. Of course we hope you will.

So far in March we have had 618 school children plus

teachers, parents and 60 docents participating in several walks: Reserve, Plants & Habitat, Ecosystems, Food Chains and Native Americans/The Kumeyaay Indians.

Presenters were: **Louis Sands, Janet Ugalde, Paul L. Howard, Joellen Barnett, and Kathy Dickey.**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Louis Sands arranged a fun and interesting outing for the Children's Program docents to the Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista, at the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (photo below). Eighteen docents met at the Center for lunch and a tour around the zoo and aquarium. The Living Coast Discovery Center is an interactive learning environment displaying San Diego Bay's native wildlife. It hosts over 15,000 school children annually.



Field trip to the Living Coast Discovery Center, Chula Vista, **L-R:** Living Coast guides, Wes Farmer, Louis Sands, Joe Meyer; **Kneeling:** Ingo Renner, Stu Rosenwasser, Margaret Fillius, Rick Vogel, Barbara Justice, Lynne Truong, Marie Johnson; **2<sup>nd</sup> row:** Debby Sherman, Nancy Walters, Diana Coram, Molly McConnell, **3<sup>rd</sup> row:** Kathy Glasebrook, Karen Fraser, Mona Kuczenski, and Sue Randerson (partially hidden)

## Docent Training, Class of 2014: It Takes Teamwork!

by Diane Stocklin

At the first training session on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, our seasoned docents again illustrated their unity in support of the new docent trainees by attending en masse. They also came to the second training session to join hands in orienting the potential docents and offering their talents as mentors.

The new docent trainees responded to this warm welcome, and all thirty of them sent out messages saying, "This is so fun!" Continuing our Docent Society tradition, the Class of 2014 is wonderfully diverse and talented, traits that give our group its strength. Many trainees are already out in the field and on the trails with Whacky Weeders and Seabees, plus working in the Lodge garden. They already show a strong commitment to the Reserve and our goals as docents.

## Did you know?\*

### Who Was First, Part 4

by Tom Polakiewicz

After the last glacial maximum ended, sea levels around the globe rose dramatically until about five thousand years ago.

From that time until European contact in 1769, the lives of the people who lived in and around the Torrey Pines mesa and Peñasquitos Lagoon changed significantly.

Some of the people who had previously lived along the coast moved inland. The ocean resources of the area allowed others to settle permanently near Torrey Pines. These people continued to eat the small shellfish found along the coast and to voyage offshore in tule reed boats, but they also looked inland for plants and small mammals as food sources.

An extensive trade and exchange network developed that reached as far as the Great Basin – the huge western watershed covering most of Nevada and parts of Oregon, Utah, Idaho and California. Life was not the climatic utopia with continuously abundant food supplies that was theorized by early archaeologists, however. Periods of drought lasted as long as two hundred years followed by times of heavy rainfall of equal duration. The people periodically overexploited food resources. Population increased over time, and other groups speaking different languages migrated into the area from the interior of the continent. In about 500 AD, the bow and arrow were introduced.

All of these developments combined to make changes in culture and economy that were rapid and stressful at times. The Kumeyaay believe it was their ancestors who first settled in Torrey Pines ten thousand years ago. Archaeologists characterize the first people as “Paleo Indians,” not related to the Kumeyaay. Whichever view is correct, Torrey Pines has seen great change, to which its inhabitants have had to adapt.

The next article in this series will examine some of the ways in which the Kumeyaay managed the land before European contact.

Sources:

Anderson, M. Kat, *Tending the Wild*, University of California Press (2005)

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Masters, Patricia M., *Land of the Lagoons: The Holocene Maritime of San Diego County*, Mains’l Haul; Maritime Museum of San Diego, Vol. 47 (2011)

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

### Where Have All the Bats (and Bat Houses) Gone?

by Joan R. Simon

With construction coming to an end on the bridge just north of TPSNR on North Torrey Pines Rd., some docents have been wondering what happened to all the bats that lived there before work began in 2010.

At the time, naturalists were mindful that the bats would need to find a new home once work started. So “bat condos” were built to give them an alternative home, with bat guano carefully smeared onto surfaces to attract them. The plan was to have a volunteer crew monitor and maintain the structure. (See: [Bats in the Bridge torreypine.org/Torreyana/1103.pdf](http://Bats in the Bridge torreypine.org/Torreyana/1103.pdf) ).

Alas, it did not work. “They apparently preferred roosting locations other than the bat houses,” commented Torrey Pines naturalist, Darren Smith. So the contractor, Flatiron West, Inc., donated the bat houses (photo below) to the San



Diego Natural History Museum. The museum, in turn, passed them on to Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base and San Diego Zoo Safari Park, according to the museum’s bat naturalist, Drew Stokes, who was involved with the original plan to build the bat houses. Both sites have had bats roosting in places where they were not wanted, he said, “but we are now on the path to getting the bats out of the work/mission structures and hopefully into the bat condos.”

As for the original Torrey Pines bats, all is not lost. Included in the design of the new bridge are special crevices so the bats can return to their bridge home now that the restoration is completed. And word is that they have already begun recolonizing the bridge. So keep a look out for the three main species that were here before construction began: Mexican Free-tailed, Yuma Myotis, and the Big Brown Bat. It is hoped that these species and possibly others will soon be happily ensconced under the newly-reconstructed bridge.

## Birds of the Torrey Pines Extension: Part 2

by Kathy Dickey

*See the March 2014 Torreyana for a discussion of the most common species seen in the Extension*

The Extension is a great place to see raptors. Cooper's Hawks hide in the Torrey Pines, and sometimes sweep down to capture unsuspecting songbirds or newly-hatched chicks. Red-tailed Hawks soar high in the sky, using keen eyesight to spot rodents, snakes and lizards. Less often, Red-shouldered Hawks, American Kestrels and White-tailed Kites have been seen in the area.

The pine trees, especially dead ones or trees with dead branches, make fine homes for woodpeckers and owls. Our most common woodpecker is the Nuttall's Woodpecker, although Downy Woodpeckers have occasionally been recorded. Both sound a quick chatter, or they may be heard pounding holes in the trees, looking for insects under the bark. Northern Flickers can sometimes be heard and seen zooming from tree to tree. We have also seen evidence of a sapsucker species in eucalyptus trees on the edge of the Extension.

Great-horned Owls are known to nest in the Extension, enlarging the nesting cavities formerly used by the woodpeckers to build their own nests. Another bird of the night sky, the Lesser Nighthawk, also makes the Extension home.

Flycatchers (Black and Say's Phoebes, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, and Ash-throated Flycatchers) are perching birds that catch flying insects. They watch from their perch, then fly out quickly and grab a flying insect, usually returning to the same spot to eat it. Cliff Swallows and White-throated Swifts can also sometimes be seen high overhead, chasing swarms of insects.

San Diego County is an important part of the Pacific Flyway, a route used by birds migrating from south to north in the spring

and north to south in the fall along the coast. Protected areas along the coast, such as TPSNR, are important sites along the Pacific Flyway because they provide habitat where migrating birds can safely rest and feed before continuing their journey. In some cases, the birds fly thousands of miles each direction in their annual migrations.

Winter and early spring bring an abundance of migrating songbirds to the area, including White-crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers and Lesser Goldfinches. Less frequently seen, but usually present at least briefly, are American Goldfinches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Also seen or heard occasionally are Townsend's Warblers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hutton's Vireos, Hooded Orioles and the Hermit Thrush.

Fortunately, the Extension trails are not as well-used by humans as the southwestern, upper trails of TPSNR. With the exception of an increase in American Crows that sometimes prey upon other species' nests, and the introduction of the Eurasian-collared

Dove, little has changed over the years.

Let's endeavor to make certain that the Extension continues to be a happy home for our birds.



American Kestrel Photo by Kathy Dickey



Northern Red-shafted Flicker  
Photo by Kathy Dickey



Black Phoebe Photo by Kathy Dickey

## New Park Aide: Isabelle Medina

Isabelle Medina started work on March 20<sup>th</sup> as a Park Aide at TPSNR. This is what she writes about herself:

*I was born and raised in Escondido, California. I've always enjoyed hiking and going to the beach with my family around San Diego County. Before being hired as a seasonal aide at Torrey Pines, I had a couple of jobs in retail sales and food service. I chose to work at Torrey Pines because it coincides more with my major and areas of interest: geography and earth sciences (respectively). I'm currently attending Palomar College for an Associate's Degree in Geographic Information Systems and from there I will continue my schooling and delve more into physical geography.*



Photo by Joan R. Simon chose

We look forward to working with Isabelle at the Reserve.

## San Diego Bird Festival

by Jack Friery

This month's Torrey Pines docent bird tally has a special feature—it includes observations from 16 people from around the country who are not affiliated with the Reserve. These were birders who were in town to attend the annual San Diego Bird Festival.

The Bird Festival is held in late February and early March, and includes field trips, lectures, and vendor presentations. Nearly 500 people from around the US and Canada attended this year. There were dozens of field trips, including local birding, birding Baja, birding by bicycle, birding in the desert and mountains, and pelagic (open sea) birding. Included among the field trips was a jaunt to Torrey Pines, led by Torrey Pines docents **Kathy Estey** and **Jack Friery**. The birds seen during this trip were fed into this month's docent bird count [that you see below].

Next year's San Diego Bird Festival is scheduled for February 26 through March 1, 2015. Docents who are interested in birding and birds should consider attending events are geared to beginning, as well as more advanced birders. Details are at [sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival](http://sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival), or feel free to contact me at [friery@earthlink.net](mailto:friery@earthlink.net).

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: March 1, 2014

Number of species: 90

Gadwall 35	Black-crowned Night-Heron 1	Belted Kingfisher 1	European Starling 14
American Wigeon 24	Osprey 1	Nuttall's Woodpecker 3	American Pipit 1
Mallard 13	White-tailed Kite 2	Northern Flicker 2	Orange-crowned Warbler 24
Northern Shoveler 11	Northern Harrier 1	American Kestrel 2	Common Yellowthroat 20
Northern Pintail 36	Cooper's Hawk 1	Peregrine Falcon 2	Yellow-rumped Warbler 31
Green-winged Teal 2	Red-shouldered Hawk 3	Black Phoebe 4	Spotted Towhee 8
Canvasback 1	Red-tailed Hawk 4	Say's Phoebe 1	California Towhee 16
Ring-necked Duck 1	Clapper Rail 1	Cassin's Kingbird 2	Song Sparrow 37
Lesser Scaup 11	Common Gallinule 1	Western Scrub-Jay 7	White-crowned Sparrow 26
Surf Scoter 1	American Coot 27	American Crow 37	Golden-crowned Sparrow 1
Bufflehead 10	Killdeer 2	Common Raven 8	Red-winged Blackbird 36
Red-breasted Merganser 1	Spotted Sandpiper 1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 32	Brewer's Blackbird 2
Ruddy Duck 3	Willet 1	Tree Swallow 2	House Finch 20
California Quail 8	Long-billed Curlew 1	Cliff Swallow 1	Lesser Goldfinch 21
Pacific Loon 1	Least Sandpiper 6	Bushtit 31	House Sparrow 3
Pied-billed Grebe 1	Western Sandpiper 5	Rock Wren 1	
Eared Grebe 1	Heermann's Gull 3	House Wren 3	<b>Observers:</b> Blair Francis,
Western Grebe 100	Ring-billed Gull 7	Marsh Wren 7	Eva Armi, Gary Grantham,
Brandt's Cormorant 1	Western Gull 4	Bewick's Wren 7	Kathy Dickey, Jack Friery,
Double-crested Cormorant 7	California Gull 4	California Gnatcatcher 8	Anonymous, and 16
Brown Pelican 15	tern sp. 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2	additional visitors from the
Great Blue Heron 1	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 1	Wrentit 27	San Diego Bird Festival
Great Egret 3	Mourning Dove 3	Hermit Thrush 1	
Snowy Egret 1	White-throated Swift 16	California Thrasher 4	
	Anna's Hummingbird 44	Northern Mockingbird 2	
	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 3		

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



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Where did the Hosting/Walks Schedule go? With the new Volgistics online signup system the whole month fills up very quickly. Volgistics is now being used by 90% of the docents and any openings are available online or you can check the paper copies in the Green Notebook behind the docent desk in the Lodge that are updated every Monday. Questions can be emailed to [portal@torreypine.org](mailto:portal@torreypine.org).