



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 349

June 2014

Hunting the Magnetic Field

by Joan R. Simon and Jeannie Smith

Dr. Lisa Tauxe, Professor of Geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, gave the docents a crash course in the study of magnetic fields at the May general meeting. She explained the workings of the Earth's magnetic field and its vital role in shielding us from cosmic and solar radiation. Our magnetic field is unique among planets in our solar system, and hence we are the only planet with an atmosphere that supports life as we know it. The magnetic field also controls the production of cosmogenic nuclides which make possible radiocarbon dating, an essential tool for determining the age of rocks and sediments, as well as archaeological artifacts.

The earth's magnetic field is being used by scientists to reconstruct the Earth's evolution by studying plate tectonics and the history of oceans and continents. This research has helped prove the theory of continental drift. Dr. Tauxe has concentrated her work on paleomagnetism, the study of remanent magnetism in geological and archeological materials. She has developed models to study the variations in the intensity of the Earth's magnetic field through geologic time, concentrating on the sediment found on the ocean floor.

While compasses showing magnetic north were used by the Chinese as early as the first century, Europeans did not know of them until the 13th century. Scant data was recorded until the Age of Exploration, when ships' captains started noting differences in the strength and declination of the magnetic field, depending on the ships' locations. These logs have been mined for data more than 500 years old to shed light on the changing position of the magnetic north pole.

We now know that "the poles are zipping around" and over time have reversed, i.e., the polarity (what is north and what is south) has changed hundreds of times during the Earth's

4.5 billion year history. Dr. Tauxe reassured us that polarity reversal happens over long enough periods of time that animals that rely on the magnetic field for their navigation (e.g., bats, as well as many birds) are able to adapt to the changes. Today satellites provide data on current conditions and there is an array of
(cont. on pg. 2)

Docent General Meeting

Saturday, June 14, 9 am

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

Title: The Unrecognized Potential of San Diego County's Prehistoric Archaeology

Speaker: Dr. Mark S. Becker

Dr. Becker is the vice president and principal investigator of ASM Affiliates in Carlsbad. He will be discussing the possibility that the archaeological findings in the San Diego County may represent a unique human adaptation that defies traditional classification perspectives. Dr. Becker has over twenty years of professional and academic experience in archaeological fieldwork, research, and publication in the American Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, Upper South, Southeast, Plains, Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, Southern California, Southwest Asia, and North Africa. His ongoing research centers on prehistoric settlement systems and how mobility is reconstructed from the archaeological record through an examination of technology, function, and spatial analysis.

Refreshments: Docents whose last names begin with **A, B, and C** will be responsible for providing snacks for the June meeting. In addition, we will have a small luncheon following the business meeting to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2014.

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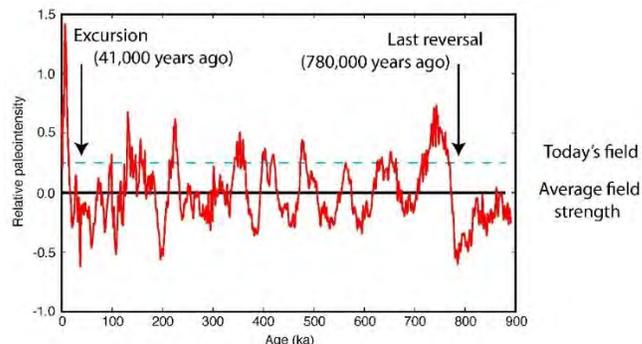
FLASH:

See pg. 10 for info on the TPDS Book Club meeting, Tues. June 24, 2 pm.

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

instruments measuring magnetic field data around the planet. We know that the strength of the magnetic field has declined greatly over the last century, and a decline in the past has often preceded a polar "flip" or reversal. In fact, at the current rate of decline, some scientists believe the poles may reverse in 500 years or so.

Dr. Tauxe was skeptical, pointing out that since the last reversal, 780,000 years ago, there have been many fluctuations in field strength. In fact 40,000 years ago the signal was as low as it had been before the last reversal, yet 3000 years ago it was stronger than ever recorded. So will the next "flip" be in 500 years or 40 million years? Who can say?



Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting for May 10, 2014

Only a brief business meeting was held.

Docent of the Month: Joe Meyer, who is involved in everything, with endless energy. (See article on pg. 3.)

Janice Bernard mentioned the Museum refresh is moving forward. The committee has spoken with four vendors. They hope to be done talking with the vendors by mid-July, have a decision about which vendor to go with in August, and make the changes over winter. Dylan has the final decision about what can be changed. (See article on pg. 6.)

Ann Mercandetti Smith thanked all of the docents that helped monitor the La Jolla Half Marathon. There was far less trash than last year. (See article on pg. 5.)

Come and Welcome the Class of 2014

by Diane Stocklin

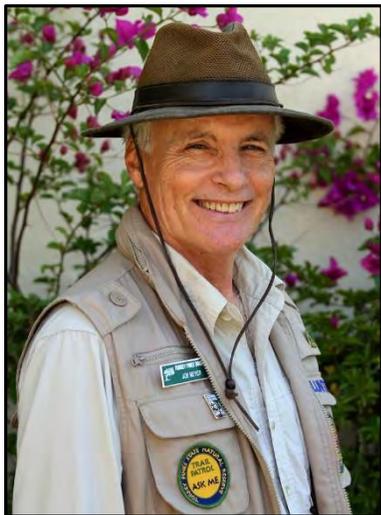
On Saturday, June 14th, at the monthly docent meeting, the training class of 2014 will achieve full docent status with a "graduation." After the business meeting, all docents are invited to attend a social hour and heartily welcome the 29 bright and eager new docents. Come meet your new docent friends who will be in the Lodge, TIK, on the trail, at the Children's Program, etc., volunteering their time in support of our TPDS goals. Save room for a light lunch of sandwiches, chips, fruit, and whatever remains from our regular refreshments (**A, B & C this month**), with cake, iced tea and lemonade. If you desire musical entertainment, we must recruit the Class of 2013. Anyone game?

Docent of the Month:

Joe Meyer

Photo by Herb Knüfken

I've loved the outdoors my entire life, embracing any chance to let Nature flood over me in all her wisdom. It is an honor to be chosen as Docent of the Month. I am humbled and blessed to volunteer at TPSNR, that *"This our life, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stone, and good in everything. I would not change it."*



I was born in New Jersey, raised near Philadelphia, hiking and hunting with my father, adventuring with the Cub and Boy Scouts, traveling cross country, absorbing the wilds of East and West, creating an increased respect and awe for the great outdoors. After college graduation, I found myself westward bound, exploring as many National Parks as possible, both in the US and the Canadian Rockies, and eventually landing in the San Francisco Bay area circa 1972. The years following entailed more traveling -- Lake Tahoe/Sierra Nevadas, the islands of Hawaii, LA, and more across the country, touching almost all 50 states and settling in San Diego in 1986, where I first became aware of TPSNR.

My wife and I enjoyed hiking these storied trails and beaches, the incredible vistas and views of the Reserve, for 16 + years, but did not know much about it. While hiking the beach trail, we stopped a docent (wearing a vest) and inquired about how to become an official volunteer. Next thing you know, I'm a member of the Class of 2013, excited, engaged, studying hard and getting involved. I had a great mentor, **Bill Sheehan** [deceased 2013], who taught me a lot with his quick mind and great sense of humor. Upon graduation, I became involved in as many aspects of the park as possible - guided nature walks, the Children's Program, Lodge hosting, Whacky Weeders, special events and walks, Trail Patrol - every day learning new things, interpreting

the Reserve for our many visitors, educating the kids and myself. The docents involved in the TPDS are some of the greatest folks I have ever known, each with their own story to tell, if you will listen. To find your passion, to do what you love, it doesn't get any better than that. Thank you with gratitude and appreciation.

Children's Program

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

Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator

The school year is rapidly coming to an end and, as always, May was a popular month for field trips. We were so pleased to be able to share the nature and beauty of Torrey Pines with almost 600 school children. Four schools came for our Plants & Habitats Program, three for our Kumeyaay Program, two for our Ecosystems and Food Chain Program, and one for Geology. The docents who presented in May were **Joellen Barnett, Wes Farmer, Janet Ugalde, Paul Howard, Kathy Dickey, Sue Randerson,** and **Kay Harry**. Our special thanks to those docent trail guides who changed their schedules at the last minute to come on May 9th when we had a school mix-up creating a "two schools on one day" issue. All the Children's Program docents are really a wonderful group who enjoy children and nature...and definitely fulfill our Torrey Pines mission to educate. We thank them all.

And our docents are so great that they even helped volunteer at the San Dieguito River Park! In May the Children's Program had a special request from the River Park to help with their Lagoon Days on May 12-14th. It is an annual event for all the 600 third graders in Del Mar with nature stations set up in the lagoon area. The eight docents who helped with this event were **Joan Adamo, Marie Johnson, Barbara Justice, Jeannie Smith, Diane Stocklin, Steve Tarkington, Barbara Wallach,** and **Ann Williamson**.

"Is this like a cemetery?"... a comment from a second grader after Barbara Wallach had been showing the children our "dead" animals on display in the Lodge. Working with children is always fun and challenging!

Lastly, save the date for our Children's Program end of year potluck luncheon, Thursday, July 17 (yes, JULY NOT JUNE). You faithful Children's Program docents may take a little break before we gather in July. (More detailed information will be emailed.) At the luncheon we will talk about this past year's programs and hear about the history of the Children's Program from Barbara Wallach as we prepare to celebrate our 25th anniversary! As people always say, "Where has the time gone"?

Green Team Refillable Water Bottle Program, First Year

by Frank Burham

There is a direct relationship between the Green Team, the refillable water bottle program, and the TPDS Science Fair. This link is explained below.

Over the past 13 years, Torrey Pines Docent Society has been an active Professional Society member of the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. At the June 2012 monthly Docent meeting, TPDS Science Fair Award Winner Nilay Shaw presented his project: "Plastic Biodegradation in a Marine Environment." Nilay's article about his project was published in our June 2012 newsletter, the Pinecone. In addition to the TPDS award and several other awards, Nilay was named Young Scientist of the Year by the San Diego Oceanic Foundation.

Nilay explained his motivation for the study was initiated by reading about the plight of the Albatross. These birds ingest plastic particles they find floating in the ocean, eat them and feed them to their young, resulting in a very high death rate. A great deal of this oceanic plastic pollution comes from disposable water bottles. His excellent presentation addressed potential solutions to this problem.

A few months later, based on Nilay's presentation, **Isabet Yarrington** requested help with starting a program related to the reduction of plastic pollution. We researched the activity of the National Parks and found that Zion, Grand Canyon and many others had stopped all sales of disposable plastic bottles and offered refillable bottles as the preferred alternative. In addition, several of the local colleges and the city of San Francisco had implemented similar programs to promote the use of refillable bottles.

In February 2013, we presented an environmental impact proposal to the TPDS Board. We requested a program to promote the sale of refillable bottles and cease selling disposable plastic water bottles. The Board authorized the formation of the Green Team with a directive to conduct a pilot study to determine the level of acceptance of the proposed reusable water bottle program. Also, the scope of the Green Team was broadened to include other environmental impact areas such as zero waste and recycling.

The pilot study was launched in mid-March at the Trailhead Information Kiosk (TIK), operating on weekends only. During a six week period, over 400 refillable bottles were sold. There was overwhelming support from the public and docents. **Nancy Walters** created a rousing "Recycle" song which was presented at the April 2013 monthly meeting. Based on the positive results, the TPDS Board authorized the cessation of the sale of disposable water bottles and implementation of the sale of refillable bottles.

The program was officially launched at the Museum and the TIK on May 10, 2013.

The first full year profit from the refillable bottle sales was \$3298, plus \$1026 in donations collected at the TIK, primarily in support of the refillable bottle program, for a total contribution to TPDS of \$4324. In all, 2034 refillable bottles were sold, representing a reduction of 342,000 disposable bottles, based on the average annual usage estimate established by the National Parks programs.

The program objective is to reduce the negative environmental impact of disposable plastic water bottles. Our success, aided by the National Parks and others, can be measured as we see more and more people arriving at the Reserve carrying refillable bottles.



Docents in training, Lorraine Stein and Claudia Kay, at the TIK with several types of water bottles Photo by Joan R. Simon

Thank you to the TPDS Board, the Green Team and all who have enthusiastically supported this program.

In addition, I want to give a very special thanks to Nilay Shaw. He will attend our June Docent meeting and we will recognize him for his contribution. It is very significant when an 8th grade student can motivate us to make a major positive environmental impact change at a State Natural Reserve.

Ranger Report: Dylan Hardenbrook's Update on Trails

by Diane Stocklin

South Fork Trail is not completely finished but is now open and will remain open. The work still in progress is adding additional delineators on the sides; a new bench by the new overlook; and a clean-up and some repairs at the entrance to the trail. The "year" for the California Conservation Corp crew that has been working on the trail ended on Wednesday, May 21; they will be back in the Reserve on July 9.

West Overlook Trail is open at the overlook, but along the perimeter of the canyon the trail is closed for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades. Netting is up to block off the sections under repair.

Parry Grove Trail remains closed to both workers and the public because of the Gnatcatcher's nesting season along that trail. On September 1st, the state trails crews will be back working in that area. All the materials are here for the remaining limited amount of work. The overlook at the west end of the Whitaker Garden is included in the ADA upgrades and will be completed this year.

High Point Trail hand-railing repair and replacements are ready for a job walk to finalize scope and budget. The existing wooden handrails will most likely be replaced with metal ones. The entry to this trail will be repaired as well. Funding for this project is still pending.

The next big project is repair to the **Broken Hill Trail** where damage has been caused by large amounts of erosion and off-trail traffic. **TPA** has purchased the fill materials for repairing erosion and a funding request is out for trail Eye-rod delineators.

Extension Trails: A planning document, called a **Road and Trail and Management Plan (RTMP)** of the entire Reserve, including the Extension, is funded. In the Extension, existing conditions mapping and the visitors' survey are completed. The priority this summer is an inventory of the cultural and natural resources, so final trail position options can be determined. All trails will be planned to best preserve all cultural and natural assets. The possibility of adding a **Rim Trail** has been mentioned, but it is only one of several possible additional trails. One value of a **Rim Trail** is that homeowners would have access in the back of their homes without creating off-trail damage. Another value of a **Rim Trail** would be serving as a firebreak and quick emergency access to the Extension area. Public meetings on trail proposals will be held late in the year.

Docents Monitor and Cheer on La Jolla Half-Marathon Runners

by Ann Smith Mercandetti

Photos (in order) by Kristine Schindler, Ken King, and Lynne Truong

On Sunday morning, April 27th, **Joe Meyer, Kristine Schindler, Bridget MacConnel, Carolyn Colwell, Joy Inton, Helen Grundler, Ann Walker, Nikki Hrountas, Lynne Truong, Michele Kurtis Cole, Chris Richter, Jeannie Smith, Joan Simon, Mary Friestedt, Maureen Buckley, Franne Fischman, Marlis Sticher, Elaine Lawrence, Ken King, Irene Larrimore, Darlene Martineau, Lorraine Stein, Karen Lay, and Lynne Small** arrived at the Lodge parking lot at the Reserve before 7 am. This crew of docents then spread out along the road through Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve to cheer runners participating in the La Jolla Half Marathon, many holding posters to remind the runners of the Natural World into which they had run. Following problems with trash after this event last year, the State changed some of the contractual requirements with the sponsoring company this year. Between those changes and the uniformed TP docent

presence, there was a BIG, positive change this year. Trash was minimal, and it stayed mostly within the location of the single water station allowed within the Reserve. The overflowing bins of water cups along the road near the water station were picked up and removed from the Reserve within an hour after runners completed the portion of their run through Torrey Pines.



Several concerns from this event were noted by docents and were forwarded to the California State Parks' contractor who, in writing, defines events allowed at TPSNR. Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society have helped greatly by being present at the Three Day Komen Walk last fall and the La Jolla Half Marathon this spring. By getting docents' on-site observations and suggestions to the CA State Parks contractor, the State can then follow up on our concerns for the Reserve.



L to R: Joan Simon, Elaine Lawrence, and Maureen Buckley

Many, many thanks to the docents who did such a WONDERFUL job participating in this event at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve!!

Update on “Refreshing” the Lodge Museum

by Ken King

Over the last year, our Museum Committee has been meeting to discuss how to improve our museum and the experience of our visitors. We've had quick and easy tasks (organizing the desk and its contents, cleaning up the taxidermy and the exhibit on the west island), and one more lengthy project: the “Museum Refresh Project.”



A new raccoon for the museum
Photo by Joan R. Simon

The Museum Refresh Committee was formed about a year ago and includes **Janice Barnard**, **Louis Sands** and **Ken King** as the “core team.” Additional members include **Nancy Woodworth**, **Barbara Wallach**, **Jan Lombardi**, **Nan Danninger**, **Jeannie Smith**, and **Bill Eckles**. Subject matter experts working on the project include **Judy Schulman** and Mike Hastings, Executive Director of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation. Just over a year ago, we talked with an expert recommended by the San Diego Natural History Museum and learned that we needed to: a) hire a museum professional to help design and execute the project; and b) prepare a formal request for bid (RFB) to inform the professionals what messages were important to visitors (or more accurately our perception of what is important to the visitors).

Before we could prepare the RFB, we needed to ask the docents about our current exhibits: what was important, what worked, and what didn't. The detailed “matrix” questionnaire was completed last fall by a number of docents, giving us the data we needed to complete the RFB.

To give you a flavor of the findings, the most important theme is the Torrey pine tree. The second most important theme is the history of the Lodge and the Reserve. There are a half-dozen other themes in the RFB, including plant communities, animals, and geology. Torrey Pines Association (TPA), the Docent Board, and our Supervising Ranger, Dylan Hardenbrook reviewed and approved the RFB.

Our State Parks Interpreter for the District provided us with four qualified vendors that we invited to bid on the Refresh. We let them know that we expected to have the cost come in at \$30-\$40,000. There are several sources for the money, including TPA and the interest earned by the endowment jointly owned by TPA and the Docent Society. Additionally, we are submitting a grant proposal to the California State Parks Foundation to assist with funding the project.

All four vendors expressed a great deal of interest in helping us, but one had to decline, due to a surplus of current business. The remaining three visited the site and were shown around by Louis and some others on the committee.

The next step is for the vendors to submit their recommendations and project costs to the committee (7/15), followed by the vendor presentations (7/30-8/15). The committee will then submit its recommendation to the TPDS Board, Supervisor Hardenbrook, and the TPA on 8/30. The vendors will be notified of the final selection on 9/15.

Of course these dates are “soft.” Currently we are on schedule and things may go a little more quickly than the timeline indicates.

We will keep you informed as we continue to move down the path toward completion. Be prepared for some exciting ideas and eventual execution that will make dramatic improvements in our museum!

A Day in the Life of a Lodge Host

by Lillian Lachicotte

This May I worked two Lodge hosting shifts on a bright, warm Saturday afternoon. Many visitors perused our shop for treasures and our nature displays remained obediently still as they allowed visitors to view the curve of their wing or softness of fur.

Roger Isaacson co-hosted with me during the busiest time, filling in when I needed to check for T-shirts and starting the video as I answered the phone. I was grateful for his help, especially when two boys became boisterously intrigued with Mr. Coyote... his ears, eyes, nose. Thanks to Roger sitting close by, our coyote remained intact.

After traffic slowed and Roger left, two visitors returned from a walk. They beamed with happiness and told me they had just become engaged. As they searched the shop for a memento of the occasion, I felt the soft joy of their radiant love. They chose a postcard with a picture of where the young man had proposed. Of course, I mentioned that the Reserve was a wonderful place for a wedding.

Later, a woman queried why our beach sand had golden flakes. I looked up the answer (coastalcare.org) and found that the glistening flakes were mica washed down from the mountains.

What a wonderful time I had during Lodge hosting: working with a fellow docent, rejoicing with a smiling and happy couple, and learning something more about our sparkly beach. The afternoon was delightful, interesting and time well spent.

On The Museum Shop Book Shelf

by Suzan Potuznik

Torrey Pines: Landscape and Legacy by Bill Evarts, a 1994 publication by the Torrey Pines Association, celebrates its 20th Anniversary and still remains a treasure that inspires and informs.

The unique beauty of the Torrey pine and the Reserve are captured in this book with breathtaking photographs woven into a rich story of botany, geology and history by the photographer and author Bill Evarts. His connection to the Reserve began as a boy, when he hiked the trails with Guy Fleming, the first custodian of the park, and spent many family outings at the Reserve and the Fleming residence. Guy Fleming's gift to "surprise, educate and mystify" had Bill "awestruck as tiny flecks of iron oxide jumped from the sand" onto a magnet and Bill knew that Torrey Pines was "no ordinary place."

Bill Evarts' photographs capture a moment in the history of the ever-changing panoramic views of the Reserve while inviting you to look closer: drawing your focus to an exposed root, a sandstone wind cave, a short-leaved *Dudleya* among the pebbles of the sandy ground, or perhaps a bouquet of blossoms nestled within the leaves of a Mohave yucca. The photographs, rich in perspective, depth, and color, capture a light and a time that awakens the senses.

The flowing narrative takes you from the conception of the park and quotes by Charles Parry to details about the Torrey pines that few could rival in the detail of taxonomy and in the study of why and how this pine has survived within the ecosystem and geological strata that surround and support this rare species. The photograph legends themselves are a rich source of knowledge. Details of how a unique image was captured may be included as well as further insights, such as how the *Tegeticula* moth assures the survival of the Mohave yucca or how many years ago and how high above the ocean a particular formation appears. Evarts' photographs capture the Reserve at the time of the 1986-

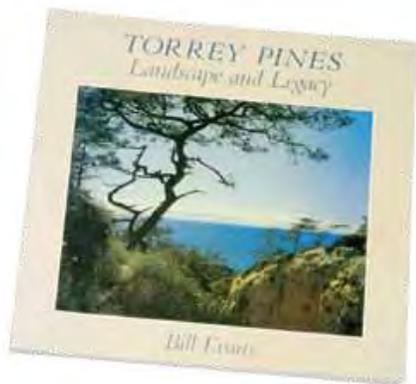
1991 drought, when significant changes were taking place, creating an invaluable historical record of this region.

The concept of this book was born in 1985 when Bob Wohl, then supervising ranger at TPSNR, came upon Bill Evarts, already an established photographer, who wanted to create a photographic record of the Reserve. Wohl, who had been thinking about a coffee table style book of the Reserve, was very impressed with Evarts' photography and his sensitivity and devotion to nature. Thus with a wish, an inspiration and strong support from the Torrey Pines Association's John S. Shelton, the project came to fruition.

Bill Evarts comes from a long line of storytellers, writers, and naturalists that inspired him to express his connection to the Reserve not only on film but also with words. In the search for a narrator to complement the photographs of this book, many were considered, but it was Bill Evarts himself who was the perfect choice with his ability to capture the sense of this coastal enclave sharing his rich knowledge of and about this place we now call the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.

A sincere thank you to Bill Evarts for sharing his stories and author's touch. You can find more stories on his website at billevarts.com/torrey-pines-book.html.

The book was published by the Torrey Pines Association with generous support from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation.



New Books at the Museum Shop

Parry's California Notebooks 1849 – 51: With Letters to John Torrey is a collection of the notes and letters of Charles C. Parry, including a description of his identification of the Torrey Pine tree.

San Diego County Native Plants in the 1830's is a complement to the Parry Notebooks, as it sets the scene before the United States took over the territory. Information includes the collections of Thomas Coulter, Thomas Nuttall and H.M.S. Sulphur.

Other new titles:

Coast To Crest And Beyond: Across San Diego County by Car along the San Dieguito River by Wolf Berger, Ph.D.

Familiar Trees of North America: West (National Audubon Society, Pocket Guide)

Field Guide to Trees: Western Region (National Audubon Society)

Add to your library, support the Docent Society and enjoy your discount.

The Marines Have Landed at Torrey Pines?

by Judy Schulman

One of the reasons I like researching history is that you never know what you are going to find. Who knew that my research on the restaurant concessionaires of the Lodge (I have found eight so far) would lead me to learning about the Marine Corps being here?

As part of this research, I read the reverse side of Torrey Pines postcards that I see for sale on eBay. I am looking for messages that mention eating at the Lodge. It is a good thing that I do this, otherwise I would have missed a set of five postcards. Normally, I would not have bought them, since I already had the views on them. But what was written on the back definitely caught my attention! They were written from a *Marine* in 1944 to his parents in Patterson, New Jersey. For years, I have been talking about the Army's Camp Callan and its relationship to Torrey Pines. I had never heard anything about the Marines being here too.

-- In a view of the interior of the Lodge, he mentions using what used to be a restaurant for phoning home, writing letters, and talking at night.

-- A view of a dog (former restaurant concessionaire turned Lodge caretaker Axel Johnson's dog Chonita) on the porch states, "this here is the dog that belongs to the lodge where we are stationed in the mountains." Obviously New Jersey must be a very flat place if our hill is described as a mountain!

-- An exterior view of the Lodge from a short distance away has the message that to the extreme right and a bit in front of the building is where they did their camping in tents.

-- A view looking toward the lagoon and what is now known as the Extension states that this was an ideal spot for their gear.

-- In a view showing the beach and cliffs, he talks about this being where they did their swimming and hiking up and down the mountain for physical training.

Based on the return address on the upper left hand corner of the postcard, I was able to identify that he was stationed at Camp Miramar (now known as MCAS, Miramar). He belonged to "Air Warning Squadron 11, Air Warning Group 2, Marine Fleet Air, West Coast." His unit was at Torrey Pines from July 30, 1944 to September 29, 1944 for operational training of lightweight portable early warning radar systems known as SCR 602s.

Fire in Torrey Pines East

by Dylan Hardenbrook, Supervising Ranger TPSNR

On May 3rd there was a small brush fire on the east side of North Torrey Pines Rd. in a closed area of the Reserve. There was a second fire (or more likely a flare up of the same one) at the same location on May 4th that was put out by the San Diego Fire Department with hand crews and an air drop. On the morning of May 5th the fire was found to be still smoldering and was finally completely extinguished by Rangers from the Reserve. The cause of the fire is unknown. There was no evidence of homeless encampments in the area, but the location was too far from the roadway for a cigarette thrown from a vehicle to be the likely cause. The fire burned about 300 square feet, scorching a mature Torrey pine and several saplings which are unlikely to survive, according to State Parks Environmental scientists. There is no current plan for replanting, but the area will be studied as a test case of environmental response to fire. The timing of the fire was fortunate. Had it been a few days earlier, it would have occurred during a Santa Ana wind condition which could have spread the fire across the road into the main Reserve.

Latest Torrey Pines peregrine falcon photos by Herb Knüfken
(photos have been cropped for better newsletter views):



Mother bringing food to peregrine chicks, May 8



Peregrine chicks, May 12



Peregrine falcon fledgling food fight, May 25

Herb Knüfken's original photos may be found here
pbase.com/herb1rm/
 including the "first flight" on May 27

*Did you know?**

Who Was First, Part 6, Final Thoughts

by Tom Polakiewicz

People have lived in and around Torrey Pines for ten thousand years. Four hundred generations have been born, lived, raised children and died. Even though there have been dramatic changes in the land and its surroundings, the changes have occurred slowly enough that no single generation would have noticed.

The first hunters who faced mastodons and mammoths, saber-toothed cats and dire wolves, when Torrey Pines was three miles from the ocean shore, probably thought that their world would never change.

The people who gathered shells along the shores of the lagoon when it was a deep inlet wouldn't have foreseen that the bay would fill with sediment and become a marsh.

The Kumeyaay Indians who paddled out to sea in reed canoes and managed the land for thousands of years by burning and pruning the brush could not have been aware that their way of life would come to an end.

It may be tempting for us today to think of the way things are now as the way they will always be. We might think that the ten generations since Europeans arrived at Torrey Pines have produced a permanent world of houses, freeways and airplanes overhead. But if the last ten thousand years have taught us anything, it is that nothing is permanent. Four hundred generations from now Torrey Pines will not look like it does today, and to the people living then, we will be part of a vague, distant and lost world.

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

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 3, 2014

Number of species: 73

Gadwall 5	Whimbrel 5	Western Scrub-Jay 6	California Towhee 29
American Wigeon 5	Long-billed Curlew 1	American Crow 15	Savannah Sparrow 6
Mallard 17	Heermann's Gull 17	Common Raven 2	Song Sparrow 28
California Quail 7	Ring-billed Gull 4	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 16	Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
Pied-billed Grebe 5	Western Gull 28	Bushtit 6	Western Tanager 6
Western Grebe 2	California Gull 60	House Wren 7	Black-headed Grosbeak 2
Brandt's Cormorant 4	Caspian Tern 6	Marsh Wren 3	Red-winged Blackbird 24
Double-crested Cormorant 8	Royal Tern 1	Bewick's Wren 17	Brown-headed Cowbird 4
Brown Pelican 21	Eurasian Collared-Dove 3	California Gnatcatcher 3	Hooded Oriole 1
Great Blue Heron 4	Mourning Dove 16	Wrentit 23	House Finch 54
Great Egret 5	White-throated Swift 2	California Thrasher 3	Lesser Goldfinch 34
Snowy Egret 10	Anna's Hummingbird 21	Northern Mockingbird 4	American Goldfinch 1
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1	Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 3	European Starling 5	House Sparrow 2
White-tailed Kite 1	Nuttall's Woodpecker 7	Orange-crowned Warbler 8	
Cooper's Hawk 1	American Kestrel 1	Common Yellowthroat 8	<i>Observers:</i> Blair Francis,
Red-shouldered Hawk 2	Peregrine Falcon 2	Yellow Warbler 3	Eva Armi, Gary Grantham,
Red-tailed Hawk 4	Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1	Townsend's Warbler 2	Kathy Dickey, Jack Friery,
American Coot 3	Black Phoebe 5	Wilson's Warbler 21	Herb Knüfken, Bob Glaser,
Killdeer 2	Ash-throated Flycatcher 2	Yellow-breasted Chat 2	and Anonymous
	Cassin's Kingbird 8	Spotted Towhee 21	
	Warbling Vireo 3		

Previous Bird Surveys may be found at torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html



Torrey Pines Docent Society
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Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, June 24, 2 pm

Where: Alison & Greg Howard home (University City)

What: *The Land of Little Rain* by Mary Hunter Austin

All TP docents are welcome. Please contact Molly McConnell or Alison Howard if you plan to attend. (Check Member List for email or phone numbers.)

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.