



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 351

August 2014

Aalbers Schools Docents in Fish

by Pat Finn

Those of us who like fish would love to be able to eat, say, local halibut whenever we want. But if no one looks out for the welfare of marine creatures, the idea of a plate of fish and chips will become just that – an idea.

And that's where PIER comes in. The Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research in Oceanside is a non-profit which exists to study fish – their numbers, health, growth, reproductive habits, migration patterns -- and develop ideas and tools to advance the management of sustainable fisheries. If fish thrive, then we and everyone else will be able to eat them, which may sound perverse, but isn't.

When Scott Aalbers, a research biologist at PIER, spoke to the Torrey Pines Docent Society in July about his project, Ongoing Studies Towards Sustainable Fishery Management at PIER, he said he is a fisherman first and a biologist second. He grew up in La Jolla (where he worked at TPNSR), got a BS at Oregon State University in Marine Fisheries Science and an MS in Fish Biology at CSU Fullerton. He has worked at Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Aalbers says that in order to manage sustainable fisheries, we need to know a few things, and several of them are hard to get at: biological parameters of different species (growth rate; size at maturity; habitat utilization; migration routes and patterns; reproductive biology; the status of the stock). The stocks PIER is primarily concerned with are swordfish, white sea bass and thresher sharks.

Studying swordfish is expensive. The tags PIER scientists attach for electronic monitoring cost \$5,000 apiece. The tags eventually pop off these large, highly migratory fish which hustle regularly from surface to deep water and back. The tags are supposed to float to the surface, where, it is

Docent General Meeting
Saturday, August 9, 9 am

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

David Van Cleve, former park superintendent, ranger, and ecologist, will be the August speaker. He has culled humorous anecdotes from his 32-year career with the California State Parks into a book titled "Have a Nice Day Job."

Anecdotes include the time he actually put a man in jail for littering in a state park; a bizarre incident when, at 11,000 feet, he contacted illegal campers while dressed only in his underwear; and the time he backpacked (on duty) in a tuxedo. He also made a date with a nudist on Black's Beach.

David H. Van Cleve was educated at the University of California, Santa Cruz with a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies. He claims responsibility for UCSC's adoption of the Banana Slugs as the school's justly famous mascot for its sports teams, an achievement he insists on regarding as among the most important of his life. At UC Santa Barbara he earned an MA in Geography. He credits the original Earth Day, in the spring of 1970, with giving him a permanent nudge towards a career in conservation.

Van Cleve will bring copies of his book and will be available for signing after the presentation

Refreshments: Docents whose last names begin with **G, H** and **I** will be responsible for providing snacks for the August meeting.

hoped, Aalbers and his cohorts will be able to pick up their signal with a radio and retrieve them. Very iffy.

One positive development PIER scientists have noted recently is the resurgence of white sea bass along the Southern California coast. White sea bass are slow-growing and long-lived croakers, and the average age of one sold at market is 12 years old. They aggregate and

Inside	
General Meeting Minutes	2
Docent of the Month	3
July Walks Were Special	3
Children's Program	4
Proposed Board Change	4-5
Poem by Rhea Bridy	5
Featured Docent Photos	5-6
Did You Know?	6
Leucistic Birds	7
Bird List	7

The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Pat Finn on alternate months, and is formatted and produced by Roger Isaacson. Submissions are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be emailed to

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Circulation manager: Marian Casazza

Extra copies of the printed *Torreyana* may be found in the docent library.

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TPDS 2014 Board Members:

President: Bill Eckles

Vice-president: Bob Doolittle

Treasurer: Gerry Lawrence

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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.

(cont from pg. 1)

spawn March through July, and these aggregations are targeted by fisheries. PIER is trying to reduce over-harvesting by commercial and recreational fisheries so that the stock doesn't dwindle.

Because fish are notoriously poor at recognizing international borders, PIER collaborates with CICESE, Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, a Mexican public research center which specializes in oceanography.

Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting for July 12, 2014

Meeting called to order at 10:55 am by President Bill Eckles.

Spotlight On:

1) *Graffiti on the Beach Cliffs* by **Marsha Arones**.

There are many new carvings in the beach cliffs left by visitors. To discourage this crime, Marsha and the Green Team are designing two signs to post on the beach near the worst of the graffiti sections on the cliffs. The signs will have the code citation of the law that they are breaking by carving the cliffs and include the resulting fine. The TPDS Board has approved funding for these signs and Dylan has approved putting up these signs. Dylan will approve the final design before installation.

2) **Jim Larrimore's** slide show, *Torrey Pine Needle Tiki* illustrated that dry pine needles have grooves but the green ones do not. Condensed water flow along microscopic channels between the needle's stomata may cause the Torrey pine to create its own rain.

Docent of the Month: Donna Close, Class of 2013, was named Docent of the Month for July for all of her hard work.

Ranger's report: (Bill Eckles) Dylan is getting bids for the railing for High Point Trail. The ADA trail is progressing well. The Green Team has discouraged handing out trail maps. There is a plan to put several laminated maps at strategic locations in the Reserve in hopes of reducing the number of paper maps handed out to visitors.

Torrey Pines Association: (Rick Vogel) TPA granted \$17,000 for the further delineation of Broken Hill Trail.

Refreshments: For August's General Meeting docents whose last names start with **G, H or I are responsible for snacks**.

Channel Island trip: Has one spot left as the result of a cancellation. Contact Tom Polakiewicz (see Docent Membership List).

Docent of the Month:

Donna Close

Photo by Herb Knüfken

I am honored to be named Docent of the Month.

I was born in Los Angeles and moved to San Diego in 1976. After receiving a degree in art at Orange Coast College, I switched to accounting and attended San Diego State, where I met my husband, Dan. We are both CPAs and together we have a forensic accounting practice.



We moved to the Carmel Valley area in 1984 and, with our son and daughter, we occasionally hiked the Torrey Pines State Reserve. Five years ago, I decided to skip the gym and headed to Torrey Pines to hike. I enjoyed the morning so much that I cancelled my gym membership as soon as I arrived back home. I was hooked!

Mid-July Walks Were Special

by Ann Williamson

For four days in July, Torrey Pines docents conducted 13 special walks, which arrived courtesy of the State Parks District Office Special Events Coordinator, Julia Miura. The first, on July 14, was for Hands of Peace, an interfaith group of 25 teenagers, aged 15 to 17, from Palestine, Israel, and the U.S. Their goal is to promote peace and leadership.

Jennifer Greenberg, George Beardsley, and Pao Chau were the guides for this group. The organizers were concerned because the Muslim kids were observing Ramadan, meaning no food or water during the day. But the docents reported that the teens were high-energy nonetheless, and the hike went very well.

Starting Tuesday, July 15, for three days we hosted a group of top educators here, sponsored by a large American corporation, which asked not to be named. The groups arrived in four busloads each day, and each group went on a 90-minute guided walk. Docents who led hikes for this event were **Deb Balch, George Beardsley, Walt Burkhard, Pao Chau, Pete deGirolamo, Kathy Dickey, Margaret Fillius, Jack Friery, Mary Friestedt, Iris Geist,**

Hiking the trails at least four days a week, I began noticing the many different plants in the Park. I took lots of photos and sent them on to **Steve Tarkington** to identify. I did this so often she finally gave me the TP plant brochure.

Over time my passion for protecting the Reserve inspired me to become a docent, and I joined the Class of 2013. I have been lucky to see many amazing things over the last few years, including a baby bob cat, burrowing owl, legless lizard and, of course, the rattlesnake in the "tree." Every day out on the trails is an opportunity to see something new. I enjoy hanging out at the TIK and sharing my enthusiasm with visitors. They appear to be just as enthusiastic to share their finds with me.

The docent training gave me the opportunity to meet some wonderful people with diverse backgrounds, all sharing our common love of the park. When not at the park, my husband and I enjoy hiking, traveling, and working in the yard. We have replanted our yard with natives, and love showing them off to friends and family.

Kathy Glasebrook, Jennifer Greenberg, Mary Char Hohmeyer, Paul Howard, Ken King, Jim Larrimore, Joe Meyer, Sue Randerson, Ingo Renner, Stu Rosenwasser, Kristine Schindler, Jeannie Smith, Diane Stocklin, Lynne Truong, Rick Vogel, Barbara Wallach, Ann Williamson, Gill Williamson, and Linda Zlotnik.

Many docents led multiple hikes, sometimes back-to-back. It was great to see the teamwork. When a docent had to cancel, another always stepped in to help. Others who helped include **Johnson Jou, Louis Sands and Gerry Lawrence.**

The organizers of the corporate group had come to the Reserve earlier on a scouting trip. Park Aide **Isabelle Medina** took them on a hike. Among other things, Isabelle showed them a magnetite experiment. They loved it. The organizers asked that each participant get to try this. We learned that adults do, in fact, get a kick out of picking up iron compounds with a magnet and swirling them about.

The TPDS received a total of \$3,000 for the hikes, but no feedback from the company. The participants, however, were not so reticent. One commented, "This is the best thing we've done."



Back row- L to R: Louis Sands, Sue Randerson, Carol Hunt, Kathy Glasebrook, Stu Rosenwasser, Ingo Renner, Laura Lowenstein, Joellen Barnett, Arlene Weinerman, Walt Burkhard, Diana Coram, Mona Kuczenski, Nancy Walters, Debby Sherman

Front row- L to R: Barbara Justice, Marie Johnson, Barbara Wallach, Molly McConnell, Greg Lafreniere, Pao Chau, Joe Meyer, Mary Stovell, Mary Friedstedt, Ann Smith Mercandetti, Wes Farmer

Children's Program

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

It was an especially beautiful day for the Children's Program End-of-Year Meeting/Celebration on Thursday, July 17th. We met outside the Lodge with twenty eight docents attending. Our program began with **Barbara Wallach** giving us a great overview of the history of the beginning of the Children's Program at Torrey Pines. It took very dedicated people and a lot of work to get it established and keep it going. It was great to hear much of what was done in the past, as we anticipate our celebration of the 25th Anniversary in January 2015!

Louis Sands compiled the 2013-2014 school year statistics to share with everyone. We had 4,281 school children come (an increase of over 1,000 from last year) mostly due to the fact that we added thirteen more program days. There were 40 different schools that came ranging from Fallbrook/Temecula to Chula Vista....and almost half, 19, were Title I Schools for which the docent society provides bus grants. It was a great year!

We would like to thank all of the thirty eight active docents who gave Children's Program presentations and walks this past year...**Joan Adamo, Joellen Barnett, Hank Beck, Frank Burham, Walt Burkhard, Kathy Dickey, Bob Doolittle, Wes Farmer, Margaret Fillius, Karen Fraser, Mary Friedstedt, Kathy Glasebrook, Kay Harry, Paul Howard, Marie Johnson, Barbara Justice, Greg Lafreniere, Laura Lowenstein, Molly McConnell, Ann Smith-Mercandetti, Joe Meyer, Joanna Proctor, Sue Randerson, Ingo Renner, Annette Ring, Stu Rosenwasser, Louis Sands, Diane Stocklin, Mary**

Stovell, Lynne Truong, Janet Ugalde, Rick Vogel, Barbara Wallach, Nancy Walters, Sally Whitlock, Ann Williamson, Cindy Wollaeger, and Linda Zlotnik. We could not have done it without you!

P.S. Schools begin signing up for tours in the middle of August and by the first of September, docents can go on line to sign up for our programs. We again, want to thank all who worked with the Children's Program this past year and invite any of you who think you might like to try it and see what we do, please just come up to the Reserve on any day there is a program scheduled, usually most Thursday and Friday mornings, and tag along on a tour. If you have any questions feel free to contact us. We always welcome new docents to share our joy in working with children!

A Proposed Change in Your Board of Directors

by Lillian Lachicotte, Walt Desmond, Jeannie Smith, and Barbara Wallach

Not so long ago the Torrey Pines Docent Society was a much smaller organization with few activities. There were just two major program duties: hosting the Lodge and leading public walks. The Board of Directors was composed of the officers and the leaders of these two programs as well as the training officer and the editor of the newsletter.

Fast-forward several years. The position of children's education program coordinator was added, and a fifth director was added to coordinate ongoing docent education. We now have many more active members, committees and activities to support our mission to protect, preserve and maintain the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and interpret its importance to the public.

Because of the growth in members and activities, the time is

right to consider a change in the composition of our Board of Directors. The suggestion is to free the coordinators of Training, Hosting and Public Walks, Programs, Communications and Children's Programs from board membership. These leaders will be able to concentrate on oversight of their programs without the mandate of board membership. In addition to the board president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, five board members will be elected at-large. Each board member will be assigned as liaison to several of the TPDS committees and activities. In this way, the executive board will be much more in touch with all of the Society's efforts and better able to provide leadership and report accurately to state park staff.

Any of the coordinators of the five programs now represented on the Board may run for any board office, but their position will not automatically put them on the Board of Directors.

In order to effect this change, the Bylaws of the Docent Society must be changed, the change proposed and approved by the board and voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting in November. The amended Bylaws will call for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five at-large directors, as well as specific duties for liaison to activities to be assigned at the newly elected board's first meeting.

Since the annual meeting is also when we elect our board, and since the 2015 slate will necessarily compose a board as described in the *current bylaws*, this change, if approved by board and membership this year, will not take place until the election of the board for 2016.

Questions or concerns may be directed to board members or the nominating committee (**Lillian Lachicotte, Walt Desmond, Jeannie Smith, and Barbara Wallach**).

Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, September 9, 2 pm

Where: Sherry Doolittle's residence
(Carmel Valley)

What: *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver

All TPDS docents are welcome. Meetings usually last a couple of hours. Please contact Molly McConnell or Ken King if you plan to attend. (Check Member List for email or phone numbers.)

Deerweed in Dry Gulch

by Rhea Bridy

Does nobody see the butterfly,
the size of a thumbnail? Or the
last sweet yellowed stems that
sway in sea-breeze? Or the two
swordfight-energies of two males
who joust tight spirals and zigzags?
And in this dry and fragrant, does
nobody see their last tango as
Silvery Blues, sweetly laced
as if spring were still here?

Heard in the Reserve

Diane Stocklin was giving a boy of seven a tour of the museum exhibit. She asked if he knew why the skunk had such a small nose. The boy replied, "So he doesn't smell himself."

Featured Docent Photos



SUMMER RAIN! 0.63 inch recorded at TP on July 27, 2014
Visitors escaping the downpour in the TIK (Trailhead Information Kiosk) shelter

Photo by Donna Close



Rattlesnake on lemonadeberry bush near entrance to Guy Fleming Trail on May 31, 2014

Photo by Donna Close



A few of the Whacky Weeders removing *carpobrotus* from areas southwest of the Broken Hill Trail

Photo by Roger Isaacson

Did you know?*

The Name Game

by Tom Polakiewicz

We all know how the Torrey pine got its name, but where do the names of some of our other familiar plants come from? The answers are more interesting than you might imagine.

Amiel Weeks Whipple was the Army officer in charge of the Boundary Commission expedition that fixed the border between Mexico and the United States. His company included botanist Charles Parry. Among the botanical samples that Parry sent to his mentor John Torrey, was a yucca plant previously unknown to science. Torrey gave the new plant the binomial *Yucca whipplei*, in honor of the leader of the expedition.

William Russell Dudley, a botany professor first at Cornell University and then at Stanford University from 1893 to 1910, didn't publish much. But he was very popular with both students and faculty and was instrumental in the movement to save the Big Basin redwoods in Santa Cruz. In 1903 two leading botanists honored Dudley when they ended a controversy about whether certain succulents were related by lumping them all into a new genus — *Dudleya*. Now sixty species of succulents are recognized as members of that genus, including our own Ladies' Fingers (*Dudleya edulis*) and Lance-leaf Dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*).

Henry Shaw came to the United States as a teenager in 1819. He began a hardware business in what was then a small French village on the Mississippi River. Through luck, pluck and good business sense, he was able to retire at age forty as one of the richest men in St. Louis. He founded the Missouri Botanical Garden and supported botanical studies throughout the United States. For his generosity, botanist George Engelmann named a plant found in Baja California and San Diego County after him — Shaw's Agave (*Agave shawii*).

Sir William Jackson Hooker never made it to America, but he was a famous botanist, and the director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, London. He was responsible for sending many botanists out to do surveys in far-flung reaches, including David Douglas, of Douglas Fir fame. In 1840 Douglas sent a specimen of plant in the Onagraceae family to John Torrey. The plant had previously been named *Oenothera elata*, a fact not known to Torrey. He named the plant *Oenothera hookeri*. In an unusual compromise among botanical egos, Torrey's appellation got the popular name — Hooker's Evening Primrose -- but the binomial, *Oenothera elata*, stuck.

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

Leucistic Birds

by Jack Friery



Recently, some of us saw a large flock of seabirds (mostly Black-vented Shearwaters) in a feeding frenzy close to the shore. Included in the flock were a few individuals that were **leucistic**. Leucism is a condition whereby some or all of the bird's feathers are white or paler than normal. (It is not the same as albinism, which is the total lack of pigment in the bird. See <http://tinyurl.com/kp6sh46>.) Above are photos of a leucistic (left) and a standard shearwater (right) showing the difference.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 5, 2014

Number of species: 54

Mallard 16
California Quail 35
Double-crested Cormorant 10
Brown Pelican 187
Great Blue Heron 4
Snowy Egret 21
Green Heron 1
Osprey 2
Northern Harrier 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3
Clapper Rail 3
Killdeer 5
Heermann's Gull 18
Ring-billed Gull 1

Western Gull 11
California Gull 2
Caspian Tern 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 3
Mourning Dove 12
White-throated Swift 3
Anna's Hummingbird 14
Nuttall's Woodpecker 5
Northern Flicker 1
American Kestrel 2
Black Phoebe 3
Cassin's Kingbird 1
Western Scrub-Jay 13
American Crow 7
Common Raven 2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 5

Cliff Swallow 1
Bushtit 15
House Wren 3
Bewick's Wren 1
California Gnatcatcher 4
Wrentit 18
California Thrasher 3
Northern Mockingbird 4
Phainopepla 4
Orange-crowned Warbler 1
Common Yellowthroat 4
Yellow-breasted Chat 5
Spotted Towhee 5
California Towhee 22
Savannah Sparrow 2
Song Sparrow 5
Black-headed Grosbeak 1

Red-winged Blackbird 5
Brown-headed Cowbird 3
Hooded Oriole 2
House Finch 145
Lesser Goldfinch 14
House Sparrow 8

Observers: Kathy Dickey, Herb Knüfken, Eva Armi, Bob Glaser (with family), Frank Wong, Gary Grantham, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, and Anonymous

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

Herb Knüfken's amazing photo gallery may be found here: pbase.com/herb1rm



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