



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 352

September 2014

## All in a Day's Work

by Joan R. Simon

The docents were delightfully entertained by former Ranger David Van Cleve at the August 9<sup>th</sup> general meeting. His deadpan humor, physical pratfalls and impeccable timing in delivering a joke contributed to a hilarious tour of his 32 years with the California State Parks system. Who knew being a ranger could be so zany and fun?

There was the naked woman encountered at Torrey Pines State Beach who was given the choice of getting dressed or walking south to nearby Black's Beach. She chose the former and asked Van Cleve to turn around while she put her clothes on -- yes, **on**. "What did I miss?" Van Cleve wondered. He tried to comply as best as he could, while upholding the law officer's maxim to "never turn our back" on a subject. We can skip over the nude redhead who asked him out for a date (he went along -- up to a point).

Then there was the round-up of feral cows in Anza-Borrego that were threatening big horn sheep with outside diseases. As the regional ecologist, Van Cleve did a careful survey, finding 80 cows in the Park. Somehow they managed to capture 142. The mission involved helicopters, net throwers to trap the cows, and "cowboys" to shackle them before they were airlifted to an auction house (Van Cleve was one of the "cowboys"). Interestingly enough, cows can be slaughtered in California, but they cannot be shot; as a result, it cost the state about \$500 a head to rid Anza-Borrega of the wild cows. The first 50 were the easiest to capture, he said, being the dumbest, and probably newest to arrive; the second 50 were a little tougher. But oh those last 42, probably born in the wild and well adapted to their environment. Those were the wily ones, he declared. One can only imagine!

### Docent General Meeting

Saturday, September 13, 9 am

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

**Speaker:** Ed Vodrazka, TP State Beach Lifeguard

Ed Vodrazka is head lifeguard at the Torrey Pines State Beach and resident/caretaker of the Guy Fleming House (see video from 2013: [vimeo.com/74085312](http://vimeo.com/74085312)). Anyone who has heard Ed speak knows he is a wonderful storyteller with lots of amusing tales to tell about his years at Torrey Pines. Ed has also been an RN for over 20 years, specializing in cardiac care. He currently instructs EMT classes for the Los Angeles County Lifeguards, California State Lifeguards, and Long Beach Paramedics.

**Refreshments:** Docents whose last names begin with **J, K** and **L** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

Van Cleve had many more stories to tell and fortunately they are all included in his book "Have a Nice Day Job" which can be purchased through Amazon [tinyurl.com/VanCleve-bk-2014](http://tinyurl.com/VanCleve-bk-2014) in paper or on a Kindle. You'll be treating yourself to hours of chuckles and a window into the unpredictable world of the California State Park ranger.

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**TPDS 2014 Board Members:**

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**TPSNR Staff:**

**Supervising Ranger:** Dylan Hardenbrook

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

**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.

## Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Vice President **Bob Doolittle**.

**Docent of the Month: Stu Rosenwasser** was named Docent of the Month for all of his hard work.

**Report on Pack It In/Out Policy:** (Isabelle Medina, Park Aide)

On July 16<sup>th</sup> Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook sent an email to the rangers and park aides outlining a new Pack It In/Pack It Out policy. The trash and recycle cans would be removed from the Reserve on a trial basis. The idea has been to reduce the amount of trash going into our dumpsters (and save money on the trash contract), reduce the amount of labor needed by maintenance to service the trash cans, and reduce litter in the Reserve that the ravens and squirrels pull out of the trash cans. If this is a complete bust and we end up with more trash in the Reserve than before, we can always put the cans back out. Dylan is optimistic that this will work out and save us time and money while reducing litter in the Reserve. Isabelle responded to the complaint that the docents didn't know about this change of policy until after it had been implemented. She promised to let us know about this type of change earlier. There are plans to put up signs to let the public know of the new Pack It In/Pack It Out policy. (For more details, see Pack It In/Out article on pg. 6.)

**Parry Grove Trail** is scheduled to open in October or November.

**Ranger Chuy** (Jesus "Chuy" Salinas Rodriguez) introduced himself. He has been a ranger for 13 years and has worked in five State Parks.

**Children's Program: (Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson)**

The Children's Program will have a Back in the Zone session at the Lodge from 9:30 -11:30 on September 18th. It will be an opportunity for new and returning Children's Program docents to "get back into the zone!"

**Museum Refresh: (Ken King)** Ken, **Janice Barnard** and Louis Sands will be getting bids from vendors next week. Then the vendors will give their presentations. At these presentations there will be three other TPDS members and three TPA members to help with the selection. A 'Vendor Evaluation Form' will be used. How easy the vendor is to work with will also be considered. The changes to the museum will be "walls-in only" meaning that there will be no changes to the walls or structure. There is a Historical Building report which could involve structural changes - but that is not part of the museum refresh effort.

**Financial Update: (Bob Doolittle)** The Board has voted to re-invest the money earned by the endowment fund back into the fund. It is about \$60K. This will allow the principal of the endowment fund to increase (see TPA article, pg. 6).

**Board Restructuring and Changes to the Bylaws:** (Jeannie Smith) The Board will propose making changes in Board structure through a bylaws amendment. Jeannie explained that the TPDS Board was initially formed with four required (by the State) positions: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Additional spots were added for the chairs of the five original programs: Children's Program, Training, Lodge Hosting, Communications and Programs. Today we have about 30 programs and the Board does not always get input from all of these groups. The proposed change is to replace the five program chairs on the board with five at-large members. These five will be elected along with the other Board members at the November meeting. Their role will be to serve as liaisons between the Board and all of the programs. Any change to the structure and/or function of the Board requires a change to the bylaws. A bylaws change requires a "yes" vote of two-thirds of the docents present at the November general meeting. If passed, the change will go into effect the following year (November 2015 election).

**Nominating Committee:** The current nominating committee members are **Lillian Lachicotte, Walt Desmond, Barbara Wallach,** and **Jeannie Smith.**

**General Announcements:**

The Channel Island trip has one spot left as the result of a cancellation. Contact **Tom Polakiewicz** [see Membership List for contact information].

The new water station has been installed at the beach.

**Bob Doolittle** announced that there will be a beach party this year; plans are in the works.

**Refreshments:** Docents whose last names begin with **J, K and L** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am

## Children's Program

*by Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson, Children's Program Co-directors and Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator*

Mark Your Calendars!

"Back in the Zone" Training Session

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

9:30 - 11:30 am

Meet in back of the Torrey Pines Lodge/Visitor Center

We welcome all docents interested in working with the Children's Program! If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

## Docent of the Month:

### Stu Rosenwasser

Photo by Herb Knüfken

*Thanks so much for naming me Docent of the Month. Since becoming a TPSNR Docent last year I have enjoyed the experience on so many levels. I have met great new friends and learned from an incredibly committed and knowledgeable group of fellow*



*docents who share their love and knowledge of nature in general, and of the Reserve in particular. I currently participate regularly in Lodge hosting, the Children's Program, Special Walks, Interpretive Trail Patrol, and the Lodge Garden Committee.*

*I was born in Yonkers, NY (just north of the Bronx), and moved to the Los Angeles area in 1963 upon graduating in engineering from Cornell. After participating in the design and manufacture of the rocket engines for the Apollo moon exploration program, working on other aerospace programs, obtaining a graduate degree from UCLA, marrying my wife, Ronnie, and having two children -- we all moved to Solana Beach in 1974.*

*For 25 years, I was fortunate to work in the immediate vicinity of TPSNR and hiked/jogged the trails and/or went body surfing regularly, both at lunch time and on the weekends -- enjoying the spectacular vistas, but knowing very little about the history, plants, wildlife, or geology of the Reserve. After temporarily abandoning the Left Coast and moving to Washington DC in 1999 to pursue a business opportunity, I finally retired in 2012 and upon returning to SD full-time, I immediately registered for docent training. Now, as an active docent, I continue to learn about the*

wonders of TPSNR and I get great enjoyment in communicating what I have learned to our diverse adult and children visitors. In addition to volunteering as a docent at both TPSNR and San Elijo Lagoon, I currently enjoy tennis, biking, local hiking with my dog (Georgie Girl) and puttering around my very modest garden.

### Ranger Report: New Picnic Tables

by Dylan Hardenbrook

There was some last-minute windfall money at the end of the fiscal year that we used to purchase some much-needed maintenance supplies, trail delineators and eight new picnic tables. The picnic tables are installed in South Beach lot replacing the five worn out ones that have seen thousands of visitors over the last 24 years since they were installed. The four hot coal bins, temporarily here, will be transferred to the campgrounds soon.

### Giant Sea Bass

by Johnson Jou, TPSNR Park Aide

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, an otherwise typical morning, there was a rare fish that washed up onto our shores -- the Giant Sea Bass! The scientific name for this majestic fish is *Stereolipes gigas*, which is Greek for "firm-scaled giant." The fish has been considered critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1996. The specimen was measured at approximately 48 inches standard length (measured to the end of the fleshy part of the body) and 57 inches in girth via measuring tape. After moving it from the shore, it was estimated to be around 150 pounds. There was a spear wound shot from the anatomical right through the anatomical left of the fish behind the operculum. Although it was already deceased when we encountered it, the specimen was believed to be alive just a few hours earlier, since its eyes were still cloudy and its gills were still deep red. It was estimated to be around 30 years old. The Marine Vertebrate Collection at Scripps Institution of Oceanography was notified of this incident and was very appreciative for the information.



Johnson Jou and TPSB lifeguard, Killian

### Volunteers Needed for MS Walk on September 6<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday morning, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 200 people participating in the "2014 Challenge MS Walk" are expected to walk through the Reserve during their 50-mile, three-day walk from the Flower Fields in Carlsbad to Embarcadero Park in downtown San Diego. Their goal is to raise \$1 million for Multiple Sclerosis.

This group will be much smaller than the 2,300 Three Day Komen Walkers and the 6,000+ runners who participated in the La Jolla Half Marathon. Torrey Pines docents welcomed those two large groups this past year and can now make a positive impact on this group's participants. This is a good and fun way to earn a few docent hours in the category of "trail patrol"!

If you would like to help us on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, please contact me and I will get more information to you. [Phone # is in the Docent Member List.]

Thank you!!

Ann Smith Mercandetti

Giant Sea Bass have been protected in California since 1982. Despite their enormous size and protected status, the species remains poorly studied and considerable amounts of its biology remains unknown to scientists. The largest of these Pacific giants caught in California waters weighed 563.5 pounds, and the species has been recorded to reach lengths of up to 7.45 feet! The most important prey for the giant sea bass are sting rays, skates, lobster, crabs, various flatfish, small sharks, mantis shrimp, blacksmith, ocean whitefish, red crab, sargo, sheephead, octopus, squid, kelp bass, and barred sand bass. Recreational anglers are not permitted to fish for giant sea bass. If one is caught by accident, it must be released.

As we interpret the world through an evolutionary perspective, we are left with an inspiring sense of wonder about the astonishing biodiversity around us. Through the appreciation of our long evolutionary history on earth, it becomes painfully clear that when we lose a species such as the giant sea bass, we lose many millions of years of history. Through our own ignorance and mismanagement we have driven many of their wild relatives to extinction, with each such loss consequently reducing the biodiversity on which the survival of our species and the entire biosphere heavily depends.

## \*\*\*\*\*Green Flash\*\*\*\*\*

### Sustainability in TPSNR

by Kristine Schindler

Photo by Wes Farmer

There are many things happening around the Reserve that can be considered "green." Every now and then, starting in the September *Torreyana*, the Green Team will share a photo or two and a short piece about an activity taking place in the Reserve that shows the caring, thought, and action needed to conserve resources and be good stewards of the environment.

Here is a photo of **Lynne Small**, coordinator of the Whacky Weeders, with a trash compactor bag which has, as of August 4<sup>th</sup>,

been used by the docent weeding crew a total of 32 times. Yes, 32 times. That takes "reduce, reuse, recycle" to a new level. According to Lynne, the Whacky Weeders first started to reuse plastic bags back in November, 2012, when removing *Carpobrotus* from the Big Basin area

(between Yucca and Razor Points) and asking visitors to help carry the bags out. Both practices are great ideas! Figuring out how to reuse the bags has taken quite a few steps, according to Lynne: everything from finding the right bags to figuring out how to tie them so that they can be untied without tearing (still an on-going process). "There has been a learning curve, but it's satisfying to see 'reuse' working," she said.

We want to thank Lynne, all the Whacky Weeders, and the TPSNR staff involved in making this practice a reality. The amount of plastic waste in our landfills is greatly reduced as a result of their efforts.



### Dogs in the Reserve

by Jesus "Chuy" Salinas Rodriguez, TPSNR Ranger

I was asked to help the docents with what to say when they encounter a dog in the Reserve or on the beach that may not seem to be a service animal. In the current State Park policy, there are two questions someone can ask a person with a dog. They are:

- (1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

If you encounter a person with a dog in the park, politely let them know that dogs are not allowed in the Reserve. If the person replies, "It's a service animal!" then ask, "Who for?" and "What service does the animal provide? What are they trained to do?"

If the person says it's a comfort/empathy service animal or for PTSD tell the person: "I'm sorry, but comfort/empathy/PTSD animals are not recognized by CA State Parks as a service animal and therefore cannot be in the Reserve or on the beach."

Some individuals will become confrontational and tell you that they have a right to be in the Reserve under federal law. Unfortunately they are still not allowed in the Reserve or on the beach. If the dog looks questionable and the person continues to claim the dog is a service animal, **do not** get into a verbal confrontation/discussion or question them further. Allow the person to continue and notify a ranger or lifeguard. Most of the time the dog is legitimate, even though it may not look like it.

Observing a dog's behavior is the best way to ascertain whether it is legitimate or not. According to State Park policy, "Service dogs won't appear restless, beg for food or jump or bark at other animals. They will obey their owner's commands, perform tasks, and lie down passively where instructed." In addition, "A person claiming to be training a service animal must have documentation that they are licensed/authorized to train service animals and the animal must be leashed at all times and wearing some form of identification denoting that it is a service animal in training." In every instance, contact a ranger.

Cats, parrots, goats, etc. are not considered service animals, but miniature horses can be considered service animals. Hopefully we won't see any one of those here soon.

Please contact me if you have any other questions: [jesus.salinas@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jesus.salinas@parks.ca.gov)

## Pack It In / Pack It Out

by Joan R. Simon

Photos by Kristine Schindler

Over the weekend of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, trash receptacles were removed from the Reserve. Visitors have been asked to “pack out” whatever they brought in. This new policy was started by Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook as a trial to see if most trash cans could be permanently eliminated from TPSNR. Docents at the Lodge, TIK, and on trail patrol are explaining the new policy to hikers and asking them to “pack out” their trash, either by taking it to their car (if it is nearby) or carrying it out. There is a sign at the west parking lot trail head which says: “Pack It In / Pack It Out”.

What are the reasons for this new policy? First, it allows maintenance workers to use their time in more worthwhile ways than trash collection. Second, it will hopefully reduce litter by eliminating “forbidden” food in trash cans. “We’ve all seen the ravens and squirrels pull trash out of the cans,” Dylan observed. Third, Torrey Pines’ second highest budget item after salaries is trash disposal. “Less trash in the dumpsters means more budget money to spend,” Dylan noted.

What are the problems with the new policy? The risk is that what formerly was placed into the trash cans will now be

tossed onto the trails and paths or into the bushes, creating additional litter that needs to be picked up. Dylan stressed that, for now, this policy is a trial. “It will take time before we know how visitors will respond,” he said.

For the public, there are still trash and recycling receptacles at the beach.

For the docents, there are wastebaskets at the Lodge host’s desk and in other places around the Lodge. In addition, there are both trash and recycle cans behind the back entry to the

Rangers’ office. Docents who pick up trash in the Reserve can dispose of it there.



## Torrey Pines Association (TPA): News & Updates

by Peter Jensen, President, Torrey Pines Association

On a warm, clear Saturday night in mid-August, a team of docents, led by **Barbara Wallach, Margaret Fillius, and Jeannie Smith**, hosted approximately 35 TPA members on a sunset/night hike that lasted well into darkness. Flashlights winked on and probed the darkened bluffs and thickets of the Reserve. The muffled sounds of surf and crickets created a nocturnal symphony that few visitors ever experience. A good time was had by all—thanks to the knowledge and leaderships of our docent guides.

### *The Endowment grows...and grows*

Held jointly and equally by the Torrey Pines Docent Society and Torrey Pines Association, the Endowment Fund is a pool of contributed funds invested to support the Reserve. Its principal, held and invested by the non-profit San Diego Foundation, remains untouched in perpetuity, and the annual growth is used to support projects at the Reserve, or (if not needed for projects) is reinvested in the fund in order to assure its steady growth.

Last month the Endowment Committee, made up of two TPDS board members and two TPA board members, voted unanimously to reinvest approximately \$60,000 in interest from the Endowment back into the Fund. This brings the total Endowment to approximately \$550,000! We’ve broken the half million mark! Imagine the returns when we reach \$1 million and beyond.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in making a lasting investment in the future of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and all that takes place there that is not funded by the State of California, then PLEASE consider a charitable gift annuity or a bequest to the Endowment. While you’re doing something good for yourself, your family, and your descendants, you’ll also be doing something wonderful for the Reserve. Thank you!

### *Two key grants lead the way on projects*

Many thanks go to the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation for its generous donation to fund Broken Hill habitat and trail improvements. The trail has needed work for some time. Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook has already ordered the materials (over \$12K worth—mostly “eye” rods) thanks to this grant.

And our gratitude goes out to the Seeley Foundation for a grant that will help fund the Seabees’ refurbishment of the Lagoon interpretive plaques, as well as some more important work and materials on Broken Hill.

## Did you know?\*

### It's Only Natural

by Tom Polakiewicz

The official name of Torrey Pines is the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. But what does that mean? What's the difference between a state park and a state natural reserve? The California Public Resources Code has the answers.

Under the Code, the State Park and Recreation Commission is authorized to establish state natural reserves in those parts of the state park system "for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity." They are available for day use only, and improvements can be made only "in a manner consistent with the preservation of their natural features." Nothing can be removed from a state natural reserve.

#### James Lightner at the La Jolla Library, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> "The 1850 Discovery of the Torrey Pine"

James Lightner, author of "San Diego County Native Plants", will give a talk at the La Jolla Library on Draper St. on Sept. 27 at 1 pm. His topic will be "The 1850 Discovery of the Torrey Pine" and he will discuss his conclusions about the exact location where Charles C. Parry first saw and collected the new species. This research is part of the work he did for his recent book, "Parry's California Notebooks, 1849-51". Both books are available at the Museum Shop in the Lodge.

Los Peñasquitos Marsh is a state natural *preserve*, giving it an even higher level of protection. Preserves are always within other state park units and are intended to protect rare or endangered species and habitats or unique geological features, with minimal or no improvements. There are no trails or restrooms in a natural preserve.

And if you want to have a picnic and throw the Frisbee? Head to a state beach or a "state recreation unit." State recreation units are selected to withstand "extensive human impact." For camping, go to a state park, a "relatively spacious area of outstanding scenic or natural character." Improvements within a state park are intended to provide for the enjoyment of nature, so long as they don't involve major modifications of lands, forests or waters.

So that's why there is no picnicking or camping at Torrey Pines. It's a *State Natural Reserve*, a special place where human activity is limited and what the visitor sees is only natural.

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

#### 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.)

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: August 2, 2014

Number of species: 57

Mallard 3

California Quail 5

Black-vented Shearwater 300

Brandt's Cormorant 1

Double-crested Cormorant 2

Brown Pelican 17

Great Blue Heron 4

Great Egret 1

Snowy Egret 6

Green Heron 1

Black-crowned Night-Heron 1

Osprey 1

White-tailed Kite 1

Cooper's Hawk 1

Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 2

Willet 4

Whimbrel 61

Long-billed Curlew 2

Marbled Godwit 2

Heermann's Gull 6

Ring-billed Gull 1

Western Gull 9

California Gull 1

Caspian Tern 1

Royal Tern 2

Eurasian Collared-Dove 6

Mourning Dove 16

Anna's Hummingbird 19

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 4

Belted Kingfisher 1

Nuttall's Woodpecker 4

Northern Flicker 1

American Kestrel 3

Peregrine Falcon 2

Black Phoebe 9

Cassin's Kingbird 2

Western Scrub-Jay 6

American Crow 5

Common Raven 6

swallow sp. 4

Bushtit 23

Bewick's Wren 6

California Gnatcatcher 6

Wrentit 22

California Thrasher 5

Northern Mockingbird 3

Orange-crowned Warbler 5

Common Yellowthroat 6

Spotted Towhee 4

California Towhee 33

Song Sparrow 10

Brewer's Blackbird 1

Brown-headed Cowbird 5

House Finch 32

Lesser Goldfinch 8

House Sparrow 10

**Observers:** Kathy Dickey, Herb Knüfken, Bob Glaser, Frank Wong, Gary Grantham, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, and Anonymous

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



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