



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 355

December 2014

Torrey Pines Lodge In Need of Revival

by Pat Finn

San Diego Architect Richard Requa was a devotee of the Spanish Revival style (or the Mission Revival style, depending on your source). Well-known in San Diego in the 1920's and 30's, he was the chief architect of the 1935 California Pacific Exposition in Balboa Park and the architect of the Del Mar Castle.

In 1922, Requa, along with H. L. Jackson, designed the Torrey Pines Lodge. The construction, financed by Ellen Browning Scripps, featured adobe bricks covered with plaster colored a dull red to match the surrounding hills. It is said to be Pueblo Revival style.

Seventy-two years later the Torrey Pines Visitor Center, now cream-colored and suffering a bit from age, weather, various critters and earlier attempts to stabilize and repair it, is still standing, but in need of a revival of its own.

Heather Crane, an AIA associate with Ione Stiegler Architecture, a local firm with extensive expertise in adobe architecture, presented the results of their study of the Lodge and outlined the planning document for its restoration at the November docents meeting.

This would not be the first revival of the Lodge. Crane detailed the repair efforts of 1969 (exterior walls) and 1986-87 (stabilizing walls and replacing deteriorating adobe bricks), and then went through a somewhat daunting list of repairs and improvements needed to restore the structure to its appearance and condition in 1923, which she called "a period of significance."

The work recommended by the firm falls into three categories: Level 1, urgent, to be performed within one year; Level 2, required, but less urgently; and Level 3, not imperative.

Level 1 urgent work includes:

- Roof replacement

Annual Docent Holiday Potluck

Saturday, December 13th
11 am

Location: Lodge (venue same as previous years)

Organizers: Class of 2014

Please see announcement on pg. 5

Family members welcome

- Exterior plaster (test patches will determine if some or all plaster must be replaced)
- Mortar replacement
- Ventilation
- Prepare drawings for seismic retrofit
- Replace and repair vigas (the wooden ornamental or structural poles extending from the face of the adobe in the postcard image below, c. 1923)
- Replace and repair wood corbels, posts and lintels

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There will be more discussion of these study results, their cost and how to address them in future meetings.



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email address changes to:

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Membership@torreypine.org

Web sites:

TP Docent Society: torreypine.org

TP Association: torreypines.org

Visitor Center phone: **858.755.2063**

TPDS 2014 Board Members:

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& Marie Johnson

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

Sr. Park Aide: Louis Sands

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

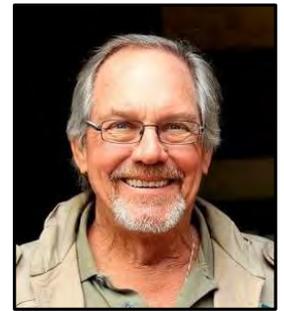
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FLASH From Joy Inton: Don't forget to donate your ZooNooz magazines to the Museum Shop.

Message from the President

Rule #1

We encountered one of those "between a rock and a hard place" situations a few weeks ago when we realized that our holiday celebration would either have to start and end early or move back to the Visitor Center in the Reserve. About equal numbers of docents were in favor of staying at St. Peter's, returning to the Lodge or had no preference when we showed hands at the monthly membership meeting. After taking some time to hear comments from the voters we decided to return to the Lodge. As this was a decision and not a referendum, you deserve to know the reasoning behind it.



The support for moving to the church was difficult to overlook. The full kitchen access beckoned, as did a large room for protection if it rained. The space to sit and spread out among friends was enticing. But most persuasive was the idea that we would not be in violation of our Rule #1 that does not allow food or eating in the Reserve. Period. Having food seems hypocritical and playing favorites with our group. All good points.

Conversations with other docents however raised another dimension that was more subtle, but powerful. We have a substantial number of long term docents, many of whom are Lifetime members and do not get to see their long-time friends and associates in normal routine work around the Reserve. This holiday celebration provides the once-a-year opportunity to reconnect, catch up on life's details and spend good, comfortable communication time (AKA schmoozing) with others who share some very deeply held values regarding nature and the society.

We have violated our Rule #1 for many years by providing this opportunity in the past. *Just one more time...* was considered the better decision for this holiday season because, frankly, we've not thanked ourselves very much this year for accomplishing some major goals, and we deserve to have our annual party in our home.

So, here it is. Another celebration in our Lodge, provoked only by unanticipated pressure from activity for the church's members. Although it is specifically against our Rule, this serves as a well-deserved "thank you" to all the docents for all the effort and emotion spent over the year. Please enjoy.

Happy holiday wishes, for all,

Bill Eckles

President,

Torrey Pines Docent Society

Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Bill Eckles.

Speaker: Heather Crane went through the Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Lodge at TPSNR, giving a report on the maintenance of the Lodge since it was built in 1922. Restoring the Lodge to its 1923 state will be costly. Repairs could be done in phases with the most urgent problems dealt with first.

Spotlight on: Ingo Renner recapped the Channel Island trip September 13-16 with a slideshow. There were 28 docents and relatives/friends on the trip.

Annual Election: Three items were voted on:

- 1) **The slate for the Board of Directors** for 2015 is: President: **Frank Burham**; Vice President: **Ingo Renner**; Treasurer: **Gerry Lawrence**; Secretary, **Annette Ring**; Training: **Diane Stocklin**; Communications: **Roger Isaacson**; Programs: **George Beardsley**; Lodge Hosting: **Jan Lombardi**; Children's Program: **Janet Ugalde**. The slate was passed unanimously.
- 2) **The changes to the bylaws** were passed unanimously. They were primarily corrections to the wording. See the distributed document for all of the details.
- 3) **The changes to the structure of the Board of Directors** were passed by a large majority with five opposed. This change does not go into effect until the November 2015 election. Five of the nine Board members will be "at large" rather than Directors from the five specific programs. These five "at large" Directors/Board members will become liaisons to the many operating functions of the Society, thus providing broader representation. The intended result is better communication between the Board and the committees.

Docent of the Month: Bob Glaser was named Docent of the Month for November for his many hours at the TIK (see pg. 4).

Financial Update: **Gerry Lawrence** has asked for input about the financial needs of each of the TPDS programs. He needs this information for the 2015 budget. Send info to Treasurer@Torreypine.org.

Membership dues are due soon: \$25 for active members and \$40 for supporting members. Dues can be mailed to



The 2015 Board, L-R: Roger Isaacson, Frank Burham, Ingo Renner, Annette Ring, Janet Ugalde, George Beardsley, Jan Lombardi

Not shown: Gerry Lawrence, Diane Stocklin

Photo by Herb Knüfken

P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA, 92014. Contact Carol with any questions (see pg. 6).

Holiday Party: **Bill Eckles** announced that the church now has an event on the date of the holiday party. The choice was to have the party in the church and be out of there early, or to have it again at the Lodge. The decision was later made to keep the holiday party at the Lodge for one more year.

Museum Shop: **Margaret Pluth** announced holiday decorations are for sale in the Lodge. They are festive hand-made baskets made by more than 20 docents. Special thanks go to two docents that have created many of these decorations over many years, **Karen Fraser** and **Bea Stoyla**.

Museum Committee: **Bill Eckles** noted that **Frank Burham** and **Joe Meyer** completed refurbishing the magnetite box on the front porch. Many thanks. Other projects are in the works.

Volunteers: Both the docent library and the Seabees are in need of volunteers.

TPA: **Rick Vogel** announced that the TPA is open to requests for funding.

Recycle: **Bill Eckles** announced that on one Saturday a month there will be a drop-off for docents who have recyclables, including toxic items like batteries and florescent bulbs as well as the typical recyclables. If this is a success it may be opened to the public as a fund raiser.

Refreshments: For **January's** General Meeting docents whose last names start with **T - Z** are responsible for snacks. Note: December's meeting is the Holiday Potluck at the Lodge.

Meeting ended at 11:30 am



Children's Program training event on Nov. 18

Back row: Sue Randerson, Mona Kuczenski, Diana Coram, Rick Vogel, Mary Friestadt, Marie Johnson, Walt Burkhard, Louis Sands, & Ann Smith Mercandetti

Front row: Wes Farmer, Margaret Fillius, Joe Meyer, Barbara Justice, & Annette Ring *Photo by Marie Johnson*

Children's Program

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

Thanks to all the Children's Program Docents for a very successful fall season.

Winter break starts on December 19, 2014, and we will resume the Children's Program presentations and hiking on January 8, 2015.

Seven programs are planned for December: six Native Americans/The Kumeyaay and one geology program. 330 school children are expected, and 36 docents will present and lead the hikes. Presenters are **Paul L. Howard, Kathy Dickey, Janet Ugalde, Joellen Barnett, and Wesley Farmer.**

On Tuesday, November 18th, the presenters met at the Lodge. Louis Sands did a great job of encouraging and training us to present for our different topics, and we already have "new" presenters signed up.

Please mark your calendar to attend the General Meeting on January 10, 2015 to celebrate 25 years of the Children's Program.

And of course, if you have questions or want to tag along, please contact us.

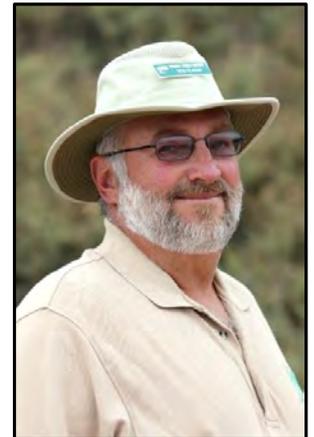
Docent of the Month:

Bob Glaser

Photo by Herb Knüfken

I was first introduced to TPSNR in the late 60's while visiting my grandmother and my uncle's family. During subsequent visits and during my year at Mesa Community College, I always seemed to set aside time for a hike in the Reserve. It had such a different feel from the surrounding residential areas.

My wife and I moved to La Jolla Shores about two years ago from the Raleigh North Carolina area. I spent almost 30 years working in Raleigh as an EPA/State contractor overseeing environmental investigations and cleanups at hazardous waste and Superfund sites. Our two sons still live in NC, one in a small town near Raleigh and one near the coast in Wilmington.



In retirement, I knew I wanted to volunteer close to home and to learn about the native plants/animals so I investigated opportunities at TPSNR. It did not take long before I found the Torrey Pines Docent Society. It has been a rewarding experience learning from and working with my fellow docents.

My favorite spot at the Reserve is the overlook off Broken Hill Trail. Looking south one can see man's influence on the environment and looking north you can imagine what the original explorers first saw. What a contrast.

Torrey Pines Docent Holiday Party

The Docent Class of 2014 invites you and your families to the Docent Holiday Potluck Party on Saturday, December 13th at 11 am at the Lodge. Please bring a dish to share: appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert. Also, please bring your own plate, cup, and utensils, as we want to have a fun gathering, while making an effort to reduce waste. If you want to get into the holiday spirit earlier, you are welcome to join the 2014 Docent Class on Saturday, December 6th at 9 am to help decorate the Lodge. We need greenery, clippings from your own trees and shrubbery. Please avoid seeds and berries as we don't want to tempt our feathered or furry neighbors. The Class of 2014 looks forward to celebrating the holiday season with our new friends and acquaintances in the surroundings of our beloved TPSNR.

Please contact **Arlene Weinerman** if you have any questions.

Former Reserve Specialist, Hank Nicol Dies

by Judy Schulman

Donald W. "Hank" Nicol, an interpretive specialist with California State Parks has died. He was at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve from 1977 to 1988. He is the author of two books still sold in the Lodge, *Notes from the Naturalist* and *Beyond the Trees*.

Before his stint at Torrey Pines, Nicol was a state park historian at Old Town and had trained as a photographer at Brooks Institute. He was a veteran of the Korean War and had received two Purple Hearts. He edited a book in 2003 about his Korea experience called *Christmas in July: The Forgotten Battle of the Forgotten War*.

He died on October 18, 2014, in Eureka, California at the age of 84.

Anyone wishing to send a card or letter to his son, Surat Nicol, may do so to: Surat Nicol, 74 Arrowrock Rd, Boise, ID 83716

REE MILLER

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of **Ree Miller**, a docent since 1994 and a long-time member of both the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito and First Church in San Diego. Ree passed away on November, 9, 2014.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Maurice, as well as her son Philip (partner Mel North) of Minneapolis and her daughter Nancy of Portland, OR. Memorial Service information is to be determined. Here is a link to her legacy.com page:

tinyurl.com/ReeMiller-docent

What Is A Docent ?

by Frank Burham

Docents who have been in contact with the public know the #1 question: "Where are the restrooms?" This has recently been closely matched by: "Where are the trash cans?" At the TIK we have been using the EZ UP shade cover that is imprinted "Torrey Pines Docent Society". This has created a new popular question: "What is a Docent?" The answer as given on our website on the Volunteering page, states "docent" is derived from the Latin *docere*... to teach.

Webster, online, provides more detail... teacher or tour guide, from the latin *docens*, present participle of *docere*.

So, with a clear understanding of the word "docent," I asked myself "Why are so many of our docents reluctant to be teachers or tour guides?" This is indicated by the difficulty we experience with our interpretive duty sign-up. I was aware that a minority of our docents perform the majority of the interpretive duty. But I did not have the actual data. So I analyzed the data for the 10 months of 2014, January through October, looking only at the interpretive duties of Lodge Hosting, Children's Program, Nature Walks (both public and special), and the TIK (Trail Info Kiosk).

For all four activities combined, based on 220 active docents, there was a significant difference in the level of participation:

145 docents, 66%, did 100% (5495 hours)
38 per docent, average
68 docents, 31%, did 79.9% (4393 hours)
65 per docent, average
32 docents, 15%, did 49.6% (2726 hours)
85 per docent, average
12 docents, 5%, did 25.8% (1420 hours)
118 per docent, average

Stated in a simpler way:

The top 1/4, 36 Docents, contributed an average of 82 hours each. The bottom 1/4 contributed an average of 6 hours each, less than 1 hour per month over the 10-month period.

My next step will be to analyze the root-cause of the different levels of participation. What, if anything, do we need to correct? Are there problems? To answer these questions and address them, we need input from a large number of docents.

The objective of such a program is not directed at making every docent participate in all of the interpretive activities. The current overall participation, 145 docents, 66% of the membership, is not the major problem. The significant issue is how to increase the participation of those who already contribute, but at a low level. Half are at an average of 1.2 hours per month. If their contribution could increase to 3 hours per month, the problem is solved.

To All Docents: January is Membership Renewal Month

Service Hours:

First and foremost, please be sure that all your 2014 service hours have been recorded on Volgistics. The state requirement for Active Docents is 72 service hours annually. Actually, many of our Active Docents put in many, many more hours than is required. It is important that we document all the work we do in support of Torrey Pines and to let the folks in Sacramento know the strength of our support! Hours are counted through December 31st. Hours performed by Lifetime and Supporting Docents are included too!

If you need to get more hours before the end of the year, try TIK hosting on weekends and holidays or co-hosting at the Lodge, doubling up with someone already scheduled.

If you need help logging your hours, contact our Volgistics Guru, **Roger Isaacson**, or one of the other Volgistics Operators, **Anna-Lena Malm**, **Jeannie Smith**, or **Steve Rose**.

Membership Status:

Next review your membership status for 2015.

Active Docents: They are the backbone of our organization and we appreciate all they do!

Supporting Docents: Those who have been an Active Docent for at least two years, and are no longer able to meet the service requirement, may request a change to Supporting Docent status, either temporarily or permanently.

Lifetime Docents have completed at least 10 years as Active Members, recorded the required service hours, and have been awarded this honor.

If you have questions about your membership status, or any problems with your hours or dues, contact Membership Coordinator Carol Smith (tpdsmembership@sbcglobal.com).

Dues for 2015:

Active Docents: \$25.

Supporting Docents: \$40.

Lifetime Docents: No dues requirement

Either:

1. Bring your check (or cash) to the Docent Meeting on January 10, 2015
2. Mail your check to Torrey Pines Docent Society, P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014 Attn: Treasurer. Please write "Member Dues" on your check.
3. Use PayPal on the TPDS website: torreypine.org/misc/donations.html

And send an email to treasurer@torreypine.org to indicate the "donation" is for your 2015 dues.

Parking Passes for 2015:

Parking passes are issued by the ranger staff to docents whose membership for 2015 is up to date. Please allow two weeks after your dues are received.

Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, December 16, 2 pm

Where: Steve Tarkington's home (Del Mar)

What: *All My Edens* by Pat Welsh, a local gardener and writer

"In an appealing narrative style reminiscent of the writings of M.F.K. Fisher and Vita Sackville-West, this beguiling memoir takes readers on a stroll through the many gardens which acclaimed writer Pat Welsh has cultivated and loved. Accompanied by a wonderful array of vintage photos, excerpts from letters, and other memorabilia, *All My Edens* also includes a wealth of practical advice for gardening enthusiasts. 86 halftone photos & illustrations."

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

Future: Tuesday, January 20th at Molly McConnell's home (Normal Heights); *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv.

Louv was a U-T reporter years ago, and this book was a big hit (4.5 stars with 159 customer reviews in Amazon). "In his landmark work *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv brought together cutting-edge studies that pointed to direct exposure to nature as essential for a child's healthy physical and emotional development. Now this new edition updates the growing body of evidence linking the lack of nature in children's lives and the rise in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. Louv's message has galvanized an international back-to-nature campaign to 'Leave No Child Inside.' His book will change the way you think about our future and the future of our children."

Did you know?*

Desperate Times Call For . . .

by Tom Polakiewicz

Photo by Nancy Woodworth

Consider our tiny big-eared woodrat, *Neotoma macrotis*, one of 20 members of the genus *Neotoma* in the New World. The males are nasty, aggressive little creatures, living by themselves and defending their territories against other males, mating with as many females as they can during the breeding season. The females and their daughters live in nests that look like mounds of sticks and plant debris that can be eight feet across and five feet high. They are famous for filling their nests with a variety of things that they collect and hoard—anything small and moveable that they find interesting, including things they steal from unsuspecting humans. Thus their common name, packrats.

Packrats lead short lives, but their nests may be used for many generations. How many you ask? Scientists in Arizona have found neotoma nests that contain plant material as much as 50,400 years old in a midden outside a nest.



A party of Gold Rush emigrants came upon such a midden in the Mohave Desert in 1849. Desperate for food and water, they found “balls of a glistening a glistening substance looking like pieces of variegated candy stuck together.” Taking it to be a cache of some sort of food hidden by the local Indians, they ate the balls, which had a “sweet but sickish” taste. Afterwards, some of those who made a meal of the find were a little bit nauseous.

The tasty tidbits the pioneers found were shiny organic masses of plant debris and fecal pellets cemented together with packrat urine. Today, such finds are known by the scientific name of amberat, and are used for studies of ancient climates.

Travelers today are well advised to be prepared when they travel into the back country—wear proper shoes, use sunscreen, and most of all carry enough food and water so they won’t become so desperate as to . . .ugh! Don’t even think about it!

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

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: November 1, 2014

Number of species: 70

Gadwall 5
Mallard 20
Surf Scoter 2
Bufflehead 1
California Quail 6
Pied-billed Grebe 4
Eared Grebe 1
Western Grebe 6
Brandt's Cormorant 48
Double-crested Cormorant 10
Brown Pelican 168
Great Blue Heron 2
Great Egret 5
Snowy Egret 2
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1
White-tailed Kite 2
Red-tailed Hawk 4
American Coot 3

Snowy Plover 1
Semipalmated Plover 8
Willet 6
Whimbrel 2
Marbled Godwit 6
Sanderling 17
Short-billed/Long-billed
Dowitcher 6
Heermann's Gull 43
Western Gull 27
California Gull 3
Forster's Tern 2
Royal Tern 4
Elegant Tern 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 15
Mourning Dove 7
White-throated Swift 10
Anna's Hummingbird 33
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 2
Belted Kingfisher 2

Nuttall's Woodpecker 4
Northern Flicker 3
American Kestrel 4
Peregrine Falcon 2
Black Phoebe 7
Say's Phoebe 8
Cassin's Kingbird 3
Hutton's Vireo 2
Western Scrub-Jay 3
American Crow 39
Common Raven 12
Bushtit 57
House Wren 2
Marsh Wren 2
Bewick's Wren 2
California Gnatcatcher 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
Wrentit 15
California Thrasher 1
Northern Mockingbird 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Common Yellowthroat 3
Yellow-rumped Warbler 62
Spotted Towhee 2
California Towhee 15
Song Sparrow 12
White-crowned Sparrow 11
Red-winged Blackbird 2
Brewer's Blackbird 5
Brown-headed Cowbird 1
House Finch 24
Lesser Goldfinch 14
House Sparrow 5

Observers: Herb Knufken, Bob Glaser, Frank Wong, Kathy Dickey, Jack Friery, Eva Armi, Blair Francis, Gary Grantham, and Anonymous



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