



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

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The Remarkable Ellen Browning Scripps

by Joan R. Simon

Ellen Browning Scripps is revered as one of the key players in the preservation of the Torrey pine. By purchasing land that would otherwise have been developed, she saved large parts of what now makes up Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. She is also honored for funding the Lodge, which was built in 1923. While these events loom large to TP docents, we learned a whole lot more about



Bronze Sculpture of Ellen Scripps at Scripps Hospital

Ellen Scripps at the April general meeting. Our speaker, Molly McLain, a history professor at the University of San Diego, is writing a biography of Ellen Browning Scripps and shared with us this fascinating woman's life story. Ellen Scripps was one of the leading philanthropists of her day, with a cover of Time magazine in 1926 at age 90 as testament. Much of her generosity was devoted to the San Diego community. Among the many institutions she founded and/or funded are The Bishop's School, La Jolla Recreational Center, Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla Woman's College, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the San Diego Zoo, the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, the San Diego Natural History Museum, and Scripps College.

How did a woman of modest means become a billionaire (in today's dollars) and achieve so much? Raised in a poor

Docent General Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 9 am

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

Speaker: Norrie Robbins

Topic: What is a native plant? When did it arrive? How do we know? (cont. on pg. 3)

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with J, K & L will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

but literate home in rural Illinois, she lived the classic "rags to riches" story. With her brother James E. Scripps (and help from some of her 8 other siblings), she founded the Detroit Evening News, which eventually expanded to include the Scripps newspaper chain, one of the most successful newspaper syndicates in the country. College-educated, unmarried, and working 12-hour days in the newspaper business, Ellen Scripps was a thoroughly unconventional woman of the Victorian Age. By the time she moved to California in the early 1890s with her brother E. W. Scripps, decades of hard work and frugal living had allowed her to amass a large fortune, which she continued to invest in the family's thriving newspaper business. From then until her death in 1932 at the age of 96, she worked

(cont. on pg. 3)

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

Message from the President

March and April were very busy for TPDS. In addition to our normal activities, we provided many docent hours for the Science Fair, the opening of Parry Grove, Earth Day and the visitor census. The visitor census count, taken over a 4-hour-period on specific days, averaged 3,000 with a peak of 5,000 on weekends. A full day would be substantially more. The statisticians will decide how many.



Bob Doolittle's initial study of off-trail activity revealed that an average of 15% of visitors at the overlooks are going off trail. This very high incidence appears to be related to the desire to get great photos on cell phones and the promotion of off-trail activities by social media. The most popular overlook seems to be Razor Point.

Obviously, we have a major problem with the combined effect of high visitation and a high percentage of off-trail activity. We had hoped to provide some reduction by adding Overlook Interpretive Patrol to our activity roster, but the sign-up has been very low. I encourage all docents to consider this important duty. We are putting our focus on explaining to visitors that the main issue is the destruction of native protected habitat, rather than just being off trail.

On the positive side, the Children's Program continues to expand. Traditionally a Thursday and Friday activity, other days have been added. The 2014-2015 school year visits are projected to exceed 5,000 children. Thank you to **Janet Ugalde**, Louis Sands and all who support this important educational activity.

A larger TV and other technology upgrades were installed in the video room. A new upgraded weather station was installed on the roof. Thank you, **Roger Isaacson** and **Lou Adamo**.

We look forward to the completion of the 2015 docent training and the addition of many talented new docents in June. Thank you, **Diane Stocklin**.

Frank Burham

President,

Torrey Pines Docent Society

(cont. from pg. 1)

tirelessly to improve her community by spending the money she had accumulated.

She believed in democratic principles, free speech, the healing power of nature, educational opportunities for women, the importance of social service and the future of science. She was an optimistic and modern woman whose outlook is exemplified by this quote: "Look upward, not downward. Look outward, not inward. Look forward, not backward." Her extraordinary foresight and generosity have made San Diego a better place to live and have given those of us dedicated to TPSNR a priceless place to share.

Docent General Meeting (cont. from pg. 1)

Speaker: Norrie Robbins

Topic: What is a native plant? When did it arrive? How do we know?

Palynologists such as Dr. Norrie Robbins have a different view about native plants. Dr. Robbins studies the fossil spores and pollen grains of prehistoric plants in sedimentary rocks of different ages. These studies reveal that forests and plant species are ever-changing in response to climatic factors, diseases, tectonic changes, and changes in sea levels. Studies of more recent (historic) plant pollen and spores from cores drilled into soft sediments postulate on when the first humans may have arrived in our region, how they used and impacted native plant communities, and how these communities continued to change with the later arrival of Europeans. Robbins will examine questions about the relationship between native plants and early humans, such as whether the earliest settlers brought seeds from their homelands.

General Meeting Minutes – April 11th

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by President **Frank Burham**, who welcomed the new trainees.

Docent of the Month: Arline Paa, who along with the Garden Committee is working with State Parks to have the Discovery Trail and the overlook near Parry Grove renamed to honor Ellen Browning Scripps.

La Jolla Half Marathon: 6,200 runners are expected for this event. **Ann Smith Mercandetti** asked for volunteers to be in the Reserve by 7 am to monitor the marathon on April 26th. During a big event such as this, having docents with posters helps keep the Reserve from being trashed.

Spotlight on: Ingo Renner gave a slide show about the field trip to Anza-Borrego on March 7-8.

Bob Doolittle reported that his team has been surveying which signs have been effective at keeping people on trail. See pg. 5 for full report.

To stay cool while doing Overlook Interpretive Patrol (OIP) Bob and his team have researched high-tech wicking shirts to be worn instead of vests. They would have State Park Volunteer patches on the sleeves. Orders will be taken at the May general meeting. Sign-ups for OIP are available on Volgistics. Please help out so that these areas can recover from the public's abuse.

Dogs in the Reserve: Ranger Chuy Salinas talked about what we can and cannot say when people bring dogs into the park. See pg. 5 for full details.

Special Events: Ingo Renner announced there will be a hike in Crest Canyon, Del Mar, on Friday, May 1, 2015.

Seabees: Michelle Kurtis Cole reported that the Seabees are working on putting in eye-rod cables along Broken Hill trail. Seabees meet on Tuesdays at 8 am till noon and afterwards share pizza and beer at Sammy's. Please join in if you can.

Whacky Weeders: Lynne Small announced that this is a critical time, just before the invasive grasses go to seed, so the weeders need lots of help. They meet Tuesdays 8:30 - 10 am and Thursdays 9:30am - 11.

Museum Shop: Nancy Woodworth asked the new training class to let her know if anyone is interested in working on the museum store committee. There are some one-of-a-kind items in the shop including Judy Schulman's hand-woven baskets made from Torrey pine needles (collected outside the Reserve).

Park Aides **Johnson Jou** and **Joy Inton** are offering Lodge host/POS workshops at the Visitors Center at 8 am on the following days in April: Sunday, 19th; Thursday, 23rd, Friday, 24th; and Saturday, 25th.

TIK: Sally Whitlock and **Karen Lisi** reported that they are selling water bottle bags made out of plastic yarn called Plarn. Donations received at the TIK are running about \$30 - \$40 a week as thanks for the sun screen and hand sanitizer provided. Please join us - it's fun!

Recycle: Bob Doolittle encouraged docents to help with recycling, which requires only once-a-month participation (and it isn't gross anymore).

Treasurer's Report: Gerry Lawrence gave the 1st quarter recap. Income is up from special walks, the visitor donation box and museum purchases. A lock box has been put in by the desk so docents won't have to go into the Ranger's office at the end of the last shift to leave money and credit card receipts. Taxes for 2014 have been filed. TPDS expenses can be reimbursed by giving receipts to Gerry.

Earth Day: Diane Stocklin reported that on Sat., April 18th we will celebrate Earth Day with booths and walks from 9 am until 1 pm. There are reusable shopping bags for all who donate. (See pg. 5 for story.)

Children's Program: The Children's Program will have served approximately 5000 students this school year.

Membership: Carol Smith mentioned that the new docent contact list is available at the side table (and will be available in the Lodge). Louis Sands has the 2015 parking passes.

Science Fair: Wayne Kornreich announced that the Science Fair judging is complete. There were three winners and 2 two will present to TPDS at the May or June meeting.

Barbara Wallach announced that docent Don Grine volunteered to lead a geology talk following the training session on history of the Lodge. Don has shared his extensive knowledge of geology with our docents for many years.

Refreshments: Chuck Anders mentioned that if you get to the docent general meeting early he has coffee ready in the kitchen before the big urns are brewed. Chuck has been brewing coffee for our general meetings for 9 years. Thanks Chuck!!

For May's general meeting docents whose last names start with **J, K & L** are responsible for snacks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Docent of the Month:

Arline Paa

Photo by Herb Knüfken

As the mother of three daughters, one son, and seven granddaughters, I am acutely aware of "the feminine." As a docent at Torrey Pines, this awareness came to me as I saw the Guy Fleming



Trail, Parry Grove, the Whitaker Garden, and the name Torrey pines. Ellen B. Scripps needs more acknowledgment in the Reserve. As a member of the Garden Committee, established two years ago, we are actively working on this.

I moved to San Diego in 1972 when my husband, Dr. David Paa, a pediatric neurologist, was hired by UCSD and the Rady Children's Hospital. In our

early years I was a stay-at-home mom. Torrey Pines Reserve was a place we took guests. When our children were older I resumed my nursing career, first at the Student Health Center at UCSD, then at Student Health Services at Mira Costa Community College. I enjoyed helping students with their physical and psychological problems. After retiring in 2002, I became interested in pottery and began making functional ceramics.

A friend urged me to become involved at Torrey Pines. I am a graduate of the docent class of 2010. I enjoy working at the Visitor Center, greeting people from around the world who find their way to our Reserve. I am an avid gardener. When the TPDS established a Garden Committee, the original purpose was to re-establish an interpretative garden in front of the Lodge. Our tasks have grown as we have seen other areas that need work, such as Whitaker Garden. We are currently working on more visible ways to acknowledge the contribution of Ellen B. Scripps.

Our Reserve is a beautiful place to volunteer and blossom! Thank you so much for this honor and the opportunity to serve.

Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

Children's Program docents cultivate wonder and curiosity. We encourage kids to participate in their own world. We help them discover that they are part of nature, connected to and dependent upon their environment. We offer a light bulb moment that could lead to a lifelong commitment to environmentally-conscious behavior. As one of our finest docents likes to say, "Children are our future!"

The 2014-2015 Children's Program is coming to an end in a few weeks. Our final presentation will be May 29th. Docents and trainees, you still have time to come see what we do and hike with a group of children.

GINORMOUS THANK YOU to all docents who contributed their time and effort this past year!

We will meet June 11th at 10 am to celebrate our successes, review our challenges, and discuss our goals for the future. Lunch will be served.

Dogs in the Reserve

(From the April 11 Docent Meeting Minutes)

Ranger Chuy Salinas outlined what we can say when people bring dogs into the Reserve.

- Always approach with caution.
- If they say they have a service dog, we can ask “What service does it provide?”
- Emotional support dogs are NOT allowed.
- PTSD, epilepsy, seizure, and “in-training” dogs are allowed.
- Any type of service dog is not allowed off leash, is not allowed off trail, even to pee.
- Dogs are not allowed in the Reserve if they are jumping around, barking a lot or running all over.
- Warn the owner about possible dangers to dogs in the Reserve, including rattlesnakes and ticks.
- Let the owner know there are several beaches and trails in the area that allow dogs, such as Del Mar’s Dog Beach (north of 4th street) Cardiff, Ocean Beach, Coronado, Fiesta Island and Iron Mountain. There is a book in the museum shop with many more local options.
- Dogs are not allowed to stay in a car.
- Explain that dogs are not allowed in TPSNR because their scent scares away wild animals that belong in the Reserve, such as foxes, squirrels, rabbits and the endangered California gnatcatcher.
- Visitors can get their money refunded at the kiosk if they’ve been parked for 15 minutes or less.

Do Signs Keep Visitors on Trail?

(From the April 11th Docent Meeting Minutes)

Bob Doolittle reported that his team has been looking into which signs have been effective at keeping people on the trail. The survey covered:

- random days (both mid-week and weekends)
- random times
- remote observation
- no docent at the overlook
- days with and without signs at the overlook
- Yucca Point and Razor Point were the targets of this survey

The results showed an average of 15% of people going off trail, with a high of 56% and a low of 5%.

Once signs were in place, the following was observed:

- The “Stop -- Not a Trail” sign had little effect.

- The person falling off a cliff warning “Danger” attracted more people than average to go off trail.
- The most effective sign said “Protected Habitat, subject to fine, code ##, Stay on Trail.” A dollar amount might be added (about \$300, including court costs).

Note: rescuing someone who has fallen off the cliff runs about \$1500.



Lagoon reopened on April 22nd Photo by Herb Knüfken

Green Flash: Earth Day, April 18: Postscript

by Diane Stocklin

It was a beautiful day and many dedicated docents were out in full force, manning our tables with learning materials and interpretive skills. We were expecting our usual heavy and mixed Saturday crowd, but were surprised by a lower count and a demographic of mostly younger visitor.

The TIK was Earth Day Central, with **Jeannie Smith** as coordinator and **Helen Grundler** and **Gloria Phillips** manning the booth. Walks and special Earth Day totes were offered to everyone who was interested. Park Aides **Johnson Jou** and **Joy Inton** had insects, small and large, live and preserved, on display for all to hold or view closely. They had a popular spot by the TIK and caught the attention of many passing by. Kumeyaay Native Peoples, led by **Sherry Doolittle**, were front and center down from the TIK. Conversations ranged from questions about the origin of fur samples to how the Kumeyaay developed the skills to create a sustainable life in our habitat.

The Children’s Nature Art table, coordinated by Louis Sands, **Janet Ugalde** and **Annette Ring**, and Geology led by **Wes Farmer**, were tucked away near the old





Earth Day interpretive exhibits in the Upper West Lot

amphitheater, but drew the children to their sites. Not far away was the Project Wildlife presentation on the Mexican bat. Docents, too, were lined up for this close view of one of our native species.

Whitaker Garden was the setting for a presentation by **Barbara Wallach** on the use of Native Plants in home gardens and ways to conserve water. **Pao Chau** energetically led walks through this area of the Reserve.

The Torrey Pines Association table, hosted by **Janice Barnard** and **Rick Vogel** (who are also TPDS docents), offered information on the role of the TPA and how to financially support the goals of the Reserve.

Jan Lombardi supplied her usual good leadership in the Lodge and **Michelle Kurtis Cole** and **Donna Close** quickly accomplished set-up.



Ranger Chuy Salinas (photo above) supervised the activities based in the lower south lot. **Kristine Schindler** led the highway clean-up crew and **Lynne Small** and **Jake Mumma** worked with the weeders, while visitors to the Reserve pitched in to help both groups. Ranger Salinas also organized volunteer visitors to paint benches and remove graffiti from the cliffs.

The 2015 trainees spent time at the various tables to get a first-hand look at how docents use their interpretative skills and interact with visitors. This was their first “real docent” experience in the Reserve and fostered an even greater commitment to the Docent Society and the Reserve.

The list of dedicated docents is long. It includes those mentioned above plus the most dedicated leader of all, **Frank Burham**, Green Team Chair **Greg Howard**, **Ingo Renner**, **Joe Meyer**, **JoAnna Proctor**, **Sally Whitlock**, **Kathy Glasebrook**, **Nancy Walters**, **Bob Doolittle**, **Mike Yang**, **Peter Domaille**, **Arlene Weirnerman**, **Joan Adamo**, **Debby Sherman**, **Clay White**, **Steve Tarkington**, **Sue Randerson**, **Bill Eckles**, **Diane Russell**, **Jim Patterson**,

Roger Isaacson, **George Beardsley**, **Andi Morin**, **Anne Elliot**, **Vince Castiglione**, **Claudia Kay** and all of the Park Aides.

Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook visited the tables and then came to share lunch on the side patio with the volunteers and trainees. In closing, when expressing sincere thanks to **Ingo Renner**, a very dedicated docent, he said: “It was a beautiful day. It was fun. I am ready to do it again.”



Kumeyaay interpretation kiosk with Ingo Renner
Photo by Janet Speer



Volunteers repainting benches Photo by Wes Farmer



Whitaker Garden - Barbara Wallach talking to visitors while working with Joan Adamo and Pete di Girolamo *Photo by Roger Isaacson*



Volunteer, John, going the extra mile (along with his family) *Photo by Kristine Schindler*



"Sherpa Woman" *Photo by Lynne Small*



Docent Trainee, Gloria Garrett in the children's booth *Photo by Jane Takahashi*



Large areas of *Carpobrotus* were removed along Carmel Valley Rd. The public volunteers worked tirelessly. *Photo by Lynne Small*

Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, May 19, 2 pm

Where: Marty Jacobson's home (La Jolla)

What: *Evolution's Captain: The Story of the Kidnapping that Led to Charles Darwin's Voyage Aboard the Beagle* by Peter Nichols

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

Docent Hikes



Gonzales Canyon - March 20th Photo by Ken Baer



Carmel Mountain - March 29th Photo by Margaret Fillius



On Carmel Mountain with Torrey Pines in the distance
Photo by Margaret Fillius

La Jolla Half Marathon a Clean Success

by Ann Mercandetti-Smith

On Sunday morning, April 26, Torrey Pines docents and trainees **Bridget MacConnel, Helen Grundler, Claudia Kay, Clay White, Steve Neal, Betsy Seible, Annette Ring, Joan Simon, Maureen Buckley, Meg Jackson, David Paa, Marty Jacobson, and Stu Smith** reported to the Lodge parking lot before 7 am to welcome the 6,000 plus runners of the La Jolla Half Marathon. Although only 13 in number, docents spread out along the 1.5-mile road through the Reserve from the bottom of the hill to the exit by the golf course, and all received "thank you's" from marathon participants.

This is the second year docents have been involved in major events which are contracted by the California State Park system to move through Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve on the road. A change with the LJ Half Marathon this year meant there was no water station within the limits of the Reserve, resulting in a dramatic reduction of litter. The loud ringing of bells by several members of the public who were supporting the runners was quieted by docents, and all went smoothly under a beautiful morning of cool sunshine. The road quickly reopened after runners exited by the golf course, and docents were departing the Reserve by 10:00 a.m. Considering the Reserve was "trashed" by LJ Half Marathon runners only three years ago, docent presence at these events appears to have had a positive impact on TPSNR, which we docents are helping to protect. Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook added his kudos: "This is the first time in 5 years I didn't find a single thing to pick up after the marathon."



The next major event through the Reserve is anticipated to be Friday, November 20, when the 3-Day Susan G. Komen walkers, usually around 2,300 people, come through the Reserve. This event tends to have more "issues" with "food and feathers," so hopefully we'll have 20+ docents at the Reserve that morning to monitor and cheer on the participants. Perhaps some docents would like to mark that date on their calendars now?!

TPDS Shirts and Badges

Since training graduation is near, we will soon be ordering docent shirts and badges. If you need a shirt or badge, please contact **Jeannie Smith**. For badges, specify your name and whether you want a pin or magnetic back. For shirt details, contact Jeannie.

Did you know?

General Relativity

by Tom Polakiewicz

Standing at the overlook on Razor Point, you can see the crenellated flanks of the Bay Point Formation that give the overlook its name. Embedded in the coarse sandstone you may see layers of small rocks and even a seashell or two that indicate that the formation was created in an energetic underwater environment with strong tidal currents and waves. The geologists tell us that Bay Point is only about 125,000 years old.

In that 125,000 years, the sea level has risen, fallen and risen again hundreds of feet relative to where it is today.

The seashore has advanced, retreated and advanced again several miles, while the land has been rising as much as twelve inches every thousand years. The changing relationship of the ocean level to its shoreline brings into question the very notion of what it means to be “here.” The overlook at Razor Point may be “here” now, but not very long ago it was “there”—hundreds of feet lower relative to sea level. Going back another five million years, the place where the Bay Point Formation clings to the cliffs of Torrey Pines was 185 miles to the southeast, waiting for the San Andreas Fault to open up the Gulf of California and carry that block of land to its present location.

Razor Point and the Bay Point Formation are a case in point. As with the rest of the Earth, we are on a geological roller coaster. Perhaps to be accurate we should preface every description of location by saying something like, “I live at 123 Maple Street, which at the present time is . . . relative to . . .” It would be a recognition that in geology, all things are relative.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: April 4, 2015

Number of species: 67

Gadwall 5
Lesser Scaup 6
Bufflehead 4
Red-breasted Merganser 1
Ruddy Duck 12
California Quail 10
Pied-billed Grebe 3
Western Grebe 61
Brandt's Cormorant 1
Double-crested Cormorant 6
Brown Pelican 30
Great Blue Heron 3
Great Egret 4
Snowy Egret 10
White-faced Ibis 8
Osprey 1
White-tailed Kite 1
Cooper's Hawk 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 4
American Coot 10
Willet 3
Whimbrel 2
Long-billed Curlew 1
Marbled Godwit 2
Ring-billed Gull 13
Western Gull 7
California Gull 1
Royal Tern 32
Eurasian Collared-Dove 1
Mourning Dove 10
White-throated Swift 4
Anna's Hummingbird 22
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 4
Belted Kingfisher 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 1
American Kestrel 4
Peregrine Falcon 2
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2

Black Phoebe 3
Cassin's Kingbird 4
Western Scrub-Jay 5
American Crow 16
Common Raven 21
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 14
swallow sp. 4
Bushtit 16
House Wren 4
Marsh Wren 2
Bewick's Wren 7
California Gnatcatcher 3
Wrentit 24
California Thrasher 7
Northern Mockingbird 3
European Starling 6
Orange-crowned Warbler 5
Common Yellowthroat 7
Spotted Towhee 10
California Towhee 29

Savannah Sparrow 2
Song Sparrow 19
White-crowned Sparrow 6
Red-winged Blackbird 12
Hooded Oriole 2
House Finch 47
Lesser Goldfinch 26
House Sparrow 4

Observers: Herb Knüfken, Frank Wong, Jack Friery, Kathy Dickey, Eva Armi, Blair Francis, Bob Glaser, Gary Grantham, Ingo Renner, Peter DiGirolamo, Janet Speer, Bruce and Patty Montgomery, and Anonymous

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



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