



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 367

December 2015

## Celebrating Our 40th

by Pat Finn

To celebrate an auspicious anniversary, the best thing is to mark it with people who love you, who know what you're all about, and who know your history.

So last month the Torrey Pines Docent Society asked two very entertaining speakers, **Melba Kooyman**, one of the original Lodge Sitters, and **Bill Brothers**, who describes himself as a closet botanist, to toast the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TPDS by sharing their memories of the Reserve.

Melba took us back to pre-docent days, when the roster of volunteers – many from the Torrey Pines Wildlife Association -- was one page long. The TPWA was made up mostly of residents of Del Mar Terrace who undertook to be “the eyes and ears” of the Lagoon and the Reserve. The Rangers, knowing a good thing when they saw it, asked if some might volunteer to sit in the Lodge on weekends. Sure, they said. On Melba’s very first shift, she didn’t do much sitting. There was a wedding in the Reserve and celebrants were everywhere.

When Rich Irwin and Linda Engle organized the TPDS in 1970, Melba served as a bridge between the less-formal TPWA and the TPDS. One of her strong memories is of Tsuyoshi Matsumoto, an artist who in 1971 could not afford the entrance fee to the Reserve. He eventually sketched the Reserve, especially the Torrey pines, and "Mat" cards and his book of drawings can be found at the Museum Shop. (An example of his work can be seen on the banner of the Torreyana, above.) Matsumoto eventually went on to have his own gallery in La Jolla.

Bill Brothers, a biology professor at Mesa College, took his first walk in the Reserve in the early 1970s, going, naturally, through Fat Man’s Misery. He became a docent in 1976 and attempted to memorize the names of every plant in the Reserve. He was there through a number of changes. In the Lodge, a big (literally) change was the



### Docent Holiday Party

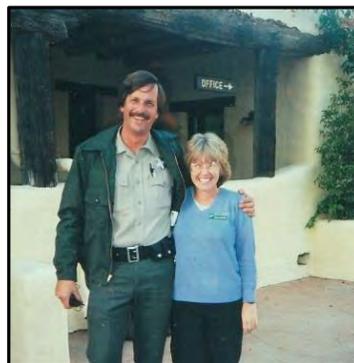
Saturday, December 12, 11 am

Location: Torrey Pines Visitor Center (Lodge)

**Coordinator Bev Roberts:** It will be potluck, so bring a dish to share. There will be water, cider, coffee, and hot mulled wine provided. To keep waste down, please bring your own plates and utensils. Decorating the Lodge will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to participate.

arrival of display cases, which he described as “humongous.” He was saddened by the death of many trees in the late 80s because of bark beetles and has gotten used to the re-alignment of Broken Hill and Parry Grove Trails. The most impressive change he sees is the large, possibly humongous, number of people who visit now.

Melba and Bill have much in common – their love of the Reserve, their joy in interpreting the park for visitors, and their admiration and affection for Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl.



Long time Supervising Ranger Bob Wohl & Melba Kooyman – circa 1990

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TP Association: [torreypines.org](http://torreypines.org)

Visitor Center phone: 858.755.2063

#### **TPDS 2015 Board Members:**

President: Frank Burham

Vice-president: Ingo Renner

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Dir. of Communications: Roger Isaacson

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Dir. of Programs: George Beardsley

Dir. of Training: Diane Stocklin

Dir. of Lodge Hosting: Jan Lombardi

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**Supervising Ranger:** Dylan Hardenbrook

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

**Sr. Park Aides:** Louis Sands & Johnson Jou (Interpreter)

**Park Aides:** Elliott Beltran, Samantha Collins, Joy Inton, & Jake Mumma

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

## President's Message

2015, the 40<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the Docent Society, was another great year. Some of the highlights:



The Children's Program was expanded by adding extra days. This school-year total will be more than 4000 children. In addition, more docents stepped forward to participate as walk leaders so we could reduce the number of children per leader from 10 down to 8, allowing more participation per student. The hands-on activity was enhanced by adding more touchable objects on the tables behind the Visitor Center.

Many thanks go to **Louis Sands**, **Janet Ugalde**, and dozens of Walk Leaders.

The Garden Committee installed 26 new plant identification signs in Whitaker Garden, in addition to the 29 installed in front of the Lodge in 2014. Thanks go to **Pete di Girolamo** and the group.

The Seabees installed rod and cable on more than 2 miles of trails. That totals more than 4 miles of trail delineators considering both sides of the trail. This work provided the completion of Parry Grove, Guy Fleming and about 90% of Broken Hill and Beach trails. Thanks go to **Michelle Kurtis Cole** and the Seabees.

Two new docent functions were created:

The **CARE** group (Contact and Retain) for docent membership. Thanks to **Sally Whitlock**, **Annette Ring**, and their group. And the **CEED** program (Continuing Education and Enhancement of Docents) Thanks to **Joe Meyer**.

The Museum Committee made great improvements in several areas. Most significant was the new docent desk and cabinets. Thanks go to **Lillian Lachicotte** and her group with a special thanks to **Ingo Renner**, the craftsman builder.

I could continue with many more. A more detailed and complete listing of accomplishments will be provided in January.

I have enjoyed working closely with the docents this year. I will continue on the Board as a Docent at Large in 2016, providing support for your new president, Ingo Renner.

Many thanks for all of the docent support and activity,

Frank Burham

## **Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes November 14, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by **Frank Burham**.

**Speakers:** We celebrated the founding of the TPDS 40 years ago with featured speakers **Melba Kooyman**, current docent and a pre-TPDS “Lodge Sitter” who started training new docents in 1975, and **Bill Brothers**, who joined the TPDS in 1976.

**Nominating Committee:** **Walt Desmond** presented the slate for the election of the 2016 Board of Directors. President: **Ingo Renner**, Vice President: **Roger Isaacson**, Treasurer: **Gerry Lawrence**, Secretary: **Annette Ring**. Five at-large members: **Frank Burham**, **Jan Lombardi**, **Steve Tarkington**, **Lynne Small**, and **Janet Ugalde**. The slate was passed unanimously.

**Komen Breast Cancer Walk:** **Ann Smith Mercandetti** asked for docents to monitor the walk through the Reserve on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. 2,300 people were expected to walk through TPSNR.

**CEED - Continuing Education & Enhancement of Docents:** **Joe Meyer** will head up this new function which involves setting up walks and field trips for docents. (See Events for Docents on pg. 4)

**Torrey Pines Association:** **Ken King** thanked all of the docents that volunteered and attended the **Wine in the Pines** fundraiser and helped to make the event a success, netting about \$12,000. TPA plans to do it again next year. **Christmas Day TPA hike:** traditionally **Rick Vogel** has led a TPA hike on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact the TPA for more information on this and the Grandparents’ Hike on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> led by **Barbara Wallach**.

**Museum Shop:** **Bobbi Krueger** says new sweat shirts are in, dark green, only \$13 for docents. **Nancy Woodworth** says consider buying your holiday gifts at the Museum Shop. There are new wooden bowls and other items made from Torrey pines; **Jeannie Smith's** ornaments; baskets by **Judy Schulman**; and "The Story of Mat" with drawings of Torrey pines by Tsuyoshi Matsumoto. [Ed: the [March 2004 Torreyana](#) has a nice “Mat” article by Maryruth Cox.]

**Docent of the Month:** **Lula Sutherland** for all of her hard work at TPSNR including TIK, Lodge hosting, Children’s Program, and Nature Walks.

**Refreshments:** December is the Holiday party. At January’s General Meeting, docents with last names starting with **J, K, & L** are responsible for snacks.

Meeting ended at 10:55 am.

## **Children’s Program**

*by Janet Ugalde, Children’s Program Director*

**K**udos to our enthusiastic coordinator, Louis Sands, for helping us adapt to the ever-changing needs of our students. If we receive El Niño rainstorms this winter, he will be rescheduling many cancelled program days. Children’s Program docents, please check our website frequently, and be as flexible as possible as he works to minimize the number of students missing out on their TPSNR field trip.

In December we will host three Ocean, Whales and Dolphins programs—a docent favorite. For this topic, we teach about the many ways we are all connected to our astonishing ocean. Most people aren’t aware that the ocean plays a vital role in the Earth’s systems, including water, climate and weather. Or that half of the world’s oxygen is produced in the ocean, via phytoplankton photosynthesis.

We hope breaching gray whales will drop by, igniting students with awe and wonder. But with or without special guest appearances, our goal is to inspire kids to care about the natural world—a challenging task for a group of old folks without electronics or (artificial) special effects.

This generation of children is growing up indoors. Every year we meet San Diego students who have never before seen the ocean. If children are detached from their natural surroundings, how will they learn about, understand, and want to conserve nature? This often shared quote expresses our docent mission:

In the end

We will conserve only what we  
love

We will love only what we  
understand

We will understand only what we  
are taught

*Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist*

## Docent of the Month:

### Lula Sutherland

Photo by Herb Knüfken

**I** came to Torrey Pines as many of you did, walking the trails for exercise. Over the course of five years I met many Seabees and docents. One day, a docent told me to remain on the walking path, not the road. She couldn't have been more wonderfully positive while correcting me, and at the same time she was an amazing advertisement for TP.

I returned home and immediately applied for the Class of 2015. Now, a year later, I am a docent at a place I have come to cherish for its physical and spiritual beauty, its history and its amazing trails.

My background is not scientific. I taught elementary school reading and math. I am a generalist, often not seeing details. So I am intimidated by the number of docents who can rattle off every Latin botanical plant name in the Reserve. However, I read Frank's words in the July Torreyana, "Just show up, go out there and become involved." I took his advice, I simply started "doing".

I very much like the opportunity to volunteer in many and varied ways. I enjoy sharing Torrey Pines with a public that is more and more informed about this very special place, meeting people from all over the country (and world) who are here on vacation with the Reserve very high on their bucket list of important places to visit in San Diego.

Torrey Pines and the docent training program have been gifts to me. They have opened my eyes to the wonder of the incredible world that is Torrey Pines. I am learning to see the details, to search

for harvester ants, cochineal insects, the beautiful canchalagua flowers, and so, so much more.

My primary goal in being a docent is to share this gift of Torrey Pines with our many visitors. And I have a special mission. I want Torrey Pines to be here for my two grandsons, 6 and 8, and their grandchildren. To that end, I look forward to working as a docent in many roles, educating the public - and of course, continuing to walk the trails.



## January Events for Docents

by Joe Meyer, Coordinator of Continuing Education & Field Trips

In January there are several walks and explorations especially for TPSNR docents.

### 1) America's State Parks First Day Hikes

**TPNSR, January 1, 2016, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 2:00 pm**

This signature event for America's State Parks is an opportunity to showcase state parks as "close to home" places for connecting people to nature, promoting year-round recreation and fostering healthy outdoor lifestyles. The hikes will be led by **Joe Meyer, Ingo Renner, and Frank Burham** respectively.

In December, the State Parks will issue a press release announcing the hikes.

### 2) January CEED Programs

**San Elijo Ecological Park, Thursday, January 14, 2016, 9:00 am. Meet at N. Rios Ave trailhead in Solana Beach. Length of hike 1 1/2 - 2 hrs.**

This CEED event, led by docent Elizabeth Venrick, will explore the flora and fauna of the San Elijo wetlands area and is a real opportunity to learn more about the estuaries and the life they support.

**South Ponto State Beach, Saturday, January 23, 2016, 9:00 am. Meet at South Ponto State Beach parking lot. Length of hike 1 1/2 - 2 hrs.**

This field trip, led by Cory Hawkins, SP Interpreter I, will explore the marine life at South Ponto State Beach. Cory has been a marine mammal naturalist both in the San Juan Islands and Stellwagen Bank as well as a natural resource officer protecting snowy plovers. It should be a great time, and we may see some gray whales.

# From the Training Team

by Diane Stocklin

It is almost training time again. The first class meeting of 2016 will be held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. It will be an orientation plus a lecture by **Deb Balch** on the Torrey pine tree. This “meet and greet” session is always a crucial part of the welcoming of the prospective TPDS members.

During the orientation, we will need docent mentors to volunteer to help with all the questions and answers that arise from our new inquisitive docents-to-be. This mentor position includes supporting the trainee as needed during the learning process.

During the January and February General Meetings, the training team, comprised of **Linda Zlotnik, Sherry Doolittle, Jeannie Smith**, and myself, will have sign-up sheets for the volunteer mentors during this 2016 training period. Last year we had some wonderful docent/trainee matches under Linda’s guidance, and with your willingness to mentor, it will be a success again.

As you may or may not know, we began a formal application process for acceptance into the training program. Our goal was to clearly state the interpretive duties, hours and benefits of membership in the Torrey Pines Docent Society. Just as the application form helps the applicant be more acquainted with us before committing, the application results also help us become more acquainted with the trainees before they take their seats in the classroom. This is our new step in the effort to create long-term, happy and successful new docents.

As always, the graduation of the 2016 class will be on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at the General Meeting. We have approximately 20 applicants at the moment, which is a perfectly-sized class for camaraderie and learning.

## The Lodge Garden and More...

by Pete Di Girolamo

Following our most visible achievement over a year ago -- the installation of the plant signs in front of the Lodge -- the Garden Committee continues to work on a number of interpretive projects at the Lodge, Whitaker Garden and further afield, guided by requirements and approvals from State staff.

- We recently added some new plants to the Lodge Garden, evidenced by the round rabbit screen enclosures. These are plants sourced from the Reserve (seeds and cuttings) and nurtured to plantable size by **Arline Paa**.
- We continue to work at Whitaker Garden. Discussions with Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook and State Ecologist Darren Smith resulted in our ongoing effort

to “naturalize” Whitaker by cleaning up the existing plants, maintaining biological soil crusts, adding plants or seeds from the Reserve, and redistributing cobbles. Whitaker Garden was established on an old unpaved parking area atop the hard Linda Vista formation, which makes plant improvements a challenge. Perhaps the promised El Niño this winter will aid in our work.

- We have put in interpretive signs at Whitaker Garden and will add additional ones, as well as a sign for Dr. Thomas Whitaker. At the ADA overlook beyond (hopefully to be called the Ellen Browning Scripps Overlook), we will have a sign about Ellen Browning Scripps and her role in preserving the Torrey pines. The new signage has been designed in cooperation with Park staff and is awaiting final approval.
- There has also been some discussion by Dylan and Darren of future revegetation work needed in the Reserve that may include the committee’s participation.

The Garden Committee always welcomes new docents to join us in our activities. We typically meet the first and third Wednesday mornings of each month, but dates may vary with weather and tasks at hand. Contact docents **Pete di Girolamo** or **Arline Paa** if you’re interested in joining our group.



Pete Di Girolamo planting a Torrey in the Whitaker Garden. One of the new signs is in the foreground, and detailed below



# Special Walks, 2015

by Ann Williamson

The International Trademark Association, the American Conifer Society, ESET, UCSD Extension international students, a high school choir and a group of physicians were a few of the groups who came to TPSNR for private tours this year.

Here are some comments I received from Special Walk groups this year.

“I want to thank you for the best hike yesterday for my twins' birthday! Walt and Mary were wonderful with the kids and so knowledgeable! Parents texted me that their kids came home sharing all the new things they learned!...”

(Docents on that walk were **Mary Friestedt** and **Walt Burkhard**.)

“The girls had a wonderful time on Sunday, rain and all. It was a pleasure to meet Janet. She was a perfect fit for our group...” (The docent guide was **Janet Ugalde** for an eleven-year-old's birthday hike.)

From the Road Scholars September visit ...“... the group said they all had a wonderful time. The docents were fantastic.” Guides were **Joe Meyer**, **Jeannie Smith**, **Ken King**, and **Margaret Fillius**.

Valipat, Brussels, came in with a large group in May and invited the docent guides to join them for a catered brunch on the beach. From Valipat ...

“... a lot of positive comments about the Docent Guides ..., especially on how they all looked very passionate about what they were talking about. I am sure it contributed a lot to our guests having a wonderful time!”

Guides for that group included **Tony Summers**, **Valerie Thomas**, **Sue Randerson**, **Lynne Truong**, **George Beardsley**, **Jennifer Greenberg**, **Mary Friestedt**, **Susan Buxbaum**, **Mary Char Hohmeyer**, and **Gill Williamson**.

Our earliest walks (and the most lucrative with \$2000 to TPDS) were the Bechtel guided walks at 6:45 am, three mornings in March.

Twenty-seven docents participated in a total of 52 Special Walks this year.

## Docent Membership Renewals for 2016

by Carol Smith, Membership Coordinator

Docent Membership Renewals for Active and Supporting Members are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>!

Docent requirements remain the same:

\*72 annual service hours and \$25 dues for active members

\*\$40 for Supporting Members, with no hours requirement (but hours are appreciated)

\*Lifetime members have no requirements, but many record hours and/or send contributions which are much appreciated!

Please record your hours on Volgistics by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you need help recording your hours with Volgistics (VicNet), contact **Roger Isaacson** at ([portal@torreypine.org](mailto:portal@torreypine.org))

If you have questions about your hours or dues requirements, contact **Carol Smith** at ([membership@torreypine.org](mailto:membership@torreypine.org))

Please pay your dues by January 1<sup>st</sup>. You may bring your check (or cash) to the December Docent meeting, or leave your check in the Treasurer's box in the library at the Lodge, or mail your check to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
Attn: Treasurer; Dues  
P.O. Box 2414  
Del Mar, CA 92014

## Online links for docents:

**Recording hours and signing up for duties (VicNet):**

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/?FROM=123496>

**Torreyana Newsletter:**

<http://torreypine.org/volunteering/newsletters/>

**Docent Login:** (password needed)

<http://torreypine.org/volunteering/docent-login/>

**Children's Program:** (password needed)

[http://torreypine.org/reservations/Private/docent\\_signup.php](http://torreypine.org/reservations/Private/docent_signup.php)

**Google Group site:** (personal password often needed)

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/tpds>

After clicking on one of the above links make it a Favorite or Bookmark in your browser or device.

# Plant of the Month – Coast Spice Bush

by Margaret Fillius

Did you notice how *Cneoridium dumosum* -- **Bush-rue** or **Coast Spice Bush**, in the Rutaceae



(citrus) family -- responded to the rains we had in July and September? It is one of the perennials that springs to life after such soakings. In a very short time, it can transform from a virtually leafless shrub to one that has lots of bright green leaves followed by flowers and fruit. Depending on how our rainfall gets spread out over the rainy season, you are likely to see Bush-rue replenish its leaves and repro-

ductive system several times during the growing season, starting with the first rains.

Like some other members of the coastal sage scrub plant community, the leaves of *Cneoridium dumosum* are aromatic, which is why one of its common names is Spice Bush. In addition, the



flowers have a wonderful citrusy sweet perfume. Be sure to fill your lungs with these delights this spring, starting soon. You can find Bush-rue along all our trails including the Discovery Trail. But be careful: touching this shrub may cause phytophotodermatitis (skin reactions).

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: November 7, 2015

Number of species: 80

**Bolded:** unusual or out-of-season species

Gadwall 8  
 American Wigeon 8  
 Mallard 10  
 Blue-winged Teal 2  
 Northern Pintail 8  
 Green-winged Teal 8  
 Ruddy Duck 8  
 California Quail 4  
 Pacific Loon 3  
 Common Loon 1  
 Pied-billed Grebe 4  
 Eared Grebe 1  
 Western Grebe 4  
 Black-vented Shearwater 6  
**Brown Booby 3**  
 Brandt's Cormorant 3  
 Double-crested Cormorant 17  
 Brown Pelican 122  
 Great Blue Heron 3

Great Egret 4  
 Snowy Egret 5  
 Little Blue Heron 1  
 Osprey 1  
 White-tailed Kite 2  
 Northern Harrier 3  
 Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
 Red-tailed Hawk 3  
 Common Gallinule 1  
 American Coot 23  
 Greater Yellowlegs 1  
 Willet 10  
 Whimbrel 2  
 Long-billed Curlew 5  
 Marbled Godwit 1  
 Least Sandpiper 5  
**Marbled Murrelet 1**  
 alcid sp. 10  
 Heermann's Gull 2  
 Ring-billed Gull 4  
 Western Gull 7  
 California Gull 12  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove 2  
 Mourning Dove 8

Anna's Hummingbird 14  
 Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 2  
 Belted Kingfisher 2  
 Nuttall's Woodpecker 5  
**Downy Woodpecker 3**  
 Northern Flicker 2  
 American Kestrel 3  
 Peregrine Falcon 2  
 Black Phoebe 15  
 Say's Phoebe 6  
 Cassin's Kingbird 10  
 Western Scrub-Jay 6  
 American Crow 22  
 Common Raven 4  
**Cliff Swallow 2**  
 Bushtit 1  
**Rock Wren 1**  
 House Wren 9  
 Marsh Wren 4  
 Bewick's Wren 2  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2  
 California Gnatcatcher 9  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10  
 Wrentit 24

Hermit Thrush 1  
 European Starling 2  
 Orange-crowned Warbler 7  
 Common Yellowthroat 5  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 75  
 White-crowned Sparrow 16  
 Savannah Sparrow 5  
 Song Sparrow 19  
 California Towhee 9  
 Spotted Towhee 5  
 Red-winged Blackbird 3  
 Western Meadowlark 1  
 House Finch 32  
 House Sparrow 6

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

Monthly Bird Surveys are available back to 2005 at [torreypine.org/nature-center/birds/birdsurveys/](http://torreypine.org/nature-center/birds/birdsurveys/)

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



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