



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 368

January 2016

## Holiday Party: New Venue, Same Fun

by Beverly Roberts

Once again the Blue Sky Sun Goddess was with us and a beautiful day was enjoyed by all who attended the 2015 docent holiday party. Following a blustery, rainy Friday we crossed our fingers and woke up to a perfect day for a party. This year over 135 guests attended and brought marvelous food and lots of good cheer. **Thomas Stehlik's** famous mulled wine also contributed to the party atmosphere.

President **Frank Burham** opened the ceremonies by distributing gold name tags to ten new lifetime docents (including himself). He then gave out four President's Awards for "unsung heroes" (see accompanying box for details on pg. 3). **Ingo Renner** was awarded Docent of the Year for his extraordinary wood working skills, which now grace the Lodge, and for his enthusiastic and frequent field trips during 2015.

This year the docent Class of 2015 shook things up a bit by moving the entire party to Torrey Circle at the east side of the Lodge, where food and drinks were served and everyone was able to be seated at a table with new red cotton tablecloths and comfortable chairs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new venue, lingered to talk with new and old friends, and of course went back for seconds and some for thirds (but who's counting). More than enough appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts were provided by all who

### Docent General Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, January 9, 9 am

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

**Speaker:** Richard L. Carrico

**Topic:** The Kumeyaay, How They Lived on the Coast, including at TPSNR

Richard L. Carrico is a lecturer in the Department of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University and an adjunct anthropology professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department at San Diego Mesa College. He is a past Board President of the San Diego Archaeological Center and principal/owner of Recuerdos Research, a historical, cultural and environmental consulting firm.

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

attended. Lovely centerpieces added a touch of elegance to the beautiful mountain-view setting.

The docent Class of 2015 was happy to host this event and to share their gratitude for all the many hours of training and patient mentoring that have been given to them by seasoned docents.

A great tradition closed once more with joy and good wishes for a great 2016. (Cont. on pg. 3)

*Photo below by Wes Farmer*



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

Visitor Center phone: **858.755.2063**

**TPDS 2016 Board Members:**

President: Ingo Renner

Vice-president: Roger Isaacson

Treasurer: Gerry Lawrence

Secretary: Annette Ring

Directors-at-large:

Frank Burham

Jan Lombardi

Lynne Small

Steve Tarkington

Janet Ugalde

**TPSNR Staff:**

**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

Over the years, many of us have gained strength through our visits to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. During challenging times, it has been a place of solace; during times of happiness, a great place to share the joys of nature; and during moments of needed introspection, a peaceful place to enter into meaningful meditation. Some, like myself, proposed to our loved ones and got married on one of the spectacular overlooks.



Perhaps this inspirational pull emanates from the immense beauty of the rugged, sandstone landscape with its resilient trees shaped by salt-laden sea breezes. Or perhaps our breath is taken away by the wide open panoramic views of the ever changing Pacific Ocean.

I fondly remember solitary hikes through fog-shrouded chaparral, hearing only the light pounding of surf below and the occasional call of a raven in the distance, drifting off to an ancient land inhabited by indigenous people busily gathering food and singing their haunting songs. Times like these remind us that the stand of Torrey pines we see today is but a thin chronological veneer of its long and varied existence.

Today the California State Park staff and volunteers of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, along with the Torrey Pines Association, are responsible for the preservation and public education of this remarkably special land. I am honored to be part of this dedicated, passionate group of individuals who strive towards the common cause of a healthy, protected future for the Torrey Pines Reserve. And I am personally looking forward to participating as the Docent Society's President for 2016.

See you all "up the hill."

Ingo Renner

President, TPDS

### Training Class 2016

The docent training class for 2016 is already full, with 25 future docents who will begin their training on Mar 5<sup>th</sup> under the tutelage of **Diane Stocklin, Sherry Doolittle, Linda Zlotnik and Jeannie Smith**. Docents interested in mentoring one of the new trainees should contact a member of the training team.

Any prospective docents who missed this year's class can apply for the 2017 class (year after next). The application will be on the TPDS website, under Volunteering, as of September 1, 2016.

### JANUARY CEED HIKES

See details on [Docent Login](#)

Friday, January 1, 2016  
First Day Hikes @ 10 am,  
12 pm, 2 pm TPSNR

Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2016 @ 9 am, San Elijo  
Lagoon, Rios Dr., Solana  
Beach

Saturday, January 23<sup>th</sup>,  
2016 @ 9 am, S. Ponto  
State Beach Day Use,  
Carlsbad

(Cont. from pg. 1)

The new location for the holiday party and all the extra touches seem to have been a success. Here are some comments received by the organizers:

“I think the docents really liked the new location. There was much more room to move around and talk with different people, and it was easier to go back for seconds.”

**Ann Williamson**

“In my 10 years as a docent, today was our very best party ... I was especially impressed with the concept to have it out in Torrey Circle so we could leave the Visitor Center open. That has never been done before. I think you have already established a new direction for the Docent Society, to be followed in subsequent years. This type of result is exactly why we refresh our organization with new docents each year.....for me, I love change and progress.”

**Frank Burham**

“Bravo, bravo!! The Class of 2015 did a magnificent job today. The tables have never looked more beautiful. They were bright and cheery with all the natural centerpieces. The space you used was sunny and spacious. Everyone was happy to be together in this new venue. Thank you, thank you for organizing this fabulous get-together. You and the Class of 2015 rock!!

**Mary Friestedt**

## 10-Year Lifetime Awards

**Connie Beardsley**  
**Frank Burham**  
**Eileen Conway**  
**Jan Lombardi**  
**Barbara McCardle**  
**Ann Smith Mercandetti**  
**Bea Stoyla**  
**Ann Williamson**  
**Karen Woods**

## President's Awards

The purpose of the President's Award is to recognize our "unsung heroes" who are quietly contributing in special ways behind the scene. They were given to four docents.

**Wes Farmer** for the nine stitches he received in the line of duty, working with the Seabees, and for his contribution of over 7000 hours since becoming a docent in 1991.

**Pao Chau** for the seven stitches he, too, received in the line of duty while working with the Seabees.

[Both Wes and Pao were given construction hats to help keep them safe in the future!]

**B.J. Whithall** for her dedication to keeping all the bird baths clean in the Reserve.

**Peggy Farness** for the many water-bottle holders she has made out of plastic grocery bags, which the TIK sells for \$5, with the proceeds going into the donation fund for the Children's Program.

## TPDS Docent Society Membership Renewal

*by Carol Smith, Membership Coordinator*

Docent Membership for 2016 for Active and Supporting members is 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!

**Parking passes for those who have met this deadline will be available at the January Docent Meeting.**

If you have missed the January 1st deadline, but have otherwise completed the requirements, you may leave your check in the Treasurer's box in the Docent Library or mail it to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society

Attn: Treasurer: Dues

P.O. Box 2414

Del Mar, CA 92014

Your parking pass will be available when you have completed all the requirements.

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

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

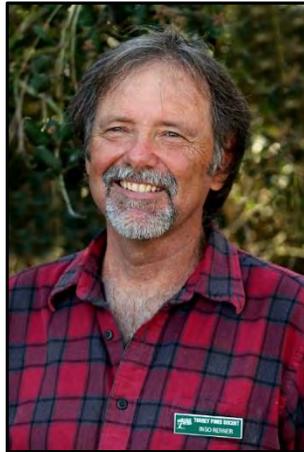
## Docent of the Year:

### Ingo Renner

Photo by Herb Knüfken

*Wow, what a pleasant surprise to receive Docent of the Year for 2015!*

*It was a whirlwind year filled with positive contributions made by many talented, dedicated docents. I have had lots of support and encouragement along the way, helping to bring my efforts to fruition, and I thank you all.*



*Among them were the monthly extracurricular docent walks. They were originally meant to bring us closer together as companions, to go out and explore local trails and bring back some knowledge of the native flora and fauna to share in the Reserve. They ended up being a great success with upwards of 35 docents enthusiastically showing up, ready to push their limits -- for example, when we hiked up the peaks of Black and Volcan Mountains or swung in the scary swing in Crest Canyon. As **Stu Smith** noted: "Who says docents aren't swingers!" The Anza-Borrego overnight trip was a real highlight when we hiked up the steep-walled slot canyon and later went for a moonlight walk up a desolate wash under the stars. Those were great times, and I really look forward to **Joe Meyer** and his CEED program (Continuing Education and Enhancement of Docents) continuing to challenge us in new directions.*

*Then came my opportunity to help with building the new desk and south wall display cases. As a professional woodworker, my previous experience in building historical craftsman style cabinetry in San Diego and New Mexico came in handy. Thanks to the members of the Museum and Museum Shop Committees, as well as Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook for helping with the overall design.*

*Thanks also to the knowledgeable 2015 Board members and Nominating Committee for helping me navigate the deeper waters of the Torrey Pines business world as Vice President. And blessings to the public who came on my nature walks, who endured my rants about the awesomeness of the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve!*

## Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

It was a cold and windy December morning. A dozen Children's Program docents huddled in the Visitor Center parking lot, awaiting the arrival of their students. As the buses rolled in, it started to rain. The team hastily rearranged the front patio to accommodate 75 students and their teachers and chaperones. **Ann Smith Mercandetti** delivered an excellent geology presentation from the porch steps. She somehow managed to captivate 100 wet people—most sitting on cold bricks. Horizontal rain pounded the north windows as docents and park aides created learning stations in every possible dry spot.

Most intrepid docents were able to lead their students outside during breaks in the storm, but intermittent rain drenched many hiking groups. **Debi Buffington** found a corner in a very crowded room to lead her group in a wiggling chant with hand motions. The only word recognizable over the din was subduction, but her students were clearly having a great time while learning geology.

As always, Children's Program docents adapted and performed commendably. Unstoppable Rainy Day Team members were **Ann Smith Mercandetti, Kathy Glasebrook, Jennifer Greenberg, Debi Buffington, Bob Doolittle, Bruce Montgomery, Stu Rosenwasser, Mary Friestedt, Walt Burkhard, Wes Farmer, Janet Ugalde, Patty Montgomery, Arlene Weinerman, Karen Woods, Johnson Jou, Joy Inton, and Jake Mumma.**

El Niño bring it on! The Children's Program will be ready.

## Docents Usher Komen Walkers Through TPSNR

by Ann Smith Mercandetti

Twenty-Five docents welcomed this year's Komen Walkers as they came through TPSNR on Friday morning, November 20. This is the largest group of docents yet to monitor an event, and *many* thanks to **Bruce and Patty Montgomery, Franne Fischman, Mary Friestedt, Joe Meyer, Meg Jackson, Claudia Kay, Clay White, Kristine Schindler, Joan Simon, Jane Takahashi, Marty Hales, Suzan Potuzink, Lillian Lachicotte, Jennifer Greenberg, Helen Grundler, Michelle Kurtis Cole, Joy Lamarre, Gabrielle Ivany, Jan Lombardi, Barbara Krueger, Paul Howard, Marie Johnson, Darlene Martineau, and Margaret Fillius** for responding to the 7:45 am call!! One of the docent monitors was on a flight to San Diego from Michigan the day before the walk and found herself with fellow passengers on their way to participate in the Komen Walk here.

Docent monitoring for the Three-day Komen Walk for Breast Cancer began three years ago, in 2013. There are a



few "communication" issues that need further improvement, but *docent input has been key to identifying and resolving problems*. Gone are the problems of picking up feathers and other litter in the Reserve for nearly two months following the event; of rice cakes and granola bars ground into the road; of hundreds of stickers and snack packages left along the route; of banana peels being draped over branches of bushes; and of music blaring from Komen vans. Having docents along the 1.5 mile road as the 2,300 or so walkers come through the Reserve has made the difference. Docent presence lets our guests know they are in a *special* place, that the rules are different in the Reserve from the rest of their 60-mile walk. And each year docents new to this project express their surprise at how many "thank yous" come to us from the walkers for "being there" with our smiles and encouragement.



Julia Miura, who makes the State Park contracts with event companies, sends her thanks to all docent participants and her appreciation for the TP docents' input each year as to what problems occur so that they can be better dealt with in the following years. Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook deeply appreciates that docents have stepped up to monitor these events. With a docent team now dealing with the litter/compliance problems, he has found relief from one of his many concerns for the Reserve.

*Thank you!!*

## Torrey Pines Book Club

**When:** Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2:00 pm

**Where:** Mona Kuczenski's home in University City

**What:** *Remarkable Creatures: A Novel* by Tracy Chevalier  
From Amazon:

"On the windswept, fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, poor and uneducated Mary Anning learns that she has a unique gift: "the eye" to spot fossils no one else can see. When she uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton in the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight. After enduring bitter cold, thunderstorms, and landslips, her challenges only grow when she falls in love with an impossible man.

Mary soon finds an unlikely champion in prickly Elizabeth Philpot, a middle-class spinster who shares her passion for scouring the beaches. Their relationship strikes a delicate balance between fierce loyalty, mutual appreciation, and barely suppressed envy, but ultimately turns out to be their greatest asset.

*Remarkable Creatures* is a stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19<sup>th</sup> century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever."

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

**Looking Ahead:** On **February 9<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at **Janet Speer's** home in Carmel Valley/Del Mar Heights at 2:00 pm to discuss all of the books each docent has selected about one of our favorite insects, the cochineal, *Dactylopius coccus*.

# The Year in Review: 2015

by Joan R. Simon

- 2015 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TPDS & 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Children's Program.
- Docents participated in a **census** of Reserve visitors over a total of 17 days, from February to August. There were four sites monitored on each day with two 2-hour shifts, manned by 1-3 docents, for an approximate total of 272 docent hours. The initial analysis of the data shows the attendance at TPSNR to be over 3 million annually, double the previously estimated 1.5 million.
- The **Parry Grove Trail**, closed since 2011, re-opened with 118 new steps on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The **drought** killed many Torrey pines in the Reserve this year and more than 100 trees were cut down. Torrey Circle, the Children's Program meeting area, lost most of its trees, and the TPA is raising money for a pavilion in that area (see "Wine in the Pines" below).
- The **Museum Shop** introduced wood-turning crafts made from the Reserve's Torrey pine trees, lost due to the drought. The items are made by the TAV ("Turn Around for Veterans") veterans and the San Diego chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. The unique crafts span a selection from decorative bowls to beautiful pens and playful spinning tops for children
- Docents monitored the **La Jolla Half Marathon** in May and the **Komen Walk** in November, under the direction of **Ann Mercandetti Smith**. As a result, there was virtually no litter from either event, and the runners and walkers were welcomed as they made their way through the Reserve (see article on page 4).
- CARE (Contact and Retain) was started in August by **Sally Whitlock** and **Annette Ring** to keep in contact with docents and, where warranted, offer help and encouragement so that we do a better job of retaining our members.
- The **Seabees**, under the new leadership of **Michelle Kurtis Cole**, pounded in over 3,000 eye-rods and strung over seven miles of cable on the Parry Grove, Guy Fleming, Beach, Yucca Point and Broken Hill Trails. Their work has tremendously reduced the number of visitors who go off trail.
- The **monthly bird counts** (per compiler **Jack Friery**) continued successfully with 136 species tallied this year, including 16 species of ducks, 12 of shorebirds, six species of gulls, and six of herons and egrets. Unusual or uncommonly interesting birds included Brant (a sea goose), Brown Boobies (Baja California residents that are gradually moving north), Marbled Murrelets (a chunky seabird that's a puffin relative), and Common Mergansers (a fish-eating duck that was first seen on the monthly count in December). Of course, our superstar Peregrine Falcons were almost guaranteed to be seen every month.
- The **Museum Committee**, under the leadership of **Lillian Lachicotte**, saw the installation of a beautifully-crafted desk and cabinet built by **Ingo Renner**, returning the Lodge to its authentic 1920's look. This look has been continued in the video room with the hinged window coverings built by **Frank Burham**, which now permit those windows to be opened for ventilation and light. Not to be left behind by modern technology, the Museum Committee also installed a new (very popular) iPad bird app, among many other improvements this year.
- In September, the 10-year **recycling program**, coordinated by **Bob Doolittle** and **Marian Casazza**, was transferred to a private vendor by California State Parks. More than 30 docents participated in the program and they recycled an estimated ½ million plastic bottles and cans.
- The **Garden Committee**, chaired by **Pete di Girolamo**, installed 26 new plant identification signs in Whitaker Garden, in addition to the 29 installed in front of the Lodge in 2014. The committee has also planted four new Torrey pines in Whitaker Garden, as well as a number of additional plants in the Lodge Garden. These were sourced from seeds and cuttings in the Reserve and nurtured to plantable size by **Arline Paa**.
- **Wine in the Pines**, a TPA fundraising event, was held on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge and raised more than \$11,000 which will go toward the Children's Program pavilion at Torrey Circle. Renderings for the proposed pavilion were presented at the fundraiser.
- The **Children's Program**, under **Janet Ugalde's** watch, was able to reduce the student-per-docent ratio from 10 to 8, starting with the new school year in September, thanks to the more than 40 docents who participated in the program this year. The first Tuesday of the month was added to the weekly Thursday and Friday schedule, a change that began in September 2014.
- More than 50 **Whacky Weeders**, led by **Lynne Small**, worked hard this year tackling invasive plants throughout the Reserve and Extension. The top culprits continue to be: Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta longiflora*), Crystalline Ice Plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*), also known as Tumbleweed, and Natal Redtop Grass (*Melinis repens*).

## Plant of the Month – Mission Manzanita

by Margaret Fillius

Named by Thomas Nuttall in 1843 for its woody fruit (Greek, *xylon* = wood; *kokkos* = berry) and its 2-colored leaves (Latin, *bi* = two), *Xylococcus bicolor* is the only member of its genus, which is in the Ericaceae (Heath) family. Common throughout the Reserve, this shrub's range is primarily San Diego County and parts of Baja California. Like true Manzanita species, e.g. Del Mar Manzanita, which are in the genus *Arctostaphylos* (also in the Ericaceae family), **Mission Manzanita** has reddish, peeling bark and clusters of small bell-shaped flowers. Notice the range of flower color (from white to pink to yellow). The margins of the leathery leaves roll under towards the light-colored hairy undersurface, leaving less surface area exposed to the sun. Mission Manzanita can re-sprout from its burl following fire.

Birds such as California thrasher and scrub jay eat the seeds; hummingbirds drink the nectar; birds use the shrub



for nesting and for cover. If you want to cultivate your own Mission Manzanita, coyote scat is said to be a good source of fertile seeds!

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: December 5, 2015

Number of species: 76

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

Gadwall 4  
American Wigeon 8  
Mallard 9  
Northern Shoveler 2  
Northern Pintail 10  
Lesser Scaup 3  
Surf Scoter 8  
Bufflehead 7  
**Common Merganser 4**  
Ruddy Duck 9  
California Quail 2  
Pacific Loon 2  
Pied-billed Grebe 5  
Eared Grebe 1  
Western Grebe 6  
Black-vented Shearwater 2  
Brandt's Cormorant 10  
Double-crested Cormorant 5

Brown Pelican 37  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Great Egret 4  
Snowy Egret 10  
Green Heron 1  
Osprey 1  
White-tailed Kite 3  
Northern Harrier 4  
Cooper's Hawk 2  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 2  
American Coot 10  
Black-bellied Plover 2  
Willet 24  
Long-billed Curlew 4  
Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher 10  
Heermann's Gull 30  
Ring-billed Gull 10  
Western Gull 58  
Caspian Tern 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 2  
Mourning Dove 9

Anna's Hummingbird 18  
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 4  
Belted Kingfisher 2  
Nuttall's Woodpecker 2  
Northern Flicker 4  
American Kestrel 5  
Black Phoebe 12  
Say's Phoebe 5  
Cassin's Kingbird 6  
Western Scrub-Jay 4  
American Crow 6  
Common Raven 3  
Barn Swallow 5  
Bushtit 4  
Rock Wren 1  
House Wren 5  
Marsh Wren 2  
Bewick's Wren 2  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1  
California Gnatcatcher 6  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12  
Wrentit 16  
California Thrasher 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 4  
Common Yellowthroat 25  
White-crowned Sparrow 9  
Golden-crowned Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 12  
Lincoln's Sparrow 1  
California Towhee 16  
Spotted Towhee 1  
Red-winged Blackbird 60  
House Finch 21  
Lesser Goldfinch 28  
American Goldfinch 2  
House Sparrow 5

**Observers:** Eva Armi, Frank Wong, Blair Francis, Kathy Dickey, Bob Glaser, Herb Knüfken, Ingo Renner, Jack Friery, and Lula Sutherland

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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