



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 374

July 2016

Docent Class of 2016 Graduates

by Jeannie Smith Photos by Herb Knüfken

The Docent Society welcomed 20 new graduates of the training program at the June 11th meeting. This group has excelled in enthusiasm and diligence throughout the three months of classes, quizzes, and on-site training with experienced docents. TPDS has always taken the training of new members seriously, and trainees must attend all the Saturday morning presentations on varied subjects, including geology, plants, insects, birds, oceans and wetlands, Kumeyaay, and the history of TPSNR. Weekly quizzes help the trainees to review the material, do a little research, and ponder how to interpret the subject to the public.

While each training session focuses on a single component of the natural history of our Reserve, interpretation is about telling the story of an integrated system of interdependencies. So for the last decade or so, in lieu of a final exam, trainees have been randomly assigned to small teams and each team given a specific part of one of our trails to interpret in some way to the group on the last day of classes. This project has inevitably produced amazing and creative presentations as well as new friendships and a sort of lasting “ownership” of a piece of Torrey Pines. This

year’s class has been no exception. The training team, docent mentors and park staff at the final session were treated to four excellent works, each unique, some amusing, all instructive and beautifully done.

One was a hilarious take-off on Jeopardy complete with contestants at podiums, Jeopardy music and the

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Docent General Meeting

Saturday, July 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 G, H, & I will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.



Jeopardy skit - Nancy Novak, Mary Jo Barr, Denise Rivera question board filled with Torrey Pines lore, all overseen by host Alex Treebark (Beetle).

Another highly entertaining presentation did a great job of linking together the geology, plants and wiggly things on Guy Fleming Trail (see pg. 3 for photo) while four actors mimed dancing flowers, birds, insects and slithering rattlesnakes. It was imaginative and got the points across amid lots of laughter. (cont. on pg. 3)

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Park Aides: Elliott Beltran, Samantha Collins, Joy Inton, & Johnson Jou (Interpreter)

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

President's Letter

Just Like a Centipede ...

This is a great month to give some much deserved appreciation for all the projects that are coming to completion around the Reserve. We are lucky to have such a diverse and talented group of volunteers that are devoted to making Torrey Pines an awesome place to visit. Thanks to our training crew, **Jeannie Smith, Linda Zlotnik, and Sherry Doolittle**, we have 20 new docents ready to hit the trails. That brings our Docent Society to nearly 280 strong -- enough to make any State Park envious!



For the past several months TPDS representatives, **Louis Sands** and I, have been meeting with TPA's Adam Gevanthor and **Ken King**, and Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook, to lay the groundwork for the Children's/Multi-use Pavilion and South Beach picnic area improvements. TPA has recently purchased 7 heavy duty metal umbrellas to provide shade for the Children's Program lunch and visitors alike. They will arrive in about 8 weeks and be placed in the cement picnic tables by the beach.

The new Whitaker Garden and Ellen B. Scripps Overlook signs will soon be installed, thanks to **Pete di Girolamo** and the Garden Committee, Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook, and all others involved. Meanwhile the Seabees are finalizing the trail delineation project, thanks to **Michelle Cole** and her "bees". **Bob Doolittle's** sleek new signs are adorning the wires in "hot spots" reminding visitors to stay on trail. And thanks to the Whacky Weeders for their ongoing battle against invasive, non-native plants.

Another great season of the Children's Interpretive School Program comes to a close with about 4,000 student participants. Thanks to **Louis Sands, Janet Ugalde**, and all their teachers and presenters.

And finally, the TPDS is grateful for all the interpretive docents who are busy doing Guided Walks, Lodge Hosting and TIK and everybody else supporting behind the scenes. Just like a centipede, it takes all legs working together to help us move forward.

Ingo Renner

President, TPDS

(cont. from pg. 1)



L-R: Erik Plata, Susan Elliott, Deborah Spivak (as a “dancing Indian paintbrush on the Guy Fleming Trail”) and Lacey Koch

Next came a very professional video of a walk through Parry Grove. Its recorded narrative accompanied videos and still photos celebrating Parry Grove and memorializing Hank Nicol and his evocative writings on the natural history of Torrey Pines. You can watch it here:

vimeo.com/170729918.

Finally there was a walk through the Broken Hill trail’s elfin forest led by a little garden gnome named Torrey Elf. In the course of the story the audience was treated to a taste of buckwheat honey and given a recipe for manzanita apple cider.

The energy in the Lodge was high and all that work and creativity was very much appreciated by the docents and staff present. Our only regret was that the entire Docent Society was not there to see what a fabulous group is joining us. Three cheers for the Class of 2016!

General Meeting Minutes June 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by **Ingo Renner**.

Speakers: The four Science Fair winners:

- 1) Riley Gooding: *The Impacts of Restoration vs Natural Recovery on Burned Coastal Scrub Soil.*
- 2) Dina Dehaini: *Plant Communication: Underground and Aboveground.*
- 3) Caroline Zdanowski: *Exploring Native Ferns in Coastal San Diego County.*
- 4) Samuel Kahn: *Post-fire Regeneration of Coastal Sage Scrub.* This is the second year of Sam’s study on this topic. He presented the first year’s results to the TPDS last year.

(Abstracts of these four talks appeared in the [June 2016 Torreyana](#).)

Graduation of Docent Class of 2016: Training coordinators **Jeannie Smith, Sherry Doolittle, and Linda Zlotnik** presented the new class of TPDS docents. The new graduates did a funny skit about the trials of training. There were many thanks to all concerned.

General Announcements:

National University Parking - On busy weekends docents can park at National University and walk in from the golf course side. It is about one mile from the National University parking lot to the Lodge. Please keep the TPDS parking placard visible when parking there.

Vests - **Rick Vogel** will be ordering docent vests soon. If you want one let him know and include your size.

Docent shirts - **Jeannie Smith** has some olive green shirts available. Contact her if you are interested.

Docent of the Month: **Dale Williams** for all his work at the TIK, on public walks and Lodge hosting.

Refreshments: At July’s General Meeting docents with last names starting with **G, H, & I** are responsible for snacks.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am with refreshments following, including two cakes, one for the Science Fair winners and one for the 2016 graduates.

Children’s Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children’s Program Director

I hope you are enjoying a glorious summer! Children’s Program docents are off-duty this month, but while we are recreating, our enthusiastic coordinator, Park Aide **Louis Sands**, is busy preparing for the 2016-17 school year.

Please note our new schedule—this year we will host students on Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first Friday of each month. Teachers may register their classes beginning August 15th. As usual, we expect most available dates to be swiftly reserved.

Docents will meet in early September to prepare for our kickoff. Docents, if you would like to be invited to our gatherings, or have questions about signing up for this program, please contact Louis at ChildrensProgram@torreypine.org.

CEED Event

Date: Saturday, July 16th, 2016

Time: 9:00 am

Place: San Elijo Ecological Reserve – Annie’s Canyon Trail

Duration: 1.5 hr. hike – Meet @ N. Rios Avenue entrance to San Elijo

Leaders: Joe Meyer and
Stu Rosenwasser (docent at San Elijo and TP)



Front: Sherry Doolittle, Barbara Boone, Deborah Spivak, Nancy Novak, Maureen Moss, Sue Lange, Susan Elliott, Kim Webber, Ann Geierman, Jeannie Smith Middle: Ray Barger, Denise Rivera, Mary Jo Barr, Jeff Elman, David Walker, Lacey Koch, Leigh Fenly Back: Lee Mason, Erik Plata, Sarah Silvestri Missing: Nancy Richardson, Jayne Moulton Photo by Herb Knüfken

"It Takes a Village"

Members of the Docent Training Team, **Linda Zlotnik**, **Sherry Doolittle**, and **Jeannie Smith**, wish to acknowledge and express deep gratitude to all the support that docents and staff have given to the program. Providing a solid foundation for our efforts are the many docents who teach the classes, lead the walks, and demonstrate the ins and outs of Lodge Hosting; mentors who welcome and help each trainee through the process; and park aides who have shared their expertise in interpretation and help with all the behind the scenes preparations. We three may have been the ones visible at graduation, but without all you capable docents and PA's who have participated in so many ways, we never could have done it!



Docent of the Month (May): Paul Dunphy

Photo by Herb Knüfken

THANK YOU for this very nice and unexpected honor! I graduated just last June with my wonderful classmates of 2015. My mentor was **Barbara Wallach** who was and still is a **HUGE**

inspiration. Her enthusiasm & vast knowledge of Torrey Pines drives me, and I'm sure others, to want to share Torrey Pines with everyone we meet.

*I got the idea to become a TP docent from a good friend, **Jan Bowden**, a 2003 lifetime docent with whom I worked for 30 years at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla. I worked at Scripps starting in 1976 as their Patient*

Advocate. I had just moved to San Diego from the East Coast. It didn't take me long to discover the unusual beauty of Torrey Pines. When I retired and decided to do volunteer work, Torrey Pines was a natural



choice. I love being outdoors and enjoy meeting new people from around the world. I just got back recently from two weeks in Germany, and while the Alps of Bavaria are fabulous, I still missed Torrey Pines and our crew.

My favorite activity is the Children's Program. The kids are like little "sponges" and it's really fun to share with them our natural Torrey Pines habitat. I also learn a lot from being around these bright and

questioning little minds. As Art Linkletter used to say on his TV show: "Kids say the darndest things."

Thank you again to my friendly fellow docents, park aides, rangers and leaders for welcoming me and helping me "on the hill." I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Docent of the Month (June): Dale Williams

Photo by Herb Knüfken

I certainly enjoy being at Torrey Pines and want to learn as much as possible about this place. The whole place just provides an atmosphere of vitality and nature and beauty. I've been doing the TIK and weekend nature walks. I grew up in Flint, Michigan and am a retired landscape architect. I am married and have two great kids now in their 30's.



I'm concerned about the health of our Torrey pine trees. Trees are in decline throughout the country, even in areas without drought. Somebody should be analyzing tree core samples, needles, and soil samples, especially around the fine root systems, for metals to determine if anything, in addition to beetles, might be weakening them. They should be tracking changes in soil PH and trying to determine if the increasing UV radiation is a problem.

*Thanks to my walk partner **Lula Sutherland** and my mentor **Barbara Wallach**, who by the way, had two mentees from 2015, **Paul Dunphy** and me, who have been selected as DOMs in consecutive months. And to my wife **Gayle** for letting me do this stuff.*

Refillable Bottle Program Update (and the Science Fair)

by Frank Burham

At the June monthly meeting we heard four excellent presentations from our Science Fair award winners. It brought to mind the Science Fair presentations in

June, 2012. Nilay Shah, an 8th grader, presented his project regarding the environmental impact on the oceans resulting from plastic pollution.

One of the major contributors of ocean pollution is disposable plastic water bottles. Americans throw away an estimated 35 billion disposable plastic water bottles per year. Only 1 in 6 will be recycled. The balance ends up in landfills, lakes, beaches and oceans.

At the time, TPDS was selling about 5000 disposable water bottles per year. Having been awakened by Nilay's presentation, we formed a Green Team with the objective of eliminating our disposable bottle sales and converting to refillable bottles.

I knew that both Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks had made that conversion. I hiked there often. I contacted their Green Teams to obtain information about the implementation process. I was able to arrange a meeting at Zion with their Green Team and the park ranger who was directing the program.

Armed with all the relevant information, we presented our program to the TPDS board and obtained approval to conduct a pilot program to determine the visitor acceptance of the conversion from disposable to refillable bottles. Starting in March, 2013, we offered the refillable bottles at the TIK, weekends only. In six weeks we sold 400 bottles. With the success of the pilot program, the TPDS board authorized the end of disposable water bottle sales and started selling only refillable bottles. To provide water for the reusable bottles, I installed a home-made refill station next to the map board in the summer of 2013. A second refill station was added to the South Parking Lot restroom area a year later.

The last TPDS disposable plastic bottle sale was in mid-May, 2013. During the balance of the year we sold 1339 refillable bottles. We sold 2007 in 2014, 1653 in 2015, and are projecting sales of 2000 for 2016. The average person uses about 167 disposable water bottles per year. By converting that use to refillable bottles, the TPDS program is eliminating approximately 300,000 disposable plastic bottles each year.

In addition to the environmental benefit, the annual profit contribution of the bottle program to TPDS will be about \$4500 in 2016.

All of these results came about from the influence of one 8th grade student. I recently received an update from Nilay Shah. This fall he will be attending the University of California, Los Angeles, with a Regents Scholarship, majoring in Bioengineering. Thank you, Nilay.

Note: Nilay's Science Fair presentation is published in the [June 2012 docent newsletter](#).

New Museum Shop cabinets were installed June 20, 2016



New display furniture for Museum Shop amply accommodates the many sizes and styles of T-shirts. *Photos by Roger Isaacson*



Shelves for books and many other items



Installation by master cabinetmaker, Ingo Renner, and his son, Andrew. *Photo by Lillian Lachicotte*

Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, July 12th, 2:00 pm

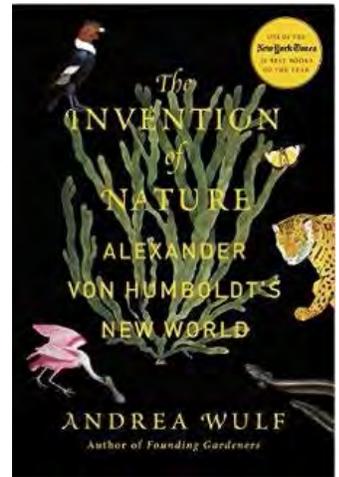
Where: Ken King's home in La Jolla

What: *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf.

One of the *New York Times*' 10 Best Books of the Year

This book is pretty much everything you'd want from a scientific/explorer biography. It has adventure (Humboldt, we learn, was the most experienced mountaineer of his time), deep personal narrative (largely from excerpts of his own letters and notes), details about his scientific discoveries, and—bonus—an analysis of both corresponding contemporary scientific thought and contemporary art. We learn, for example, that one of Humboldt's friends was the poet Goethe, and that Humboldt's insatiable curiosity about the natural world cannot be separated from his more aesthetic feelings about this world.

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



As we all know, rock falls can happen at any time. This particularly large fall was on Jun 9, 2016. *Photo by Joan R. Simon*

[Click here for Torrey Pines Facebook site](#) and more info.

Also, [Google Group post \[tpds:3618\]](#) for comments and photos by Kathy Dickey.

Plant of the Month: Laurel Sumac

by Margaret Fillius

Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*) is an aromatic large shrub/small tree with leaves that fold upward at the sides, thus reducing surface exposure to the sun and allowing dew and rainwater to collect and run downwards towards the roots. Because of its leaf shape, Laurel Sumac is sometimes called the “taco plant.” Young leaves and stems are reddish. You can see it most easily along the road between High Point and the Lodge. You will also find it along trails such as Razor Point and Parry Grove.

Cream-colored flowers, followed by small, reddish-colored fruit, are in pyramid-like clusters at branch ends from June through August. Flowers can be either unisexual or bisexual. Model railroad enthusiasts often use the dried flower/fruit remains as miniature trees.



Laurel Sumac has a very deep taproot, helping it to get enough water to remain evergreen through our hot, dry summer months. It also has a root crown that can quickly resprout following destruction by fire of the plant above ground. It is particularly sensitive to frost and was used by early Southern California farmers as an indicator of locations where citrus and avocado trees could survive.

Laurel Sumac is a member of the Anacardaceae (Sumac) family, along with plants such as Poison Oak, Lemonadeberry, Cashew, Mango and Pistachio. Most Sumac family plants contain a sap that can cause dermatitis in humans. The genus was named *Malosma* by Thomas Nuttall in 1838, referring to the apple-like smell of cut leaves (*malum* = apple; *osme* = smell or scent). The species name refers to it looking like a laurel tree.

Quail commonly roost in Laurel Sumac, and wood rats often build their homes at the base.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: June 4, 2016

Number of species: 69
(plus 1 other taxon)

Gadwall 2
Mallard 16
Pacific Loon 2
Pied-billed Grebe 4
Western Grebe 12
Double-crested Cormorant 8
Brown Pelican 22
Great Blue Heron 3
Great Egret 10
Snowy Egret 25
Green Heron 1
Black-crowned Night-Heron 5
Osprey 1
White-tailed Kite 1
Northern Harrier 2
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3
Ridgway's Rail 3

Common Gallinule 2
Killdeer 4
Western Gull 2
California Gull 2
Caspian Tern 6
Forster's Tern 1
Royal Tern 12
Elegant Tern 18
Black Skimmer 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 2
Mourning Dove 41
White-throated Swift 20
Anna's Hummingbird 12
Allen's Hummingbird 4
hummingbird sp. 3
Nuttall's Woodpecker 5
American Kestrel 4
Peregrine Falcon 4
Olive-sided Flycatcher 2
Black Phoebe 2
Say's Phoebe 1

Hutton's Vireo 2
Western Scrub-Jay 5
American Crow 10
Common Raven 31
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 33
Cliff Swallow 6
Bushtit 14
Marsh Wren 14
Bewick's Wren 6
California Gnatcatcher 12
Wrentit 24
California Thrasher 5
Northern Mockingbird 5
European Starling 2
Orange-crowned Warbler 12
Common Yellowthroat 18
Yellow Warbler 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 7
Dark-eyed Junco 1
Savannah Sparrow 2

Song Sparrow 34
California Towhee 31
Spotted Towhee 25
Black-headed Grosbeak 1
Blue Grosbeak 2
Red-winged Blackbird 21
Brewer's Blackbird 2
Brown-headed Cowbird 6
House Finch 30
Lesser Goldfinch 26
House Sparrow 3

Observers: Kathy Dickey, Steve Neal, Bob Glaser, Jack Friery, Marty Hales, Herb Knüfken, Frank Wong, Sherry Doolittle, Mark Embree, Tina and Andy Rathbone, Margaret Fillius, John Bruin, and Anonymous

Monthly Bird Surveys are available back to 2005 at torreypine.org/nature-center/birds/birdsurveys/

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



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