

TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 377

October 2016

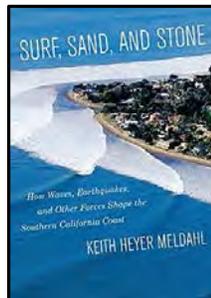
Earthquake Stories

by Pat Finn

Human history is so trivial that erasing it altogether would be the equivalent of rasping an emery board across a thumbnail, cosmically speaking.

This somewhat startling analogy (or something very close to it) comes from Keith Meldahl, the speaker at the September general meeting. It is a real tribute to Meldahl's skills as a storyteller and educator that not only did his TPDS audience likely not feel the least bit trivialized, but instead rather privileged to hear this engaging speaker again. Meldahl, a professor of geology and oceanography at Mira Costa College for 20 years, has spoken at both the TPDS general meeting and at several docent training sessions over the years about the geology of our area. This time he spoke about his newest book, *Surf, Sand and Stone: How Waves, Earthquakes and Other Forces Shape the Southern California Coast*.

The numbers Meldahl deals with in his line of work are, of course, astronomical. Human beings have been around for 2.8 million years. The earth is 4.5 billion years old. Ergo, in the geologic scheme of things, we are pretty trivial. But we make up for it by living in a pretty exciting world. In our corner of Southern California we live in the midst of great -- but, thankfully, occasional -- turmoil and upheaval. We are at the intersection of the North American and Pacific Plates, the boundary for all the geologic faults in our area. As the plates move past or under/over each other, we get earthquakes, some 855 earthquakes in California in any given week. The longer the fault (we're looking at you, San Andreas), the bigger the quake. If a fault has shifted once, it will do it again. Faults with high rates of movement are likely to keep lurching. And finally, the more the ground



Docent General Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 9 am

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

Speaker: Jeff Nordland

Topic: Report on the herp database project

Jeff is a herpetologist and is active in the California Chapter of the North American Field Herping Association, which unites amateur and professional herpetologists in collecting data with the goal of conserving North American herpetofauna. Jeff appeared at the September 10 meeting.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with P, R, & S will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

along the fault distorts, the more strain it accumulates, and the more it will snap.

San Diego catches a big break here. In fact, in his book Meldahl says if we're talking earthquakes, it is the safest place to be. San Diego is built on bedrock, and earthquakes do more damage in loose ground. This is not a good scenario for Los Angeles, which is mostly built on gravel, or for Santa Barbara and Ventura, which are "earthquake nightmares waiting to happen." The probability of a big quake hitting San Diego is low -- except for the Rose Canyon Fault, which is 20 to 30 miles long. It is the southern portion of the San Andreas, however, leading through Orange County east to Riverside County, that worries seismologists. It appears to be at greatest risk of producing a "big one."

And that's not trivial at all.

Inside

Meeting Minutes	2
Children's Program	3
Docent of the Month	3
TPDS Nom. Com	3
Stu Smith	4
CEED event	4
New Umbrellas	5
TPSNR Census	5
TP Book Club	5
Plant of the Month	6
Ravens	7
Bird Survey	7

The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Pat Finn on alternate months, and is formatted and produced by Roger Isaacson. Submissions are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be emailed to

Editors@torreypine.org.

Circulation manager: Marian Casazza
Extra copies of the printed *Torreyana* may be found in the docent library.

Please send postal/
email address changes to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society
P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014
Attn: Membership or email to

Membership@torreypine.org

Web sites:

TP Docent Society: torreypine.org

TP Association: 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 & Jake Mumma
Park Aides: Joy Inton, & Johnson Jou (Interpreter)

© Torrey Pines Docent Society
Since 1975
All rights reserved

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

General Meeting Minutes: September 10, 2016

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

Speaker: Keith Meldahl, Professor of Geology & Oceanography, Physical Sciences Department, Mira Costa College. Keith's third and most recent book is called *Surf, Sand and Stone: How Waves, Earthquakes and Other Forces Shape the Southern California Coast*.

Nominating Committee: Lillian Lachicotte and **Jeannie Smith** reported the NomCom is working on the Board of Directors slate for 2017. (See article, pgs. 3-4.) They have formalized the process and there is now an application form, available from anyone on the committee. The committee asked docents to consider serving on the board. **Nancy Woodworth** asked if docents can use the form to recommend anyone else. The answer is yes, with that person's consent.

End of summer potluck: Ingo Renner reminded us about the joint potluck with TPA and TPDS, rangers, maintenance crew and lifeguards on the beach on Friday, Sep. 16.

September CEED event: Joe Meyer reported the next event is Tecolote Canyon Natural Park on September 13, led by **Jack Friery** and **Kathy Dickey**.

October CEED event: Ipai/Kumeyaay Interpretative Center in Poway, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016. (See notice on pg. 4.)

Museum Shop: Nancy Woodworth promoted a new book now available in the shop: *Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors*, by The Canyoneers of the San Diego Natural History Museum and Diana Lindsay. The guide has 600 pages and 250 hikes each with its own map and photograph, hike description with mileage, elevation gain/loss, difficulty rating, directions to the trail-head with GPS, trail use, special features, and type of habitats found on each hike. Nancy noted that Keith Meldahl's book, mentioned above, will be in stock in the shop in about two weeks. The shop now also carries *Coloring San Diego Landmarks* and the colored pencils to go with it.

Holiday baskets: Karen Fraser and **Linda Zlotnik** are starting the weaving workshops again.

TPA: Ken King reminded the docents about the upcoming Wine in the Pines on October 22, from 3 to 6 pm at the Lodge. He asked for volunteers and mentioned that last year most of the guests were TPDS docents. Proceeds go to the Children's Program. TPA paid for the shade covers for the beach picnic table that are now in place and the shade covers for the Children's Program benches on the mesa. (See photo on pg. 3 & photo and article on pg. 5.) And the TPA recently paid \$32,000 for a topographical study in the Reserve, particularly around the Lodge, Torrey Circle and down the road, to assist multiple projects, such as the Lodge's storm drains, the road and trail access.

Stu Smith: Lou Adamo announced the death of Stu Smith. Stu was a marine geophysicist and geologist who spent years surveying the sea floor. He became a docent in 2007 and has worked with the Seabees, Weeders, and Recycling. He helped Lou with getting the weather station fixed. There will be a memorial for him October 23. (See pg. 4.)

Spotlight on: Herpetologist **Jeff Nordland** spoke about the Herpetological Educational & Research Project (HERP) database he is working on to gather records of any sightings of reptiles and amphibians in the area. He asked all docents to take photos whenever possible and include the time and place of the sightings. There will be a follow-up Google Group email with more instructions. Jeff will be the main speaker at the next General meeting.

For more on what HERP and Jeff does go to this site: naherp.com/

Docent of the Month: Steve Neal is not only DOM, but he gets the Five-bee Sting Award! He was stung five times by bees (including four on his face) while weeding. He then put on dark glasses to hide his puffy face and completed his Lodge duty shift. Steve also works with the TIK and the Children's Program.

Refreshments: At October's General Meeting docents with last names starting with **P, R, & S** are responsible for snacks.

Meeting ended at 11:09 am.

Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

A PPLAUSE PLEASE! THANK YOU, TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION for funding shade umbrellas for the beach picnic tables! With this gift, you have given 4000 students, every year, a more comfortable lunch setting. Reserve visitors of all ages have been observed taking advantage of our newly shaded seating.



Photo by Roger Isaacson

Let's offer another round of applause for our indomitable Seabees, who assembled and installed the umbrellas—no easy task. Seabees are already hard at work on the next step—shade for our presentation area in Torrey Circle (east of the Visitor Center). They've erected a temporary 10 x 20 canopy to shade students, while we study how best to meet their needs. We are hopeful another successful Wine in the Pines (Oct. 22) will provide a significant contribution towards a permanent Children's Pavilion.

We're off! Our first program day was September 27. Thank you to Children's Program docents who've already signed up online. If you have questions, please contact our enthusiastic coordinator, **Louis Sands**.

Docent of the Month

Steve Neal

Ok, so I confess. 30-plus years ago, I was that "jerk" pilot making lots of noise flying my F14 Tomcat out of Miramar (when it was a Navy base). I drifted too far north of the golf course and promptly lit full afterburner to climb after I cleared the shoreline.

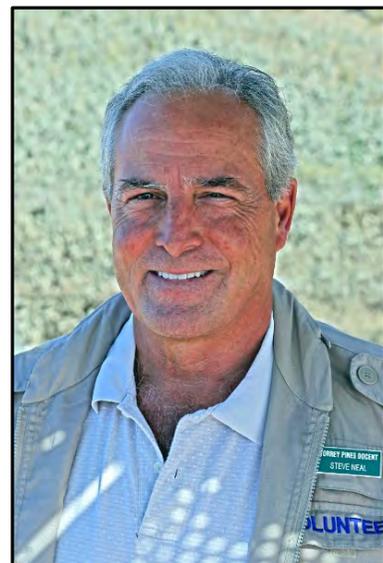


Photo by Herb Knüfken

My ignorance about the wonders of the Reserve continued. I loved jogging and walking down the beach, but had "no clue" what existed above the beach. (I hate running uphill). I have volunteered at the Torrey Pines Golf Course Tournament for over 10 years, and for longer than that I have been a member of the Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club. Yet I still had little knowledge of the Reserve located north of my beloved golf course.

A buddy of mine, **Harry Proctor**, finally sang the praises of the Reserve to me, and we are both graduates of the docent Class of 2015. Some guys (me) are slow learners! The guidance of my fellow docents, especially **Barbara Wallach**, **Margaret Fillius**, and **Lynne Small**, has made me much more aware. We are so fortunate to have **Ingo Renner** as our fearless leader, and I thank him for rescuing me from the bees!

About the TPDS Nominating Committee

by Walter Desmond

At the October general meeting, the TPDS nominating committee will present a slate of candidates for the annual election of the TPDS Board in November.

Who is this committee?

The 2016 TPDS nominating committee consists of **Walt Desmond, Lillian Lachicotte, Don McGuire, Jeannie Smith, and Barbara Wallach.**

Where does it come from?

Society bylaws require the Board to appoint the committee (Article IV, section 3), which must nominate candidates to be elected at the November annual meeting. (The bylaws also provide for nominations from the floor--more on this below).

How does it operate?

The committee formally begins in August to review possible candidates. We use no written criteria, but consider a range of factors as we look at qualifications of individual docents as well as the needs of the whole team of nine officers. These factors include:

- TPDS voting membership {Active, Supporting, or Lifetime} in good standing (bylaws requirement)
- evidence of potential to contribute as a team member to the group
- interest in the board in general or specific offices (*as now indicated in a Society-wide Board candidacy application.*)
- experience in TPDS or similar organizations
- evidence of skills and interest specific to an office
- service history in TPDS, number of hours annually and range of service activities.

Putting together an entire slate is something of a balancing act, with a number of less-tangible factors also taken into account: specific position needs, candidate's potential for future positions, interpersonal factors, overlapping tenures, board stability. While there are no term-limits for board membership or for tenure in specific positions, the committee always keeps in mind the need for and benefits of including newer docents to complement the "experienced hands." An effective, healthy board may have around one-third new members each year.

Any docents interested in being considered for nomination to the board this year can still contact a nominating committee member, either directly or through the board nomination application form.

The quality of the TPDS's operation and docent experience depends heavily on the quality of the elected leadership, and thus the quality of the nomination process. If you believe in the importance of this responsibility and could contribute to it as a nominating committee member, be sure to advise the president of your interest early in the year.

Nominations from the floor

The nominating committee typically presents a slate with one candidate for each of nine offices for approval by the membership. However, the bylaws provide that a docent may nominate someone else (including himself or herself) for one of the slate positions. These nominations would

occur at the time of the election if the nominee is (a) a voting {Active, Supporting or Lifetime} member in good standing; (b) consents to the nomination; and (c) has given seven days prior notice to the president to allow time to arrange the special election logistics.

Celebration of Life for Stu Smith

As many of you know, Docent Stu Smith passed away on September 4, 2016. You can find out more about his life here:

scripps.ucsd.edu/news/obituary-notice-stuart-m-smith

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, October 23 at 3 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Solana Beach, 1036 Solana Dr, Solana Beach, CA 92075.



The family has set up the *Stuart Smith Memorial Fund* at the Torrey Pines Association, for a place he held so dearly.

To donate, please visit the Torrey Pines Association website donation link:

torreypines.org/index.php/join-and-give/donation-page

OCTOBER CEED EVENT

- Date: Saturday, Oct 15, 2016
- Time: 10:00 am
- Place: **Ipai Visitor Center - Poway**
- Duration: 1 – 1 1/2 hrs.
- Leaders: **Ipai/Kumeyaay Ctr Docents**

Take CA-56 E/State Hwy 56 E from Carmel Valley Rd
Follow CA-56 E to Rancho Peñasquitos Blvd. Take exit 8 from CA-56 E

Take Poway Rd to Ipai Waaypuk Trail in Poway
Turn right onto Rancho Penasquitos Blvd
Continue onto Poway Rd

Turn right onto Ipai Waaypuk Trail, Ctr. Is on left at cul-de-sac
Ipai/Kumeyaay Interpretative Center
13104 Ipai Waaypuk Trail, Poway

This event will be a glimpse into Kumeyaay life at the Kumeyaay/IPAI Center in Poway. TP docents, led by center docents, will begin in the Visitors Center with a talk about all things Kumeyaay and then segue outside to walk amid a real Kumeyaay village site. This educational event will enable all to learn more about our Indian people.

Please email, text or call me to let me know you are coming, so I can give Sandy our approximate numbers.

Joe Meyer

New Umbrellas Shade Children's Program and All Picnickers at Torrey Pines State Beach

by Peter Jensen

What's better than a picnic by the beach? Or a school field trip where you can eat your lunch near the waves? Fun activities yes—unless the intense Southern California sunlight makes the whole experience uncomfortably hot, with picnickers prone to sunburn.

On Friday, September 16, TPDS and TPA members cut the ribbon on new umbrellas for a Torrey Pines State Beach picnic area that was previously seldom-used because of its complete lack of shade. The metal umbrellas, fabricated to withstand the rigors of a marine environment—including the potential for corrosion and high winds—now grace the southwest corner of the South parking lot near the cliffs.

"We've seen a huge increase in the use of the tables since the installation," said Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook. "This was a wonderful improvement for the visitors provided by our non-profit partners."

TPDS president **Ingo Renner** and TPA president Peter Jensen held the ribbon at the unveiling of the new umbrellas during the docents' annual beach party. Throughout the year, the picnic area is used frequently by the Children's Program, along with the general public.

Funding for the umbrellas came from membership dues and contributions to TPA. A design team was led by landscape architect Adam Gevanthor, a Del Mar-area resident and board member of TPA, docent president **Ingo Renner**, and State Parks staff. Installation was performed by the Seabees and State Park staff.



Photo by John Durant

TPSNR ANNUAL CENSUS

by Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook

The attendance census for which docents gathered data for last year is finally complete. Thank you again for all the help and here are some highlights from the report:

- Using the new formula, we calculated annual visitation of 3.1 million at Torrey last fiscal year (15/16). That compares with 1.9 million reported for the previous fiscal year (14/15) using the old methodology.
- Typical daily visitation is around 4,000-5,000 with busy days around 15,000. Overall, the average is 8,496 visitors per day.
- 20.4% of visitors use the Reserve only, 54.5% use the Beach only and 25.1% use both.
- 41% of visitors pay for entry and 59% walk/bike in for free
- August is the busiest month, both in the Reserve and on the Beach. October is the slowest, but still we see over 50% of the busiest month's visitation.
- 55% of Torrey's visitors come in from South Beach, 38.9% at North Beach and 6.1% from South Gate near the golf course. The Extension and Flintkote areas receive less than 1%.

Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, October 11 at 2:00 pm

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

What: Our new book is one that's been on our recommended list for many months: *Euphoria*, by Lily King. It's been nominated as Best Book of the Year by many organizations. Here's a review:

Euphoria is Lily King's nationally bestselling breakout novel of three young, gifted anthropologists of the '30's caught in a passionate love triangle that threatens their bonds, their careers, and, ultimately, their lives. Inspired by events in the life of revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead, *Euphoria* is "dazzling ... suspenseful ... brilliant...an exhilarating novel."—*Boston Globe*

Thanks, **Gabrielle Ivany**, for hosting our meeting to discuss *Salt: A World History*, by Mark Kurlansky. It was generally thought to be heavy with facts but with lots of interesting stories about "the only rock we eat."

Here's what's coming up:

November 8: *H is for Hawk*, by Helen Macdonald, at **Molly McConnell's** home in Normal Heights. More in the November *Torreyana*.

Ken King

Plant of the Month: Coyote Brush

by Margaret Fillius

What do you think is the main method of pollination of Coyote Brush, a member of the Aster family, which is the most represented plant family at Torrey Pines?

Baccharis pilularis or **Coyote Brush** is one of the few shrubs blooming at this time of the year. Common throughout the Reserve, this shrub is usually rounded and woody with several cone-shaped branches.

Its plentiful leaves have three main veins and are stiff, oval to egg-shaped (upside down), usually toothed, and without hairs. The leaves tend to stay on the shrub even in times of drought. Plants of the *Baccharis* genus in our area are dioecious -- that is, they have separate male and female plants. Male flowers are cream colored, and female flowers are white and more pointed. In both cases, flowers appear in groups at the end of branches.



So, back to the question of pollination method. You might think wind would be the main force, but research has shown that insect pollination greatly increases the production of viable seeds of *Baccharis* species.

The origin of the genus name *Baccharis* is unclear but may come from Bacchus, the Roman God of wine. The epithet *pilularis* may derive from the Latin *pilula*, which means globule, perhaps because of the numerous galls one usually finds on this shrub.

We have three other *Baccharis* species around the Reserve. *Baccharis salicina* (Willow Baccharis) is usually found in wetlands, but there is one near the Visitor Center birdbath. *Baccharis sarothroides* (Broom Baccharis) used to be seen along the roadside, but that plant was demolished when the pedestrian path was installed; others I know of are off trail. *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mule Fat) is found along the Flintkote Trail. The leaves of Willow Baccharis are similar to Coyote Brush, but the egg shape is wider at the base; those of Broom Baccharis are linear and have only one main vein; those of Mule Fat are larger, similar to willow leaves, and are usually serrated.



Female plant



Male plant

Ravens—Our Cultured Bird

by Jack Friery

Photo by Herb Knüfken

Common Ravens are very commonly seen in the Reserve—they've been recorded, often in quantity, in nearly every monthly Reserve bird count over many years. What's unusual about these birds? Well, they're the largest all-black bird in the world, including eyes, feathers, and feet. And they're also the largest songbird in the world (songbirds are members of the Passerine group of birds, or perching birds.) And they're among the smartest of all birds, magnificent fliers, and very playful. See allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Raven/id.

But, it's in world culture that I think ravens really shine. Some cultures (particularly European) see them as evil. Think of Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven": "What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore/Meant in croaking 'Nevermore'." Shakespeare mentioned the raven more than any other bird, often to conjure up a sense of foreboding. ("Come, the croaking raven doth bellow for revenge," as Hamlet says). See theshakespeareblog.com/2013/10/jemima-blackburn-illustrator-of-shakespeares-crows/.

And they also may be seen as symbols of a great empire of the past, such as the ravens that are maintained by the Crown in the Tower of London. (If the ravens depart, the kingdom will fall.) See tinyurl.com/wiki-tower-raven.

Contrary to the Europeans, the native peoples of the Pacific Northwest saw the raven as the creator of the world, and also a trickster god. See tinyurl.com/wiki-culture-raven. On top of all that, ravens have a National Football Team named after them—the Baltimore Ravens!

When you next see these bold, playful, and clever birds in the reserve, think of how long, and how deeply, they've been ingrained in cultures around the world.



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: September 3, 2016

Number of species: 66

(Uncommon bird—a pigeon—is **bolded**. We have not tallied a pigeon since December 1995. Apparently, the Peregrine Falcons have been feeding on them.)

Gadwall 11
American Wigeon 6
Mallard 11
California Quail 4
loon sp. 5
Pied-billed Grebe 3
Brandt's Cormorant 1
Double-crested Cormorant 10
Brown Pelican 10
Great Blue Heron 3
Great Egret 9
Snowy Egret 18
Black-crowned Night-Heron 5
Osprey 2

White-tailed Kite 1
Northern Harrier 2
Cooper's Hawk 3
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 2
Semipalmated Plover 4
Long-billed Curlew 1
Least Sandpiper 2
Western Sandpiper 33
Spotted Sandpiper 1
Willet 8
Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs 1
Heermann's Gull 9
Western Gull 3
Caspian Tern 3
Royal Tern 1
Elegant Tern 2
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 1
Eurasian Collared-Dove 7
Mourning Dove 33
White-throated Swift 26
Anna's Hummingbird 15

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 3
Belted Kingfisher 2
Nuttall's Woodpecker 4
American Kestrel 4
Peregrine Falcon 2
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1
Black Phoebe 3
Cassin's Kingbird 1
California Scrub-Jay 4
American Crow 11
Common Raven 24
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 15
Barn Swallow 20
Bushtit 59
House Wren 6
Bewick's Wren 5
California Gnatcatcher 12
Wrentit 40
California Thrasher 9
Northern Mockingbird 2
Orange-crowned Warbler 6

Common Yellowthroat 13
Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 14
California Towhee 47
Spotted Towhee 5
Hooded Oriole 2
House Finch 36
Lesser Goldfinch 13
House Sparrow 3

Observers: Kathy Dickey, Ken King, Bob Glaser, Jack Friery, Marty Hales, Herb Knüfken, Frank Wong, Molly McConnell, Mark Embry, Eva Armi, Valerie Thomas, Margaret Filius, Jim Wilson, Pete DiGirolamo, and Anonymous

View this list online at ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31527520

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



Torrey Pines Docent Society
PO Box 2414
Del Mar, CA 92014
(858) 755-2063
torreypine.org