



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 386

July 2017

The Docent Class of 2017 Presents Torrey Pines' Trails

by Susan Buxbaum

The Docent Society welcomed 20 graduates of the 2017 training program at the June 10 meeting. **Karen Tipler**, representing the class, thanked “everyone” — the docents, training team, experts, rangers and park aides — “for helping us through our training.” The class donated a copy of *Ellen Browning Scripps* to the library and \$200 to the TPA.

On the last day of eleven sessions of training, in lieu of a final exam, docent trainees randomly assigned to small teams presented a portrait of one of our trails to the entire class. Since its inception a decade ago, this format has produced creative presentations, generated new friendships, and made each group expert in their knowledge of one aspect of Torrey Pines. This year the training team, docent mentors, and park staff were treated to four excellent

demonstrations, each unique, instructive and beautifully done. The first group was assigned Broken Hill as their focus. They developed a timeline of what TPSNR looked like in the 1920's, the 1940's, and the present. They had an old Ford going up the hill in reverse in the 20's and a soldier writing to his family in the 40's. They spoke about the climate, the different habitats, the plant communities, the geology of the region, the birds, the animals, and, of course, the importance of the Reserve.

The next presenters did a great job portraying different things they encountered

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Docent General Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 9 am

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

Speaker: Eddie Kisfaludy

Topic: Helicopter Excursion Across Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands during the 2016 Record-Breaking Warm Summer

Program: National Geographic explorer Eddie Kisfaludy will present a spectacular aerial video of southern Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands using a small helicopter during a 30-day westbound transatlantic flight in August, 2016. Rare views of shorelines and interior regions highlighting calving fronts, melt pools, moulins, ice sheets, fjords, bays, icebergs, and lagoons will provide a unique perspective on these wild and rarely photographed landscapes.

Eddie Kisfaludy has 15 years and 4600 flight hours piloting airplanes and helicopters for private and government customers and has led over 1000 aeronautical excursions. He is the CEO and co-founder of SciFly, LLC, a San Diego based aeronautical company that specializes in the flight testing of unique equipment and aerial photographic missions. For 10 years he was senior Curator of Field Operations at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He was the speaker at the TPDS meetings in April 2012 (“Moving a Stranded Fin Whale Out to Sea”) and April 2013 (“The Afterlife of Whales and Dolphins”).

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **T - Z** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Dan Hammer 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.

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Sr. Park Aides: Louis Sands, Jake Mumma

Park Aides: Cheryl Biernacki, Joy Inton, Johnson Jou (Interpreter), Danielle Ornelas

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

President's Letter:

Our new 2017 trainee fledglings are already busy hitting the trails and interacting with fellow docents and park visitors. For a little extra confidence we've encouraged them to "Buddy Up!" when staffing the Lodge, TIK and public walks, and to remain connected with their mentors for additional support. Torrey Pines docents are a friendly bunch after all and we are always eager to help.



The board and park aides are beginning to schedule advanced nature programs in the Children's Pavilion area to bolster docent interpretive knowledge and skills. Our first speaker is Jill Hamilton, who will be teaching us about her work with Torrey pine genetics on July 2 at 6:30 pm. The first hurdle to overcome is finding a suitable outdoor projector and screen for Powerpoint presentations in ambient light conditions. We are also looking for folks interested in giving public nature talks for the summer, so let us know if you or a friend have expertise to share.

And finally, we are pleased to announce that a 2018 TPSNR Tide Calendar is in the works, so please send us your best photos of present and past Torrey Pines scenes by July 8 for a chance to win a prize and get into the calendar.

(For instructions, go to:

torreypinesdocentsociety.box.com/s/4pp9c7kdw4hjrrjdg1ta10tw5592zovr) Winners will be announced at the August 5 evening

Moonlight Hike/Potluck at 7 pm in the Reserve.

See you on the trail,

Ingo Renner

President, TPDS

JULY CEED Event

What: Trip to Taxidermist

Where: Lyon's & O'Haver, Master Taxidermists
8180 Parkway Drive, La Mesa 91942

Date: Thursday, July 13

Time: 1:30 pm

Duration: 1 1/2 hrs

Owners: Mike O'Haver and Family

(cont. from pg. 1)

while “wandering” on the Guy Fleming Trail and invited the audience to guess what they were describing. Poetry, birdsong recordings, and photographs enhanced their descriptions. The presentation was imaginative, and the audience enjoyed being brought into the act.

The third group described a walk through Parry Grove. They used pictures and gave their descriptions in haiku form. They had the audience participate by inviting us to guess what was being poetically depicted. There were some wonderful photos of butterflies and bees collecting pollen. We were then taken on a long walk describing trail features and entertained by fragrant encounters with Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*).

The final group took us to Razor Point. They described its unique geology and told us how the rock formations here are subject to more erosion than in other areas, resulting in the structure of the terrain and the rapid retreat of the cliffs. They showed us how Razor Point is very different today from even 30 years ago. They continued with an amusing cautionary tale about the dangers of the Razor Point Trail, from the drop-off, to rattlers, to piercing plants, and closed with a paean to the trail’s botanical beauty.

Many presenters mentioned the beautiful and unique Canchalagua flowers abundantly blooming throughout the Reserve. Lots of rain has its advantages, bringing brilliant colors to the Reserve this year.

The energy in the Lodge was high, and all the hard work and creativity were very much appreciated by fellow classmates, docents, and park aides. We wish the entire docent society could have been there to see what a fabulous group is joining us. Kudos to the Class of 2017!

Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Ingo Renner.

Graduation of Docent Class of 2017: Our training coordinators **Jeannie Smith**, **Sherry Doolittle**, and **Linda Zlotnik** presented the new class of TPDS docents. **Karen Tipler**, the spokesperson for the trainees, gave thanks to all and there was cake to celebrate.

Speaker: Abel Silvas, aka Running Grunion, Native American historian, comedian, and storyteller. Silvas endeavored to inform docents about Native Americans by mixing comedy, history, and education in his funny yet educational performance.

Ingo Renner encouraged docents to “buddy up” with the newly-trained docents to help them get immersed in the TIK, Lodge hosting and public walks. He also reminded docents that 100 hours will get the San Diego Coast District pass and that 200 hours earns a State Parks Pass. Ingo announced that during the 2016-17 school year, the Children’s Program served 4,554 students, and 55 schools, with 42 docents logging 1477 hours.

CEED Event: **Joe Meyer** announced that the next CEED event will be at our taxidermist’s studio. (see pg. 2)

TPDS Photo Contest: **Ray Barger** reported we will have a TPDS photo contest for a 2018 TPSNR tide calendar. Please submit all non-copyrighted photos on the box.com site by the July 8 meeting. The four categories are: Torrey pine trees, wildlife, plants and flowers, and scenery. See the Google Groups email from **Roger Isaacson** for more details and instructions. The winners will be announced at the docent potluck and moonlight walk on August 5.

Docent of the Month: **Marie Johnson** for all her hard work with the Children’s Program and the TIK.

Refreshments: At July’s General Meeting docents with last names starting with letters **T - Z** are responsible for snacks. Meeting ended at 8:22 pm.

Docent of the Month: Marie Johnson

Photo by Herb Knüfken

Thanks to all docents for your inspiration, enthusiasm and friendship.

I fell in love with Torrey Pines the first time I hiked there. The beauty of the pine trees, cacti and the formations next to the ocean captivated me. It is one of the most beautiful places on our planet.



I have always enjoyed being in the world of Mother Nature. Growing up in Sweden, I explored the gorgeous coastline of the West Coast (we call it the Swedish Best Coast) during all the different seasons.

I immigrated to the United States and San Francisco in the 1960's and was part of the Flower Power Generation 🌸 I moved on to Berkeley and family life and my favorite excursions were to Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. I enjoyed hours and miles of hiking and even jeep rides in the Rubicon Wilderness.

I moved to San Diego in 2007 and saw the banner calling for docents during one of my hikes at Torrey Pines - and applied for the docent training.

It was a great decision and I enjoy being part of the Children's Program, and helping the children discover the joy of nature in our own backyard. And, of course, I love meeting all the visitors and tourists at the TIK and when I'm on Trail Patrol.

Torrey Pines is good for your soul.



L to R, Graduates: Jerry Trust, Zulma Gemus, Adam Gemus, Cheryl Biernacki, Krista DeBusschere, Garnet Roehm, Tsaiwei Olee, Donna Mancuso, Bruce Gray? (head by cross), Jean Glover, Gabriele Wienhausen, Coleen Huang(white top), No ID?, Ray Eller?, Ron Kuczinski, Khai Truong, Joe Raffaele, Karen Tipler; Trainers: Jeannie Smith, Linda Zlotnik, Sherry Doolittle Not pictured: Kimberley Gambling, Josephine Moeller, Wendy Brody, Tina Rathbone and Trainers: Patti and Bruce Montgomery, Susan Buxbaum Photo by Herb Knüfken

One Docent Trainee's Experience

by Jean Glover

My journey to the Torrey Pines docent training began a couple of years ago. At that time, one of my daily dog walks often coincided with a woman coming home from work who turned out to be **Judy Schulman**. Judy loves dogs and Cooper would greet her exuberantly every time he saw her. We would chat for a couple minutes before each of us continued on our way. One day TPSNR came up in one of these short conversations, and what Judy shared with me sparked my interest in the Torrey Pines Docent Society. I had been thinking about volunteering somewhere and this sounded like something I would want to do. Little did I know the extent of Judy's involvement with TPSNR! She told me how to apply, but it was too late that year and the class was full. I went on to other things and forgot about it. Then, this past January, I was talking with my neighbor, **Thomas Stehlik**, and he mentioned just returning from volunteering at the Reserve. I told him about my previous interest and learned that the 2017 training class was still open. "Quick, go apply," he said. So I did.

I arrived at our first class meeting having no expectations and very little knowledge about the docent society or even the Reserve. The only trail I had ever been on was Guy Fleming. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming as we settled in for our first lesson. After the talk, we had our first trail walk with one of the training docents. I was in **Barbara Wallach's** group. Wow! I listened carefully and took in what she was showing us, only not to remember very much later. I have no science background of any kind, and I thought, "Uh oh, I might be in trouble here!"

I couldn't imagine having enough time to gain the knowledge I felt I needed to be of any value to the docent group or the Reserve. On the walk, we all wanted to look at the flowers, but Barbara told us to learn the leaves, because the flowers wouldn't last. At that point, even most of the leaves looked the same to me. Still, the whole experience felt good, right, even on that first day.

As this incredibly well-planned and executed training unfolded week after week, I found myself learning and integrating a lot of information, as well as remembering more and more of the plants. I was pleasantly surprised at how smoothly things were coming together. I have to say that the commitment and generosity of all the docents in sharing their knowledge and never tiring of answering the same question over and over again — "What's the name of that plant/flower again?" — have been significant factors in this enjoyable learning process.

Docent training has been an amazing experience for me, and I can't applaud it enough! Relationships with like-minded people have taken root and sprouted with new friends being cultivated, promising a lot of fun with a purpose as time moves forward. I have learned so much, enough to help take care of the Reserve. My understanding of the Reserve has evolved from appreciating it from afar to protecting it from within. I have also gradually acquired some skills in educating the public about the Reserve, its history, what it offers, and its importance. Of course the learning doesn't end with the training. The more I do, the more I learn, and the more I can share. My class just graduated, and I am so happy to be a full member of this very special group of people known as the Torrey Pines Docent Society.

June 2017 Meeting

Abel Silvas aka Running Grunion making his entry with bow & arrow



New docent, Karen Tipler, presenting a giant appreciation card from trainees to training staff



Actors Joe M & Ann S



Actors Krista D & Betsy S

Torrey Pines Book Club

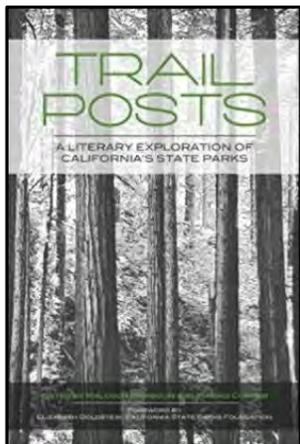
When: Tuesday, July 11, 2:00 pm

Where: Darlene Farnes's house in North Clairemont

What: *Trail Posts: A Literary Exploration of California's State Parks*, edited by Malcolm Margolin and Mariko Conner

From Amazon:

Two college students leap among the branches of a coastal redwood canopy, with no safety equipment other than their sense of balance. A woman gives her testimonio of the day in 1846 when boisterous men in coyote skins raised a hand-painted bear flag above her home. A beginning surfer — derogatorily termed a kook — ponders the grassroots activism in the surfing community that saved an estuarine beach from development. Freewheeling Beat writers drink wine and meditate on the slopes of Mount Tamalpais. James Marshall tells us in his own words what it was like to come upon the nugget of gold that sent the world rushing into California.



Wallace Stegner wrote that: "no place, not even a wild place, is a place until it has had that human attention that at its highest reach we call poetry." Writings by explorers, poets, and novelists confirm that our parks are indeed a great convergence of landscape and the human spirit. Trail Posts gives a new appreciation for the abundance and vitality of the land, and our artistic engagement with it.

Trail Posts includes writings by Isabel Allende, Joan Didion, Jack London, John Steinbeck, and Mark Twain, as well as writers you will be glad to meet for the first time.

[Note: *Trail Posts* is in stock and available in our Museum Shop.]

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

August 8: *The Turquoise Ledge* by Leslie Marmon Silko



Beach walk led by Wes Farmer on May 26. Highlights were the noisy peregrines above their nest, a sea lion and dolphin right off shore, hard mount kelp, tuna and land shore crabs, and the geology of the cliffs



Horned lizard (with head in the shade to the left of center)



June 14 hike to the Red Ridge Trail in the Extension, led by Ingo Renner, to see Scarlet Larkspur (*Delphinium cardinale*) in full bloom. Along the way, the usually elusive (and endangered) Horned Lizard was spotted. *Photos by Karen Fraser*

Bird of the Month: Caspian Tern

by Jack Friery; photo by Herb Knüfken

Look carefully at the whitish birds flying off our beach. Most are gulls, but not all. Scattered among the gulls are a cousin family of seabirds — the terns. This month's featured bird is the **Caspian Tern**, *Hydroprogne caspia*, the largest tern in the world.

The Caspian Tern is nearly all white, with a black cap, and a striking blood-red bill. It is as large as the gulls that it accompanies. Terns are fish-eaters and are often seen plunge-diving into the surf for food.

The bird's genus name is a combination of Latin and Greek, and is translated roughly as "water swallow." The Caspian part of its name refers to the Caspian Sea, indicating the nearly worldwide distribution of the bird. (The word "tern," by the way, is apparently Old Norse. The Caspian Tern has obviously been with us for a very long time.)



Sources: allaboutbirds.org/guide/Caspian_Tern/id,
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caspian_tern,
audubon.org/field-guide/bird/caspian-tern,
iucnredlist.org/details/22694524/0,
etymonline.com/index.php?term=tern.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: June 3, 2017

Number of species: 67
(+2 other taxa)

Gadwall 3
Mallard 7
Red-breasted Merganser 1
California Quail 20
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Western Grebe 4
Brandt's Cormorant 6
Double-crested Cormorant 3
Brown Pelican 119
Great Blue Heron 1
Great Egret 3
Snowy Egret 7
Black-crowned Night-Heron 2
Osprey 1
Cooper's Hawk 4
Red-tailed Hawk 1
American Coot 1
Killdeer 1

Ring-billed Gull 7
Western Gull 7
California Gull 23
Caspian Tern 3
Royal Tern 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 4
Mourning Dove 45
White-throated Swift 9
Anna's Hummingbird 27
Allen's Hummingbird 9
Nuttall's Woodpecker 11
Northern Flicker 1
American Kestrel 1
Peregrine Falcon 4
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1
Empidonax sp. 1
Black Phoebe 12
Say's Phoebe 2
Cassin's Kingbird 7
Hutton's Vireo 5
California Scrub-Jay 6
American Crow 7

Common Raven 14
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 16
Tree Swallow 2
Barn Swallow 1
Cliff Swallow 13
Bushtit 53
House Wren 3
Marsh Wren 5
Bewick's Wren 8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3
California Gnatcatcher 9
gnatcatcher sp. 1
Wrentit 33
California Thrasher 4
Northern Mockingbird 12
European Starling 8
Orange-crowned Warbler 11
Common Yellowthroat 9
Wilson's Warbler 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 7
Song Sparrow 14

California Towhee 28
Spotted Towhee 34
Black-headed Grosbeak 4
Red-winged Blackbird 19
Hooded Oriole 1
House Finch 101
Lesser Goldfinch 38
Scaly-breasted Munia 1

Observers: Frank Wong, Jack Friery, David Walker, Marty Hales, Gary Grantham, Mark Embry, Andy Rathbone, Valerie Thomas, Kathy Dickey, Herb Knüfken, Steve Neal, Molly McConnell, Bob Glaser, and Anonymous

View this checklist online at ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37689992

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



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