



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 390

November 2017

## Meet the Beetles

by Dan Hammer

Charlie Kerns, the “bark beetle guy,” shared his good news, bad news, and insights at the October 14 TPDS meeting.

A trained and experienced horticulturalist, Charlie has been actively involved in protecting and propagating Torrey pine trees for more than 25 years. Following the bark beetle devastation of the late 1980’s, he coordinated the planting of seedlings in the western part of the Reserve. After working as a student at the Lyon Arboretum in Hawai’i and briefly at Quail (now San Diego) Botanic Garden, he returned to TPSNR in late 2000 and has since made weekly collections of bark beetles – initially to monitor their populations and later to limit them.



Charlie began his talk by leveling with us about Torrey pines mortality: “There are reasons to be encouraged and reasons to be discouraged.... I’m just gonna throw stuff at you, and I don’t know how you’ll take it.”

The early 2000’s saw good years and bad, but generally the Reserve and its trees were in good shape. (Click [here](#) to read Charlie’s October 2013 report to the TPDS.) The total beetle count from October 2000 until August 2014 was less than 400,000. At the end of 2013, a tree on High Point was

### Docent General Meeting

**Saturday, November 11, 9 am**  
**Location:** St. Peter’s Episcopal Rec Hall, Del Mar  
**Speaker:** Dr. Oliver A. Ryder, San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research  
**Topic:** San Diego Zoo’s Frozen Zoo®

Dr. Oliver A. Ryder is Director of Genetics at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. He oversees a laboratory group which does research in molecular genetics, cytogenetics, cell culture, and tissue culture cryobanking. He directs the Frozen Zoo® project, a unique resource of cell cultures that has made notable scientific contributions in the field of conservation. His professional career has been devoted to developing and applying genetic research methods in support of endangered species conservation efforts for species held in the Zoo and for the wild populations.

Dr. Ryder has a Ph.D. in biology from UCSD and has contributed key studies to the conservation management efforts for gorillas, California condors, African rhinos, Przewalski’s horses, Anegada iguanas, giant pandas, bighorn sheep, and numerous other species.

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

terminally infested with bark beetles. In the months that followed, there was no evidence of other trees in danger. “Then in 2014,” he said, “all hell broke loose.” The beetle populations boomed and there were group kills throughout the Reserve, particularly in the Extension.

After a slight reprieve in 2015, the beetles struck hard again in 2016.

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**Sr. Park Aides:** Louis Sands, Jake Mumma

**Park Aides:** Cheryl Biernacki, Krista DeBusschere, 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.

“The north end of Guy Fleming was gone before you knew it,” Charlie reported, and the plague spread further south. From August 2014 to the present, Charlie and his team have trapped 750,000 bark beetles. While the population trends have gone down in general, the levels have remained high, and the team is still catching a lot of beetles. In fact, in early September 2017 they harvested more than 38,000 beetles in one week, the largest number caught in a single week going all the way back to the original trapping effort in the early 90’s.

Now for some good news. The recent loss of 400 trees in the past three years is only half as bad as the die-off in the early 1990’s. Some areas that look particularly bad are already recovering. High Point, for example, has a lot of dead trees but also plenty of healthy seedlings for the next generation of Torrey pines. And the overall population is much healthier in 2017 than it was a year ago. The Reserve has many areas with a dynamic population – that is, healthy trees of different sizes and ages.

Charlie and his beetle team now monitor 40 traps with the goal of actively suppressing bark beetles. They move the traps whenever they find a group of trees that appear vulnerable to infestation. Charlie encouraged docents to report ailing trees to him at [cttk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cttk@sbcglobal.net). (After the meeting, he agreed to hold a training sometime soon to show docents how to recognize trees in trouble.)

Charlie concluded on a philosophical note: “On occasion, Torrey pines leave this world the way they came into it – in bunches.” But new trees come to replace them, he assured us, and with our help the overall population will remain healthy and strong.

## Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by **Ingo Renner**.

**Speaker: Charlie Kerns**, whose topic was: Bark Beetles and Drought. (See front page for article.)

**Docent Shirts: Joe Meyer** announced that the new lightweight Trail Patrol T-shirts are now available for sale at the Museum Shop. They offer Trail Patrollers a lightweight alternative to the docent vests. They are available only in Vintage Sand, a heather sand color, with a new TPDS logo on the front and back. The men's crew neck T-shirts and the women's V-neck, tapered T-shirts are available in S, M, L, XL, and XXL. All shirts are \$10.00 + tax, with the exception of the men's and women's XXL shirts, which are \$12.50 + tax. There is no docent discount and these T-shirts are for docents only. Please do not sell them to the visitors. They are stored in the drawers below the regular T-shirts in the back of the Museum Shop.

**CEED Event: Joe Meyer** announced the next CEED event on October 25 will be learning about the Kumeyaay while exploring the Barona Cultural Center and Museum and Stones in the Meadow. A trip to Irving Gill's Church and Cottages will follow.

**Speakers: George Beardsley**, who has been responsible for providing speakers at the monthly docent meetings for the past three years, has asked to have one or two people help him with this job.

**Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk: Ann Smith Mercandetti** asked for docents to sign up to be at TPSNR during the Susan G. Komen walk on Friday, November 17. About 2,600 people are expected to walk through the Reserve that morning.

In prior years, having docents with signs cheering the walkers on and reminding them not to litter or eat in the Reserve has helped greatly.

**Budding Botanists:** **Jane Barger** from the new Budding Botanist group gave a presentation on the Anacardiaceae family of plants in TPSNR. An article on this family will run in the next *Torreyana*. See pg. 6 for a report on the Agavaceae family, which was the first plant family the Budding Botanists studied.

**Tide Calendars:** The second batch of TPDS tide calendars has arrived. They now include the photographers' names. **Ray Barger** had calendars for sale during the break at the meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** **Walt Desmond** announced the slate for the TPDS Board of Directors for 2018, which will be voted on at the November meeting. See pg. 5 for the list of proposed board members.

**Proposed Bylaws changes:** **Walt Desmond** outlined the proposed changes to the bylaws, which will be voted on at the November docent meeting. See the [October 2017 \*Torreyana\*](#) for a full outline of the proposed changes.

**Badges:** Docent badges will be ordered soon. Let **Greg Howard** know if you need a new one.

**Harvest Festival:** Ingo asked for help putting together another Harvest Festival this year in mid-November. Please contact him if you want to help. He suggested repeating some of the successful exhibits from last year: Turn Around for Vets wood turners; flint knapper Mark Becker; Jeff, the Herp Guy; and a Children's Program booth.

Ingo also mentioned that **Nancy Woodworth** is home now and healing well.

**Docent of the Month:** **Pete Domaille** for his work with the TIK, Trail Patrol, leading both special walks and nature walks, and his work with the Budding Botanists.

**Refreshments:** At November's meeting, docents with last names starting with letters **J, K, L** are responsible for snacks.

The meeting ended at 11:04 am.

### November CEED Event

**What:** Camino Ruiz Trail - Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

**Where:** Meet at Camino Ruiz Neighborhood Park, 11498 Camino Ruiz (Calle Cristobal), San Diego 92126

**When:** Wednesday, November 8

**Duration:** 2 - 2 ½ hrs.

**Time:** 9 am

**Docent Leader:** Joe Meyer

## Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

**O**n September 26, our school year began with Geology. In October, 30 awesome docents contributed 230 hours, as we shared our love of TPSNR with 630 students.

November is a time to give thanks. THANK YOU ALL for your support: to the museum shop crew and special walk leaders, whose efforts pay our bills; to the super Seabees, always ready to build/repair/move anything we need; to the training team – you've given us enthusiastic, well-trained new docents; to the park aides and Lodge hosts who assist with student visitors. Behind the scenes, thanks for the computer support and to everyone who keeps our precious Reserve beautiful. And finally, thanks, TPA, for your many gifts.

Enormous thanks to each and every wonderful Children's Program docent! Kudos for signing up in advance and arriving full of enthusiasm. Together, we are creating another outstanding year for the TPDS Children's Program. Thank you Louis Sands, our efficient and effervescent coordinator – we couldn't do it without you!

We still have openings for docent hike leaders and presenters. If you are interested in joining us or wish to see what it is all about, go to the Children's Program sign-up on the docent website to check the time, dates and programs. Then just come and tag along. No need to sign up until you are ready to lead a group by yourself. We'd love to have you join us!

If you have ANY questions about the Children's Program, please contact our intrepid coordinator, **Louis Sands**, at [tpsnr.childrensprogram@yahoo.com](mailto:tpsnr.childrensprogram@yahoo.com).

### No More Printed Newsletters

This is the last *Torreyana* issue that will be mailed out (on paper) to a large number of still-subscribing docents and others. The Executive Board has decided that we should discontinue printing and go digital as much as possible. We may continue to print and mail out a few copies of each issue, but *only to docents and retired docents who don't have a way to read it online or print it out themselves*. They will have to request this service.

By doing this we, of course, save a few trees and a little money. Another big advantage is that we can be more flexible with digital content, e.g. not bound by having to fill up exactly 8 or 10 pages with the last page left blank for the mailing address.

## Docent of the Month:

### Peter Domaille

**I** was born and raised in a small country town on the Murray River about 300 miles northwest of Melbourne, and 600 miles southwest of Sydney, Australia. I have always enjoyed the outdoors because that is all that we had in abundance. The time was immediately post-



WWII and my father had received an allocation of land to be utilized for grape production as part of a government plan to repatriate former servicemen. We plowed, pruned, irrigated and harvested Thompson seedless grapes to make golden raisins. When I was 15, a fierce hailstorm decimated our crop, destroying the current year's grapes, and damaging canes for the subsequent year. My father proclaimed that if I picked up anything heavier than a pen thereafter he would shoot me! So, I went to Monash University in Melbourne and obtained both Bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry, but continued to enjoy outdoor activities in the local bush, mountains, streams and lakes.

I came to the US in April 1975 as a post-doctoral fellow at UC Santa Barbara and found a climate very similar to Australia except I was closer to the ocean. I recall a botanist at UCSB (Professor Adrian Wenner) who put a slide show together every year from plant and shrub photos from the local mountains, creeks and riparian grasslands. He set this continuous slideshow to the music of John Denver, The Eagles, Jackson Browne, etc. and I was hooked on the diversity of California flora, making comparisons to my birthplace. The power of a single professor to educate hundreds of college students in the grandeur of nature and appreciation of our surroundings never left me. I visited San Diego at Thanksgiving, 1976 and came to TPSNR, but barely ventured off the beach, so I missed seeing the beauty of this jewel.

In 1977 I headed East for a real job in R&D at the DuPont company in Wilmington, DE where I would remain for 24 years. My first exposure to seasons occurred on the trip there when I saw deciduous trees in Tennessee for the first time and initially thought a big bushfire had gone through and killed everything! The mid-Atlantic

region is an amazingly diverse mixture of northern and southern trees, shrubs and plants, but very different from our dry Mediterranean climate in coastal Southern California. But botany is revered in the beautiful DuPont estates of Winterthur, Hagley Museum, and Longwood Gardens.

I returned to the West Coast in late 2001 in search of a job in biotechnology and the hiring manager met me and took me to the Reserve directly from my flight and before my interview. He was from New Jersey and I don't think either of us had any appreciation of the place, other than the relaxation. But the Torrey pine tree stood out to me as something unique with its twists and turns akin to an over-sized bonsai plant.

My wife and I were frequent hikers at the Reserve, but had little appreciation of the diversity because we were not attentive enough to the details. During training it was embarrassing to realize that those shrubs and trees we see are different and that not all yellow flowers are identical!

The docents are a fountain of knowledge and experience about the Reserve and I have learned an immense amount from them. The camaraderie is infectious. I love leading walks and doing Trail Patrol when I can engage and educate visitors about this unique piece of land sandwiched between the coast and desert, and in between two major metropolitan areas. I feel honored to have received the Docent of the Month award. Of course, as an un-named docent reminded me, "Even a blind squirrel finds a nut every once in a while!"

### Save the Date, Docents and Families!



**2017 Holiday Potluck  
TP Visitor Center Lodge  
Saturday, December 9 @ 11:30 am**

Decorating of the Lodge will be on Saturday, Dec. 2, starting at 8:30 am. Please join the decorating committee and help with the fun.



## Nominating Committee Slate for the 2018 Board

by *Walt Desmond*

Docents will do their yearly duty at the November 11 annual meeting and cast ballots in the election of the 2018 TPDS Executive Board. The following slate of nominees has been selected by the TPDS nominating committee:

President: **Ingo Renner**

Vice President: **Ray Barger**

Secretary: **Steve Neal**

Treasurer: **Bobbi Krueger**

Five At-Large Members: **Roger Isaacson, Pao Chau, Janet Ugalde, Mark Embree, and Stu Rosenwasser**

As with most groups similar to ours, the procedure for TPDS has been almost without exception to name a slate of single nominees for each of the nine Board positions. (The bylaws do provide for “nomination from the floor” for additional candidates, with the requirement that it be done with prior notice to the president – to allow for the logistics of holding a multi-candidate election. Your most veteran docent colleagues recall only one such election in Society history!)

In addition to Board elections, amendments to the bylaws can only be voted on at the annual meeting.\* One amendment this month is directly related to the nomination process: the Board proposes the insertion of a bylaw specifying that the size of the nominating committee be five members, and that its formation occur by action of the Board every July, for the November election of that year. These details have been included in the Society’s Standing Rules, but the committee itself this year requested placement in the bylaws as more appropriate for this key function in the operation of the Society. (See the [October 2017 Torreyana](#) for a full list of amendments to be voted on at the November meeting.)

What is the process the nominating committee uses to fill out an election slate? Committee members might call it a holistic procedure, with no specific rules or criteria – but with important consequences. Since board members will be deciding policy and actions covering the whole spectrum of Society activities, generally a major qualifying factor will be breadth and strength of experience in the various TPDS functions and responsibilities. Skills, interests, board experience (though also considering the fresh view of the newcomer) and a fit with other board members are additional factors that enter this critical months-long process that leads up to every November election. Your nominating committee members can assure you that they are amazed every year at the docent talent available to choose from, with often the biggest difficulty being who to keep on “reserve” for upcoming boards!

\*Both of these actions—Board election and bylaws amendment—are sufficiently critical that they require a two-thirds vote for approval.

## A Tory Pines Puzzler

by *Judy Schulman*

What was first invented around 1760 to teach children geography, had a resurgence as an inexpensive way to pass the time during the Depression, and docent **Sherry Doolittle** gave me as a present in August?

If you haven’t guessed by now, the answer is a picture (or jigsaw) puzzle. The one that Sherry gave me featured Torrey Pines. It has 275 pieces and she warned me that it was hard to put together. She was right! When completed, the puzzle is 15.5" by 10.125". The view is from the Guy Fleming Trail looking towards Del Mar. So given my penchant for history, I wanted to know how old the puzzle was. It shows the bridge, so I knew it must be from at least 1933.

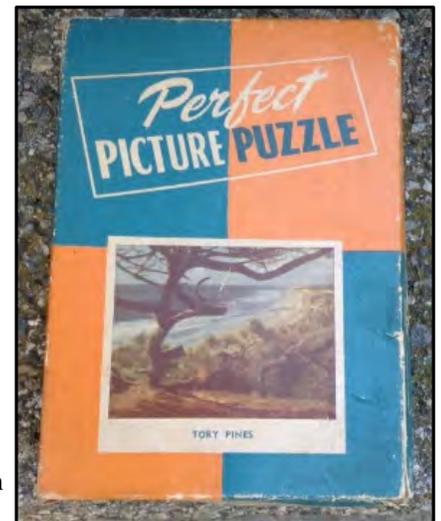
The only identifying marks on the box are the words “Perfect Picture Puzzle” and “No 1611.” Maybe these two pieces of

information would help me find the manufacturing date. In 1932, the Perfect Picture Puzzle brand came into being. I looked up the company on the web and found an entire site dedicated to all the puzzles the company had made. The scenes they used were made from illustrations they purchased from lithographers. [To enlarge click here.](#)

According to the site, the view was from a photograph taken by famed photographer Fred Payne Clatworthy (1875-1953). He was known for his work with the **Autochrome Lumiere** screen plate, an early color photography format. Many of his photos appeared in *National Geographic Magazine* between 1923 and 1934. His primary residence was Estes, Colorado, but he also had a home in Palm Springs, California.

According to several old San Diego *Union-Tribune* newspaper articles, he was in San Diego during March 1934. He gave talks about his newly discovered process of taking color photography to the Unitarian Church Open Forum and the La Jolla Woman’s Club. The title of his talk was “America in Natural Color.” Perhaps during this time, he visited Torrey Pines Park. But according to the Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center in Denver, Colorado, the photo was taken circa 1945.

Some of you may have noticed that I used the name Tory and probably are wondering why our excellent editors did not catch this misspelling and change it. Well if you look closely at the photo, that is exactly how it was spelled on the box. Puzzling, don’t you think?



The Budding Botanists are a group of approximately thirty docents dedicated to furthering our collective knowledge of plants at TPSNR. We aim to systematically examine different plant families for their naming, ethnobotany, propagation/pollination and stories, which we will share with the docents at large. Agave is the first family in our study.

## Agavaceae (Agave) Family

Agave are named from the Greek *agauós*, meaning noble or illustrious. At TPSNR, there are only a handful of Agavaceae species: *Agave shawii* (Shaw's Agave, named after Henry Shaw, the founder of the Missouri Botanical Gardens); *Yucca schidigera* (Mojave Yucca, Spanish Bayonet); *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (Our Lord's Candle, Quixote Plant); *Chlorogalum parviflorum* (Amole, Soap Plant) and the non-native *Agave americana* (American Century Plant). Three species are monocarpic and flower only once before the rosette dies (*A. americana*, *A. shawii*, *H. whipplei*), but not *Y. schidigera* or *C. parviflorum*, which are perennials. Interestingly, on the basis of genetics, *H. whipplei* is the one plant that is considered different from the other four. It was named by Charles Parry in honor of Amiel Weeks Whipple, a Pacific Railroad surveyor on Parry's team. Both yucca and agave belong to the Agave family. These plants have distinct thick and elongated basal leaves and characteristic large flowering stalks. As of mid-October, one spike of the Shaw's agave on the west side of Guy Fleming trail was in bloom.

In 2009, the family of Agavaceae was reclassified as subfamily Agavoideae and placed in the Asparagaceae family. For the general Reserve visitor, however, it is simpler to refer to the Agave family and avoid the complication of explaining this reclassification.

All of these plants can propagate through rhizomes (underground tubers) or by seed from pollinated fruits. Yuccas are pollinated only by the yucca moth, whose larvae are protected by the ovary chamber and develop by eating the seeds. This symbiotic relationship is very specific. *Hesperoyucca whipplei* is pollinated solely by the moth *Tegeticula maculata*, which visits only this plant, while *Yucca schidigera* is pollinated only by *Tegeticula yuccasella*, a moth that can lay its eggs in several different kinds of yucca species. Very recently, this exclusive symbiosis has been challenged, and it has been suggested that several species of moth will utilize whatever yucca is in its habitat. Agaves are pollinated by nectar-feeding, long-nosed bats (genus *Leptonycteris*). These little bats have elongated muzzles and long tongues to reach into the flower. In their absence, only the hawk moth and hummingbirds can reach the nectar in the agave flower. The agaves at TPSNR grow by vegetative propagation because it

is unlikely that there are effective pollinators for these plants.

The fibrous leaves of Mojave yucca, Shaw's agave and Our Lord's Candle were used to make threads and cordage, and thereby all kinds of products, including ropes, twine, nets, brushes, sandals, and beddings. The flowers and the fruits of these plants were cooked and eaten.

Our Lord's Candle seeds were ground into flour. The primary use of the Amole (soap plant) was to crush the bulb and use it as soap for washing clothes and hair. The bulb could also be boiled to produce a glue. The coarse outside fibers of the bulb were used to make small brushes. Roasted bulbs were also used to make a poultice for sores, and the crushed bulbs could be used to stun fish so they could be caught easily.

*Docents Jane Barger, Pao Chau, Peter Domaille, Margaret Fillius, and Barbara Wallach contributed to this article.*

This abbreviated summary is from more extensive material by many Budding Botanists and can be found for each plant family at the parent Google documents page.

[drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5f77\\_Qqj11sdzFESIJXTGFZUEE](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5f77_Qqj11sdzFESIJXTGFZUEE)

## Torrey Pines Book Club

**When:** Tuesday, November 14, 2:00 pm

**Where:** Gabrielle Ivany's home in Rancho Bernardo

**What:** *Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story* by Douglas Preston

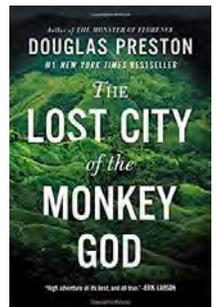
From Amazon:

*Since the days of conquistador Hernán Cortés, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden somewhere in the Honduran interior, called the White City or the Lost City of the Monkey God. Indigenous tribes speak of ancestors who fled there to escape the Spanish invaders, and they warn that anyone who enters this sacred city will fall ill and die.*

*In 1940, swashbuckling journalist Theodore Morde returned from the rainforest with hundreds of artifacts and an electrifying story of having found the Lost City of the Monkey God, but then committed suicide without revealing its location.*

*Three quarters of a century later, bestselling author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists on a groundbreaking new quest. In 2012 he climbed aboard a rickety, single-engine plane carrying the machine that would change everything: LIDAR, a highly advanced, classified technology that can map the terrain under the densest rainforest canopy. In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city, but an enigmatic, lost civilization.*

*Venturing into this raw, treacherous, but breathtakingly beautiful wilderness to confirm the discovery, Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quicksand, disease-carrying insects, jaguars, and*



*deadly snakes. It wasn't until they returned that tragedy struck: Preston and others found they had contracted in the ruins a horrifying, sometimes lethal, and incurable, disease.*

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

**December 12:** *Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 miles of Australian Outback* by Robyn Davidson

## Docent Krista DeBusschere Joins Park Aide Staff

by Joan R. Simon

**W**hen **Krista DeBusschere**, a native of San Diego, was a young kid, she came to Torrey Pines "all the time" with her family. She remembers it being "a wild place" and "very empty." Her favorite spot was in the wind caves at the end of the beach trail, just above the stairs to Flat Rock. (She would run ahead and hide in them – alas, now they are off-trail.) After graduating from UC Davis, Krista returned to San Diego and still lives in the San Diego State University area where she grew up. She has been working in security clearance and criminal investigation for the past 13 years.



About a year and a half ago, she was hiking in the Reserve and explaining to a friend about the chaparral. Two docents approached and said she sounded like a docent. They encouraged her to take the training class and when her schedule permitted, she joined the 2017 class. We're happy to have Krista working as both a docent and park aide. Welcome!

## *Ranger Diaries, Part 2: 1976*

by Judy Schulman

**F**rom my article in last month's *Torreyana*, it did seem like most of campground duty was not pleasant. But seemingly endless days of disagreeable contacts did get interspersed with positive interactions and humorous situations. There was even a celebrity who visited. So let's start with him.

Gypsy Boots visited Cardiff Beach in May 1976. No, these are not a type of vagabond footwear. In fact, the Gypsy Boots was a fitness pioneer, health food storeowner, actor, and writer. He was popular during the 1950's and 1960's. Some say that he made yoga and health food acceptable to

mainstream America. His TV appearances included Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life" and the Steve Allen Show. The 1948 Nat King Cole hit "Nature Boy" was inspired by him.

Sometimes people would say the most ridiculous things to get out of getting a citation. There was the visitor who was walking his off-leash dog on the beach. He claimed that he was training his canine to be a lifeguard dog!

There were several mentions of people showing appreciation for the rangers. Usually this was in the form of a verbal thank you or a note of appreciation. One elderly lady even wanted to give a campground ranger a quarter for bringing her a phone message. He politely refused the offer. By the way that would be about 86 cents today!

Then there were also the campers who wanted to complain to a higher authority about what they considered unfair treatment by the rangers. One man wanted to report them to J. Edgar Hoover! Even if this man had connections with the FBI, this would have been impossible since J. Edgar Hoover died in 1972.

There were also some questionable, albeit humorous, behaviors. There was the woman swimming at night on her back just wearing flimsy lingerie. She said it made her back feel better (wasn't sure if she meant the water or the lingerie). There was the "granny" who walked into the men's restroom and watched a naked man showering. Apparently she forgot to walk out immediately upon realizing her mistake. There were the UFO cultists who were illegally camped. The ranger wrote next to that entry "beam me up Scotty."

Rangers sometimes had a little free time to watch nature. There were some very poetic observations of birds flying or dolphins playing in the surf. My favorite comment was: "observed an opossum along the road from camp to railroad tracks – failed to show ID – so I verbally warned him." Nothing was written down about the opossum's response to this.

The types of animals that people brought to the beach/campground seemed to be an endless source of amusement. There were several mentions of horseback riders on the beach. One woman was asked to leave for walking her piglets on the beach. Another was asked to leave because she was walking her sheep on the beach. Needless to say, neither had a leash. Another person had brought his tortoise. Unbeknownst to his parents, one child brought his pet snake to the beach.

There were the feral cats that would scare campers by jumping on top of their tents in the middle of the night. The campers would frantically run to the ranger's office because they thought they were being attacked by thieves. The rangers had to stifle their smiles while assuring these campers that it was cats not crazed burglars that had disturbed them.

Finally, to take a line from Art Linkletter, kids do say the darnedest things (am I dating myself?). A young boy from the campground came up to the kiosk and wanted to know if there were bears there. It seemed he left a grouper fish that he had caught earlier that day hanging from a tree

overnight. Upon awakening, he said the fish was gone. Later he found it in the bush half eaten. The ranger told him that the campground had wild cats. But the little boy wasn't convinced. He asked again if the rangers were sure that there weren't any bears because it was a very big fish!

Moonlight Hike to Flatrock after the October 7 beach party. Over 80 docents attended the party and about 60 did the hike.

*Photo by Tsaiwei Olee*



### Two of Our Regular Volunteer Groups

Marking their 9<sup>th</sup> year volunteering at Torrey Pines, 26 employees from Eli Lilly joined Whacky Weeders on September 28 and worked in the Peñasquitos Lagoon Preserve to clear the Flintkote trail all the way to its eastern end.

*Photo by Lynne Small*



Twenty-two Vertex workers pruned the road west of the Flintkote house and cleared a sediment basin next to the house on October 6, recording their 5<sup>th</sup> year volunteering at Torrey Pines.

*Photo by Joan R. Simon*

# Bird of the Month: Red-shouldered Hawk

by Jack Friery

Our featured bird this month is the **Red-shouldered Hawk**, *Buteo lineatus*. This lovely raptor has a barred reddish belly and a strongly banded tail. In flight, translucent epaulets near the wingtips help identify the species. These forest hawks hunt prey ranging from birds and mice to frogs and snakes.

These and the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) are the most common hawks we see at the Reserve and environs. One clue to distinguishing them, even at a great distance, is the way each species flies. Red-tailed Hawks fly in “lazy circles in the sky.” (Thank you, Rodgers & Hammerstein.) Red-shouldered Hawks, on the other hand, fly much more directly, as if with a purpose. Another possible clue is habitat. Red-tails are often seen soaring over open grasslands, while Red-shoulders are very fond of forests, as well as riparian and swampy areas.

One hallmark of the Red-shoulder is its call. It sounds like *kee-ahh* or *kee-yeeear*, and tends to be repeated 5–12 times, with each note lasting about half a second. Listen for it, even in residential areas.

Sources: [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-shouldered\\_Hawk/id](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-shouldered_Hawk/id)

[audubon.org/field-guide/bird/red-shouldered-hawk](http://audubon.org/field-guide/bird/red-shouldered-hawk)

[nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/r/red-shouldered-hawk/](http://nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/r/red-shouldered-hawk/)



Photo by Herb Knüfken

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: October 7, 2017

Number of species: 67

(+3 other taxa)

Gadwall 5  
Mallard 8  
California Quail 1  
Common Loon 1  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Western Grebe 4  
Double-crested Cormorant 14  
Great Blue Heron 4  
Great Egret 4  
Snowy Egret 1  
Osprey 4  
Cooper's Hawk 3  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 6  
Killdeer 9  
Spotted Sandpiper 1  
Heermann's Gull 12  
Western Gull 16

California Gull 4  
Elegant Tern 1  
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 6  
Mourning Dove 45  
Great Horned Owl 1  
White-throated Swift 10  
Anna's Hummingbird 30  
Allen's Hummingbird 4  
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 2  
Belted Kingfisher 2  
Nuttall's Woodpecker 5  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Northern Flicker 3  
American Kestrel 10  
Merlin 1  
Peregrine Falcon 2  
Black Phoebe 21  
Say's Phoebe 13  
Cassin's Kingbird 6  
Hutton's Vireo 2  
California Scrub-Jay 6

American Crow 26  
Common Raven 35  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1  
Bushtit 91  
House Wren 11  
Marsh Wren 1  
Bewick's Wren 12  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4  
California Gnatcatcher 25  
gnatcatcher sp. 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1  
Wrentit 50  
California Thrasher 16  
Northern Mockingbird 3  
European Starling 1  
Orange-crowned Warbler 5  
Common Yellowthroat 13  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 36  
warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.) 2  
Chipping Sparrow 5  
Dark-eyed Junco 1

White-crowned Sparrow 14  
Song Sparrow 18  
Lincoln's Sparrow 1  
California Towhee 42  
Rufous-crowned Sparrow 1  
Spotted Towhee 10  
Western Meadowlark 3  
House Finch 77  
Lesser Goldfinch 31

**Observers:** Jack Friery, Steve Nash, Herb Knüfken, Bob Glaser, John Bruin, Marty Hales, Kathy Dickey, Frank Wong, Jim Wilson, Eva Armi, Tina Rathbone, Andy Rathbone, Tsaiwei Lee, Claudia Brink, Max Edwards, and Anonymous

View this checklist online at [ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39684314](http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39684314)

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



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