

# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 393

February 2018

## Travels with Herb

by Dan Hammer

At the January TPDS meeting, Docent **Herb Knüfken** presented a slide show of his September 2017 trip to Copper Canyon, Mexico. As we know from Google groups and his website, Herb is a master wildlife photographer. We now know that he takes superb photos of people and places, too.

Herb described the odyssey of traveling with his wife and friends by plane, boat, and train from sea level to 7200 feet.



View from hotel room at top of canyon

From their perch at the top of Copper Canyon, the group traveled to the region's capital town of Batopilas, on the canyon floor.



Woman crossing river

## Docent General Meeting

**Saturday**, February 10, 9 am

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

**Speaker:** Bob Wohl, former supervising ranger, TPSNR

**Topic:** Ranger Bob's Daily Log: Tales of Torrey Pines – old stories from the Red Log Books that Bob wants to share with the public and not keep locked in storage “somewhere.”

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



In Batopilas, they chanced to meet a group of Tarahumara Indian women (photo above) who had arrived in full regalia to receive their bimonthly support checks from the Mexican government. “It was my Kodak moment,” Herb said, “for those of you who know what Kodak was.”

Herb greatly admired the proud, hard-working Tarahumara. His feeling for the land and its people shone through.

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

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**TPDS Executive Board Members:**

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Stu Rosenwasser

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**Rangers:** Kyle Knox, Jesus "Chuy" Salinas Rodriguez

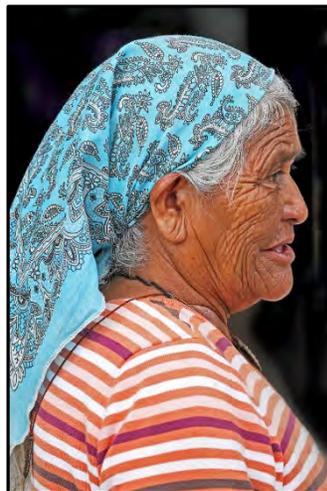
**Sr. Park Aides:** Louis Sands, Jake Mumma

**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.

Old Tarahumara woman near Creel showed us her cave dwelling



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Tarahumara family walking into Batopilas after a day-long hike from their dwelling in the mountains



View of the Condamena "half-dome" Canyon with the Basaseachic Falls with 806 feet of free fall canyon (2<sup>nd</sup> highest waterfall in Mexico)



Now that Herb is home and spring is coming, we eagerly anticipate his peerless photos of peregrine falcons. But we also look forward to news and views from his next trip.



## Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2018

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

**Speaker: Herb Knüfken**, TPDS docent and photographer: Herb presented a fascinating slideshow of his Sept 2017 trip to the Copper Canyon in Mexico. (See the article on pg. 1 for details.)

**Santa Rosa Island Trip: Ray Barger** presented possibilities for a docent trip out to Santa Rosa Island. The trip would be a two-night excursion with flights from Camarillo, CA. The variables would be whether the trip is in early April or May; whether we stay in the CSU Channel Island Research Facility bunkhouse or camp; and whether we carpool or hire a bus. This would be for a maximum of 24 docents with a preferred number of around 16 docents. The cost would vary between \$475 and \$575. Ray had signup sheets; he said he would finalize the trip fairly soon, and then request prompt payment in advance.

**CEED Event: Joe Meyer** announced the next CEED event will be a Geology/Paleontology hike near Ocotillo, CA up Coyote Mountain on Wednesday, January 24. The hike will be led by **Joe Meyer** and **Wes Farmer**, investigating an ancient sea, marine fossils and more. Carpools will leave at 7:30am for a 9:30am arrival, and the hike will be 4 to 5 hours in duration.

Joe also reported that we had a record number of 30 hikers on January 1st for TPSNR First Day Hikes. He will report

the results of all First Day Hikes at our next General Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report: Ingo Renner** presented a financial review for 2017. Income exceeded expenses by almost \$5000, leaving the TPDS accounts in very good standing. **Highlights:** Museum Shop sales increased approximately 10%. The biggest outlay of funds goes to paying for buses, allowing Title One school students to attend our Children's Program. For details see the Treasurer's Report, YTD December 31, 2017 located on the bulletin board in the library, or go to our website, under Volunteering, Docent Logins, then Society Docs.

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Wes Farmer** was presented with an Excellence in Service and Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been a docent for more than 25 years and has volunteered more than 8000 hours for the good of TPSNR (see photo above).

**Road Clean-Up: Kristine Schindler** announced that Halozyme Therapeutics will again probably volunteer to do an Old Sorrento Valley Road clean-up, on the east side of Los Peñasquitas Preserve, in late February/early March. We will have an organized North Torrey Pines Road clean-up in March, but she encouraged "pop-up" (impromptu) clean-ups where a small group of docents do a clean-up on their own. When doing this, she emphasized the need for the buddy system and vigilance for the fast-moving bikes and cars.

**Parking Stickers:** **Louis Sands** and **Jeannie Smith** passed out 2018 parking stickers as well as CA County Park and CA State Park entry passes for those docents achieving 100 and 200 hours respectively. If you were not present at the General Meeting, see any park aide to get your sticker and pass.

**Docent of the Month:** **Jane Barger** for all her work at Lodge hosting, TIK talking, heading up Budding Botanists' ethnobotany research, making the TIK shell game and shell display in the museum drawers, and giving a special talk on local Oceanography/Marine Biology.

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

Meeting ended at 10:31 am.

## Children's Program

by *Louis Sands, Program Coordinator*

The children's program is in full swing again! Our program days are Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, plus the first Friday of each month. Visit the docent website for specific program theme and school information, and join the fun!

Thinking back to an August training session with our esteemed program founder, Barbara Wallach, I wanted to remind all new and returning docents of some walk-leader opportunities that Barbara shared with the training participants:

- 1) As an icebreaker, ask each child to state her name and favorite animal. Ask her if she expects to find her animal at the Reserve and if her animal has any adaptations.
- 2) Engage the children's senses. For example, place an object in each child's hand, and ask her to describe what she feels; fill old film containers with various items, and ask the children to match the containers based on sound. Feel free to involve chaperones in these activities as well.
- 3) Fill clear plastic CD containers with soil. Have the children break into pairs and ask each couple to identify the living and non-living things in the container.
- 4) For geology-themed days, have the children make sand by breaking down concretions; use strainers, and ask them to evaluate the different sizes of sand grains.
- 5) Lastly, always bring a small bag of trash to initiate a discussion on recycling and conservation. Leave each child with a sense of accountability and the power to make a difference.

We welcome every docent's unique, creative talents. Please join us, and share them with our deserving youth!

## Docent of the Month:

### Jane Barger

I grew up as a child near Cleveland, Ohio, where my father worked for NASA. We had a large deciduous forest in back of our house, where I spent most of my time looking at the plants and animals, including reptiles and insects. I would bring home fireflies, butterflies, caterpillars and more in jars. I'd keep them on my dresser in my bedroom (much to my mother's dismay) before I released them. We spent summers on an island in Lake Erie, where I learned to hike, fish and camp. I became an avid beachcomber, picking up shells and driftwood on the beach.



My father, who was an outdoorsman, had been to California on business. He decided to move the family and took a position at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). I was in awe of the natural beauty and diversity of California. My father would take us on backpacking trips, to the Pacific Ocean, and boating on lakes.

After college, I got married, moved to San Diego, and worked as a cardiac nurse specialist RN for 37 years. Early in our marriage, my husband and I were avid scuba divers and enjoyed exploring the underwater world of the Pacific Ocean. We moved to Carmel Valley in the 1980's, and I quickly found TP Beach and Reserve - very special and magical places. After retirement, I met **Janie Killermann**, who impressed me with her warmth, knowledge, and love of the Reserve. I knew I wanted to join the docent group.

In the past decade, I landscaped my home with CA native plants. Along the way I accumulated a lot of knowledge about native plants and their uses. I'm now an advocate of helping people remove semi-tropical non-natives and grasses, and instead plant CA natives which save water, and bring back native pollinators, birds and animals. My other love is the ocean and its ecosystems. I hope to continue the Oceans branch of interpretation that Park Aide **Johnson Jou** and I launched last year. I've learned so much from the wealth of knowledge of other docents, and I am so grateful to be part of such a wonderful group of dedicated people.

## Broken Hill: Still Under Construction

*Photoessay by Wes Farmer*

In August, I hiked along the Broken Hill Trail to explore the rebuilding project. A few images will give an idea of progress before the trail is open officially. Many stones were placed into already eroded areas on and off trail. Quite a job moving so many tons of stone and placing them to support the trail once the surface is added. No future erosion there to be expected. A new bridge expanse constructed to transverse a place where rainwater pools, perhaps making a vernal pool.

From the images, you can be pleased with the progress the workers have made. Hopefully their work will withstand the winter rainstorms. Rainwater raises questions; do you see any that might be generated from images presented?





"Pterodactyl" above Reserve Photo by Wes Farmer

## Torrey Pines Book Club

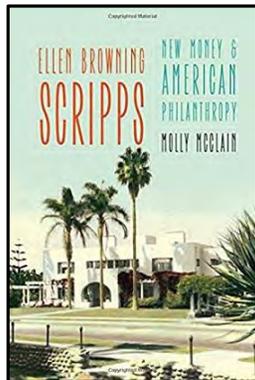
**When:** Tuesday, February 13, 2:00 pm

**Where:** Marty Jacobson's home in La Jolla

**What:** *Ellen Browning Scripps: New Money and American Philanthropy* by Molly McClain

From Amazon:

*Molly McClain tells the remarkable story of Ellen Browning Scripps (1836–1932), an American newspaperwoman, feminist, suffragist, abolitionist, and social reformer who used her fortune to support women's education, the labor movement, and public access to science, the arts, and education....*



*In Ellen Browning Scripps McClain brings to life an extraordinary woman who played a vital role in the history of women, California, and the American West.*

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

**March 14:** *Tidewater* by Libby Hawker.

## Trail Patrol Training

by Annette Ring

The 2018 Trail Patrol class is scheduled for Sunday, February 25 at 1:00 pm at the Children's area near the Lodge (unless it rains, then we'll be in the video room). Materials and quizzes will be sent out ahead of time to those who let me know they want to attend. Docents who wish to attend but didn't sign up at the last General Meeting can email me. (Check Member List for email.)

All docents are welcome, those new to Trail Patrol along with any current Trail Patrollers who want a refresher class.

For those new to Trail Patrol, the three requirements for joining the team and getting the Trail Patrol patch are:

- 1) Complete the quiz (both TPSNR info and map portions).
- 2) Attend the Ranger class given by Ranger Kyle on February 25.
- 3) Hike with a docent experienced at Trail Patrol.



## February CEED Event

**Date:** Saturday, February 17th, 2018

**Time:** 9:30 am arrive, show starts @ 10:00 am

**Place:** HAWKWATCH Raptor Event  
Begent Ranch

18528 Highland Valley Rd

Ramona, CA 92065

**Duration:** 2 hrs. (free parking, coffee, donuts)

**Leaders:** Wild Wings Personnel

See [wildlife-research.org/hawk-watch](http://wildlife-research.org/hawk-watch) for more info

# Bird of the Month: Cedar Waxwing

by Jack Friery

Our featured bird this month is the **Cedar Waxwing**, *Bombycilla cedrorum*. This lovely bird is a winter visitor to San Diego and is usually seen in flocks numbering dozens of birds. The common name, waxwing, describes the red tips of the bird's secondary wing feathers, which look to have been dipped in sealing wax.

The Cedar Waxwing is one of the few North American birds that specializes in eating fruit. (They love the berries of garden pyracantha shrubs, or our native toyon, as we see in our picture.) They can survive on fruit alone for several months. However, they can become intoxicated if they eat too many overripe fermented berries.

Flocks of waxwings have been described as "nomadic"—they patrol until they find a productive patch of berry bushes.

What's a flock of waxwings called? An "ear-full" or a "museum" of waxwings!

Sources: [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cedar\\_Waxwing/id](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cedar_Waxwing/id),

[audubon.org/field-guide/bird/cedar-waxwing](http://audubon.org/field-guide/bird/cedar-waxwing)

[identify.whatbird.com/obj/159/\\_Cedar\\_Waxwing.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/159/_Cedar_Waxwing.aspx).



Photo by Herb Knüfken

## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: January 6, 2018

**Number of species: 87**  
(+1 other taxon)

Blue-winged Teal 2  
Gadwall 22  
American Wigeon 32  
Northern Pintail 30  
Canvasback 7  
Lesser Scaup 16  
Bufflehead 14  
Red-breasted Merganser 7  
Ruddy Duck 4  
California Quail 13  
Red-throated Loon 1  
Pied-billed Grebe 2  
Western Grebe 251  
Clark's Grebe 1  
Double-crested Cormorant 67  
Brown Pelican 27  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Great Egret 5  
Snowy Egret 2  
White-tailed Kite 3  
Northern Harrier 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Red-tailed Hawk 4  
American Coot 16  
Black-bellied Plover 5  
Pacific Golden-Plover 1  
Semipalmated Plover 32  
Whimbrel 3  
Long-billed Curlew 2  
Marbled Godwit 4  
Sanderling 19  
Long-billed Dowitcher 3  
Spotted Sandpiper 1  
Greater Yellowlegs 1  
Willet 8  
Heermann's Gull 19  
Ring-billed Gull 18  
Western Gull 20  
California Gull 5  
Royal Tern 6  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 3  
Mourning Dove 36  
Barn Owl 1  
Great Horned Owl 2  
White-throated Swift 50  
Anna's Hummingbird 60  
Allen's Hummingbird 15  
hummingbird sp. 20

Belted Kingfisher 1  
Nuttall's Woodpecker 8  
Downy Woodpecker 2  
Northern Flicker 2  
American Kestrel 6  
Merlin 1  
Black Phoebe 16  
Say's Phoebe 15  
Cassin's Kingbird 6  
Hutton's Vireo 1  
Cassin's Vireo 1  
California Scrub-Jay 6  
American Crow 19  
Common Raven 16  
Bushtit 102  
Rock Wren 1  
House Wren 6  
Bewick's Wren 4  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1  
California Gnatcatcher 17  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3  
Wrentit 55  
Western Bluebird 3  
Hermit Thrush 9  
California Thrasher 6  
Northern Mockingbird 4

Cedar Waxwing 26  
Orange-crowned Warbler 2  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 106  
Townsend's Warbler 1  
White-crowned Sparrow 92  
Golden-crowned Sparrow 3  
Song Sparrow 33  
California Towhee 55  
Spotted Towhee 5  
Red-winged Blackbird 2  
House Finch 45  
Lesser Goldfinch 58  
American Goldfinch 4  
House Sparrow 12

**Observers:** Frank Wong, Jim Wilson, Kathy Dickey, Marty Hales, Mark Embree, Steve Neal, Andy Rathbone, Eva Armi, David Walker, Deborah Walker, Bob Glaser, Tsaiwei Olee, Charlotte Morris, Valerie Broom, Gary Grantham, and Anonymous

View this checklist online at [ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41963562](http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41963562)

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



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