



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 401

October 2018

## Birth of a Pavilion

by Ingo Renner

Three years ago, a group was established to research the possibility of building a roofed structure for hosting our popular Children's Program. The plastic carport tents we had were falling apart, allowing moisture from rain and fog to dampen the children's benches. Supervising ranger **Dylan Hardenbrook**, Park aide **Louis Sands**, Torrey Pines Association members **Ken King** and Adam Gevanthor, and I spent many meetings discussing designs, structure material, location and logistics until we agreed upon the final selection. We decided upon a prefabricated kit made of Western Red Cedar and manufactured in New York by Pergola Kits USA.

Two months later, it arrived on a 75-foot flatbed trailer, which was staged on the shoulder of Coast Highway down by the golf course. After renting the largest forklift (photo below) that we could find, Rangers **Dylan Hardenbrook** and **Nicole Van Doren** (who works in the North Sector), along with **Georgia Schneider** and her gang of talented maintenance workers, spent most of the day transporting



### Docent General Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, October 13, 9 am

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

**Speaker:** Judy Schulman

**Topic:** Historic Postcards of Torrey Pines

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

these monstrous beams up the narrow Park Road to its current location just east of the Lodge. Maintenance workers then leveled the building pad, laid out the redwood perimeter, and poured six concrete anchors for mounting the main support columns.

At this point maintenance workers were joined by our docent Seabees group, and with Dylan as our foreman, we assembled the structure in about four meetings. Laying the asphalt roofing shingles took another two days, and we even had Ranger **Kyle Knox** up there helping us! All in all, this project was a terrific success thanks to the teamwork of State rangers, maintenance staff, the Torrey Pines Docent Society, the Torrey Pines Association, and the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation.

Now starts a fun new challenge for the Docent Society: creating the next chapter of thematic interpretive programs for the public. We will seek your input and support, so stay tuned!

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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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Roger Isaacson

Mark Embree

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

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

**Park Aides:** Tyler Best, Cheryl Biernacki, Krista DeBusschere, Joy Inton, Shawn Jacobs, Johnson Jou (Interpreter)

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

## Barn Raising at the New Pavilion

*Photos by Herb Knüfken*



## Docent of the Month:

### Leigh Fenly

Photo by Herb Knüfken

I grew up along the bayous of Houston, Texas, and have been forever since influenced by all that runs deep and mysterious in nature. But it wasn't until I moved to San Diego in the mid-1970s that I really fell in love with a landscape - the chilly ocean waters, the hills and canyons. Then I had to wait for kids to grow up and careers to conclude (I was a reporter and science editor at *The San Diego Union-Tribune*) to pursue the dream of deeply connecting with landscape and nature.



Since becoming a docent in 2016, I've experienced all the richness that comes from knowing the song of the cicada and the biting taste of lemonadeberry. Every time I drive up to the Lodge now, I think I'm the luckiest person in the world: I have been taught so much about the place I love and I'm likely in the next few hours to learn more. And, I can share it!

My favorite activities have been the TIK, where I like to be most Fridays, and also the weekend and holiday nature hikes. I've had so many lovely encounters with visitors from close by and far away, pointing out old trapdoor spider homes or a trail of busy harvester ants. I wouldn't know any of this without the impressive training and the care so many took to ensure I would become a happy docent. Thank you, **Joe Meyer**, my mentor, and **Jeannie Smith**!

And now I'm just looking forward to doing more.

## Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

On September 11, enthusiastic Children's Program docents met to plan and prepare for the 2018-19 school year. We really enjoy each other's company, so it was a treat to spend time with friends we hadn't seen for months! **Debi Buffington** taught us a geology dance to help students remember tectonic plate movements.

Our first program day was September 25, with students from Paul Ecke Central (Encinitas). We emphasized "Reserve, Plants and Habitats" as we shared our love of TPSNR with these excited 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Ginormous thanks** to each and every awesome Children's Program docent! Kudos for signing up in advance and arriving full of passion. 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!

Although eager teachers have nearly filled our schedule for the entire school year, we still have plenty of openings for docent hike leaders and presenters. If you are interested in joining or wish to see what it is all about, visit the Children's Program sign-up on the docent website to check the time, dates, and programs. This year we will again offer field trips every Tuesday and Thursday, plus the first Friday of each month. No need to sign up online until you are ready to lead a group by yourself. Just text Louis at [tpsnr.childrensprogram@yahoo.com](mailto:tpsnr.childrensprogram@yahoo.com) so we can match you up with an experienced hike leader. We'd love to have you join us!

## Wine in the Pines Fundraiser

### Benefiting The Historic Lodge's Restoration!

*Artisan pizzas, fine wines and beer, local artists,  
music, and a silent auction of great gifts  
from our many sponsors and donors.*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018**

**4 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

*at the Historic Lodge/Visitors Center inside the Reserve*

**TICKETS \$75 (BEFORE OCT. 1), \$95 (AFTER)**

**PARKING FEE INCLUDED.**

**TICKETS ON SALE AT [TORREYPINES.ORG](http://TORREYPINES.ORG)**

**INFORMATION: 858-437-7371**

## Pavilion in the Pines Grand Opening

by Ingo Renner; photos courtesy of Herb Knüpfen

Under the full moon of the autumn equinox, the Torrey Pines Docent Society hosted its “Pavilion in the Pines” grand opening celebration. The auspicious timing was perfect for sharing delicious potluck food, laughs, and gossip among friends. New trainees were welcomed into the fold, and everybody gazed in awe at our new Pavilion, lit up with lights and graced by light jazz from Chuck’s iPhone. It was a perfect evening, crowned by a night hike through Guy Fleming in search of glowing, fluorescent scorpions as we were serenaded by screeching owls.

Of course, such a successful event doesn’t happen on its own, so I must thank all of the docent volunteers who helped with setup, teardown, and cleanup. And thanks to all of the 100-plus docents who showed up with good cheer and great food to share. So, what’s our next fun event? Movie and popcorn night under the Pavilion? Sounds good to me!





Potluck food tables under the new pavilion. Note the TV screen, upper center, that can be used for Powerpoint slide shows.



Moonlight hike after the Evening in the Pines potluck  
Moonlight Photos by Marian Edelbrock



One of the 17 scorpions found with TPDS UV (black light) flashlights during the hike

See Google Group link: [Click here](#)



Photo by Marian Edelbrock

### CEED Event

- There is no scheduled CEED event in October
- Save the Date: November 9 is the next outing.
- Time, place, and details will be on the Google Group and November *Torreyana*

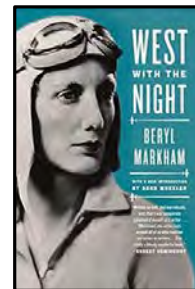
## Torrey Pines Book Club

**When:** Tuesday, October 9, 2:00 pm

**Where:** Alison & Greg Howard's home in Olivenhain

**What:** *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham

Amazon says: *West with the Night* is a true classic, a book that deserves the same acclaim and readership as the work of her contemporaries Ernest Hemingway, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Isak Dinesen. If the first responsibility of a memoirist is to lead a life worth writing about, Markham succeeded beyond all measure. Born Beryl Clutterbuck in the middle of England, she and her father moved to Kenya when she was a girl, and she grew up with a zebra for a pet; horses for friends; baboons, lions, and gazelles for neighbors. She made money by scouting elephants from a tiny plane. And she would spend most of the rest of her life in East Africa as an adventurer, a racehorse trainer, and an aviatrix – she became the first person to fly nonstop from Europe to America, the first woman to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic. Hers was indisputably a life full of adventure and beauty.



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

**November 13:** *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson

### State of the Torrey Pine

The TPA (Torrey Pines Association) has recently funded a survey on the state of the Torrey pine tree. See their website, [torreypines.org](http://torreypines.org) for more info. Here is a portion of their announcement:

*The survey employed state-of-the-art GPS technology to map every tree's location with a variable of only a few feet. How did they get to trees that were inaccessible? Cara tells us, "Trees growing on difficult terrain were mapped and measured using rangefinders. Azimuth and distance from the tree were used to determine accuracy; in most cases, measuring diameter at breast height (DBH) remotely proved to be fairly accurate."*

*OK, how about the results? **The Reserve has 3,793 trees in all stages of maturity (mature, sub-adult, and sapling), down from the last survey in 2006 that found 4,672 - a loss of 21%!***

*We're sorry to tease you by not including more details, but let's wait another month as scientists fully analyze the data and make recommendations. We'll report back soon!*

## Bird of the Month: House Wren

by Jack Friery; photo courtesy of Herb Knüfken.

Our featured bird this month is the **House Wren**, *Troglodytes aedon*. The House Wren is 4 ½ to 5 inches long and weighs from 10 to 12 grams – about as much as two quarters. The bird is a subdued shade of brown and carries its relatively long tail cocked high. Watch for the House Wren buried deep in brush piles or singing its bubbly song high in a local tree. The bird's scientific name is Greek. "Troglodytes" is Greek for a cave dweller (the bird does nest in tree cavities). "Aedon" refers to a story in Greek mythology concerning Aedon, the daughter of Pandereus, who was changed into a nightingale by the gods.

And, in modern mythology, *Troglodytes Aedon* was one of the two pets of King Friday the XIII on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

Sources: [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rock\\_Wren/id](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rock_Wren/id); Choate, *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House\\_wren](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_wren).

Video: [youtu.be/Uv80hrXnSHU](https://youtu.be/Uv80hrXnSHU).



## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: September 1, 2018

Number of species: 73  
(+3 other taxa)

Unusual sp. Bolded

Mallard 18  
Surf Scoter 1  
California Quail 3  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 3  
Mourning Dove 36  
White-throated Swift 1  
Anna's Hummingbird 20  
Allen's Hummingbird 12  
hummingbird sp. 1  
Whimbrel 1  
Least Sandpiper 5  
Spotted Sandpiper 1  
Willet 1  
Heermann's Gull 17  
Western Gull 23  
California Gull 15  
Caspian Tern 2  
Forster's Tern 1

Royal Tern 6  
loon sp. 1  
Brandt's Cormorant 4  
Double-crested Cormorant 5  
Brown Pelican 52  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Great Egret 8  
Snowy Egret 14  
Green Heron 2  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 4  
Osprey 1  
White-tailed Kite 2  
Cooper's Hawk 5  
Red-shouldered Hawk 3  
Red-tailed Hawk 3  
**Barn Owl 1**  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Nuttall's Woodpecker 10  
American Kestrel 5  
Peregrine Falcon 2  
Western Wood-Pewee 3  
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 13  
Black Phoebe 13  
Say's Phoebe 2

Ash-throated Flycatcher 2  
Cassin's Kingbird 8  
Hutton's Vireo 5  
California Scrub-Jay 8  
American Crow 27  
Common Raven 10  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3  
Barn Swallow 24  
Cliff Swallow 3  
Bushtit 104  
**White-breasted Nuthatch 1**  
Rock Wren 1  
House Wren 6  
Marsh Wren 2  
Bewick's Wren 13  
wren sp. 1  
California Gnatcatcher 19  
Wrentit 25  
Western Bluebird 2  
California Thrasher 23  
Northern Mockingbird 2  
House Finch 93  
Lesser Goldfinch 25

Song Sparrow 24  
California Towhee 50  
Spotted Towhee 19  
Yellow-breasted Chat 1  
Red-winged Blackbird 50  
Orange-crowned Warbler 4  
**MacGillivray's Warbler 2**  
Common Yellowthroat 12  
Wilson's Warbler 1  
Western Tanager 2  
Black-headed Grosbeak 5

**Observers:** Frank Wong, Kathy Dickey, Marty Hales, Andy Rathbone, Kim Grambling, David Grambling, Margaret Fillius, Jim Wilson, Bob Glaser, Herb Knüfken, Jack Friery, David Walker, Gary Grantham, Maryanne Bache, and Anonymous

View this checklist online at [ebird.org/view/checklist/S48598146](http://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48598146)

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



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