



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 404

January 2019

Holiday Party 2018 Welcomes 19 New Docents

by Joan R. Simon Photos by Herb Knüfken

On December 8, the sun was shining (after many days of rain) and the food was plentiful and delicious (as it always is) as the docents gathered for another wonderful holiday party at Torrey Circle behind the Lodge.

President **Ingo Renner** introduced **Janet Ugalde**, who was awarded Docent of the Year for all the work she has done for the Reserve: as Children's Program director for the past 4 years (and continuing in 2019); as training coordinator for the docent Class of 2019; and for updating the Docent Society's policies and procedures to bring them in line with other organizations of our size.

Janet was also introduced as next year's Docent Society president, along with the rest of the new board: **Ingo Renner**, vice president; **Steve Neal**, secretary; **Gerry Lawrence**, treasurer; and at-large board members **Pao Chau**, **Mark Embree**, **Roger Isaacson**, **Stu Rosenwasser**, and **Lynne Truong**. **Ingo** thanked **Barbara Krueger** and **Ray Barger**, who are retiring from the board, for their service as treasurer and vice president respectively.

In addition, Lifetime memberships were given to three docents from the Class of 2009 and one from the class of 2008 who have served for 10 years: **Wayne Kornreich**, **Darlene Martineau**, **Margaret Pluth** and **Kathleen Dewhurst** (2008). (Photo on pg. 8.)

Docent Class of 2018

The biggest pleasure at the holiday party was welcoming 19 docent graduates who completed their training in early December: **Molly Allison**, **Christina Altringer**, **Laura Chaing**, **Medi Denker**, **Marian Edelbrock**, **Serena Gradel**, **Thomas Holland**, **Phyllis Kuszner**, **Jim Levin**, **Sandy Levin**, **Mitch Marzec**, **Alan Perlman**. **Sophia Steen**, **Dana Suberi**, **Malana Tabak**, **Myrna Trust**,

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, January 12, 9:00 am

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

Speaker: R. Bruce Allison, Forest and Wildlife Ecology Dept., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Topic: Pine Bark Beetle Decay Detection

Consulting arborist R. Bruce Allison is an author, educator, researcher and inventor. He is an internationally recognized expert in advanced technology in tree decay detection and tree risk assessment. He will demonstrate the tools he has developed to help manage forests like ours at Torrey Pines

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **A-B-C** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

Zuzana Volny, Deborah Walker, and Rosemary Wareham (photo pg. 8).

The new class of docents has already far exceeded expectations. In previous years, when trainees graduated in June, they were given the job of organizing the holiday party and decorating the Lodge. This year the training program was moved from spring to fall, and everyone agreed it was too soon to ask the new (still-in-training) class to undertake this assignment. Nevertheless, when the request went out at the November general meeting for someone to chair the event, trainees **Deborah Walker** and **Myrna Trust** stepped forward to offer their support, and Deborah

(cont. on pg. 3)

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Supervising Ranger: Dylan Hardenbrook

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.

President's Letter:

New Year's greetings from the Torrey Pines Docent Society Board of Directors. We wish you a joyful 2019, sharing the majesties and mysteries of our Reserve with visitors.

I am honored to be chosen to lead this dedicated, passionate group of individuals, who strive toward the common cause of care and protection for Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.

I salute our past president and board for their many successes, including our excellent new pavilion. This year, in addition to hosting a fine children's program, the pavilion will offer monthly presentations -- suggestions are welcome.

We will need to work together this year to manage some administrative issues. Not as fun or glamorous as we might prefer, but as children's program docents like to say: "Things change, whether you like it or not. It's how you adapt that counts."

See you on the trail.

Janet Ugalde
President, TPDS



America's State Parks First Day Hikes 2019 is a national initiative supported by State Parks in all 50 states. Last year close to 50 California state parks hosted more than 80 hikes and outings. Join a hike at TPSNR on January 1, 2019, at 10 am or 2 pm.



Joe Meyer (1st row center) and Rick Vogel (2nd row) leading a 2018 First Day Hike

(cont from pg. 1)

also took charge of the of the Lodge decorations.

Ingo thanked Deborah and Myrna for their leadership, but Deborah was quick to point out that it was a “whole class effort, not just us.” Ingo chimed in that he had rarely seen “such a devoted and energetic” group.

Speaking on behalf of the class of 2018, Deborah thanked the trainers and docent teachers with (mostly) gag gifts.

Margaret Fillius walked off with an indescribably lush hat.



Photo by Herb Knufken

and **Barbara Wallach** was presented with a boxful of helpful items to show off whenever someone asks “What’s in your vest?”



Photo by Mitch Marsec

Ingo was lauded as a “Renaissance Man” with prints of Leonardo da Vinci and his work.



Photo by Herb Knufken

What more can we expect from the class of 2018? Already this fall two trainees, **Serena Grädel** and **Dana Suberi**, have been working with the Whacky Weeders, and **Thomas Holland** is looking forward to “going off trail” with the group starting in the new year. **Medi Denker** said she’d like to work at the TIK and Lodge but was also interested in helping **Joe Meyer** with ordering T-shirts, having worked at Saks 5th Avenue in New York. **Sandy Levin** expressed interest in helping **Gloria Garrett** with her Mindfulness program, among other things, and suggested that her husband **Jim** “will do whatever I do.” **Mitch Marzec**, who always has a camera in his hand, was eager to be a Roving Interpreter. **Sophia Steen** said “I’m really interested in almost all of it.”

There were many volunteers for the Children’s Program, a number of them former teachers; expressing interest were **Laura Chaing**, **Malana Tabak**, and **Myrna Trust**, to name a few. Even more of the new docents wanted to try out the TIK and Lodge hosting. It seems likely we’ll be seeing a lot of the Class of 2019. As **Marian Edelbrock**, one of the new docents, said, “Our year is a happy, congenial group. We’re so lucky.” And so is the Torrey Pines Docent Society to have them.

(More photos on next page and page 8.)



Class of 2019 members L-R Christina Altringer, Myrna Trust, Rosemary Wareham, Marian Edlelbrock, Jim Levin, Sandy Levin, Medi Denker, Deborah Walker, Serena Gradel, Molly Allison, Dana Suberi, Alan Perlman, Phyllis Kuszner, Thomas Holland, Malana Tabak, Mitch Marzac, Sofia Steen, Zuzana Volny Not shown: Laura Chaing Photos by Herb Knüfken



Linda Zlotnik receiving a beautiful custom clipboard



Deborah Walker presenting fancy pointers to Bruce and Patty Montgomery

Children's Program

By Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator

On December 4, the Children's Program docents met to share our best walk-leader practices: props/activities used, stories told, and herding-cats strategies employed! Thanks to all who could attend.

When working with young children, as many of you know, any reference to POOP is always a crowd-pleaser. Thanks to Party-Parts Patty's Partner (4 P's!), we now know the words to the following cute and memorable rhyme that I am sure docents will recite often:

It comes outta you, and it comes outta me.

It starts with an "S", and it ends with a "T".

I know what you're thinking, but don't call it that.

Be scientific and call it SCAT.

No, alcohol was not served at this event, but we did have fun! For more walk-leader ideas and suggestions, check out our website's Children's Program links:

torreypine.org/volunteering/childrens-program-login/



Dec 4 meeting of Children's Program leaders

2018 TPDS Highlights

by Ingo Renner

As 2018 comes to a close, it's time for a brief review of our Docent Society highlights of the year. They began with our participation in "First Day Hikes," a national event that sported 30 visitors hiking our trails on January 1. "Earth Day in the Pines" in April brought hundreds to the Reserve to enjoy our wonderful docent-staffed interpretive booths, live animals, and children's crafts. We also sponsored a Kumeyaay cultural exchange in August, where members of local tribes spoke to us about native plants and took a tule reed raft into the ocean. Docents got a special treat in September with an evening "potluck in the pines" and a full-moon hike to celebrate the end of a busy summer.

Several changes took place in docent policies this year. "Trail Patrol" was changed to "Roving Interpreter," to better align with our mission and State guidelines. Annual hours will be increased to 84 starting in 2019, to bring us closer to

Docent of the Year: Janet Ugalde

Photo by Herb Knüfken

Thank you for this honor. I feel grateful and blessed to receive the TPDS Docent of the Year award. It means a lot to me to be acknowledged by such an awesome group.

I clearly remember my first visit to the Reserve, in the fall of 2006. Having recently moved to San Diego County, I asked my husband, "What am I going to do while you play golf?" Without hesitation, he drove me to TPSNR. That first visit, after hiking several trails, I walked into the Visitor Center and signed up for docent training. I knew I was home. But I didn't realize then that I was joining such an accomplished and devoted group.

Now I refer to you as "my people." I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness, commitment, and willingness to share your time and talents.

I look forward to many more years of working beside you to protect and care for our Reserve.



the State's 100-hour regional parking pass requirement. Our training program was moved from the spring to the fall and included on-the-trail training, which the new trainees really appreciated.

For the third year, continuing education for docents was arranged by **Joe Meyer** with his monthly CEED events, and **Barbara Wallach** and **Pao Chau** with their OAKS walks. **Ray Barger** arranged a special 3-day outing to Santa Rosa Island in May and also enhanced our geology offering with a new display case, 3D map and brochures (see article on pg. 6). Through cooperation with State Parks, the TPA, Reserve maintenance, and the Seabees, we completed the new Children's/Interpretive Pavilion in September.

Of course there are many important daily and weekly tasks performed by all the docents and groups which should be highlighted. So thanks to everyone for your time and devotion in keeping the Reserve running smoothly.

Torrey Pines Book Club

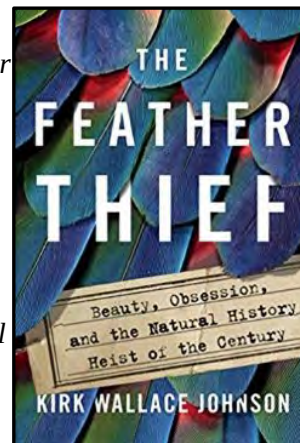
When: Tuesday, January 8, 1:00 pm

Where: The Kuczenskis in University City

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

Amazon says:

On a cool June evening in 2009, after performing a concert at London's Royal Academy of Music, twenty-year-old American flautist Edwin Rist boarded a train for a suburban outpost of the British Museum of Natural History. Home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world, the Tring museum was full of rare bird specimens whose gorgeous feathers were worth staggering amounts of money to the men who shared Edwin's obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Once inside the museum, the champion fly-tier grabbed hundreds of bird skins—some collected 150 years earlier by a contemporary of Darwin's, Alfred Russel Wallace, who'd risked everything to gather them—and escaped into the darkness.



[Click here for full Amazon text and then click on More](#)

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

February 12: *The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats* by Daniel Stone

Museum Geology Map Display Ready for Docents & Visitors

by Ray Barger

This December, our TPDS Geology and Seabee teams completed a new, accessible Geology Map Display located on the rear, west Lodge porch outside the museum.

The geology map display is a 3D topographical representation of the TPSNR, including the main Reserve, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, the Extension and adjacent areas. Details shown on the map include Reserve hiking trails, local roads, freeways, the railroad track and local area boundaries. Accessible-compliant signage within the clear Plexiglass cover includes legends, coordinates, interpretive questions & answers, and descriptive labels.

The geology map display is available to support our Children's Program, docent-led nature & special walks, and interpretation for our visitors to the Lodge museum. The red-dashed accessible trail shown on the map identifies the walk documented in the recently created Self-Guided Geology Walk brochure. Copies of the four-fold brochure can be found in the holder on the leftside of the Geology Map Display cabinet.

The 3' x4' geology map portrays an area of approximately 2 miles of coastline (north-south) by approximately 1.5 miles of inland area (east-west). Each layer, or ~3/8" physical slice of the map, represents a 20' topographical elevation contour. Each contour aligns with those depicted in our TP formal brochure map on the State Park website parks.ca.gov/pages/657/files/TorreyPinesFinalWebLayout_012016.pdf. The map displays surface geology -- namely,

what we walk on when we're out on our trails. The surface and strata generally align with the surface geology map on our website (see: torreypine.org/nature-center/geology/rock-formations/). To highlight the topography of the Reserve's cliffs and canyons, the vertical aspect of the map is exaggerated by ~5 times.

Creating, building and finishing the map display was a collaborative project between the TPDS and High Tech High (HTH) High School in San Marcos, CA. **Ray Barger** (TPDS) and Kieran Cunningham (HTH) (photo below) were project leads. HTH completed the 3D map elevation dataset conversion, the slice fabrication and painting, and the assembly of the layers. TPDS completed the map, the features/details, the signage, and the cover and mounting base.

The TPDS Geology Team includes **Ray Barger, Debi Buffington, Jeannie Smith** and **Barbara Wallach**.

Seabees participating in the exhibit effort were **Ingo Renner** and **Frank Burham**. Additionally, **Guy Lawrie** and **Jane Barger** provided map support, and Supervising Ranger **Dylan Hardenbrook** and **Lillian Lachicotte** helped with accessibility and final map placement.



At the Reserve: A Good Samaritan

by Barbara Krueger

This entire year as Treasurer of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, I had not seen any money come in from the donation box at the end of the road just past the South Broken Hill Trail. I had been told very little money is put in there, and it only needs to be emptied occasionally. So on a recent Sunday my husband **Sheldon** and I took the key for the donation box and hiked down the road from the Lodge. We discovered the only way to access the lock is by lying on your back, half on the road edge and partly hanging over the dirt and vegetation. You look up the hole in the back of the box and reach up to put the key in the lock a few inches above the opening. With two hands up the hole, we couldn't feel what we were doing. I kept watching people hiking the road until I saw a lone gentleman with a pack on his back. I asked if he was on a tight schedule, and was thrilled to hear he wasn't. So we called him over and he was willing to lie on his back and could see what he was doing, and opened the box. We lifted the metal box, found the tray to pull it out, which dropped whatever was in the box into the bottom of the tower.

Looking down we saw bills and trash. My arms were too short, as were my husband's, and our good Samaritan, Jarrat, had long enough arms, but they were too buff. So we secured two sticks and used them as grabbers and pulled up bills, a few at a time, along with the trash. I saw a \$5 bill and was intent on bringing it up. Jarrat saw \$10 and no way was he quitting before it was brought up. When we finished pulling up the money, \$74 in all, we closed up the box knowing there was lots of change left behind -- but without chewing gum or some sort of grabber, there was no hope.

We thanked Jarrat and gave him permission to continue his walk north on the road, faster than we might be walking. No way. He walked at our pace and so we had an opportunity to

tell him about the history of the Reserve, using the display boards we passed: Camp Callen, the road from LA to San Diego, the Lodge as a place to stop for a meal in the early days, going down the hill backwards if you were low on gas. He loved it all. He made us feel that all the time he took to help us was worth the reward to learn about the magic and beauty of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Jarrat is from Pennsylvania and was here on a business trip. But he said he would make a point of coming back.



Torrey Pines has made a big difference in the life of Sheldon and me. And now we have passed on our appreciation of this place to another. That is why we are docents and continue to share the wonder of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve with visitors.

Expected (and Unexpected) Tech Changes

by Roger Isaacson

In 2019, we will have some new challenges. First, a long-planned easy one: we will have a credit card “chip” reader soon in the Museum Shop. We will be able to more securely process the new credit cards as they do now in nearly all stores. Apple Pay and similar pay methods will be supported. We will have as many instructional sessions as needed for Lodge hosts to become comfortable with the now-common modern system.

Two months ago the State notified us that volunteer management software was being standardized to a new worldwide system called **Better Impact**. This saves considerable time for park aides who create volunteer activity reports throughout the year. In many parks there are volunteers who work at more than one park, and that aspect is built into the system.

Very early in 2019 we plan to switch over from Volgistics to **Better Impact**. Each docent will soon receive a username/password to start using Opportunities (now called Assignments in Volgistics) for signing up on our calendars (Lodge hosting, Public Walks, TIK, etc.) and to enter their service hours. There will be a host of ways to learn the BI system, including instructional sessions at the Lodge and YouTube videos. (The new system even allows docents to correct their own errors!) Watch for announcements on the TPDS Google Group.

The Opportunities Tab image is shown here.



TPDS Executive Board for 2018 including 2019 members Lynne Truong and Gerry Lawrence on the right



New Lifetime members: Margaret Pluth, Wayne Kornreich, Darlene Martineau, and Kathleen Dewhurst



Allen's Hummingbird

by Jack Friery; photo courtesy of Herb Knüfken

Nature is dynamic. This is proven at Torrey Pines by a hummingbird that has become a recent permanent resident. Until not many years ago, San Diego saw only one year-round hummingbird -- the Anna's Hummingbird. Several other species merely migrated through. Then, a hummingbird that had previously been just a migrant visitor decided to stay all year. That's the **Allen's Hummingbird**, *Selasphorus sasin sedentarius*. (The subspecies name "sedentarius" indicates the bird is non-migratory -- it's sedentary, or "sits still.")

The sedentary race of Allen's Hummingbird was first spotted in the Channel Islands. In 1966, they began nesting on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County. By 1980, they had reached Orange County, and in 2001, they were first seen nesting at San Onofre in San Diego County. They have continued to spread south along the coast of San Diego County since then. (We first recorded Allen's Hummingbirds on our monthly Torrey Pines bird counts in June 2010.)

This splendid bird is green and copper-colored. It is about 3 ½ inches long, and weighs about 0.1 ounces. Watch for it at the top of tall trees, particularly in the Extension.

Sources: allaboutbirds.org/guide/Allens_Hummingbird/overview#

audubon.org/field-guide/bird/allens-hummingbird

nps.gov/chis/learn/nature/allens-hummingbird.htm; Unitt, *San Diego County Bird Atlas*, (2004), p. 313.



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: December 1, 2018

Number of species: 80
(+2 other taxa)

Northern Shoveler 1
Gadwall 4
American Wigeon 2
Mallard 5
Northern Pintail 15
Green-winged Teal 2
Lesser Scaup 10
Surf Scoter 50
Bufflehead 12
Red-breasted Merganser 5
Ruddy Duck 1
Pied-billed Grebe 4
Western Grebe 9
Mourning Dove 10
White-throated Swift 30
Anna's Hummingbird 46
Allen's Hummingbird 3
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 6
American Coot 24
Killdeer 6

Long-billed Curlew 4
Willet 2
Heermann's Gull 6
Ring-billed Gull 3
Western Gull 18
California Gull 60
Herring Gull 1
Caspian Tern 1
Royal Tern 1
Common Loon 1
Black-vented Shearwater 1
Brandt's Cormorant 8
Double-crested Cormorant 12
Brown Pelican 14
Great Egret 7
Snowy Egret 5
Black-crowned Night-Heron 2
White-faced Ibis 4
Osprey 1
White-tailed Kite 3
Northern Harrier 3
Cooper's Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 5
Belted Kingfisher 1

Nuttall's Woodpecker 14
Northern Flicker 5
American Kestrel 8
Merlin 2
Peregrine Falcon 2
Black Phoebe 12
Say's Phoebe 8
Cassin's Kingbird 22
California Scrub-Jay 2
American Crow 5
Common Raven 20
Bushtit 67
Rock Wren 1
House Wren 2
Bewick's Wren 2
wren sp. 1
California Gnatcatcher 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6
Wrentit 41
Western Bluebird 3
Hermit Thrush 1
California Thrasher 15
Northern Mockingbird 4
Cedar Waxwing 56

House Finch 46
Lesser Goldfinch 31
Dark-eyed Junco 2
White-crowned Sparrow 60
Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 8
California Towhee 39
Spotted Towhee 9
Red-winged Blackbird 50
Common Yellowthroat 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler 177
House Sparrow 1
Scaly-breasted Munia 1

Observers:

Frank Wong, Steve Neal,
Marty Hales, Andy Rathbone,
Becky Lindsay, Eva Armi,
David Walker, Jim Wilson,
Bob Glaser, Herb Knüfken,
Jack Friery, and Gary
Grantham

View this checklist online at ebird.org/view/checklist/S50717138

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



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