



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

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Listening to the Pines

by Dan Hammer

We have all seen dead or dying Torrey pines that are victims of the bark beetle. But before the signs of beetle infestation are visible, can we tell when an apparently healthy tree has been attacked?

Yes, we can – thanks to the Tree Check, the bioacoustic sonic wave tree decay detector that Dr. R. Bruce Allison has invented, used, and marketed as a tool to monitor and manage forests and urban tree populations. Dr. Allison, a professor in the University of Wisconsin Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, shared the history and uses of his invention during an engaging presentation to the January TPDS meeting.

He began with a paean to science as “the ability to see things in a way you might not otherwise have seen” and to scientists (such as Galileo, Newton, and Einstein) who saw what others missed. This led to a discussion of *emergent physics*, the process of considering factors outside the *micro* focus of study (or “taking a look at the larger picture”) in order to solve a problem.

Dr. Allison applied this approach in his 1999 Capitol Park Tree Stability Study. Using techniques that he had studied in Europe and adapted at the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, he analyzed the health of a wide variety of trees planted around the Wisconsin State Capitol. He identified 12 trees that were decayed enough to warrant removal, but state officials agreed to remove only 10. One of the two remaining decayed trees later fell over just as a class of fourth-graders walked underneath it. Thereafter, park and forest managers have paid closer attention to Dr. Allison’s warnings.

Dr. Allison employs non-destructive testing (NDT) to assess the health of trees. His chief approach is *piezoelectric* – that is, the internal generation of electrical charges to conduct a stress wave test. The Tree Check Sonic Wave

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 9, 9:00 am

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

Speaker: Michael Martino, former chief lifeguard for California State Parks and Lifeguard Service historian

Topic: History of Lifeguard Service in San Diego

As author of *Help! San Diego Lifeguards to the Rescue: A History of Their Service*, Mr. Martino will relate how a 1918 tragedy off the coast of Ocean Beach marked the start of the modern San Diego Lifeguard Service. With the anticipated 2019 opening of the Beach Interpretive Kiosk (BIK), Mr. Martino’s presentation will provide docents with ocean facts and interesting stories to share with the Reserve’s beach visitors.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **D-E-F** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

Tree Decay Detector uses two sensors on opposite sides of a tree trunk to measure an impact-induced sound wave’s transit time across the trunk. Sound passes more quickly through solid, defect-free wood. A larger-than-expected transit time per foot or meter can indicate internal hidden defects.

Other forms of NDT include *remote sensing* to measure the height, temperature, and nitrogen levels of various trees; and a *mini-microphone* (cost: \$6) to listen for bark beetle activity. A dedicated snowbird and



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

fan of Torrey Pines, Dr. Allison has spent the past 15 winters in the San Diego area, often conducting research at UCSD's Jacobs School of Engineering and studying our own Torrey pines at the Reserve. He says that the need to detect tree decay here is acute and apparent: Early identification could help TPSNR staff focus bark beetle eradication on trees in the early stage of decay. This could help them better maintain the Torrey pine population, which fell by 21 percent between 2006 and 2018.

During his talk, Dr. Allison quoted Thoreau's maxim: "It's not what you look at, it's what you see." When it comes to monitoring our Torrey pine population, that includes the sounds that scientists can see.

For more information on Tree Check and non-destructive tree decay detection, you can visit Dr. Allison's website at <https://allisontree.com>. If you have additional questions, you may contact Dr. Allison at rbuceallison@tds.net

General Meeting Minutes January 12, 2019

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by President **Janet Ugalde**.

Speaker: Dr R. Bruce Allison (Professor of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin) presented a fascinating lecture on tree decay and risk assessment (see the article on the front page).

President's Report: New President **Janet Ugalde** thanked **Ingo Renner** for three tremendous years as the TPDS president. (The docents present showed their agreement with a hearty round of applause.) A graph was presented that showed all the TPDS approved programs/committees/groups, along with the leader of that group, and the board liaison to the group. (This list is on our website under Volunteering, Society Docs, Liaison List; and it is posted on the Library bulletin board.) Supervising Ranger **Dylan Hardenbrook** has reported that the California Conservation Corps will restart work on the Broken Hill Trail on January 16. He recommended informing the public that the trail is projected to be reopened by the end of the summer. So far the CCC has moved 600 tons of trail repair material down the trail, one wheelbarrow at a time.

Vice President's Report: **Ingo Renner** is going to lead the new Interpretive group. The goal is to have a monthly event open to the general public. A lot of these would start with a nature presentation at the Pavilion (Torrey Circle), followed by a walk. The interpretive group will also schedule CEED events and OAK walks three or four times a year. Ingo solicited docents with various areas of expertise to be presenters for the events open to the public. He will also need a couple of group members to help with the organization and planning of events; and also a couple of group members to help with public relations, getting the word out to the public about these events. Please contact **Ingo** to join his group.

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Membership Coordinator: Lynne Truong reminded docents that the annual minimum hours of volunteering increases to 84 for 2019. Hours for 2018 can no longer be recorded in Volgistics.

Treasurer's Report: Outgoing Treasurer **Barbara Krueger** presented the board's *TPDS Proposed 2019 Budget*. She reported that actual net income for 2018 was greater than proposed, mostly due to increased donations and Museum Shop sales. **Janet Ugalde** announced board directed improvements over the last few months: the hiring of an accountant to assist the Treasurer, the formation a finance committee, and the approval of a *Division of Accounting Responsibility* document.

TPA Report: Donna Close suggested that we need to develop a culture that encourages all docents to become TPA members. Individuals can become members of TPA with any monetary donation, no matter how small. She presented all the projects TPA has funded since the beginning of 2018 to date, and it totals almost \$118,000.

Ingo Renner has constructed and installed 4 additional TPA boxes (North Beach, South Beach, map board and south entrance) throughout the Reserve, which contain TPA donation cards that visitors can fill out.

Better Impact and Museum Shop Chip-reader: Better Impact (BI) is the State-chosen program to replace Volgistics. The planned turnover date is March 1; and until then, docents are being asked to start entering their hours into BI as soon as possible, but continue to only use Volgistics for shift signup until March 1. **Roger Isaacson** has spent an enormous amount of time on this changeover, and he has set up Better Impact training dates of Jan. 24, 25, and 27. Signup sheets for those workshops were available at the meeting. Contact Roger to schedule a training session. He also announced the successful installation of the new Museum Shop chip-reader, and proposes training eblasts for both Better Impact and the chip-reader. (See Better Impact notices on pgs. 3 & 6.)

Reserve History Reenactment: Mark Embree presented a plan for new docent training. The new class would be led on a hike where they would come upon various docents portraying characters from the park history, and dressed in period costume. Possible figures are Charles Parry, Ellen Browning Scripps, Guy Fleming, etc. Also, if the program is successful, it could be made available to the public. Contact **Mark** if you would like to volunteer for planning, costume design, or acting. (See article on pg. 5.)

General: Gloria Garrett reported that her *Mindfulness in Nature* walk is in its fourth year and expanding. She is training several other docents to lead the walks; if other docents are interested in leading, they should contact her. **Kristine Schindler** announced there will be an Old Sorrento Road cleanup in February (date to be announced). **Linda Zlotnik** announced she has a few extra docent shirts

for sale. Contact her if you are interested. **Docents of the Month: Myrna Trust** and **Deborah Walker** for their excellent job of decorating the Lodge and hosting the December holiday event. They did an outstanding job "roasting" the trainers, and after the holiday event they made sure the cleanup was complete.

Refreshments: At February's General Meeting, docents with last names starting with letters **D-E-F** are responsible for snacks.

Meeting ended at 11:14 am.

Children's Program

by Louis Sands, Program Coordinator

It's raining, it's pouring, and THIS old man is rescheduling field trips! I may have been surprised by the accuracy of January's weather forecasts, but I am hopeful for an imminent bounty. Bring on the flowers, please!

Thanks to Mother Nature's January deluge, February now has schools scheduled every Friday. And, as luck would have it, many of those schools have selected a plants/habitats or ecosystems/food chains themed day. Time to share the wonders of the Reserve's proficiently prolific producers! Won't you join us?! If your schedule permits, please visit the Children's Program signup webpage:

cp.torreypine.org/reservations/Private/docent_signup.php

We are so pleased to welcome the following recent docent-training graduates to our program: **Laura Chaing, Marian Edelbrock, and Rosemary Wareham**. Way to go, ladies!

If you have not joined us yet, then send me an email message (childrensprogram@torreypine.org) stating the day you can attend, and I will pair you with a seasoned Children's Program docent. It's that easy! Thank you for your participation thus far, and we look forward to many fun-filled days ahead.

Better Impact Notes 1

- **More than 90 docents are now entering all their hours in the new volunteer system that is replacing Volgistics /VicNet.**
- **Everyone should create their new account so they can begin entering all of their 2019 hours.**

Docents of the Month: Myrna Trust and Deborah Walker

Photo by Herb Knüfken



Deborah and Myrna

Myrna:

Both Deborah and I are recent graduates of the 2018 Docent training program. We were both very, VERY surprised to hear our names called as we were honored as Docents of the Month! We are grateful and humbled by this recognition.

We each had first started the docent training with the class of 2016 but were unable to finish; we were working full time and unable to dedicate the time needed to complete the class. We both vowed to return once schedules permitted. I knew that when I retired, a sense of purpose and community were important to me. I wanted to explore new opportunities and continue to learn and to do my part to help make this world a better place. The Torrey Pines Docent Society fulfills all of these goals.

Spending time in nature has been a focus in my adult life. When my children were younger, we always planned our family vacations out in nature – in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Sequoia, or in a cabin by a lake somewhere. As a teacher, I loved getting my students excited about nature and respecting our planet and living things. My love for nature and hiking intensified as I grew older. I have been hiking Torrey Pines for a long time and have always looked at it as a very special spiritual place. There

is a magic to the vast open ocean connected to the pine trees that has always drawn me to the Reserve.

My experience in the TPDS training program pleasantly exceeded my expectations. My classmates are amazing, and we have become a tight group supporting each other and becoming a team. All of the docents and rangers who contributed to our training were exceptional in giving us the best possible experience. While the vast amount of information presented was at times overwhelming, I finally relaxed when I realized that the learning at Torrey Pines doesn't end with the class; it is an ongoing process, and there are so many brilliant minds working on the hill willing to share their knowledge.

I am very proud to be a part of this community and look forward to many years of learning and making new friends. I can't wait to jump into the Children's Program, help guests at the TIK, and maybe even join the Whacky Weeders!

Deborah:

Torrey Pines has always been a very significant place in my life. As a California native, I was fortunate to grow up with Torrey Pines; the trails, the Lodge, field trips, and hours spent on the beach were all part of my childhood. When I hiked the trails (including Fat Man's Misery), I was awestruck at how tall the trees were and how vast the ocean was. So many summer days were spent swimming, building magical castles, and exploring the lagoon (which was open to the public back then). I was fascinated by the tall cliffs and the myriad of colors and layers they held. Even then, I knew this was a very special place for me.

As I became a mother, my children felt sand and put their toes in the ocean for the first time on the shore surrounded by those beautiful cliffs. We would explore the lagoon for hours, watching all the birds and the "jumping" fish. Many of our most precious memories were of long days and stunning sunsets at the beach beneath those majestic pines.

As time went on, I had the amazing privilege of introducing my future husband, David, to Torrey Pines State Reserve. When he came out to visit from Florida, it was the first place I took him. I shared my love and respect for Torrey Pines with him. For him, it was love at first sight (for both me and the pines!). One of the first things he did after moving to San Diego was to take the docent training class. Working long hours in a hospital had prevented me from completing the course the first time I took it, but 2018 brought a different ending. It is so wonderful now to share that title with him, and each new friend I have gathered along the way.

Myrna stated so well my feelings about our graduating class and the many docents and rangers who have mentored and encouraged us, and continue to do so, along this journey. I have no doubt that the friendships made and the knowledge gained over this past year will last a lifetime. It is an honor to be part of such an amazing Society as ours. I look forward to finding new ways to contribute and become even more a part of TPDS.

Understanding the Past to Preserve the Future

by Mark Embree

“Once I realized the newly discovered geothermal springs would produce an income far superior to the crops I raised and the cattle I grazed, I began the transformation of my homestead into a summer-vacation destination and my house into a five-room hotel.” With those words, the actor portraying James Longmire challenged his audience to struggle with the future of the land surrounding Mt. Rainier in 1883. Would it be a land dotted with commercial opportunities or the land Longmire had initially discovered, preserved in its natural state for generations to come? As our walk continued on that cold August Founder’s Day evening, we met scientists, mountaineers, members of conservation groups and local businesses, who, starting in 1893, established a lobbying campaign to fight for the land’s conservancy.

At the walk’s completion, I began to envision a similar walk at Torrey Pines State Reserve. The walk would introduce historical individuals who used knowledge, financial resources, political influence, and passion to create the

foundation of the park. The walk would be given for docents-in-training and visitors alike.

I’ve mulled over this idea repeatedly since last August. I presented the project to the Board in December; it received the Board’s endorsement and financial support. It’s time to begin, but I can’t complete the task by myself. The project needs:

- Research enthusiasts to discover interesting facts about the historical characters met throughout the walk and their impact on the Reserve’s creation. Opposition forces could be used to introduce each character or as transition between characters.
- Disney-like Imagineers who can weave facts into captivating stories.
- Presenters to bring each of the historical characters to life.
- Docents to escort small groups from character to character and tie together the Reserve’s historical picture.
- Seamstresses to create period costumes. (Louis Sands spoke with me after the January TPDS meeting and indicated we might be able to use some of Old Town State Park’s period costumes.)
- Visionaries to not only plot out the walk’s route but also organize the presentation order of the historical characters.

Many more ideas and individuals are needed for the project to succeed. If interested, please contact me. (See Docent Roster.) I plan to make another general announcement at the February meeting. The hope is to have the project completed by late October or early November 2019 and to use the walk as the historical-training session for the next class of docents.

The challenges are numerous, but the rewards far surpass the required effort. The individuals who walk through the Reserve’s story can become stakeholders in its future. Each will share the story with a family member or friend. Each will ultimately join the growing number of voices who champion the Reserve’s protection for generations to come.

Reflections on the Class of 2018

by Deborah Walker

As I reflect on December’s Holiday Party/Graduation Celebration for the 2018 Docent Trainees, several things come to mind. First and foremost is the overwhelming sense that we all belong to something bigger than ourselves, sharing a common respect, passion and commitment to “our” Reserve and to the Torrey pine. As a new docent, I’ve been thinking about how exactly the TPDS is a “society.” Webster’s defines *society* as “a voluntary association of individuals for common ends...working together or periodically meeting because of common

interests, beliefs, or profession.” From this definition, I can see that we truly are a society, investing our time and energy in a common end: the preservation and education of our amazing Reserve and the protection of one of the rarest and most beautiful trees on earth. We all demonstrate our love and respect for the Torrey pine in different ways – and that, I believe, is one of the strongest aspects of our TPDS. We in the Class of 2018 are honored to join such a distinguished society of individuals who, despite our differences, all share a common passion and respect for our Reserve.

Some thoughts from various members of the class of 2018:

“This Torrey Pines docent training helped me understand the beautiful and delicate balance of nature by exploring the connectedness of plants, animals, insects, reptiles, and humans. And through this exploration, it expanded my awareness of our responsibility as stewards of this planet. I am honored to be a member of this group of like-minded individuals.”

“Great experience going to the classes and our walks. Will not forget these last 3 months.”

“I went for a hike up the hill and on to GF Trail. Noticing everything we learned and enjoying a different, deeper feeling than my previous visits. Don’t think I am crazy, but I am feeling some kind of ownership and responsibility to the land, plants and environment”.

“We are very lucky to be part of this amazing Society and working with the generously and lovingly giving docents.”

“I joined from passion and found family.”

“Being a Torrey Pines docent is being a part of an amazing group of like-minded individuals who understand that people need nature and that we need to protect it....it is a privilege.”

“So many new, interesting things piqued my interest; so much knowledge and wonderful people to help.”

“I am proud to be a member of our class – a group of dedicated, hardworking and caring people who are already making a difference.”

“This training exceeded my expectations in no small part due to our great trainee group of exceptional new docents.”

“It has been an incredible and unique journey unlike any that I have been on previously. The quality of our leaders has been exceptional both in knowledge and commitment. You are all amazing volunteers.”

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have crossed our paths. You have made a difference.

Better Impact Notes 2

- **We plan to be completely on the new system by March 1, but until then we must still use the Volgistics signup calendars so everyone is “on the same calendar.”**
- **Please direct your questions and requests to be tutored in using the new system to portal@torreypine.org**

Torrey Pines Book Club

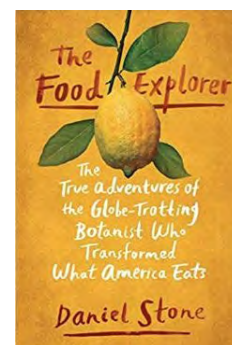
When: Tuesday, February 12, 2:00 pm

Where: the Buffingtons’ home in Rancho Bernardo

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

Amazon says:

In the nineteenth century, American meals were about subsistence, not enjoyment. But as a new century approached, appetites broadened, and David Fairchild, a young botanist with an insatiable lust to explore and experience the world, set out in search of foods that would enrich the American farmer and enchant the American eater. Kale from Croatia, mangoes from India, and hops from Bavaria. Peaches from China, avocados from Chile, and pomegranates from Malta. Fairchild’s finds weren’t just limited to food: From Egypt he sent back a variety of cotton that revolutionized an industry, and via Japan he introduced the cherry blossom tree, forever brightening America’s capital. Along the way, he was arrested, caught diseases, and bargained with island tribes. But his culinary ambition came during a formative era, and through him, America transformed into the most diverse food system ever created.



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

March 12: *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from A Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben

Bird Names

by Jack Friery; Brown Pelican photo courtesy of Herb Knüfken.

Gadwall? Scaup? Grebe? Curlew? Kinglet? Wren? These are just a few of the common English names of birds spotted by our docent bird tally teams this past month. Where do these and other bird names come from, and what do they mean?

Some bird names are *onomatopoeic* – the name simply imitates the sound a bird makes. An example is the towhee, which makes the call “towhee.” “Crow” is the Anglo-Saxon interpretation of the crow’s caw. And who wouldn’t know “cuckoo”?

Some names derive from the bird’s habits or conduct. A hummingbird hums, a mockingbird mocks (imitates other birds), a woodpecker pecks wood. Some names relate to appearance. “Oriole” derives from the Latin word for golden. A “blackbird” is just that.

Many bird names plunge deep into western culture and history. “Hawk” comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning to “grasp” or “seize.” “Merlin” is ultimately an old Frankish word for the falcon we see today. “Grebe” may come from the Breton word for crest. “Kinglet” derives from the Anglo-Saxon word for king – with a diminutive suffix to make him a “little king.” “Osprey” is a mix-up of Latin words meaning “bone-breaker.”

Finally, what about the word “bird”? It’s an Old English word that simply means a nestling or chick.

Sources: Choate, *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*, ornithology.com/names/, etymonline.com/word/bird.



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: December 22, 2018

Number of species: 79

Northern Shoveler 2
Gadwall 39
American Wigeon 28
Mallard 30
Northern Pintail 40
Green-winged Teal 14
Canvasback 2
Lesser Scaup 16
Bufflehead 14
Red-breasted Merganser 2
Ruddy Duck 10
California Quail 2
Pied-billed Grebe 4
Western Grebe 60
Eurasian Collared-Dove 4
Mourning Dove 47
Anna's Hummingbird 67
Allen's Hummingbird 7
American Coot 32
Killdeer 3
Long-billed Curlew 4
Spotted Sandpiper 1

Willet 11
Bonaparte's Gull 20
Heermann's Gull 6
Ring-billed Gull 9
Western Gull 8
California Gull 112
Royal Tern 4
Pacific Loon 3
Brandt's Cormorant 18
Double-crested Cormorant 13
Brown Pelican 39
Great Blue Heron 1
Great Egret 3
Snowy Egret 5
White-faced Ibis 4
Osprey 2
White-tailed Kite 3
Northern Harrier 3
Cooper's Hawk 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 5
Belted Kingfisher 2
Nuttall's Woodpecker 3
Northern Flicker 14
American Kestrel 9

Peregrine Falcon 1
Black Phoebe 9
Say's Phoebe 9
Cassin's Kingbird 13
Hutton's Vireo 1
California Scrub-Jay 6
American Crow 42
Common Raven 16
Bushtit 35
House Wren 3
Bewick's Wren 11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2
California Gnatcatcher 7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12
Wren 37
Hermit Thrush 5
California Thrasher 10
House Finch 60
Lesser Goldfinch 20
Fox Sparrow 2
White-crowned Sparrow 35
Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 8
California Towhee 38

Spotted Towhee 10
Red-winged Blackbird 8
Orange-crowned Warbler 2
Common Yellowthroat 4
Yellow-rumped Warbler 177
House Sparrow 4
Scaly-breasted Munia 1

Observers:

Tyler Best, Steve Neal, Marty Hales, Andy Rathbone, Tina Rathbone, Eva Armi, Colleen Huang, Jim Wilson, Bob Glaser, Herb Knüfken, Jack Friery, Gary Grantham, Lynn Truong, Charlotte Morris, Kimberly Gambling, and Anonymous.

Submitted as a segment of the Rancho Santa Fe Audubon Christmas Count.

View this checklist online at ebird.org/view/checklist/S51683694

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



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