



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 442

May 2022

The Grasslands of California

by Joan R. Simon

Prof. James Bartolome, from the Department of Environmental Science at UC Berkeley, shared his research on California rangeland ecology with the Docent Society on April 8 over Zoom. He first explained that rangeland is a collective term for the vast wildlands that make up half of the land areas in the world. They are comprised of grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, wetlands, and deserts; the most important of these are grasslands, savannahs, and scrublands. Rangelands, while large in size, are relatively low in productivity, he said, and therefore are not always given the attention they deserve.

Grasslands are dominated by plants from the grass family (Poaceae or Gramineae). The five major grassland communities around the world are the plains of North America, the Patagonia Steppe, the Eurasian Steppe, the South African grasslands, and the Australian grasslands. With more than 10,000 species, the grass family is not the largest in the world, but it is by far the most important. Grasses are extremely widespread. They are the only family of flowering plants that occurs on all seven continents; two-thirds of the flowering plants in Antarctica are grasses. Additionally, grasses are vital to humans; most of our calories come from three grasses: corn, wheat, and rice.

We can trace the fossil record of grasses through pollen and phytoliths back to the late Cretaceous Period (67 million ya) when they diverged from other plants. Phytoliths, a structure in the leaves of grasses, are much more helpful than pollen in identifying which grasses were present during past historical periods. In the Miocene Epoch (12–10 ya), grass species expanded and diversified when the climate became drier and there were changes in the level of CO₂.

Why are grasses so successful? Their structure provides both tolerance and avoidance of defoliation by fire and grazing animals. Both grass leaves and grass stems have meristems at their bases, so if the tops get removed (by

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am

Online via Zoom (link to the meeting will be emailed to all docents)

Speaker: Christa Horn, Conservation Program Manager, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Topic: Planting Torrey Pines, Seeding a Management Plan: Research and Experimentation to Inform Management of Torrey Pines at TPSNR

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve was created to protect and manage Torrey pine trees. As some of the natural processes influencing the population of trees have changed with our changing climate, managed responses need to be planned. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) is working with State Parks and the US Forest Service, and with expertise from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to develop a long-term plan to manage Torrey pine trees at the Reserve. To inform this plan, SDZWA is conducting a series of studies to learn more about the trees, seedling recruitment, ips beetles, and the role of weather and microhabitats.

grazing or fire), they can very rapidly replace their leaves. They adapt well to seasonal water stress; their leaves quickly curl up, and if necessary, the plants can become completely dormant. In addition, they have evolved a form of photosynthesis (C₄) that is very efficient at collecting CO₂ and providing water preservation.

While most grasslands are populated by native plants, in California they are often dominated by species the European settlers brought over from the Mediterranean region. The map represents the “hypothesized” grassland in California before the advent of agriculture in the state and the introduction of invasive species from Europe.



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

Editors@torreypine.org.

Please send postal/
email address changes to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society
1155 Camino Del Mar #404
Del Mar, CA 92014

Attn: Membership or email to

Membership@torreypine.org

Web sites:

TP Docent Society: torreypine.org

TP Conservancy: torreypines.org

Visitor Center phone: **858.755.2063**

TPDS Executive Board Members:

President: Lynne Truong

Vice-president: Roger Isaacson

Treasurer: Janet Ugalde

Secretary: Matt Xavier

Directors-at-large:

Lisa Kakone

Mark Lippard

Harry Proctor

Rosemary Wareham

Gabriele Wienhausen

TPSNR Staff:

Supervising Ranger: Dylan Hardenbrook

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

Sr. Park Aides: Louis Sands, Ingo Renner

Park Aides: Zuzana Volny

© Torrey Pines Docent Society
Since 1975

All rights reserved

**FLASH - Don't forget to donate
your ZooNooz magazines to the
Museum Shop.**

Dr. Bartolome reported on a State Parks grassland project that described ecological sites within the park properties. The southernmost coastal site was at Point Mugu, north of Malibu, and interior sites in San Diego County included Cuyamaca Rancho and Anza Borrego. The coastal prairie areas continued the usual mix of exotic species and native perennials, with the two most important indigenous species being *Danthonia californica* or California oatgrass (red) in the north, and *Nassella (Stipa) pulchra* or purple needlegrass (green) in the south.

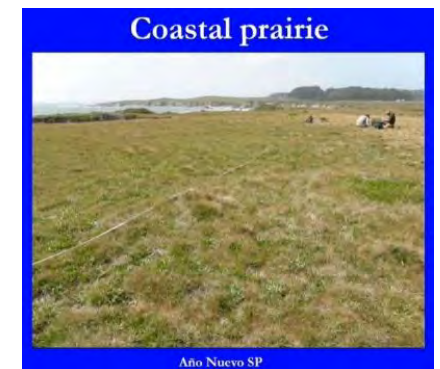
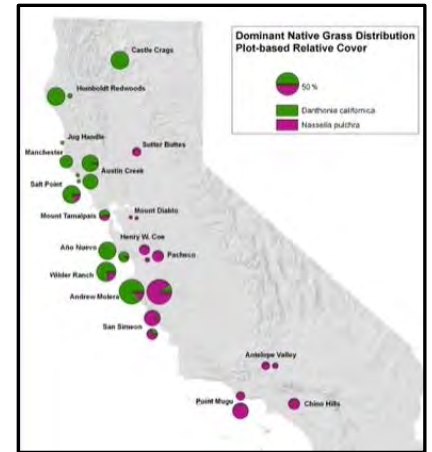
These coastal grasslands still have a significant native component (up to 50%), especially when compared with inland areas.

The project described many ecological sites, which Dr. Bartolome defined as land units with similar climate, topographic, and soil conditions that would be responsive to the same management strategies. At another location, in the Tehachapi Foothills, they collected data over multiple years, observing different transitions within these sites, and developed hypotheses about the key factors driving changes in each system. While grazing and fire directives are drivers that could be managed, factors such as climate change and soil composition are not.

Recently Dr. Bartolome's group has begun working on a grazing monitoring and management project funded by SANDAG, San Diego's regional planning agency. They have initiated two study sites: Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve and Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, near Jamul. Their concerns are fire control and habitat preservation, as well as wildlife and native plant maintenance. Their charge is to determine how grazing affects these issues, including an ongoing Burrowing Owl project and native grass restoration.

For this project, the group has earmarked and taken measurements at 32 locations. They will be aggregating their data in order to develop an Ecological Site – based grazing monitoring plan. An important part of the project is to determine whether grazing is an effective way to encourage the spread of native grasses (vs. exotics); to maintain wildlife and prioritized plant species; and to reduce the critical fuel load. After analyzing all the data, the study hopes to make suggestions for grazing management to meet these various goals. This project is just at the beginning stages, so stay tuned for more results.

[Click here for program video.](#)



Inside	
Grasslands of California	1-2
Meeting Minutes	3
Children's Program	3
Roving Interpreter Training	4
Docent of the Month	4
80+ Conversation	5
CEED: MTRP	6
NDS: Plants	6
In Memoriam	7
Spring Bird Walk	7
Hiking at TP: Rein Orchid	7
LJ Half Marathon	8
Top TP Viewpoints	9
Museum Shop Spotlight	10
TP Book Club	10
Bird of the Month	11
Bird Survey	11

General Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2022

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by President **Lynne Truong** at 9:05 am.

Invited Speaker

James Bartolome, professor of Environmental Science at UC Berkeley, spoke on the topic of Rangeland Ecology in Coastal California. See pg. 1 for a summary of his talk.

President's Report and Announcements

Stu Rosenwasser, Class of 2013, was named Docent of the Month for April. He has been instrumental in bringing diverse groups to the Reserve as our Special Walks coordinator and has served on the docent board. He has 120 hours so far this year. (See pg. 4.)

Additional parking: Rick Gulley, president of TPC, will check with a fellow board member on parking space availability at the National University lot.

Lynne reported that a substantial sum was taken from the San Diego Foundation to fund new water station projects.

TPC/TPDS/Rangers activity calendar: Lynne reported that there is a spot on the website to consolidate all events in one place. This is done in order to mitigate any overlap in event programming between the organizations. Events will be posted for either members only or public participation.

An OAK walk about lichens was scheduled for Wednesday April 13 at 10 am at the Lodge.

The La Jolla Half Marathon is scheduled for April 16. **Ann Mercandetti Smith** reported that thirteen docents have signed up. Volunteers need to be at the Reserve by 6:30 am. The event should be over by 9 am.

There are two upcoming CEED events: 1) The Watershed Adventure on Friday, April 22 at 8:30 am [postponed to a later date]; 2) The Elfin Forest walk along the Creek Trail on Monday, May 2 at 8:30 am. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible.

Lodge Hours update: **Roger Isaacson** reported that three shifts a day @ 2.5 hours each will start on May 1: 9:30 – 12; 12 – 2:30; 2:30 – 5:00.

Earth Day is Saturday, April 23. More walk leaders are needed. Park Aide **Louis Sands** sent out information on climate change. More books are needed for the resale book table. Volunteers should park in the South lot and carpool up the hill. A van is also being provide to transport volunteers in the morning.

Lynne will check on the bird feeder status in front of the Lodge.

A visitor attempted to ride his mountain bike on the Guy Fleming Trail. Perhaps, a “no biking” sign is needed at the entrance to this trail.

Roger asked that everyone record their hours for Earth Day under Special Events.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Ugalde reported on the P&L statement for the first quarter. Items are selling well at the museum store and the income from dues is strong. Special walks are also doing well.

Ranger's Report

Lynne gave the ranger's report in Ranger Stephanie Adams's absence. Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook has requested that docents who are out on the trails wear a vest and a name badge, since we are acting as the Reserve's representatives.

QR map codes for the Extension have been made and laminated maps have been posted. Lynne will request that maps be put on the white posts in the Extension. Rangers are aware of school remodeling near the Extension and they know that the contractor tore out vegetation. There is some new drainage into the Extension now. Park staff are monitoring the situation.

The trail for a south entrance interpretation spot has finished. Some docents have been standing near the Broken Hill South entrance to greet visitors. The rangers have gotten mostly positive feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Children's Program

by Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator

Let's finish strong, docents! The Children's Program will stop for the year on June 3, 2022. We would love you to share your unique interpretive skills with San Diego's schoolchildren.

It has been an interesting spring. Those who have participated in our program know that the Kumeyaay topic is usually our schools' number-one content selection. Not so this spring! We have had so many Ecosystems and Food Chains program days, and the timing could not have been more advantageous: flowers and wild cucumber vines galore, inhabited bushtit nests by the Visitor Center and along the Guy Fleming Trail, juvenile great white sharks spied from overlooks, and a couple of especially foggy mornings. Great fun!

We resumed operations on February 4, and we will have served 13 different schools when the year is done. Additionally, over 92% of our participant schools have a Title I designation, which means that \$9,000 in bus cost reimbursement grants will have been distributed. Thank you to our awesome Museum Shop team, who have made this generosity possible!

Lastly, **Janet Ugalde** and I would like to thank all docents who have participated this spring. We know that the

pandemic has been consequential for so many, and we appreciate your taking the time to keep our beloved Children's Program viable for deserving students: **Debi Buffington, Pao Chau, Kathy Dickey, Paul Dunphy, Susan Elliott, Marty Friestedt, Jennifer Greenberg, Paul Howard, Barbara Justice, Mark Lippard, Joe Meyer, Bruce & Patty Montgomery, Steve Neal, JoAnna Proctor, Lynne Truong, Myrna Trust, Barbara Wallach, and Rosemary Wareham.** And a heartfelt welcome to our newbies: **Emmy Ibrahimovic, Loraine Trust, and Gabriele Wienhausen.** Thank you ALL!

Please join us. Contact Louis Sands with any questions/concerns about participation:
childrensprogram@torreypine.org

Roving Interpreter Training

by Cresencio Torres and Harry Proctor

The next Roving Interpreter training is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 15** at the Pavilion from 9:00 to 11:30 am. If you plan on attending the training session, please email your intention to Cresencio Torres. (Check Membership List for email address.)

Current Roving Interpreters may attend the class as a refresher. The requirements for new docents to receive the Roving Interpreter patch are:

1. Read and be familiar with all content in the Roving Interpreter Handbook.
2. Complete two quizzes, one on the Handbook and one on the trails in the Reserve and the Extension.
3. Attend the Roving Interpreter training session on June 15 from 9:00 to 11:30 am, led by Ranger Kyle Knox and Park Aide **Ingo Renner.**
4. Hike with an experienced Roving Interpreter docent (30 minutes).
5. A link to the RI Handbook and quiz information will be sent out on June 1. New docents must return answers to Cres Torres no later than June 10.

If you cannot attend the June 15 session, you can view the Roving Interpreter training video from Oct 9, 2021 at Docent Login:

torreypine.org/volunteering/docentlogin/docentdocs/

Then scroll down to Training Videos – Reopening.

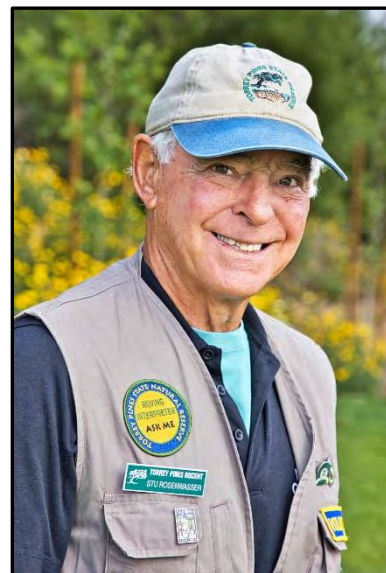
Any experienced Roving Interpreters willing to lead walks after the training session would be much appreciated. These walks will start at about 11:30 am, leaving from the Pavilion. Please email your intention to Cres Torres.

All docents are welcome!

Docent of the Month: Stu Rosenwasser

Photo by Herb Knufken

It's hard to believe that I am starting my tenth year as a Torrey Pines docent. The wonderful friendships I have developed with my fellow docents and the delightful interactions with the diverse and awestruck visitors to our natural jewel continue to be sources of enduring enjoyment and fulfillment in my everyday life. Over the past nine years, I have particularly enjoyed participating regularly in the Children's Program, Lodge Hosting, Special Walks, and Roving Interpreter. Earlier, I worked many months with the Seabees installing the eye-rod fence system along our trails and was also an active member of the Garden Committee. I have been honored to serve on the TPDS Board for four years and have served as our Special Walks Coordinator since 2017.



I was introduced to the Reserve in 1974 when my family and I moved to San Diego from the LA area and I began working across from Torrey Pines Golf Course. Most lunch times I would jog to the Reserve's South Entrance road and trails (and unlike today, I would see only an occasional runner and hiker on the way). I enjoyed the beautiful views but had little knowledge of the trees, plant communities, geology, organisms, or history (I didn't know the Lodge existed until I began docent training nearly 40 years later). We relocated from San Diego to Washington, DC in 1999 for a job opportunity, and after some 50 years working in and/or starting a variety of science and engineering endeavors, retired there in 2012. Upon our return to San Diego, I thought the opportunity to become a docent might give me the perfect chance to meet and engage with like-minded people, increase my knowledge of our natural world, and maintain an active outdoor lifestyle. That was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

80+: A Conversation with Lillian Lachicotte

Interviewed by Kathleen Dewhurst; transcribed by Nancy Richardson; photo by Herb Knufken

One thing that is readily apparent from interviewing Lillian is that she is a warm people-person with a playful sense of humor. Another docent we are lucky to have on the team!

When did you become a docent and why?

I became a docent in 2004. I hiked and brought my grandchild to the Reserve frequently and was so grateful for this wonderful place and amazing docents that I wanted to give back.

Were there any special duties you particularly enjoyed at Torrey Pines?

Having been a member for over seventeen years, I have had to make a list of my activities because I have enjoyed them all! While in training, **Irene Larrimore** and I volunteered to co-chair filling the Lodge hosting shifts. I have been a member of the Board, a member of the Board Nominating Committee, and editor of the *Pine Cone* (a newsletter published on alternate months with the *Torreyana*; now all the newsletters are called *Torreyana*). I joined the Science Fair Committee and was impressed with the scientific work of high school students participating each year in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair.

I have headed the Museum Committee, coordinating knowledgeable and far-sighted docent members as we worked on the upkeep and improvements of the museum. One of my favorite parts of working with the Museum Committee was transporting specimens to the taxidermist. I liked being able to preserve the animals and educate our visitors. I've been asked by children visiting the Lodge if the taxidermies were alive. I would tell them, "Oh yes they are alive! We just tell them all to be still while visitors are in the Lodge." The children seemed to be comforted by this assertion.

In 2012 I coordinated volunteers for the Art in the Pines event. I have cheered on walkers and runners during Komen Walks and La Jolla Half Marathons as they come through the Reserve. I now make cards for the Museum Shop and am amazed at how quickly they sell! All of these activities have brought me pleasure, happiness and satisfaction.

Can you tell us a bit about your childhood?

I was born in Alabama and grew up on Signal Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee. We were surrounded by nature and I spent joyful days running wild, chewing on sassafras leaves and fishing with homemade poles at a nearby stream. Later we

moved to Montana, another place of natural beauty, where I frequently witnessed the Aurora Borealis and sometimes hail the size of grapefruit. The power and beauty of nature was ever-present.

Where did you go to school?

I went to USD schools: the University of South Dakota and University of San Diego. I obtained my undergraduate degree in South Dakota and then completed my Masters in English in San Diego. Once my children grew up, I enrolled in a two-year drafting program as an artistic outlet.

When did you relocate to San Diego?

I've been in San Diego for fifty-seven years. I moved from Tennessee to Montana, then South Dakota and finally San Diego.

What accomplishments at Torrey are you most proud of?

Actually, everything is a team effort in the docent society. It's so easy to get things done here with such a talented, friendly and capable group.

Do you have any philosophy or advice for new docents that you'd like to pass along?

Be ready to help others. Be patient. Educate the public about preserving the trees and protecting wildlife. The Docent Society is here for the visitors, to help them enjoy being in and learning about nature.

What makes you happy?

Being with people.

Do you have a bucket list?

At my age??!! No, I enjoy what life brings to me in the moment.

Being a docent at Torrey Pines has been an enriching experience for me. I'm grateful for having had opportunities to meet and work with volunteers and visitors, hike the trails and enjoy the panoramic vistas in this beautiful Reserve.

[Click here to view the 80+ Project video](#) and scroll to bottom of page.

Nature Discovery Series: Saturday, May 21, 3 pm

All About Eggs by Barbara Wallach and Kathy Dickey at the Pavilion next to the Visitor Center

Birds do it, bees do it, even lizards and snakes do it! Come see all the variations of eggs in our natural world. Suitable for families with children.

Upcoming:

June 18: Native Snakes and Lizards

July 16: The Birds of Torrey Pines



CEED: Mission Trails Regional Park

by Myrna Trust and Molly Allison

On Wednesday, March 30, twenty Torrey Pines docents congregated on the back patio of the visitor center at Mission Trails Regional Park for a wonderful guided hike. We were split into three small groups which were led by MTRP docents Bill Edwards, Tom Thompson, and Dave and Jody Rowley. We learned about the similarities and differences between Mission Trails and Torrey Pines, and we all gained wonderful new insights and learned so many interesting facts during our walks through this beautiful protected park. A very special thank you to these knowledgeable docents, as well as to Fred Cramer, who organized this event. It was a great day for everyone.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead



Nature Discovery Series: Plants and Plant Pollinators

by Matt Xavier; photo by Herb Knufken

On Saturday, March 19, Margaret Fillius gave a talk on "Plants and Pollinators" to a group of over 50 enthralled visitors at the Pavilion. Margaret began by describing the flora of the southern maritime chaparral and coastal sage scrub ecosystems. Plants may have several methods to attract a pollinator, she explained. For example, some use color visible to insects in the ultraviolet spectrum in different ways to attract pollinators or distract predators. In some cases, areas of different color on the flower serve as a nectar guide to lead the insect in past the stamens. In snapdragon species, the weight of the bee that has been attracted by nectar guides opens the flower, accessing the reproductive parts and nectar. The beautiful deerweed flower (*Acmispon glaber*) has evolved to change its flower color after fertilization, making it less visible to pollinators. Plants also use odor, nectar, and, pollen, as well as flower shape, to ensure the continuation of their species. Pollen comes in different colors, with yellow being the most common.

Margaret outlined the astonishingly wide diversity and methods of our local pollinators, including ants, butterflies, bees, beetles, birds, flies, mosquitos, and moths. Ants may pollinate small, inconspicuous flowers of plants that grow low to the ground. There are approximately 1,600 bee species in California. Bees, which generate a positive charge when they fly, attract pollen particles to their hairs from some negatively charged flowers. The large white flower of the Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*) sends out a sweet odor that attracts the sphinx moth. The moths become addicted to the hallucinogen in the nectar. Bumble bees use vibration to encourage purple nightshade (*Solanum sp.*) pollen to release from the flower and attach to the bee.



Mariposa Lily and Bumblebee

If you'd like to learn more about plants and flowers in the Reserve, Margaret's book, *Native Plants: Torrey Pines State*

Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations, is available in the Museum Shop.



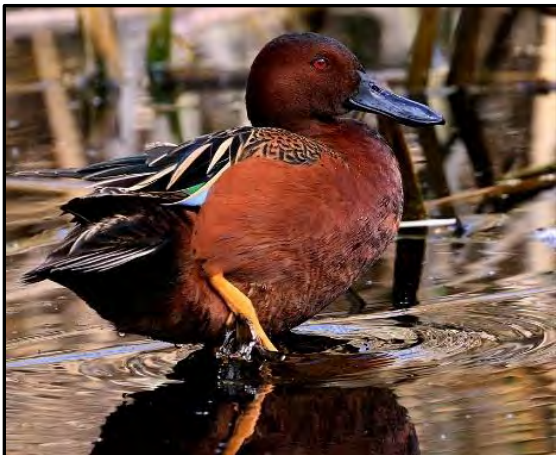
In Memoriam: Nan Danninger

We are saddened by the passing of **Nan Danninger** on April 5. A docent since 2007, Nan was actively involved with the Museum Shop and Whacky Weeders for many years. Her docent friends will be remembering her in next month's *Torreyana*. [Click here](#) for a link to her obituary.

An Early Spring Bird Walk for TPC/TPDS

by Kathy Dickey; photo by Herb Knufken

It was foggy and loud on March 26 at the Park and Ride lot under the I-5, but 17 TPC and TPDS members joined birders **Marty Hales** and **Kathy Dickey** for an easy bird walk along the road/path to the south alongside the Peñasquitos Creek and the lagoon wetland area. Thirty species of birds were seen and heard, the highlights being Cinnamon Teal (below) in the Sorrento Valley ponds and a very cute Wilson's Warbler in the riparian area.



Hiking at Torrey Pines is Always an Adventure

Text and photos by Donna Close

Each week I spend a couple of days roving the trails for two to three hours, chatting with visitors and scanning the vegetation on the side of the trails – of course, keeping an eye out for snakes as well. I have been hiking the trails at Torrey Pines for over 12 years, and I am amazed that I am still making new discoveries. From coffee ferns to red maids, there seems to be a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered.



Recently I happened upon a Cooper's rein orchid (*Piperia cooperi*), also known as a chaparral rein orchid. As I hiked down the Broken Hill Trail, past the large meadow area, the sun just happened to hit the orchid at the perfect time. I have passed this same spot hundreds of times and have never noticed it before. I was quite excited to find it and shared it with some passing visitors before heading on my way. A week later I took a fellow docent down the trail to point out the orchid. I was thinking that it would be unusual for there to be only one orchid and sure enough, I discovered two more in the same area.

After discussions with fellow longtime docents, I heard that there used to be sightings of rein orchids on the Razor Point Trail. So off I went, heading down the trail past the Torrey with the witch's broom, across the bridge and around the bend into the shady, lush area. I started scanning the small slope, and once again the sun highlighted the plants at the perfect time. I found three rein orchids in this location. As I continued towards the Yucca Point Trail, two more orchids were sticking up from the grass, right beside the trail.

According to Calscape, *Piperia cooperi* is native to Southern California and the northern border area of Baja California. It grows in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodlands. It grows in dry soils on hillsides and can reach up 35 inches in height. The stemlike part of the plant is made of many small green flowers and apparently has a honey scent in the evening. The normal bloom period is March to June. Take a hike and see how many you can discover.



La Jolla Half Marathon

by Ann Smith Mercandetti

“The La Jolla Half Marathon is probably the most scenic yet most difficult half marathon I’ve ever done . . .” That’s a quote from the internet. It’s running up our “entrance” hill approximately halfway through the 13.1-mile event that makes the LJHM such a challenge for runners.

Torrey Pines docents **Marian Edelbrock, Joan Simon, Carolyn Colwell, Irene Larrimore, Medi Denker, Phyllis Kuszner, Rosemary Wareham, Lore Heath, Lynne Truong, Evelyn Vance, Joe Meyer, and Ann Smith Mercandetti** were spaced out along the park road and enjoyed encouraging the participants on their 1.5-mile Reserve route.

Thanks to the CA State Parks contractors for moving the previous water stations from *within* the Reserve to the bottom of the hill *before entering* and to a spot near the golf course *after leaving* the Reserve. Now there is *much less litter* left behind by the half marathoners, who raised \$200,000 for our local Kiwanis Club to give to local schools and nonprofit organizations.

While runners come from all over for this event, the La Jolla Half Marathon raises funds to help people right here in our area. There is a time limit for the runners to receive a medal, so it is definitely NOT a “social event” when in progress. Literally, the first runner was running so fast and was so far ahead of the other runners that he was “talked about” by docents following the event. Actually, the first three runners were spaced out, but still *way* ahead of the “crowd”!

The other big event that comes through the Reserve is in November, the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for cancer. This event has many groups of friends who walk together. With no disqualifying time limit, participants have all day to walk 20 miles each of the three days, many “socializing” with their friends en route. This event raises funds for cancer research and care for cancer patients all over the United States. It is *much more difficult* to keep the Komen walkers from eating, munching, and leaving litter in the Reserve as they walk with their friends.

If you would like to join us for the next event, mark your calendar for the Komen 3-Day Walk on Friday, November 18. I have just put that date on my calendar, and I am hoping we have at least 20 docents to monitor that enormous national event!

Thank you again to the “Dynamic Dozen Docents” for monitoring this year’s La Jolla Half Marathon!



Runners passing High Point; photo by Joan Simon



Lore Heath and her husband in his 158th half marathon



Photo by Lynne Truong

Top Torrey Pines Viewpoints

Text and photos by Joanne Miale

My request for your favorite viewpoints went out at the April general meeting and on Google Groups. I received over a dozen responses, including one apt observation: Choosing a favorite view in Torrey Pines Reserve is like choosing a favorite child! Well said, **Thomas S.!** Those working at the TIK, in the Lodge, and as Roving Interpreters are constantly asked these questions: Where should I go? Where are the best views? In advising visitors, we have to consider who is going (ability, age, interests); time allowed; and forces of nature (season/flowers, weather, tide), as well as where they've parked.

Recently roving after rains, I had to tackle the weather issue: Where can we send the hundreds of visitors who've walked up the Park Road hill when trails are closed, many of whom might not have another opportunity to see the Reserve? I've compiled a list below that includes some answers to that issue, as well as ADA-accessible views, along with some other docent picks.

The Broken Hill Overlook (our iconic postcard view) is still a favorite, along with Razor Point Overlook and the North and South Overlooks on the Guy Fleming Trail. When time or ability doesn't permit a hike, the West Overlook and Trail afford fantastic views over the whole upper park and are also ADA accessible. The Whitaker Garden trail leads to Scripps Overlook on an ADA-accessible path and offers views of canyons, Red Butte, Razor Point and the ocean.

Cindy T. pointed out that one can already see Broken Hill from the ADA-accessible section of the South Fork of the Broken Hill Trail. A personal favorite is the view from the Park Road just below the end of the West Overlook Trail, both of which are ADA accessible and always open. The views behind the Lodge at the end of the Discovery Trail are also varied and expansive, looking towards Red Butte and Scripps Overlook, or past High Point towards the Lagoon or Extension, again ADA accessible and open when other trails are not.

Top View List (from south to north) Thanks to all who participated in the poll!

*Broken Hill Overlook



*South Fork approach to Broken Hill Overlook; flat trail and Broken Hill can be seen in the distance at end of the ADA-accessible part of trail ¹

*Beach Trail, coming up from the beach and looking east up the canyon to mature trees without human interference, just before the Yucca Point turnoff

*Razor Point Trail, near the bridge before Yucca Point Trail, looking north at the plateau with eroded cliffs and a lone pine (below)



*Razor Point Overlook Trail, about two-thirds of the way down on left looking over eroded canyons and the ocean

*Razor Point Overlook

*West Overlook, great all-around views of the upper Reserve, north, west, and south ¹

*West Overlook Trail to road, views over concretion-studded canyon bluff to Red Butte, Scripps Overlook, and beyond ¹

*View from the Park Road just below the beginning of the West Overlook Trail; "Painter's Plot," looking south along the canyon's eroded ridge to Red Butte and Broken Hill (a view that painters often use for easy access and beauty) ^{1,2}

*Back of Lodge/Discovery Trail, looking towards Red Butte or toward High Point, northeast towards the canyons and lagoon beyond; Extension and mountain views ^{1,2}

*Scripps Overlook, canyon view with concretions, Red Butte, or looking down toward Razor Point and the ocean ¹

*Guy Fleming Trail, South Overlook (at least one docent was married there!)

*Guy Fleming Trail, North Overlook

¹ ADA-accessible ² Always open even when trails are closed.

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

In honor of Earth Day, the shop team would like to bring attention to our items that are earth-friendly, including our Swedish dishcloths and our Jabebo earrings made from cereal boxes! In addition, we want to highlight our new 3-inch wooden magnets that feature nature mottos encouraging good trail practices. Come in and check them out!



May CEED Event: Elfin Forest Interpretive Hike

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022

Time: Meet at 8:30 am at Elfin Forest Visitor Center

Place: Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

8833 Harmony Grove Rd., Escondido

760-753-6466

Duration: 2 hours

Leaders: Volunteers from Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve: May be crossing the creek. Walk is easy/moderate

RSVP: Molly Allison

The hike will be relatively easy with shade along the Escondido Creek. We will be near water and possibly crossing the creek, so wear appropriate footwear.

Torrey Pines Book Club

We will continue to meet via Zoom at our regularly scheduled time. Please notify **Ken King** if you plan to participate and if you need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, May 10, 1:00 pm

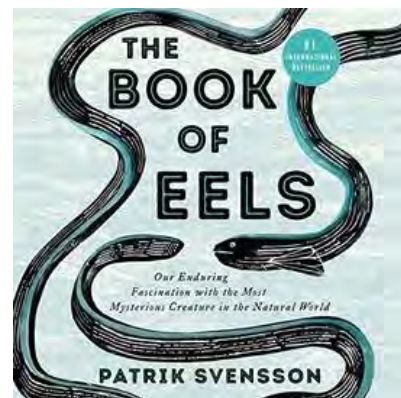
What: *The Book of Eels: Our Enduring Fascination with the Most Mysterious Creature in the Natural World* by Patrik Svensson

Amazon says:

Remarkably little is known about the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*. So little, in fact, that scientists and philosophers

have, for centuries, been obsessed with what has become known as the “eel question”: Where do eels come from? What are they? Are they fish or some other kind of creature altogether? Even today, in an age of advanced science, no one has ever seen eels mating or giving birth, and we still don’t understand what drives them, after living for decades in freshwater, to swim great distances back to the ocean at the end of their lives. They remain a mystery.

Drawing on a breadth of research about eels in literature, history, and modern marine biology, as well as his own experience fishing for eels with his father, Patrik Svensson crafts a mesmerizing portrait of an unusual, utterly misunderstood, and completely captivating animal. In *The Book of Eels*, we meet renowned historical thinkers, from Aristotle to Sigmund Freud to Rachel Carson, for whom the eel was a singular obsession. And we meet the scientists who spearheaded the search for the eel’s point of origin, including Danish marine biologist Johannes Schmidt, who led research efforts in the early twentieth century, catching thousands upon thousands of eels, in the hopes of proving their birthing grounds in the Sargasso Sea. Blending memoir and nature writing at its best, Svensson’s journey to understand the eel becomes an exploration of the human condition that delves into overarching issues about our roots and destiny, both as humans and as animals, and, ultimately, how to handle the biggest question of all: death. The result is a gripping and slippery narrative that will surprise and enchant.



Bird of the Month: Canada Goose

by Jack Friery; photo by Roswitha Knufken

Our featured bird this month is the **Canada Goose**, *Branta Canadensis*. Although most of us are likely very familiar with this bird, it's not commonly seen at Torrey Pines (although two were spotted during our most recent monthly bird count). This very large bird is about 30 to 40 inches long and may weigh from 100 to over 300 ounces. The exceptional range of length and weight is explained largely by the fact that there are 11 subspecies of the bird, with the geese getting smaller as you move northward. In an added twist, avian scientists split the four smallest subspecies of the Canada Goose into their own separate species, the Cackling Goose, in 2004.



How do the geese themselves deal with the size discrepancies? In a pattern biologists call “assortative mating,” birds of both sexes tend to choose mates of a similar size. Canada Geese mate for life (which is true for many more birds than we may realize), and pairs remain together throughout the year.

Geese have been embedded in our culture for eons. For example, in Homer's *Odyssey*, Penelope dreams that an eagle is killing all her geese. The eagle is her husband Odysseus, gone for twenty years, and the geese are the “arrogant” suitors who have been assailing her.

Sources: allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose/overview; allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cackling_Goose/overview; ipl.org/essay/Odysseus-And-The-Geese-In-Homers-Odyssey-FJ6CZ2YYGZV.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: April 2022

Number of species: 98
(+3 other taxa)

Canada Goose 2
Blue-winged Teal 4
Cinnamon Teal 2
Northern Shoveler 8
Gadwall 23
American Wigeon 22
Mallard 14
Green-winged Teal 1
Canvasback 1
Lesser Scaup 2
Bufflehead 23
Red-breasted Merganser 4
Ruddy Duck 6
California Quail 12
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Western Grebe 110
Mourning Dove 37
Anna's Hummingbird 44
Allen's Hummingbird 3
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 23
Ridgway's Rail 1
Virginia Rail 1
American Coot 14
Whimbrel 4
Long-billed Curlew 3

Least Sandpiper 13
Willet 4
Ring-billed Gull 6
Western Gull 3
California Gull 2
Glaucous-winged Gull 1
Caspian Tern 6
tern sp. 2
Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 2
Brandt's Cormorant 3
Double-crested Cormorant 6
Brown Pelican 18
Great Egret 9
Snowy Egret 7
White-faced Ibis 16
Osprey 2
Northern Harrier 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 5
Great Horned Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 10
Northern Flicker 4
Merlin 1
Hammond's Flycatcher 1
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 5
Black Phoebe 8
Say's Phoebe 1
Ash-throated Flycatcher 4

Cassin's Kingbird 7
Western Kingbird 14
Hutton's Vireo 1
California Scrub-Jay 9
American Crow 25
Common Raven 42
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1
swallow sp. 30
Bushtit 75
Wrentit 95
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2
California Gnatcatcher 8
House Wren 15
Marsh Wren 1
Bewick's Wren 38
California Thrasher 25
Northern Mockingbird 8
Western Bluebird 1
Hermit Thrush 7
Cedar Waxwing 60
Scaly-breasted Munia 2
House Sparrow 3
House Finch 73
Lesser Goldfinch 48
Dark-eyed Junco 4
White-crowned Sparrow 55
Golden-crowned Sparrow 5
Song Sparrow 71

Lincoln's Sparrow 4
California Towhee 76
Spotted Towhee 44
Western Meadowlark 7
Hooded Oriole 5
Bullock's Oriole 1
Red-winged Blackbird 25
Brewer's Blackbird 6
Orange-crowned Warbler 35
Nashville Warbler 2
MacGillivray's Warbler 1
Common Yellowthroat 26
Yellow-rumped Warbler 35
Black-throated Gray Warbler 3
Wilson's Warbler 3
Black-headed Grosbeak 1
Lazuli Bunting 1

Observers: Kathy Dickey, Andy Rathbone, Anonymous, Gary Grantham, Robert Turner, David Walker, Donna Mancuso, Steve Neal, Phyllis Kuszner, Robert James, Tsaiwei Olee, Marty Hales, Gabriele Wienhausen, Sue Randerson

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S107404831



Torrey Pines Docent Society
1155 Camino Del Mar #404
Del Mar, CA 92014
(858) 755-2063
torreypine.org