



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 443

June 2022

Planting Torrey Pines at Torrey Pines Reserve

by Joan R. Simon

At the May 14 Docent Society general meeting over Zoom, Christa Horn, Conservation Program Manager at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA), told us about the ongoing Torrey pines conservation program at the Reserve. Yes, those blue cones you've been seeing around the Reserve are an integral part of it.

First we need to back up a few years. The SDZWA has long been developing a native plant seed bank with germination research, rare plant surveys, and restoration projects. In 2009 they collected seeds of Torrey pines at nearby Crest Canyon for future restoration. This project was prompted by the alarming loss of trees at TPSNR: Between 2006 and 2018, an estimated 12% of Torrey pines in the Reserve died due to drought. This die-off followed another approximate 12% loss in the late 1980s, initiated by a damaging wind storm.

The sequence of events leading to these serious losses has followed a predictable pattern. The California five-spined engraver beetle (*Ips paraconfusus*), known familiarly as the bark beetle, colonizes trees that have been weakened by drought, building "galleries" in the inner layers of bark (cambium and phloem). They convert the tree's resin into pheromones that attract more beetles, which lay further siege to the trees. The beetles lay their eggs within the tree, and the larvae emerge as new adults, ready to do damage to other trees. "You usually don't see that a tree has been impacted until it starts to die," Christa explained.

Bark beetles and Torrey pines are both part of the local biome. Under non-stressful conditions, the resin of a healthy tree is plentiful enough to push out sufficient numbers of beetles to maintain a balance between the two species. As the saying goes: "Trees that don't ooze will lose." Unfortunately, the balance has tipped toward the beetles in

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 11, 9:00 am

Location: IN PERSON at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Rec Hall, Del Mar

Speaker: Steve Bledsoe, founder of the Southwestern Field Herping Association

Topic: The Dangerous Snakes of San Diego County

Mr. Bledsoe will teach us how to readily identify a dangerous snake, not only here in San Diego County but in all of California and most of the western states. We will learn what to do if we encounter a dangerous snake in the wild and what to do if we are bitten by one. Mr. Bledsoe will also share common facts and myths about snakes.

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

today's drought and climate-warming conditions. California State Parks has come to recognize the need for a management plan to counter the growing losses of Torrey pines, seeking to balance what is natural with what needs to be managed.

Initially, SDZWA set out to examine the genetic diversity of Torrey pines in the Reserve and Extension. While they found some distinctions between the trees in the two locations, in general the level of diversity was low. In addition to the mainland, there is the subspecies on Santa Rosa Island, *Pinus torreyana* spp. *insularis*, and the possibility of combining the two subspecies in order to strengthen the genetic diversity of the Reserve's Torrey pines is being considered by geneticists. The genetics project also compared dying and healthy trees in an attempt to identify traits that might provide protection and to learn whether the current population still had the genetic potential to adapt to this threat.

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

The SDZWA project expanded with the inclusion of the U.S. Forest Service entomologists, adding additional funding to evaluate "urban forests," which are both trees in cities and pockets of forests in suburban/urban areas, such as TPSNR. The key partners in the expanded project are now California State Parks, SDZWA, Cal Fire, TPDS, TPC, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The current components of the plan are: conserving seeds (which SDZWA has been perfecting for many years); enhancement plantings at the Reserve; beetle data analyses (TPC has been funding beetle data collection for more than 20 years); monitoring both existing trees and new plantings; and management trials.

Besides Torrey pines, the initial project involved other species; 580 native plants were installed south of the Guy Fleming Trail's north overlook – that is where the blue cylinders can most easily be seen. Included are sea dahlia, jojoba, dudleyas, lemonadeberry, ceanothus and mountain mahogany, with seeds locally sourced. Docents were supposed to be part of this planting project, but the onset of the Covid pandemic derailed that plan.

Protectors (those blue cones) were used on the non-succulent plants, with irrigation provided during the first dry season. The purpose of the blue cones is not primarily to deter herbivores but to create a microclimate that traps moisture and protects the plants from wind desiccation. Their shiny exterior surface also reflects out heat.

To increase the number of Torrey pines, seeds from the SDZWA seed bank were used and new collections were made, with seedlings grown in their nursery. So far 370 seedlings (out of a projected 450), with blue cone protectors, have been planted in a variety of locations, including the North Grove of the Guy Fleming Trail and Parry Grove. The project has identified three plot types: forested areas, sites to be reforested, and habitat extension into new areas. The locations that had lost trees are naturally more diverse than forest areas, because space has opened up for other plants to thrive.

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Planting Torrey pine seedlings at the North Grove



Why protectors?

- Herbivores are NOT the concern
- The plastic protectors (called cones) create a microclimate
 - Shiny outside reflects out heat
 - Traps moisture
 - Protects from wind desiccation

Cones protecting new Torrey pine seedlings

Extensive monitoring of these plots is ongoing, recording height and branching along with their health status (ranging from “good” to “dead”). Other variables are distance/angle to the nearest adult tree and canopy cover. The survival rates for 2021 were lower than expected, especially since the seedlings were watered:

Forest areas: 57%

Reforestation: 77%

Habitat extension: 37%

Some of the extenuating factors were the variable quality of the seedlings and irrigation issues in the forested plots with dense pine needle droppings. Despite the results, there should be adequate data to determine the suitability of the different types of sites. The difference in reforested areas and habitat extension, both with lots of space and light, is another area of interest, and soil variables may also be telling.

Another focus of the project is determining which adult trees are most vulnerable, taking into account age, location, and neighboring vegetation and how these factors impact a tree’s response to warming. In addition, monitors note stress indicators, such as red turpentine beetles, short or yellowing needles, and cankers and bark flakiness. This summer there will be an extensive canopy assessment among the existing trees.

Monitors will also be looking for signs of resilience, such as old beetle infections that were surmounted and copious amounts of dried sap. Trees are being measured every spring and fall with dendrometer bands, which stretch as the trunk expands. The bark beetle traps are another area of investigation. How well do they work at attracting beetles and deterring them from damaging trees? Would the pheromones of another species of beetle deter *Ips paraconfusus*? Could genetic diversity be gained from seeds of Torrey pines that have been naturalized in other areas, such as Balboa Park, or from the seeds of specimens in botanic gardens around the world? There will be more analysis of what areas are the most propitious for adding Torrey pines and whether density has been a factor in die-offs.

Two questions were uppermost in docents’ minds after Christa’s talk. What do we tell visitors who ask whether we’re tampering with nature by planting Torrey pines? The answer: Since our mission is to protect Torrey pine trees within the Reserve and we are now in an era of drought and climate change, we may need to plant trees in favorable settings where they can survive naturally. The second question was: How can docents be involved in this project? Christa said there would be “a big push to gather data, and we will need more help.” So docents should stay tuned. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

To see the program, video [click here](#).

General Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2022

The meeting started at 9:05 am via Zoom.

Invited Speaker

Christa Horn, Conservation Program Manager at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance presented a talk entitled “Planting Torrey Pines, Seeding a Management Plan: Research and Experimentation to Inform Management of Torrey Pines at TPSNR.” (See pg. 1.)

President’s Report and Announcements

Vice President **Roger Isaacson** reported the following on behalf of President **Lynne Truong**, who was out of town: The Docent of the Month is **Donna Close**. She has spent many hours weeding, taking the lead in organizing Earth Day and sharing trail reports. She wrote a great article on flowers in last month’s *Torreyana*.

During the Earth Day recap, Roger thanked the rangers and park aides for helping in the setup as well as providing shuttle support from the South lot. TIK volunteers sent many visitors over to the event, and we counted 801 visitors coming through the Lodge. The leads did a wonderful job with the creative interpretation booths. There was a new woodrat nest replica that was displayed, and the snake exhibit was a big hit.

Lisa Kakone reported on TIK operations for **Janice Barnard**, who was out of town. She reminded TIK volunteers to spin the combo locks and pack the cabinet according to the photos on the inside of the doors. There is now a self-inking stamp for nature bingo. There will be additional TIK training for docents who want to get more experience with a designated TIK docent. More information will follow.

Roger announced that this will be our last general meeting over Zoom. The next meeting will take place in person at St. Peter’s in Del Mar on June 11 at 9 am. For this meeting, the speaker does not want it recorded or on Zoom. Starting in July, we will begin recorded hybrid Zoom meetings for those docents who wish to stay at home. The wi-fi at the church is very fast and will allow us to provide international speakers to Zoom in for future meetings. A parking permit will be needed to park in the church lot. Docents can pick one up at the meeting.

Peter Domaille reported that the building next to National University has a massive parking lot that is open weekends. Peter volunteered to contact the management company to see if docents can park in the lot on crowded weekends when the Reserve entrance is backed up or closed. In response to the question whether docents can enter the Reserve in their cars from the south gate near the golf course, Roger reported that it cannot be done, as it is illegal to drive on the sidewalk.

In addition, Joan Selleck from the TPC has connections with the company that controls the National University

building and will see if we can use their parking lot on busy summer weekends. Dylan is working on a shuttle operation to pick up docents who are working at the Lodge and the TIK.

The December holiday potluck will be held at the Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar on Saturday December 10. The advantage of holding it there is that we will be protected from the weather.

Lodge hosting is the preferred activity for the Reserve, so if you have a TIK shift and nobody is at the Lodge, please proceed to the Lodge to ensure it stays open. We are open to suggestions of how to get more docents to sign up for Lodge hosting.

TPC is working to develop a committee to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Lodge in 2023. The “Wine in the Pines” event to be held on October 15 will be raising funds to renovate the Lodge.

Cres Torres will hold a roving interpreter (RI) training on June 15 at 9 am for those who have already taken the test. Ranger Kyle Knox and Park Aide Ingo Renner will lead the discussion. After the training meeting, newly trained interpreters will go on a walk with an experienced RI docent. Roger added that RI's have an additional duty to report maintenance issues. Please contact Cres if you are interested. (See pg. 6 for more details.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

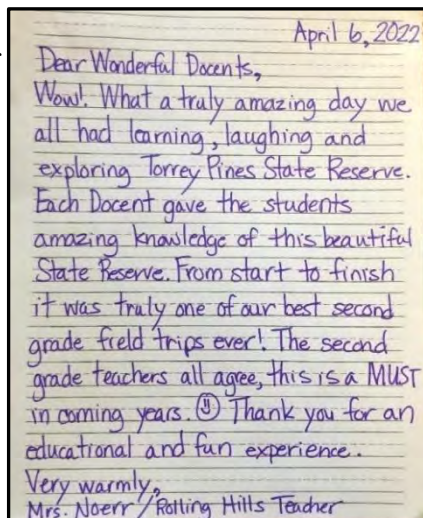
Children's Program

by *Louis Sands, Program Coordinator*

We did it! **Janet Ugalde** and I would like to express our gratitude to all the docents who participated in this spring's Children's Program.

We talk regularly to our student visitors about the importance of adaptation. This spring's unique set of circumstances certainly provided the opportunity for us all to “walk our talk.” We not only had to adapt, but we also proved that our program plays a vital role within San Diego County's outdoor educational ecosystem.

For those docents who served as walk leaders and/or presenters this spring, please read the teacher note here and know that your passion, effort, and skills matter. Happy summer to you all!



April 6, 2022
Dear Wonderful Docents,
Wow! What a truly amazing day we all had learning, laughing and exploring Torrey Pines State Reserve. Each Docent gave the students amazing knowledge of this beautiful State Reserve. From start to finish it was truly one of our best second grade field trips ever! The second grade teachers all agree, this is a MUST in coming years. ☺ Thank you for an educational and fun experience.
Very warmly,
Mrs. Noerr / Rolling Hills Teacher

Docent of the Month: Donna Close

Photo by Evelyn P. Vance

I am honored to be named Docent of the Month for the second time in my nine-plus years here at Torrey Pines. My docent class of 2013 had a core group of wonderful people, many of whom are still very active today. My affection and passion for the Reserve has not diminished over the years. I have been on the board of Torrey Pines Conservancy for over six years and continue to support the Reserve in both capacities.



I have enjoyed exploring the Reserve and sharing its ever-changing treasures with both visitors and fellow docents. I spent over seven years working the TIK on Sundays, and got to know many visitors. (Many would swing by and say hello, or ask where I had been if I missed a week!) I encourage new docents to spend time at the TIK and get to know the many repeat visitors as well as new ones. Those repeat visitors may become docents! In my years roving the trails I would often see the same people. I started asking them their names, since I would see them multiple times a week. One of those people happened to be **Don McGuire**. I eventually helped persuade him to become a docent since he was there all the time anyway. And what a wonderful docent he is.

Being a docent has expanded my knowledge and awareness of native plants, insects, and birds, not only at the park and home but on travels across the US. My background as an art major, who switched to accounting, may explain my attention to detail and my sudden desire to paint birds! I encourage all to tap into the knowledge of those docents who came before you. Training never ends - there is always something new to discover.

80+: A Conversation with Arline Paa

Interviewed by Kathleen Dewhurst; transcribed by Nancy Richardson

Arline has some sage advice for new docents and a healthy respect for Ellen Browning Scripps, to whom this Reserve owes its existence.

When did you become a docent and what duties have you performed?

I became a docent in 2010. My passion is gardening. I can't keep my hands out of the soil so I was very active in the Garden Committee for the Whittaker Garden and the front of the Lodge. I also worked as a Lodge host. While working at the Lodge, I thought that maybe I could make some ceramics to sell for the Reserve. After running the idea by **Nancy Woodworth** [the Museum Shop manager at the time] and the appropriate committees, I was given the go-ahead and have been creating works to sell in the Lodge ever since – much to my kids' relief; their cupboards are full! Yet again, I'm able to get my hands dirty. I really feel I transfer my energy and emotions into my creations. I throw mud as well, and when I'm having an off day, I cannot center the clay on the wheel for the life of me. It's all wonky.

Have you any docent awards to mention?

Yes, I did receive a Docent of the Month award. It's fun to be acknowledged, especially in a group such as this that has so many that give so much.

Can you tell us something about where you grew up?

I grew up in Buffalo, New York. When I think of those days, I think of high school and taking three busses to get to high school in the dead of winter! It made me a stronger person.

After high school, I studied nursing at Sisters of Charity Hospital and Canisius Jesuit College in Buffalo.

Did you have a favorite subject in school that may have lead you to become a docent at Torrey Pines?

Science was always my favorite subject and I have always loved plants. That's what brought me to Torrey Pines. When I was growing up, there were always wild morning glories growing in our yard. One problem with them though is that they only bloom in the morning, so when you pick them, there are no flowers for the vase. I've always had a healthy curiosity about nature. I would follow my grandmother around as she planted seeds, tended the garden and fed the chickens.



What brought you to San Diego?

My husband is a pediatric neurologist. In 1972 he started working in the Neurosciences Department at UCSD and Rady Children's Hospital.

Why did you become a docent?

Like many of us, I didn't have the time to volunteer until I retired. I had four children to raise and I worked in nursing at Mira Costa College and the UCSD Student Health Center. **Joan Adamo** alerted me to the docent program and told me they were about to start a new training session. I thought this would be an adventure and educational. I love the personal interactions here in this beautiful area.

Is there an accomplishment at Torrey Pines that you are particularly proud of?

Yes. I am particularly happy that I was instrumental in having a plaque with Ellen Browning Scripps' picture on it installed next to the Scripps Overlook beyond Whitaker Garden. She needs some recognition for her significant part in preserving this natural area. Without her philanthropy and appreciation of this area, the Reserve wouldn't be here today. We have gained so much because of her.

Do you have a philosophy you'd like to share?

Something I've learned with age is to not be afraid to assert yourself. We all have valuable thoughts and input. Oh, and get your hands dirty, both literally and figuratively.

What brings you joy?

Getting out in the world! With this pandemic lockdown, it's been over a year since I've been in the Lodge. I'm happy to get out in the world again.

Do you have a bucket list?

I want to dance at the weddings of my grandchildren, and I have ten of them, the youngest being four years old. My wish is to keep going and remain active.

Finally, do you have any advice for new docents?

In keeping with my philosophy, don't be afraid. We all have talents we've gained through work or other life experiences. Believe in yourself and get involved. There are many very experienced docents willing to share their knowledge. You will find your niche if you just get involved and believe in yourself.

This interview was conducted on July 7, 2021.

[Click here](#) to view Arline's video

Nature Discovery Series: Saturday, 3 pm

June 18 – Native Snakes and Lizards

Jeff Nordland will wow us with surprising local snake information, including a live demonstration.

July 16 – The Birds of Torrey Pines with Marty Hales.

Contact Kathy Dickey for more information

June CEED Event: Watershed Adventures

When: Wed., June 1, 8:30 am

Meet: South Beach parking lot

Duration: 2 hours

Leader: Ingo Renner, Senior Park Aide

Come learn about what is happening in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon this time of year. The tide will be low, allowing us to observe the plants and animals of one of the last remaining salt marshes in Southern California.

If you are interested, RSVP Molly Allison (earn one hour of Continuing Education)

CEED: Elfin Forest

by Molly Allison

Five docents attended the Elfin Forest Recreation Reserve CEED event on Monday May 2. We were greeted by Ranger Jeff Anderson and two volunteers and had an enjoyable interpretive learning experience.

Jeff began by giving us some history of the park and the visitor center. EFRR is located in the rural community of Elfin Forest and provides a wealth of opportunities for recreation, education, research and environmental appreciation. EFRR contains a section of the Escondido Creek, which flows year-round from Lake Wohlford to the San Elijo Lagoon.

The Interpretive Center was designed by James Hubbell and opened in 2009. It is a visually stunning center. Once inside, we were greeted by a volunteer named Adena, who gave us a tour of the center. Randy, another volunteer, led us on a short, relatively easy hike with lots of shade along the Escondido Creek. We had great weather and a fun day.



Roving Interpreter Training Reminder: June 15, 9:00 – 11:30 am

by Cresencio Torres

Roving Interpreter (RI) training for 2022 is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, at the Pavilion, 9:00 - 11:30 am.

These are the requirements for docents to receive the Roving Interpreter patch:

1. Notify Cresencio Torres of your interest in becoming a Roving Interpreter.
2. Read and be familiar with all content in the Roving Interpreter Handbook. To access go <https://torreypine.org>, click on Volunteering and sign in on the docent login. Go to Roving Interpreter Handbook. The RI Handbook Quiz and Map questions will be sent to you.
3. Return RI Handbook and Map quiz answers to Cresencio Torres no later than June 10.
4. Attend the Roving Interpreter training session on June 15 from 9:00-11:30 am, led by Ranger Kyle Knox and Park Aide Ingo Renner.
5. Hike with an experienced Roving Interpreter docent (30 minutes on that day).

If you cannot attend the June 15 session, you can view the Roving Interpreter training video from Oct. 9, 2021, at Docent Training, and Refresh Resources. If you have problems accessing any information, please contact Cresencio Torres.

Remembering Nan Danninger

by Karen Woods

In March, we gathered under the pines at the Reserve, as usual. It was a monthly ritual that a handful of us longtime docents had started during the pandemic – to catch up with one another and enjoy outdoor, distanced companionship in person.

That day we had a particularly lively conversation about an upcoming getaway to Los Angeles. Nan Danninger became an enthusiastic travel guide, sharing animated details of a recent adventure she'd been on with her dear college girlfriends to downtown LA, with excellent suggestions of what not to miss and amusing anecdotes. It was a sampling of what made Nan so special, with her sense of adventure and love of travel, and beauty, and lasting friendships. Careful notes were taken, as one would be well

served to follow any of the suggestions from a list curated by Nan.

Nan first became a docent in 2007, a few years following the passing of her beloved husband Greg. Barbara Wallach recalls memories of Nan and her early involvement with the Whacky Weeders – how after a morning of hard work, Nan would then invite the tired and dusty docents to her small wonderland of a backyard, nestled up under the pines of the Extension, for refreshing drinks and cookies. That was one of her specialties, turning the simplest gathering into a festive occasion with simple elegance.



Whacky Weeders relaxing in Nan's back yard.

Nan also routinely served as a Lodge host, providing a warm welcome to visitors from around the globe. An art major in college, her artistic talents soon came to the fore as she became involved with the Museum Shop. She had a keen eye and impeccable taste, along with being a savvy marketer, and applied these talents to such endeavors as wrapping Mat cards with raffia and small pine cones, to be sold in bundles of four. Nan was also instrumental in working with the printers to optimize images for new orders of Mat cards. She frequently went with Nancy Woodworth to Laird Plumleigh's studio to select the best of his tiles to sell in the shop. But before one could be placed for sale, she would carefully apply each one with wax, to give it that extra luster.

Torrey Pines was not Nan's first experience with a museum shop. She had originally honed her skills when she was involved in the earliest stages of the Mingei Museum in the 1980s, working alongside founder Martha Longenecker, when it was just a small storefront at UTC Mall. Yet for someone with sophisticated, discerning tastes, Nan was such an easy pleasure to be around. It was not that anything was ever lost on her – she had a well-developed sense of humor and could see the irony of a situation, often with a wry smile and warm chuckle. She was unflappable, the epitome of tact, and her input could be trusted with confidence. And if ever there was a thorny challenge, Nan would thoughtfully consider the various angles. She was a great listener and excellent advisor, appreciating a topic sympathetically, yet never with a

disparaging remark. Her involvement, with calm, steady energy, was contagious, and reassured all that everything would be just fine.

Over the decade, she would continue to host less-dusty docents for meetings, or "gatherings" as she would say, inside her beautiful home looking out over the Lagoon.

Going to her home was always such a treat, as it was so clearly a world that she had created. Nan's appreciation for nature and beautiful things was evident throughout: from beautifully displayed quilts, to Japanese *tansu* chests, to artful arrangements on the wall. Before even entering, one could see the magic she created with the combination of just a few plants at her doorstep – where one would be announced and greeted by her beloved four-legged family member of the day. Nan took delight in smaller creatures visiting her as well. As we settled down to business at her table, she would point out, for example, the house wrens that had turned the wreath on her balcony into their nest. Nan adored her own family, and would love to mix into the conversation stories of her grandchildren's latest interests and accomplishments. And whenever she brought out the tea and cookies, it felt like the moment had become celebratory.

Back under the pines again in April, it felt like we were all still mid-conversation. On a personal note, had Nan not made the suggestion, it is unlikely I would have thought to visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels while in LA, and I'd been eager to follow up with her to discuss the tapestries she'd so admired. But this was not to be. Instead, over the preceding week, I'd come to realize how much Nan had added to my experience, not just in seeing the specific tapestries, but in my way of looking at much of the world, the same as she had influenced so many others. This time when we all got together, rather than compare notes with Nan, we shared stories and fond memories about her. They were full of admiration, and the theme that came up most often was that of true graciousness. Such a sad loss for us. But such a beautiful life well-lived. May we all share in the appreciation of loved ones, beauty, and delight, as Nan did, and treasure the ongoing conversations in our midst. Cheers to you, Nan.

Nan's family has suggested donations may be made in Nan's memory to Heifer International, Mingei International Museum or our own Torrey Pines Conservancy. A write-up from her family, including wonderful pictures, may be found on Legacy.com: [Click here.](#)

Nan Danninger passed away on April 5, 2022. This remembrance was created from recollections of her docent friends: Barbara Wallach, Eva Armi, Jeannie Smith, Lillian Lachicotte, Nancy Woodworth, Peggy Fiorentino and Karen Woods.

Celebrating Earth Day

by Suzan Potuznik; photos by Darby Lewis, Evelyn Vance, Suzan Potuznik, and Wayne Kornreich

An Earth Day celebration, expertly organized by **Donna Close**, returned to the Reserve on April 23, with exhibits nestled in front of the historic Lodge, ready to inspire and entertain visitors and docents alike and to give them a deeper understanding and appreciation of our ecosystem, wildlife, and our unique treasure, the Torrey pine.

Patty and Bruce Montgomery greeted all coming to the event, inviting children to a scavenger hunt that led them to explore the world of insects, compare their arm span to that of a bird, recognize animal tracks and scat, learn a little geology, discover magnetic particles in sand, express their creative side with cobble stone art, and so much more.

The live animal kingdom participants, Huxley the Harris's Hawk (right), a collection of snakes that one could touch and hold, including a more than five-foot boa and a gopher snake, and the UV fluorescent scorpions, captivated all.



Joann Sandlin brought us new insight into the advanced domestic skill of a dusky-footed woodrat with an intricate recreation of a woodrat's nest – well, a little smaller than the typical four-to-six-foot size. The nest had rooms for food storage, toyon leaves to ward off fleas, sleeping quarters, a spot for scat, and of course the treasure chest room for all the unique objects discovered on the trails. We must thank the woodrat for helping to keep the park litter-free.



Woodrat nest model with removable roof

Kristine Schindler brought back the big spin bicycle wheel of topics (right), encouraging visitors to answer questions related to the 3 Rs so essential to preserving the Earth for generations to come: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.



TPDS docents shared their expertise on the insects, birds, geology, mammals, and invasive plants of the Reserve and the TPC highlighted the Reserve's native plants. University of California

Agricultural and Natural Resources center brought Annika's case of insects and their expertise on the wild bees and butterflies of the region, while Turn Around Vets made beautiful Torrey pine wood crafts.



Turn Around Vets

All in all, I am not certain who was more pleased to attend the Earth Day event, the visitors discovering the exhibits along their morning hike or the docents so happy to interpret and be together at the Reserve again.

A resounding "Thank You" to all the docents who made this event a tremendous success.



Kids appreciating insect pests booth



Playing with the boa



Before and after photos of *ehrharta longiflora*, an invasive grass



One of the many crafts for kids (and adults)



Cobblestone painting booth



Geology booth created by Cresencio Torres



Daisy Troup 3300 participated in the Bay to Creek Clean-up with Ranger Stephanie Adams at the North Beach on April 23 as part of the Earth Day celebration. *Photo by Stephanie Adams*

Sand and Gravel Group Improve Trails and Remove Weeds

by Louis Sands, Senior Park Aide

On May 2, the National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association (NSSGA) was in San Diego for its annual young leaders' conference. The conference organizers reached out to us in advance to schedule a service project; according to them, the conference participants always take part in a community service event in whichever city they happen to hold their annual meeting. We were told to expect over 80 volunteers!

Having access to that many specialized professionals for a service project is not an everyday occurrence. And they certainly did not disappoint!

We separated our volunteers into four sites: three decomposed granite/DG transport areas within the main Reserve (Beach, Broken Hill, and Guy Fleming Trails) and one large invasive plant removal project in the Extension.



We are so grateful to the NSSGA volunteers! Their efforts made an immediate positive impact, and we look forward to a continued

collaboration with this organization. A heartfelt thank you is also in order for our State Parks docents and staff who assisted: docents **Pao Chau, Joe Meyer, Steve Neal, and Lynne Small**; Park Aides Louis Sands, Ingo Renner, and Zuzana Volny; Rangers Dylan Hardenbrook, Kyle Knox, and Chuy Salinas; and State Parks staff Paige Liss, Alex Mouritzen, Cara Stafford, Chad Van Doren and Adam Welch.



Above DG photos courtesy of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association



NSSGA volunteers removing invasive South African veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) just northeast of the extension trailhead on Del Mar Scenic Pkwy; Photo by Lynne Small

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

The shop team is pleased to introduce our newest vendor, local ceramicist Merle Lambeth. Merle is a very talented artist from the San Diego Potters' Guild who has always wanted to be a docent here, but the Saturday classes conflict with her Guild commitments. She has made some items specifically for our shop, including a hanging plaque, some oval dishes, and a small box with a ceramic inset lid. We hope you will look at these new items the next time you're at the Lodge!



Torrey Pines Book Club

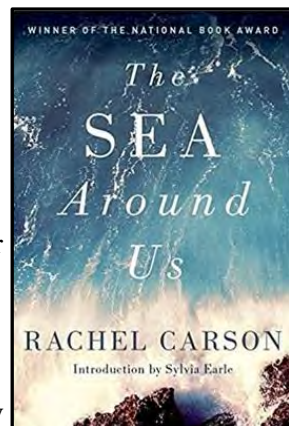
We will continue to meet via Zoom at our regularly scheduled time. Please notify **Ken King** if you plan to participate and if you need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, June 14, 1:00 pm

What: *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson

Amazon says:

Rachel Carson's ability to combine scientific insight with poetic prose catapulted this book to the top of The New York Times best-seller list, where it remained for more than a year and a half. Ultimately it sold well over a million copies, was translated into 28 languages, inspired an Academy Award-winning documentary, and won both the National Book Award and the John Burroughs Medal.



The Sea Around Us remains as fresh today as when it first appeared over six decades ago. Carson's genius for evoking the power and primacy of the world's bodies of water, combining the cosmic and the intimate, remains almost unmatched: the newly formed Earth cooling beneath an endlessly overcast sky; the centuries of nonstop rain that created the oceans; giant squids battling sperm whales hundreds of fathoms below the surface; the power of the tides moving 100 billion tons of water daily in one bay alone; the seismic waves known as tsunamis that periodically remind us of the oceans' overwhelmingly destructive power. The seas sustain human life and imperil it. Today, with the oceans endangered by the dumping of medical waste and ecological disasters such as the Exxon oil spill in Alaska, the gradual death of the Great Barrier Reef, and the melting of the polar ice caps, Carson's book provides a timely reminder of both the fragility and the centrality of the ocean and the life that abounds within it.

All TPDS docents are welcome. Meetings usually last a couple of hours

July 12: Any book by Barry Lopez, author of thirteen books of essays, short stories, and nonfiction, including *Arctic Dreams*, *Winter Count*, *Of Wolves and Men* and *Crossing Open Ground*.

Bird of the Month: Black-necked Stilt

by Jack Friery; photo by Herb Knufken

Our featured bird this month is the **Black-necked Stilt**, *Himantopus mexicanus*. This long-necked and long-legged shorebird spends its days foraging in shallow waters, such as our lagoon. Its primary food is crustaceans, aquatic invertebrates, and small fish.

The Black-necked Stilt is about 14 to 15 inches from top to tail, and weighs only five to six ounces. They have the second-longest legs of any bird in proportion to their bodies, exceeded only by flamingos.

The bird's Latin generic name, *Himantopus*, means "strap foot" in ancient Greek, perhaps referring to a comparison of its long leg to a sling or thong. In a little more romantic vein, the Hawaiian subspecies of the Black-necked Stilt is known in Hawaiian as *kukuluae'o*, or "one standing high."

Sources: [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-necked Stilt/overview](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-necked_Stilt/overview)

Unitt, *San Diego County Bird Atlas* (2004)

Choate, *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*.



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 7, 2022

Number of species: 86
(+2 other taxa)

Number of birds: 1196

Gadwall 18
Mallard 12
Northern Pintail 1
Surf Scoter 6
California Quail 5
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Mourning Dove 46
Vaux's Swift 5
White-throated Swift 19
Anna's Hummingbird 18
Allen's Hummingbird 3
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 19
hummingbird sp. 3
Ridgway's Rail 1
American Coot 1
Killdeer 6
Whimbrel 4
Long-billed Curlew 1
Least Sandpiper 7
Heermann's Gull 1
Western Gull 38

California Gull 4
Caspian Tern 16
Forster's Tern 5
Royal Tern 12
Elegant Tern 22
Brandt's Cormorant 60
Double-crested Cormorant 7
Brown Pelican 52
Great Blue Heron 6
Great Egret 20
Snowy Egret 19
Black-crowned Night-Heron 4
Northern Harrier 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 9
Downy Woodpecker 2
Nuttall's Woodpecker 7
American Kestrel 3
Peregrine Falcon 7
Olive-sided Flycatcher 1
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2
Black Phoebe 11
Say's Phoebe 1
Ash-throated Flycatcher 13
Cassin's Kingbird 10
Western Kingbird 3
Hutton's Vireo 4

Warbling Vireo 23 -
California Scrub-Jay 8
American Crow 15
Common Raven 13
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 12
Barn Swallow 1
Cliff Swallow 3
Bushtit 46
Wrentit 70
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
California Gnatcatcher 5
House Wren 8
Marsh Wren 1
Bewick's Wren 26
European Starling 3
California Thrasher 7
Northern Mockingbird 11
Western Bluebird 4
Hermit Thrush 1
Scaly-breasted Munia 4
House Sparrow 4
House Finch 70
Lesser Goldfinch 62
American Goldfinch 1
Dark-eyed Junco 2

Savannah Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 44
California Towhee 73
Spotted Towhee 44
Yellow-breasted Chat 9
Hooded Oriole 5
Red-winged Blackbird 10
Orange-crowned Warbler 13
Common Yellowthroat 17
Yellow Warbler 7
Townsend's Warbler 1
Wilson's Warbler 20
Black-headed Grosbeak 10
Blue Grosbeak 2

Observers: David Walker, Donna Mancuso, Nancy Richardson, Kathy Dickey, Marty Hales, Andy Rathbone, Robert James, Steve Neal, Sue Randerson, Anonymous, Robert Turner, Karen Messer

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S109707294

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



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