



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 457

August 2023

A *Fundulus*-loving Guy

by Dan Hammer

Some of our guest speakers focus on a single species for its own sake, telling us everything we always wanted to know about lichens or mountain lions. Others use a single species to make larger points about the natural world.

At the July TPDS meeting, Dr. Drew Talley told us about the California killifish (*Fundulus parvipinnis*). But in his presentation, as in his life's work, he also used *Fundulus* to illustrate some vital points about fishes' critical roles in wetlands habitats and about the interconnectivity both of distinct coastal habitats and of various species within a given wetland.



Drew began by distinguishing the ways different fish species inhabit wetlands as residents, transients, or visitors. *Residents* live their whole lives in the wetlands: "They're born there, reproduce there, and get eaten there." *Transients* spend part of their lives there, often using the wetlands as nursery habitats. (For example, the California halibut loves to have its babies where it's safe and warm with plenty of food; then, as a juvenile halibut gets bigger, it moves out into the ocean.) There are also *visitors* that don't depend on wetlands but drop by to eat or to move through on their way upstream to riverine habitat, as when salmon pass through to lay their eggs.

(Cont. on pg. 3.)

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 12, 9 am

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

Speaker: Pat Abbott, Professor of Geology Emeritus, SDSU

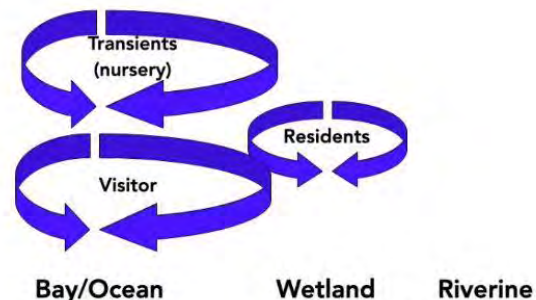
Topic: Geologic History of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve

TPSNR is made of sedimentary rocks deposited during two geologic-times: Eocene and Quaternary. Detailed features in the Eocene rocks allow us to recognize sediments deposited in back-barrier tidal and estuarine/lagoonal environments. Above the Eocene strata, more than 40 million years of geologic time is not represented. The rock record begins again during Quaternary time with alternating intervals of marine and submarine sandstones deposited when sea levels rose and fell by 400 feet as continent-burying glaciers advanced and retreated.

Pat Abbott was a Professor of Geology at SDSU teaching how to read the history stored in sedimentary rocks. His books include *The Rise and Fall of San Diego*, *Geology of Mission Trails Park*, and *Natural Disasters*.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **G**, **H**, and **I** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

How different fish species inhabit wetlands



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.

President's Message

The Secret to Good Health May Be a Walk in the Park

Happy August, fellow docents. As you may have read, doctors in England are prescribing walks in nature for some patients suffering from various maladies. We know that there is something about the greenness of a park canopy that soothes our human spirit. We also know that we have to exercise on a daily basis.

A recent study suggests that logging 7,000 daily steps may go a long way toward better health. Middle-aged people who walked at least 7,000 steps a day on average were 50-70% less likely to die of any cause over the following decade, compared with those who took fewer steps. Walking in a park may provide even greater benefits.

The connection between parks and public health is well established. Just a ten-minute walk can enhance physical fitness, reduce the risk of chronic disease, and improve brain functions such as learning and memory. Let's be sure to share this with our visitors as we volunteer in the park.

As of this writing, the BLIK gazebo and cabinets are installed! During the construction, park visitors often asked what we were doing. When we described the gazebo, many were very excited about it. We are now planning a grand opening ceremony sometime in the near future.

I want to thank those who put in many hours on the construction project: **Pao Chau, Thomas Stehlik, Rick Vogel, Cliff Colwell, Donna Close, Bill Eckles, Mukesh Mehta, Ingo Renner**, and our "Supervisor," **Frank Burham**. Also deserving credit for this project are park Maintenance Supervisor Chad Van Doren and Corbin Schuppert. And let's not forget Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook, who pushed the project through the State Parks bureaucracy.

Gabriele Wienhausen, Rosemary Wareham, and Malana Tabak are conducting BLIK Training sessions. I strongly encourage you to step outside your comfort zone and participate in this worthwhile project to connect our visitors to the natural world.

See you on the trails.

Matt Xavier, TPDS President



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(Cont. from pg. 1.)

Fishes play a number of critical functional roles in wetlands, including as *prey*, *predators*, *indicators* of habitat quality, *vectors* of parasites and diseases, and *ecosystem engineers* whose actions (e.g., burrowing or feeding) physically change their habitat.

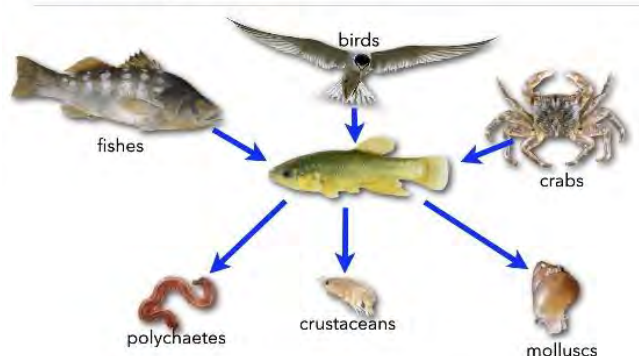
In 1994, while Drew was studying invertebrates in the Kendall-Frost Salt Marsh in Mission Bay, his Ph.D. advisor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography asked him to take a closer look at fish. He said, “I’ll do it, but I’m not going to become one of those ‘fish guys.’” But “then I met *Fundulus* and fell in love and things changed.” He has been investigating this fascinating fish ever since while using it as a “jumping-off point” for studying habitat connectivity in a salt marsh complex.

In the wetlands near Kendall-Frost, Drew quickly discovered that *Fundulus* offered an excellent way to look at connectivity among several different habitats including salt marsh, mudflats, intertidal pools, creeks, and seagrass.



The killifish’s importance in wetlands habitats has nothing to do with its size: Its average length is about 6 cm, and the biggest “monster” ever observed was 10 cm. But it is superabundant, often comprising 80 to 90 percent of the fish population in a marsh. And as a midlevel predator, it sits right in the middle of the food web. Killifish “will eat anything they can get their little mouths around,” and many species of fish, birds, and crabs love to eat them.

mid-level predator



To evade these predators, *Fundulus* has developed a “brilliant strategy”: It breeds only at the new and full moons, when tides are very high. As the tide rises, killifish swim up into the highest parts of the marsh and lay their eggs in the pickleweed. After the tide recedes, the eggs have two weeks in relative safety before the next high tide. Then the eggs hatch, and the babies spend their time struggling to survive in the marsh. As they get older, the killifish venture further out into the bay; here they can be eaten, thereby transferring energy from one habitat to another.

These migrations recur daily throughout a killifish’s life: Over the course of a few hours, a mature killifish will follow the high tides to higher areas to feed, then return to deeper water as the tide goes out. Every time it moves from one area to another, it connects different habitats.

If you missed Drew’s lively presentation or want to watch it again, [click here](#).

General Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2023

In President **Matt Xavier**’s absence, the meeting was led by board member **Gabriele Wienhausen** and Vice President **Harry Proctor**. Approximately 50 docents attended.

Guest Speaker: Prof. Drew Talley, University of San Diego, on wetlands and the California killifish. (See article on pg. 1.)

Science Fair Winner Presentation

Bernardo Marce presented his project on how quickly “compostable” materials decompose in various environments (see pg. 8 for his abstract). Sanjana Kumar will present her project at the August meeting. See the June *Torreyana* [\[click here\]](#) for the abstracts of the other two winners.

DOM

Linda Brown was named Docent of the Month for her many hours working at the TIK and Lodge and her willingness to step in at the last minute to fill in empty shifts. (See pg. 4.)

Special Award

Donna Close is moving to Bend, Oregon next month. The board presented her with a Special Heart Award as thanks for her many years of active contribution to the Reserve. She has planned and organized many docent events, including Earth Day and this year’s Lodge Centennial. She has also been a Seabee, Whacky Weeder, frequent Roving Interpreter, Special Walks leader,



and a writer for the *Torreyana*. We will miss her dedication to sharing pictures of plants and animals seen along the trails. Donna also spent several years on the Torrey Pines Conservancy board as treasurer.



CARE Team

Nancy Richardson is stepping down from her co-leader role on the CARE team. Docents who are interested in helping should reach out to **Medi Denker**.

BLIK

Gabriele Wienhausen announced that the BLIK will have its permanent structure as of July 18. Until then, the BLIK team will need help transporting the temporary table and canopy from the North Parking Lot shed to the restroom area. They will offer two training sessions to familiarize docents with the interpretive materials available at the BLIK and how to set up, lock up, and interact successfully with the public. The BLIK is open on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm, with the hope of extending those hours to Fridays and Saturdays once the permanent structure is in place.

BLIK training dates are as follows:

Friday July 21, 10 am - 11:30 am (See photo on pg. 5)

Friday July 28: 2pm - 3:30 pm

Bee Project

Gabriele Wienhausen encouraged docents to join the Wannabees, the Bee Project group. Those new to the project will be trained and mentored. Let Gabriele know if you are interested.

Refreshment Committee

Michelle Kurtis Cole, who is stepping down from the refreshment committee, was thanked for keeping docents supplied with coffee and snacks for the past two years. **Marian Edelbrock** is taking over as leader of the refreshment team and has recruited several docents to form the new committee. Docents with last names beginning with **G, H, and I** will be responsible for providing snacks at the August meeting.

California State Parks Week

Dinah Carl, leader of the Mindful Walks team, updated us on the California State Parks Week held in June. This is the first year Torrey Pines was asked to participate, and we introduced Mindfulness Walks to the public. Park Interpreter Louis Sands applied for and received a grant from the California State Parks Foundation for funds to create advertising posters and flyers for the event. There

were six guided walks, three on the Guy Fleming Trail and three on Parry Grove Trail. The public turnout was good. The Mindful Walks team is looking for more docents to become guides. Please contact Dinah if you are interested.

Docent of the Month:

Linda Brown

Photo by Herb Knufken

First, I want to say it's such a honor to be Docent of the Month. I am a 2023 graduate.

I have been coming to TPSNR for some 20+ years and make my home nearby.

I am an RN and an MFT (Marriage and Family Therapist). I have specialized in Trauma Care. All my career life I have been indoors in a hospital or in an office. I always knew that when I retired, I wanted to be outdoors. This has become a perfect fit for me. I have been lucky to know **Barbara Wallach**. She has taught me so much about the Reserve and our surrounding area. She encouraged me to join the docent program.

I learn something new every time I am up here. I actually think all you docents are my favorite part of Torrey Pines. Your commitment to preserving the area and the education of the public is truly inspiring.

Thank you for this honor. I hope to follow in your footsteps.



Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Program Director

We hope our supremely dedicated team is enjoying a well-deserved summer rest! The Children's Program reservation system will reopen August 15.

We will meet in early September to plan for the school year. The date will be announced in the September *Torreyana*.

As we reconnect with our seasoned docents at our kickoff meeting, we also look forward to welcoming newbies. Helping San Diego students to engage with our amazing Reserve is simply too rewarding a task to keep to ourselves!

Roving Interpreter Training

by Cresencio Torres

On June 29, fifteen docents completed the TPDS Roving Interpreter training program both in attendance and those unable to attend the program for various reasons: **Ray Barger, Jane Barger, John Bowe, Coleen Huang, Jeff Jacobs, Mukesh Mehta, Linda Brown, Gale Darling, Bob Friedman, Connie Jaffe, Tony Mondini, Glo Silva, Matt Xavier, Rick Vogel, and Santosh Nichani.**

Thanks to Ranger Stephanie Adams and docents **Ingo Renner** and **Barbara Wallach** (right) for sharing their knowledge and wisdom about the letter of park rules and the spirit of roving interpretation.



Finally, I would like to acknowledge our mentor Roving Interpreter docents – **Stu Rosenwasser, Gabriele Wienhausen, Ron Styn, and Margaret Fillius** and – who volunteered their time to lead small groups on spirited post-program walkabouts, answering questions and sharing their experiences.



Mission accomplished, and good luck to our new cadre of Roving Interpreters as they hit the trails.



Lodge History 8:

So You Think You Have Problems!

by Judy Schulman, TPDS Historian

This is the eighth in a series of articles by Judy Schulman about Torrey Pines Lodge, whose 100th anniversary we celebrated on April 8, 2023.

The landscape and architectural plans have been approved. The Lodge has been built. The restaurant is a success. So what could go wrong? Well, apparently there were a number of problems during those first years. And some of those problems are still with us today!

Getting to the Lodge was not easy. Not everyone had cars, and there was no public transportation. Some of the waitresses who worked at the Lodge had to stay there for a few days at a time. (Local tour companies did provide limited access.) Many visitors who did have cars felt they could park anywhere they wanted despite there being marked parking spaces. Fortunately, the Burkholders had their own means of transportation so they could bring food supplies.

Speaking of supplies, there was some bickering over who would pay for certain items, such as awnings to increase the dining area, ice machines, and toilet paper. Such payment issues led to a spirited correspondence between Guy Fleming, the Burkholders, and the San Diego Board of Park Commissioners.

And speaking of parking, where did the equestrians “park” their horses? Yes, equestrians held meetings up in the Lodge. They rode their horses to Torrey Pines and had lunch in the Lodge (the riders, not the horses). For obvious reasons they couldn’t leave their horses right next to the building, but they could hitch them behind the current-day bathrooms.

There were problems with some of the guests. Mostly these were of the four-legged (skunks, lizards, stray cats and dogs) and feathered kind (which liked to swoop down on visitors dining on the patio). They knew a good source of food when they sensed it. But there was also a problem with some itinerant fortune-tellers, who were suspected of lifting visitors’ wallets while reading their palms until they were finally discouraged from returning.

There were a few structural problems. Should there be a telephone or not, and if so, where should it be? One blueprint I found shows it was supposed to be located on the wall near the door to the video room. None of my postcard interior views show any phone, but there must have been one somewhere in the building because old ads say to call “La Jolla 36-W-I” for reservations. Running electricity into the Lodge was also of concern. At one time, there was outside lighting built into recesses in the adobe on the terrace outside of the Lodge (you can still see some of

them). This didn't last too long because of rain damage. But the biggest problem was with plumbing. Apparently, the wrong sizes of pipes were used, which affected the bathrooms as well as the sinks used for food preparation.

So here it is 100 years later. For those of us who do not drive, it can take several bus transfers and a walk up the hill to reach the Lodge. There are still problems with electricity and plumbing. The bathrooms don't always work. People still tend to be discourteous with the way they park. Fortunately, what has stayed the same are the beauty and serenity that have drawn people to Torrey Pines for all these years.

CEED: Living Coast Discovery Center

by Mukesh Mehta

Why would a sea turtle wear a weighted wetsuit? Because rescued sea turtles, injured during motor boat accidents, have extra air pockets trapped in their shells and lungs. Weighted wetsuits help them overcome this extreme buoyancy and swim easily, even down to the bottom of their enclosures.

A total of 19 Torrey Pines docents participated in the July 19 CEED event at the Living Coast Discovery Center, located in the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge Center in Chula Vista. Our tour, led by Discovery Center docents, began at the "Turtle Lagoon." Everyone got a chance to get close and pet the rescued sea turtles.



Next, we visited two rescued birds: Betsy, a magnificent Bald Eagle with a wingspan of 7.5 feet, and her neighbor Dorado the Golden Eagle. A large crowd gathered around their enclosures to watch them eat lunch. Today their meal consisted of mice; sometimes they get chicken or fish.

As we meandered our way to the "Shark and Ray Experience," we stopped by enclosures for Swainson's Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Crested Caracara, American Kestrel, and a pair of Burrowing Owls.

At the Shark and Ray Experience, we entered a cool, covered oasis with a large swimming tank, home to leopard shark, yellowtail, stingrays, Garibaldi, and many more

species. A survivor of cancer surgery, the orange Garibaldi maneuvered around the tank with confidence.

As the tour ended, we dispersed through the center's main building viewing exhibits of eel, fish, and snakes. Some docents ventured out for a short hike with sweeping views of San Diego Bay.

2023 Flower Season: the Gift that Keeps on Growing

by Donna Close

Editors' Note: Donna Close is moving to Oregon this month. As one of the keenest observers of the flora of TPSNR, Donna has shared her dazzling photos and vivid descriptions with readers of the Torreyana. We have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated her contributions.

Have you ever received a gift that consisted of multiple boxes you had to keep unwrapping until you finally got to the bottom? This is how the plants in the Reserve have responded to getting more than 18 inches of rain from December through May.

The previous two years had little rain, and the plants seemed to have rushed to flower and seed all at the same time with very little new growth. They survived by dropping leaves and waiting out the hot summer and fall until the first rains would arrive. This year has been one of the most spectacular I have witnessed in 13-plus years of hiking the trails. The plants have responded to all the rain and cool temperatures with tons of new growth, spreading out the bloom season so they weren't competing with each other for pollinators. I wish I had taken a photograph each month to capture the evolving show of blooms over the park's vistas.

After the rains arrived in December, the wild cucumber sent out its long stems and draped itself over everything in its path. The spice bush (bush rue) seemed to have multiple bloom periods. January rains continued the awakening of long-dormant plants. Miner's lettuce was growing in large patches in places I had never noticed before. Three varieties of lupine could be seen springing up on the trails. Even more amazing: In mid-January we saw a large influx of American Robins move into the coastal areas, feasting on available berries and staying for weeks. The first hint of an unusual flower year was the large population of pepper grass growing in open spaces along the park road and trails. Chamise was the first plant to make a statement, blanketing the scenery with snowy white as far as the eye could see. (These are now slowly turning brown and will be providing a wonderful harvest for the birds throughout the fall and winter.) At the same time, the bedstraw was blooming, throwing in some creamy white and yellow to compete or

complement the chamise. Remnants of those blooms are still visible on the plants.



June brought us the flat-top buckwheat, with white flowers and hints of pink. The harvester ants can be seen moving these seeds around, hopefully developing into even more plants next year. Laurel sumac waited until warmer temperatures to leaf out, and their Christmas tree-shaped flowers are now competing with toyon blossoms for “Best in Show” on the mesa. (The toyon will provide a wonderful display of red berries come late fall/early winter.) Bush poppies are still blooming along the park road across from the Guy Fleming trailhead and up the stairs of High Point along with the red-orange flowers of the southern pink.

Guy Fleming has always been the trail with the greatest flower show. This year was better than ever with its ever-changing display of showy plants. Milkmaids appeared dotting the hillsides of the lower park road and all along the shaded area of the trail. These along with the vines of the wild cucumbers took advantage of the first rains. Next, the common phacelia leafed out, and purple flowers dusted the hillside. Adding to the display were the goldfields, California poppies, tidy tips, sun cups, ground pink, groundsel, and white popcorn flowers. Sea dahlias were blooming from the top of the hillside all the way down to the park road. Blue dicks were growing in mass, and Nuttall’s snapdragons shot up to heights I have not seen before (a few are still hanging on to their flowers).

This was the year of the lupine. Large patches of collared lupine were seen along the west side of the Guy Fleming Trail, at Whitaker Garden, and at the bottom of the Beach Trail. The California poppies were putting on their own show, especially on the south-facing slope of the trail. The lance-leaf dudleyas are growing in bunches all along the east-facing side of the trail, with their red-orange flower stalks adding a burst of color. As the spring bloom was starting to fade, the yellow pincushions took over the west hillside. I don’t recall ever seeing the pincushion from top to bottom. The white flowers of three-spot have claimed the slope closest to the south overlook, and the bird’s beak is still growing along the trails, barely starting to bloom.

Razor Point put on its own display of flowers. The yellow flowers of the Weed’s mariposa popped out first along this trail, with yellow-faced bumblebees busy pollinating them. There are groups of mariposa along the lower park road, and here and there on other trails. Del Mar sand asters have reached



heights not seen previously, with beautiful gray foliage and dusty pink flowers now showing off along the edges of the trails. The pink splendid mariposa seemed to favor the Beach Trail for its biggest display, which started blooming in late April. It’s curious that they don’t bloom at the same time as the Weed’s nor in the same places.

A hike onto the Broken Hill overlook offers you a display of amole (soap plant), whose wavy leaves have died back after sending up stalks of small flowers at least two to three feet tall – not just a few plants but hundreds of them. Turkish rugging, which I had seen only once over the years, was covering large parts of the entrance to the overlook, competing with the hot pink of the canchalagua. Skunk weed, with its distinctive smell, provided splashes of purple along the Broken Hill Trails and park road. Johnston’s honeysuckle was flowering along the North Broken Hill Trail, more so than I have ever seen. Beautiful globes of goldenstar could be seen poking out from the shrubs along the lower switchbacks of Broken Hill.

While this was a banner year for some plants and annual flowers, I noted that others appeared not to like the abundance of water or the late warming of soil temperatures. Blue-eyed grass, purple nightshade, and golden yarrow appeared, but not as abundant or as long lasting as in previous drier years.

I have enjoyed every moment I have spent hiking the trails over the years. There is always something new to discover in the Reserve, and the scenery is always evolving.

Take a walk and enjoy all its treasures.

Science and Engineering Fair 2023

by Wayne Kornreich

The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair was held in person this year for the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic. This year there were many outstanding science fair projects, and our judging team (**Robert James, Karen Lisi, Leigh Fenly, Kathy Dickey, Kimberley Gambling, and Wayne Kornreich**) selected four projects as winners. Two of the students, Tejas Ravi and Kyle Tianshi, presented at our May 13 docent meeting. Another, Bernardo Marce, presented at our July 8 meeting. Our fourth winner, Sanjana Kumar, will be presenting at our August 12 meeting. Below are the abstracts from Bernardo and Sanjana.

What Is the Best Way to Dispose of Biodegradable Products? A Year 3 Study

by Bernardo Marce

This study is a continuation of previous work, where the results were inconclusive. The question I wanted to answer was, "What is the best method to decompose biodegradable products in a controlled environment?" I



recreated most of the environments that people use to dispose of trash and added a water container to look at the rate of decomposition in water. My hypothesis was that the water container would be the most effective overall for decomposition due to the effect of water and bacteria on the products, that the paper products would decompose fastest in the compost container, and that the straws would decompose fastest in the trash containers. The total period studying the decomposition in the different containers was 26 months. Charts were created based on the data and were used to show that decomposition in the water container was effective with some products.

The best environment to dispose of biodegradable products in these experiments was the Closed Plastic Compost container, which was shown to be the best of all the systems tested. Five of the products had completely decomposed, and the remainder were at an advanced state of decomposition. An interesting observation was that the decomposition rate increased significantly when the plastic containers began breaking apart. The system with the worst decomposition rate was the landfill system. I had hoped landfills would be the most efficient system since most of our trash is deposited in them. Unfortunately, in the 15 months of my study involving the landfill system, not one

product decomposed more than 51 percent. The biodegradable products that had the best decomposition rate in almost all containers was the paper plate. The biodegradable products that had by far the worst decomposition rates were the Wecare and Ecoshell spoons.

Utilizing 3D-Printed Engineered Living Materials to Break Down Environmental Pollutants

by Sanjana Kumar

Textile dyes have been a leading environmental pollutant for decades, causing massive degradation of ecosystems and wildlife. Although methods have been derived to break down these dyes, none are sustainable or cost-effective, and all need to be constantly replenished. Given that strains of cyanobacteria have been known to secrete an enzyme that breaks down these dyes, the purpose of this experiment was to determine whether this property of cyanobacterial cells could be harnessed by confining a concentrated cell solution in a hydrogel matrix to break down environmental pollutants in a controlled, renewable manner.



The goal of this experiment was to develop a semi-permeable, biocompatible polymer material. This was accomplished by experimenting with different polymers and chemicals to develop a gel. Next, 3D-printing a matrix/grid polymer gel capable of confining cyanobacteria cells using a biocompatible gel. By combining the cyanobacteria cells with the printing gel and 3D-print matrices containing cyanobacteria, cell viability was observed. Experiments were run on these matrices to confirm that the enzyme secreted by the cyanobacteria was able to permeate the polymer membrane. Finally, small samples of industrial textile dyes were placed into these matrices and the ability of these matrices to degrade them was observed.

The biocompatible 3D-printed polymer matrix was successfully developed, and cyanobacteria strains were able to flourish and reproduce within. The presence of the desired enzyme was confirmed, as was the matrix's ability to degrade an industrial pollutant with 70% efficacy, which is 43.5% more effective than current market solutions. The tests run on other industrial pollutants were inconclusive. However, proof of concept has been established and a clear application of engineered living materials has been established.

Photo News



Lobster spotted in Flatrock hole on July 17. *Photo by SR Dylan Hardenbrock*

Snake at the TIK



A live rattlesnake wowed visitors to the TIK on Monday, July 17. It was released back into the wild the next day. *Photo by SR Dylan Hardenbrock*

BLIK (Beach-lagoon Interpretive Kiosk) training, July 21



How do you spell relief? T-P-D-S!

SR Hardenbrock was under a time crunch to hire enough qualified lifeguards for this summer. To attract and retain lifeguards, he wanted to improve working conditions with a new water station, but State Parks' budget was frozen. The TPDS board approved \$300 to buy it, and Maintenance installed it.



Lifeguards Jack Ochoa and Michael Borchard

Bush Mallow Delight by Rhea Bridy

Pinkish Purplish pleasure
Soft, delicate petals reside
Blossoms of spring-summer
Raspberry-ish hues inside.



Next Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 9

Time: 1 – 3 pm

Place: Children's Pavilion (or docent library, depending on weather or number attending)

Everyone is welcome, but please let a board member know if you're coming.

See pg. 2 for list of board members.

Torrey Pines Book Club

We will continue to meet via Zoom at our regularly scheduled time: the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Please notify **Annette Ring** if you plan to participate or need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, August 8, 1:00 pm

What: *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland* by Jim DeFede

Amazon says:

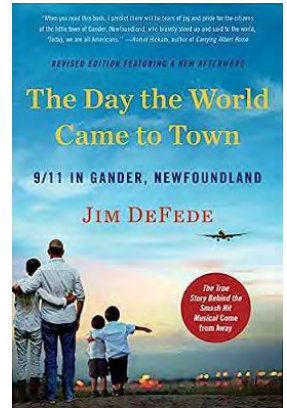
When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000. The citizens of Gander met the stranded passengers with an overwhelming display of friendship and goodwill.

As the passengers stepped from the airplanes, exhausted, hungry and distraught after being held on board for nearly 24 hours while security checked all of the baggage, they were greeted with a feast prepared by the townspeople. Local bus drivers who had been on strike came off the picket lines to transport the passengers to the various shelters set up in local schools and churches. Linens and toiletries were bought and donated. A middle school provided showers, as well as access to computers, email, and televisions, allowing the passengers to stay in touch with family and follow the news.

Over the course of those four days, many of the passengers developed friendships with Gander residents that they expect to last a lifetime. As a show of thanks, scholarship funds for the children of Gander have been formed and donations have been made to provide new computers for the schools. This book recounts the inspiring story of the residents of Gander, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and been an example of humanity and goodwill.

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

September 12: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 2023

Number of species: 64
(+3 other taxa)

Cinnamon Teal 2
Mallard 6
Surf Scoter 7
California Quail 12
Mourning Dove 59
White-throated Swift 12
Anna's Hummingbird 23
Allen's Hummingbird 16
hummingbird sp. 7
Killdeer 1
Long-billed Curlew 8
peep sp. 12
Heermann's Gull 5
Western Gull 26
Caspian Tern 5
Royal Tern 1
large tern sp. 4
Double-crested Cormorant 9
Brown Pelican 24

Great Blue Heron 8
Great Egret 3
Snowy Egret 5
Osprey 1
Cooper's Hawk 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3
Acorn Woodpecker 1 *Seen and heard...large permanent population may be found further up Peñasquitos Canyon.*
Nuttall's Woodpecker 13
American Kestrel 1
Peregrine Falcon 1
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2
Black Phoebe 13
Say's Phoebe 1
Ash-throated Flycatcher 15
Cassin's Kingbird 17
Hutton's Vireo 2
California Scrub-Jay 17
American Crow 9
Common Raven 26

Northern Rough-winged Swallow 13
Cliff Swallow 11
Bushtit 56
Wrentit 92 *Birds were counted over different days in different locations.*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
California Gnatcatcher 5
House Wren 8
Bewick's Wren 30
California Thrasher 17
Northern Mockingbird 13
Western Bluebird 4
Phainopepla 1
Scaly-breasted Munia 17
House Sparrow 28
House Finch 170
Lesser Goldfinch 57
Dark-eyed Junco 7
Savannah Sparrow 6
Song Sparrow 22
California Towhee 97

Rufous-crowned Sparrow 1
Spotted Towhee 47
Yellow-breasted Chat 7
Hooded Oriole 5
Red-winged Blackbird 6
Orange-crowned Warbler 9
Common Yellowthroat 19
Black-headed Grosbeak 5

Observers: Andy Rathbone, Donna Mancuso, Marty Hales, Tsaiwei Olee, Kathy Dickey, Kathy Estey, Debbie Regottaz, Steve Neal, Monica Stupaczuk, Robert Turner, Karen Turner, Nancy Richardson, Gary Grantham, Gabriele Wienhausen

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S145056930

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



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