



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 467

June 2024

June and Gloom

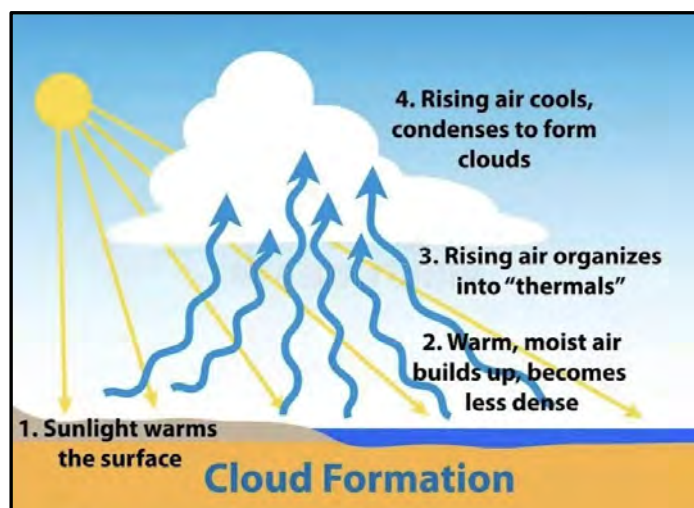
by Dan Hammer

Like millions of visitors before him, our May speaker first came to San Diego on a June day – in his case, for a job interview at Scripps Institution of Oceanography – expecting “the best weather in the U.S.” He never saw the sun, but he did see a path to future research at SIO.

In a presentation on “The Present and Future of June Gloom,” Nick Lutsko, Assistant Professor of Climate Science at SIO/UCSD, described the basic physics of marine low clouds before discussing ways we might predict how this will change as the climate warms.

To answer the question “*What causes June Gloom?*” Nick began with some basic physics. First, warm air rises. Second, warmer air holds more water vapor.

Clouds generally form when warm air rises and then cools as it meets colder air aloft. As the rising air cools, it cannot hold as much moisture. Moisture then condenses out of the air to form the liquid particles that make up clouds, as seen in this graphic:



Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am

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

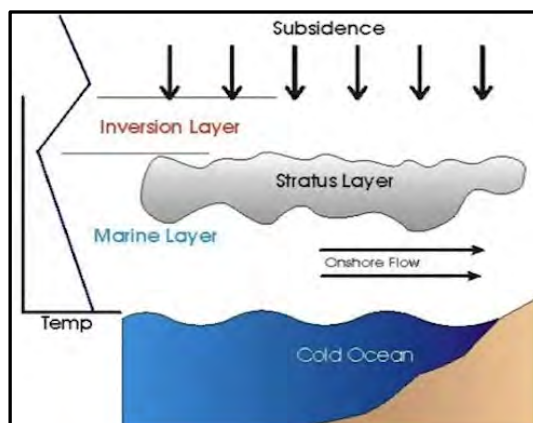
Topic: Water Circulation and Exchange between Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Coastal Ocean

Speaker: Sarah Giddings, Associate Professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Dr. Giddings is a coastal physical oceanographer specializing in estuarine and coastal processes including how physics impacts important biological and chemical processes in the coastal environment. Her talk will highlight the importance of waves, freshwater runoff, outflow from the lagoon, sand/cobble movement near the mouth, and estuary mouth closures.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **J, K, L, M** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

A different dynamic occurs with air above ocean waters. Instead of rising, the air is cooled by cold surface waters, creating the familiar “marine layer.” This cool air is trapped in the lower atmosphere by warmer air aloft, creating an inversion. Within the marine layer, water vapor condenses to form stratus clouds. (Cont. on pg. 3.)



The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Dan Hammer and formatted and produced by Roger Isaacson and Angela Bailey. 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: **858.755.8219**

TPDS Executive Board Members:

President: Matt Xavier

Vice-president: Harry Proctor

Treasurer: Lynne Truong

Secretary: Rosemary Wareham

Directors-at-large:

Roger Isaacson

Lisa Kakone

Gary McCook

Evelyn Vance

Gabriele Wienhausen

TPSNR Staff:

Supervising Ranger: Dylan Hardenbrook

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

Interpreter 1: Louis Sands

Sr. Interpretive Park Aides: Laura Chaing,
Lila Beth Scott, and Zuzana Volny

© **Torrey Pines Docent Society**
Since 1975

All rights reserved

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

President's Message

Summertime coming - my oh my!

While working at the TIK recently, I spoke to several docents about the State Parks Volunteer pass. It allows free entry into nearly all of California's state parks. The requirement is to volunteer for at least 200 hours at the Reserve (or other state park) in a calendar year. Reaching this goal only takes volunteering for about four hours a week. There are plenty of opportunities for many docents to reach this milestone, including Roving Interpreters and at the BLIK!

There have been quite a few reports this spring of visitors who were picnicking at choice locations throughout the Reserve. I want to thank **Don McGuire** and **Pao Chau** for posting "No food allowed" signs at the Children's Pavilion, part of their ongoing work on improving signage at the Reserve.

Earth Day was a great success this year, in large part thanks to **Lynne Truong's** leadership. Thanks to all those who volunteered to make it happen, including the *setup and take-down crew*: **Gary McCook, Pao Chau, and Angela Bailey**; *greeters*: **Patti and Bruce Montgomery**; *booth experts*: **Kathy Dickey, Janet Ugalde, Joanne Miale, Wayne Kornreich, Marian Edelbrock, Mukesh Mehta, Santosh Nichani, Ray diEsposti, Karen Lay, Debby Sherman, Annette Ring, Mary Makowski, Darby Lewis, Diane Russell, Suzan Potuznik, and Cindy Tozer**; *Trail Leaf Challenge*: **Lorraine and Jerry Trust**; and our *trail guides*: **Brian Griffith, Bob Friedman, Robert James, Christine Ritcher, and Glo Silva**. Our society appreciates their dedication to the Reserve.

Docents helped Senior Interpretive Park Aide Lila Scott at a special Memorial Day event on Saturday, May 25. It included a flag-raising ceremony, an interpretation booth on the military history of TPSNR, and a guided walk to the Camp Callan sign. **Judy Schulman**, TPDS historian, made a presentation at the Children's Pavilion.

On June 1, our docents will be hosting about 40 docents from Cabrillo National Monument as part of a reciprocal education event. Our colleagues at Cabrillo will host us later in June for a tour of the upper monument and again in the fall for an excursion to the Cabrillo tidepools. Thanks to the CEED committee for organizing this program and to **Lisa Kakone** for taking the lead.

Finally, if you are interested in helping with the Junior Ranger program throughout the year, contact Senior Interpretive Park Aide Zuzana Volny.

Happy trails to you.

Matt Xavier

TPDS President

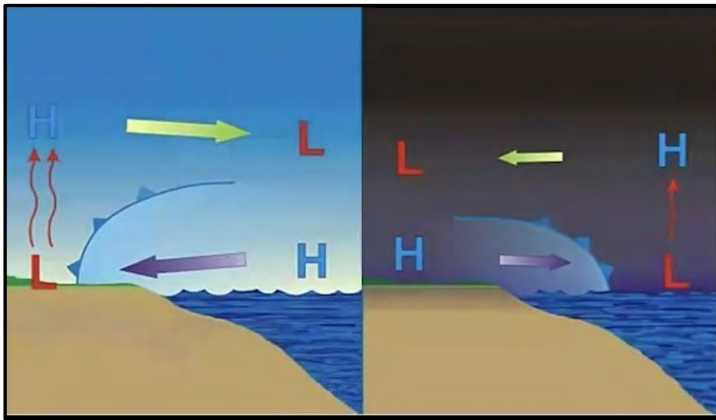
Inside

June and Gloom	1
President's Message	2
Roving Interpreter Program	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Docent of the Month	5
Frank Burham Turns 90	5
Children's Program	6
TPSNR Chemistry	6
What's on the Beach?	7
BLIK - Events	7,10
Celebrating Spring	8
May CEED Walk	8
La Jolla Half Marathon	9
Bee of the Month	10
June CEED Announcement	10
Museum Shop Spotlight	10
TP Book Club	11
Bird Survey	11

(Cont. from pg. 1.)

Why does this occur in May and June? Chiefly because increased sunlight in late spring and early summer warms the land and air, but the ocean takes longer to heat up. Another reason is that weather is generally more “stagnant” in summer, with no atmospheric rivers to move clouds away from the coast.

Why is it gloomier in the morning? During the day, the land warms up faster than the ocean, driving onshore breezes from the high-pressure area over the ocean to the low-pressure areas on land.



As we shiver through May and June, it’s comforting to know that we’re not alone. June Gloom occurs in three other areas, off the coasts of Peru, Namibia, and western Australia. All are located in the eastern parts of subtropical oceans. As spring winds blow north to south along the edge of the continent, they push away warmer surface waters, allowing colder waters to rise to the surface. This upwelling increases the difference between air and ocean temperatures, thereby increasing the formation of a marine layer.

How will June Gloom change in a warmer world? As we learned, the stratus clouds that make up the marine layer form when warm, moist air is cooled by surface ocean water. In the coming years, as oceans become warmer, less stratus cloud cover will form.

That’s the simple answer, but it becomes more complicated when you consider inversion. Though an inversion layer will trap a marine layer, it isn’t a perfect barrier between the marine layer and the air above it. Small-scale turbulence mixes (or “entrains”) warm, dry air from above down into the marine layer, thereby breaking up stratus clouds.

Modeling how ocean warming will affect these processes is “a really, really thorny problem,” Nick said. There are lots of simulations of specific areas, but they are very difficult to generalize because there are so many other variables in each area. Nick is studying the effects of El Niño events, which temporarily warm the waters of the eastern Pacific, to project how future increases in ocean temperatures will affect coastal cloud covers.

Cloud covers are difficult for scientists to observe. Though satellite imagery has improved surveys over the past 20 to 30 years, there is still not enough data to separate the “signal” (cloud formation) from the “noise” (other events such as wildfires). Nick said with chagrin that we might need 50 to 100 years’ worth of data to predict the future. “Nevertheless,” he said, “despite all this complexity, I feel that there is an emerging consensus that we can expect low cloud cover to decrease in a warmer world.”

So, climate change might be wreaking havoc around the globe, but at least we can expect more pleasant June days at the beach.

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

Changes Coming to Roving Interpreter Program

by Harry Proctor

The Roving Interpreter Committee (**Gabriele Wienhausen, Pao Chau, Coach Vance**, and I) reviewed the Roving Interpreter program and provided recommendations that have been approved by the TPDS board.

The traditional program guidelines will continue; i.e., Roving Interpreters should follow state guidelines and also report on trail conditions, graffiti, etc. Vests or name tags should be worn to encourage more interaction with visitors.

To supplement traditional Roving Interpretation, we will be establishing “Interpretation Stations” at the Guy Fleming, Razor Point, and Yucca Point overlooks. Interpretation kits containing educational materials will be available to check out from the Lodge.

Opportunities to provide interpretation and information may also take place by means of “hotspots” located at the South Entrance and at the crosswalk on the road above the South Beach lot. There might be some overlap with the Interpretation Stations as interpretative toolkits will be available for use at the hotspots.

We expect to roll out the program in the next few months. At that time, docents will be able to sign up for two-hour shifts for the Interpretation Stations through Better Impact. Hotspot and Roving Interpreter time will be recorded in conformance with existing practice. Look for future announcements regarding this exciting opportunity to enhance the visitor experience.

Orientation will be scheduled for docents who have already received training as Roving Interpreters. Training for new docents will take place in the fall; the wait period for new docents to become Roving Interpreters has been reduced from one year to nine months. Training will be enhanced and expanded beyond the approximately one-hour practice currently in effect. **Coach Vance** and **Gabriele Wienhausen** will serve as coordinators for the program.

General Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2024

Speaker: Nick Lutsko, Assistant Professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, spoke on the present and future of “June Gloom.” (See article on pg. 1.)

President **Matt Xavier** led the meeting.

Docent of the Month: **Ann Herbert** (2023) is a longtime Whacky Weeder (since 2017) and a Lodge host. (See article on pg. 5.)

Lynne Truong: The La Jolla Half Marathon is May 18. It will go through TPSNR. Monitors are needed to work from 6:15 am to about 9:30 am. Sign up with Lynne. (See pg. 9.)

Memorial Day: There will be a program at TPSNR on Saturday, May 25 from 9 to 1. The Veteran Wood Turners will be there. A booth will feature the history of Camp Callan. There will be a flag raising. Those interested in helping please contact Park Aide Lila Scott.

Nature Journaling: Interpreter 1 Louis Sands reported that Park Aide Laura Chaing will be giving a presentation on journaling. Laura does beautiful work; just getting a chance to view it is a treat. Contact her or Louis Sands if you are interested. Further information will be coming soon.

Bear in Mind Training is due every two years. Those who need to renew will be receiving an email reminder.

Jr. Rangers: Park Aide Zuzana Volny will head up the program again this year. Contact her if you would like to help.

President’s Report: The North Beach shed is being improved. The Seabees are cleaning the inside, installing new shelving, and removing unneeded items.

The Docent Library glass doors were removed because excess humidity was damaging the books.

Next year’s docent training application will be posted on the website on June 1. The class will start in September and will mostly meet on Sunday afternoons (pending Dylan’s approval).

Wayne Kornreich announced that the Science Fair awards will be presented at the June 8 general meeting.

CEED: The next CEED event will be on Thursday, June 13 at Cabrillo National Monument. We will have another trip in the fall to see the tide pools. In exchange for these visits, we will be hosting volunteers from Cabrillo on June 1. Contact **Mukesh Mehta** or **Lisa Kakone** if you are able to lead one of the walks (see pg. 10).

Eating in the Reserve: Visitors who are eating in the Reserve continue to be a problem. **Don McGuire** and **Pao Chau** were thanked for acquiring additional “No

eating/picnicking” signs, including one at the Children’s Pavilion. It was suggested that we could use even more signs.

Malana Tabak brought in a live *Velella velella*, a hydrozoan that looks like a jellyfish, eats copepods and has been washing up in great numbers on our beaches. Every few years they arrive on eastern Pacific shores from northern Baja to Canada. Please visit the BLIK and/or talk to Malana to learn more about these beautiful creatures.



Business meeting video:

<https://vimeo.com/945361708?share=copy>

Next Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 12

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.

BLIK (Beach-Lagoon Interp. Kiosk) News:

North Beach visitors shown here using a water spray bottle to simulate rain and understand how the new Watershed model shows the flow from the Volcan Mountain area to the beach.

Photo by Rosemary Wareham



Docent of the Month: Ann Herbert

Photo by Herb Knufken

My love affair with Torrey Pines State Reserve began 48 years ago! I was new to San Diego and had taken a job as an occupational therapist at a psychiatric hospital in Encinitas. At the time, psychiatric patients were typically hospitalized from six to eight weeks at a time. My job as a therapist was to provide activities to rehabilitate patients and prepare them for reintegration into the community.

Taking groups of patients to Torrey Pines was wonderful therapy for them.

However, back then, the trails were not well marked. I still vividly remember leading a group of teenagers and getting seriously lost - not one of my finer moments.

Over the years, I continued to hike the trails, and when I had my own children, I often took them to the Reserve. At the time, they referred to our hikes as "forced hikes." But I believe that thanks to those early outings, my adult children are now active outdoors people.

When I retired eight years ago, I wanted to be involved at the Reserve and discovered the Whacky Weeder group. My friends think I'm a bit wacky volunteering to weed every week, but it's such fun to work with a wonderful group whom I now consider to be friends.

With the encouragement of some of my fellow weeders, I applied for docent training and graduated with the class of 2023. I continue to be a weeder and love hosting at the Lodge. It's so fascinating to meet visitors from all over the world! I look forward to many more years of docenting!



Frank Burham Turns 90

by Roger Isaacson; shadow box by Coach Vance

Our beloved Frank turned 90 recently, and Coach Vance worked tirelessly collecting information about all that Frank has done during his 19 years as a docent. Shown below is a Hero shadow box-collage given to Frank. The umbrella (below in red) symbolizes the umbrella/table he set up on weekends when he **originated the TIK in 2012** and he subsequently led it to the hot spot for visitors and docent interactions that we know today. The red electric drill pictured below represents his woodworking skills in creating numerous projects.

Here is a summary of the small text below:

Docent of the Year 2010

TPDS President 2015-2016

Magnetite Table

New Docent Training Team mentor

Instrumental in forming the Seabee team

First water bottle station (now replaced by Green station) in west parking lot

Led team that partnered with the TPC to create the Children's Pavilion



Frank was interviewed by the CARE team in March 2021. Click [here](#) for the 18 min. video and April 2021 [Torreyana](#).

Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Program Director

In May, our Children's Program team completed its 2023-24 educational offerings. We served over three thousand students, grades 2-5, from 42 San Diego County schools.

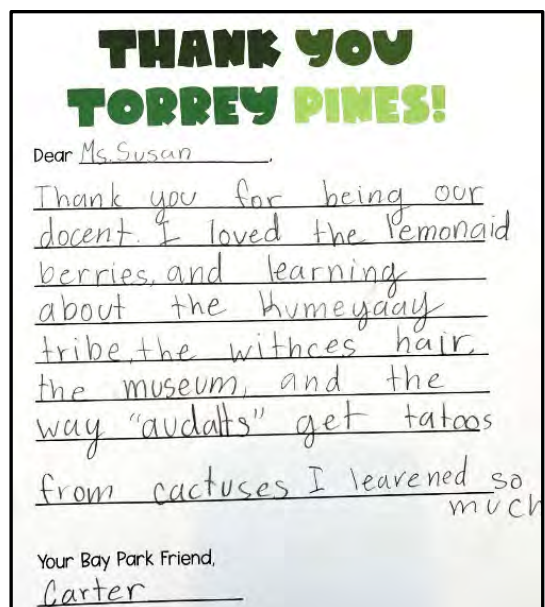
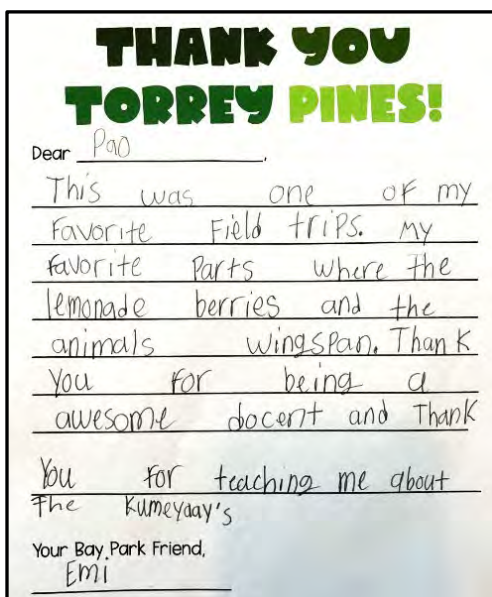
Thirty-two amazing, awesome docents volunteered nearly a thousand hours of their time as hike leaders and presenters. These superheroes donated 15+ mornings: **Pao Chau, Susan Elliott, Mary Friestedt, Paul Howard, Bruce Montgomery, Patty Montgomery, Steve Neal, and Janet Ugalde**. Also superheroes are those seasoned docents who continued to serve the program despite serious health challenges. Our faithful docents ALWAYS step up!

Kudos to our newest team members. We appreciate you!

Ginormous thanks to Interpreter 1 Louis Sands, our treasured coordinator.

Thanks to all who contributed to our success, including Lodge hosts, park aides, TIK talkers, shop team, special walks team, and the TPDS Board of Directors.

See you in September!



TPSNR Chemistry: Colors and Magnetism of the Torrey Sandstone

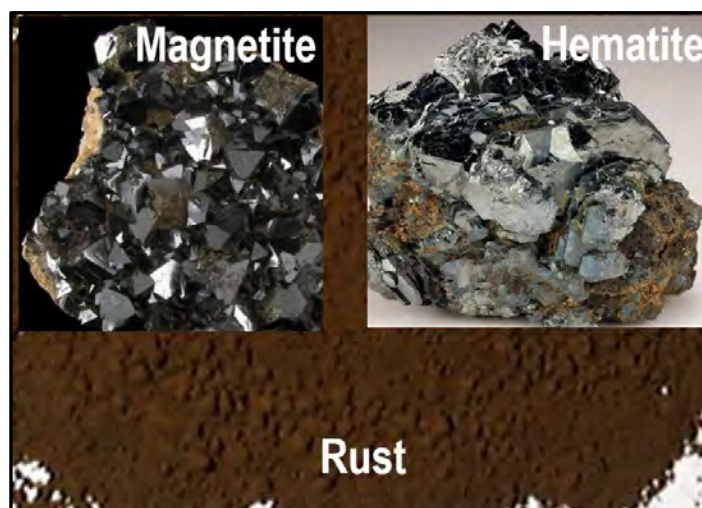
by Suzan Potuznik

Editors' note: This is the first in a series of articles on the chemistry of TPSNR.

Iron oxide, as "ferric oxide" or rust carried by water from the Linda Vista formation, paints the softer Torrey Sandstone below an orange red. The ferric oxide, Fe_2O_3 , deposited in the oxygen-rich primordial oceans about 2.4 billion years ago, is transformed into the metamorphosed crystalline black stone, **hematite**. Black crystals of hematite break down to form the reddish ferric oxide powder; scrapings of hematite were used in red ochre, a pigment of early cave drawings in paleolithic eras.

Magnetite (Fe_3O_4), both a ferrous and ferric oxide, was formed as hematite was, but with a lower ratio of oxygen to iron. It has the unique property of being slightly magnetic and can be separated from other Torrey sandstone crystals using a magnet. (Our Children's Program visitors enjoy swirling formations of small, black magnetite particles on an index card.) Magnetite, present in certain organs of birds and aquatic species, including the California grey whale, is also hypothesized to assist in magnetic pole navigation.

The blackish and powdery ferrous oxide, FeO , hides within the greyish green clays of the Del Mar formation.



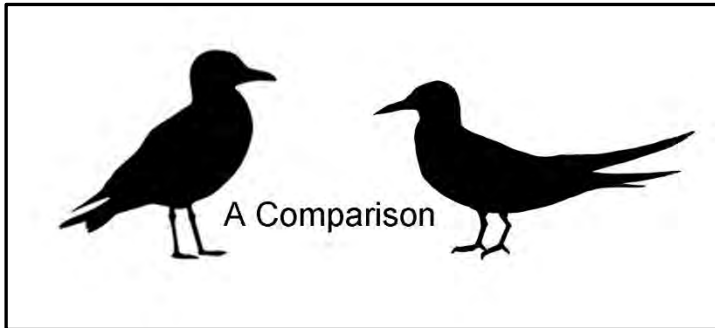
Crystalline magnetite (Fe_3O_4) and hematite (Fe_2O_3), as well as the powdery rust (Fe_2O_3) and ferrous oxide (FeO), are all forms of iron oxide. These charge-neutral compounds are made of oxygen atoms with a negative two (-2) charge and iron atoms with a positive +2 or +3 charge. Hematite contains only iron +3 (Fe^{+3}) ions, while ferrous oxide contains only iron +2 (Fe^{+2}) ions. Magnetite contains both iron +3 (Fe^{+3}) ions and +2 (Fe^{+2}) ions. The properties of each compound depend upon the charge of the iron ion, the ratio of oxygen to iron, and the process under which the compound was formed.

What's on the Beach? Gulls and Terns

by Kathy Dickey

You are sitting on the beach and see a white bird fly over the waves. Or you see a mixed flock of white birds on the lagoon island off the North Beach parking lot. Are they terns, or are they gulls? I hope to sketch out the main differences for you without going into greater detail about how to identify them by species.

Telling a gull from a tern can be difficult, especially if they are far away or resting on sand. They are closely related seabirds in the family Laridae. (Gulls are in the subfamily Larinae, and terns are in the subfamily Sterninae.)



Silhouettes: Gull (left) and Tern (right)

Source: [Seabrook Island Birders August 21, 2016](#)

It's easier to tell them apart when seen in flight. The terns in our area have sharp, pointed wings (they remind me of jets) and often pointed forked tails, with a more graceful and flexible build. When terns fly, they almost always have their heads down, searching for small fish. Gulls are slightly larger (11 to 32 inches) and have more rounded wings and tails. Gulls appear stockier than terns, with a more lumbering flight. Gulls tend to vocalize more often than terns.

There are other differences in body shape and plumage. Terns have shorter legs, and most are white or light gray with a black cap. They have straighter, sharp beaks that are ideal for catching fish. Depending on the species, most terns are usually smaller than gulls (9 to 22 inches). Immatures resemble adults after only a few months. Gulls have a more varying plumage – dark brown or gray all over (immatures, up to 3+ years), to white with gray wings and black tails (adults). Their beaks are thicker, with hooks on the end for tearing fish and other prey. Gulls have webbed feet for swimming; terns do not.

Gulls are omnivores and will eat almost anything, including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, worms, young birds, bird eggs, seaweed, trash, and your picnic at the beach. They swim at the surface of the water like ducks and “dip” for small fish. Some gulls follow farmers’ plows to eat the grubs, and some drop hard mollusks onto rocks to break them open. Gulls are often in packs, aggressively stealing from each

other. Terns are almost exclusively fish eaters and tend to hunt alone. They fly with their heads down and hover over the water, waiting for just the right moment to plunge down (from up to 50 feet in the air!) and get a fish.

Both gulls and terns nest in colonies, making a shallow scrape in the sandy beach to lay their eggs. Sometimes they add a few pebbles or plant pieces to camouflage the nest. (As you can imagine, these sandy nesting areas are also used by people and other animals.) Gulls and terns generally pair for life but may “divorce” if their eggs fail. Males often provide more care to the chicks because females are exhausted after laying their eggs. Both gulls and terns have long lives, from 12 to 30 years.

In San Diego, our common local gull species are the Western Gull, California Gull, and Ring-billed Gull. Other species may migrate through our area, so identifying them quickly can sometimes be complicated. A favorite migrant in our area is the Heermann’s Gull, with its bright red bill and dark wing feathers, seen only in winter months.

Terns common to our area include many short-term visitors, such as the Least Tern, Royal Tern, Elegant Tern, Forster’s Tern, and Caspian Tern. Least Terns, whose numbers have declined about 87% in the last 50 years, now have multiple protected nest sites in San Diego County.

To learn more about these amazing birds, or for help in identification, see <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

BLIK – Learn at Lunch

Date/Time: Thursday, June 6, 12 Noon

Location: BLIK (North Parking Lot)

Speaker: Barbara Wallach* (class of 1993)

Topic: “Los Peñasquitos Marsh Natural Preserve: 1769 to the Present” – the stories and events that shaped the lagoon we know today.

We have special permission to have a walk in the Lagoon. Docents must wear vests to participate. More details will be sent out by email soon.

Bring your lunch, a chair, your curiosity, and any questions about our lagoon. No need to register. You may claim one hour on Better Impact under Training, Continuing Education (up to 12 hours per year). BLIK Learn at Lunch is the first Thursday of every month at noon at the BLIK. All docents, park employees, and visitors are welcome.

*Read about Barbara’s Superior Achievement Award from California State Parks in March 2024 Torreyana [here](#).

Celebrating Spring at Torrey Pines

Article by Zuzana Volny, Senior Interpretive Park Aide;
photo by John Bowe

Spring at Torrey Pines is always a season worth celebrating, particularly given the challenges of thriving in our arid climate. The fleeting yet magnificent bloom of flowers makes this time of year truly special.

To embrace the season, our interpretive park aide team and docents hosted a Spring Celebration for visitors on April 27. We set up several engaging booths, including a crafting table where visitors could create their own bunny cards or California poppy crafts, promoting creativity over picking the flowers.

At our Junior Ranger booth, I introduced the pilot of the “Junior Rangers Give Back” initiative, an exciting extension of the current program. (More details will be shared in a future edition of the *Torreyana*!)

Senior Interpretive Park Aide Laura Chaing hosted a booth on nature journaling, discussing its importance and promoting her new Nature Journaling classes, which will be held on select Saturdays.

The WannaBees booth was a highlight, featuring bee specimens, stunning photographs, and a microscope offering close-up views of native bees.



Steve Neal had a good group for a special flower-themed guided hike.

Senior Interpretive Park Aide Lila Beth Scott took to the trails, informing visitors about our festivities and distributing our beautiful Spring Flower Bingo cards, illustrated by Laura Chaing.

A heartfelt thank you to all the docents who participated and made this event possible. Your help in setting up, hosting booths, guiding themed walks, taking pictures, and engaging with visitors was invaluable. This memorable event was a wonderful way to welcome spring and highlight the unique beauty of Torrey Pines.

CEED Walk: Point Loma Native Garden

by Mukesh Mehta

Tucked within a quiet neighborhood in Point Loma is a hidden gem. Though owned by the City of San Diego, the Point Loma Native Garden is funded by the Point Loma Garden Club and maintained by neighborhood volunteers. (The City provides the water.)

The 11 Torrey Pines docents who attended the CEED garden walk in May were greeted by Al Field, the head volunteer gardener. Al indicated that the garden has 160 varieties of native plants along with compatible nonnatives. Originally there was one Torrey pine tree; today there are nine, all healthy with NO bark beetles!



The garden is covered with coastal sage and riparian habitats. Some new coastal live oak trees, planted in the 1980s, are now mature and well established. California coffeeberry and Nuttall snapdragons were brought over from the Cabrillo National Monument gardens. Al pointed out Indian fig cactus, Shaw's agave, celestial blue ceanothus, yellow monkey flowers, sweet acacia, ladies' fingers (*Dudleya edulis*), and lemonadeberry. We also saw abundant desert poppies, which attracted countless bees.

After the walk, TPDS docent **Leigh Fenly** invited everyone to her home, a few minutes' walk away. Those of us who packed a lunch took up her offer and had lunch in Leigh's beautiful back yard.

For more on the Point Loma Native Garden, including a virtual tour, click [here](#).



La Jolla Half Marathoners Run the Reserve

by Ann Smith Mercandetti

On Saturday May 18, **Lynne Truong** led a group of docents who scattered along the 1.5-mile road through TPSNR to cheer on the La Jolla Half Marathon runners. Thanks to **Medi Denker, Darlene Farnes, Rosemary Wareham, Myrna Trust, Marian Edelbrock, Santosh Nichani, Joan Simon, Ann Smith Mercandetti, and Brian Griffith** and his wife Kristi. For a couple of hours in the early morning, the participants ran (or walked) up our big hill and continued to the south entrance and on to the finish line at La Jolla Cove.

It was a perfect morning for such an event. The marine layer kept runners from getting too hot, and there was no rain. This was the 33rd year of the half marathon and more than 3500 runners took part, an increase of more than 600 participants from 2023.

As happened at last November's Three Day Komen Walk for Breast Cancer, a participant needed some medical help. While our docent goal is to welcome our guests and spread information about our Reserve,

during the two most recent docent-monitored events, docents have been important in helping with medical emergencies.

Many thanks to Lynne and the docents who volunteered!



Joan Simon: On seeing this poster, one runner shouted out: "Birds and bees; my aching knees!"). It got a lot of laughter.



Santosh Nichani: "I Was Born Here" (with a peregrine falcon): Many runners seeing this sign called out: "Me, too!"



Myrna Trust: Don't forget to look at the flowers.

Bee of the Month: *Ashmeadiella*

article and photo by Phillip Roullard

Bees of the genus *Ashmeadiella* belong to the leaf-cutting and resin bee family Megachilidae. These nonmetallic, small, compact black bees range from 3.5 to 9.5 mm in length and are typically seen from late spring into summer. *Ashmeadiella* bees have black heads and striking green, blue, or red eyes. Their thorax is black, while their abdomen varies from red to black, depending on the species. In San Diego County, there are 30 known species. Some are pollen specialists, particularly on flowers in the Asteraceae family such as *Bahiopsis* or *Encelia*. However, many species are generalists, collecting pollen from a variety of flowers in bloom. This genus is exclusive to North America and is most diverse in desert environments, like many other bee groups.

Ashmeadiella are solitary bees. Some females build nests in wood or hollow stems; others dig burrows in the ground or under rocks. Within these cavities, females construct at least one nest cell wallpapered with leaf particles and plant resin. They provision the nest with nectar and pollen, lay an egg, and seal the cell. Much like Monarch butterflies, *Ashmeadiella* bees undergo complete metamorphosis. The egg hatches, consumes the provisions, and develops through larval and pupal stages before emerging as an adult. These bees spend most of their lives in their nests, waiting for the right conditions to chew their way out and start the cycle anew.



Because of their preference for cavity-nesting, *Ashmeadiella* bees often build their nests in bee hotels or in naturally occurring cavities in wood, soil, stems, or spaces under rocks. An *Ashmeadiella* nest was even found in the fuel line tubing of a crashed airplane. The bees were initially blamed for the crash, but it was later determined that the bees had nested in the plane after it was stored in a hangar during the crash investigation.

I have observed *Ashmeadiella* nesting first hand, as we have two bee hotels in our yard that attract cavity-nesting bees. It is mesmerizing to watch them emerge from their cells. My wife provides them with a small terra cotta dish filled with water and rocks so the bees have somewhere to perch without falling into the water. I can spend hours photographing them as they fly in from the field with plant material.

You can find these bees flying this month at the Reserve. Males are often found on rocks awaiting a female, as in this photo taken on the Margaret Fleming Trail.

CEED Tour: Cabrillo National Monument

Date: Thursday, June 13

Time: 10am – 11:30pm

Location: Cabrillo National Monument

Tour the upper monument at Cabrillo National Monument on Thursday, June 13, from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

This event is open to 25 docents and is part of a reciprocal educational event with the volunteers at Cabrillo National Monument.

Details about carpooling and parking to come.

For more information, contact **Lisa Kakone**.

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

Some of you may have noticed that there have been some changes in our T-shirt inventory. **Joe Meyer** did a great job in managing all our shirts for many years. Now he has passed the torch on to the new shirt managers, **Maurice Taitano** and **Medi Denker**.

We are so grateful to Joe for the many hours he spent on this, and we are very appreciative to have Maurice and Medi teaming up to keep us in shirts! They are making a few changes in the inventory including some new styles, colors, and designs. You should see these new items coming in the next few weeks.

Thank you, Maurice and Medi!

World Ocean Day: June 8 at the BLIK

June 8 is World Ocean Day, a global day of ocean celebration. Throughout the month of June, NOAA is offering public events to help people get engaged in ocean science and conservation. The motto for World Ocean Day is "One Ocean ... One Climate ... One Future – Together," and this year's theme is *Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate*.

Join us at the BLIK on **Saturday, June 8 from 10 am to 2 pm** for some special displays and activities.

For more information or to get involved, contact **Ed Saade**.

Torrey Pines Book Club

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

When: Tuesday, June 11, 1pm

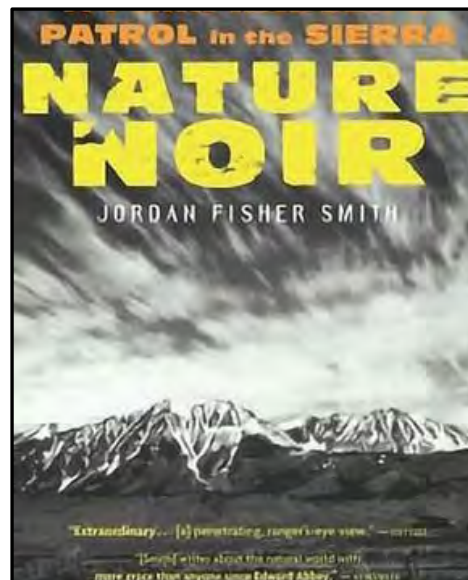
What: *Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra* by Jordan Fisher Smith

Amazon says:

A nature book unlike any other, Jordan Fisher Smith's startling account of fourteen years as a park ranger thoroughly dispels our idealized visions of life in the great outdoors. Instead of scout troops and placid birdwatchers, Smith's beat – a stretch of land that has been officially condemned to be flooded – brings him into contact with drug users tweaked out to the point of violence, obsessed miners, and other dangerous creatures. In unflinchingly honest prose, he reveals the unexpectedly dark underbelly of patrolling and protecting public lands.

All TPDS docents are welcome. Meetings usually last an hour and a half.

July 9: *The Glitter in the Green: In Search of Hummingbirds* by Jon Dunn



On June 11 at 8:30 am, David Walker will lead a bird walk for TPC (Torrey Pines Conservancy) members. Docents and guests are invited. For more information, click [here](#).

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 2024

Herb Knufken's photo gallery: pbase.com/herb1rm

Number of species: 83
(+3 other taxa)

Gadwall 4
American Wigeon 8
Mallard 20
California Quail 2
Western Grebe 70
Mourning Dove 57
White-throated Swift 31
Anna's Hummingbird 51
Allen's Hummingbird 33
hummingbird sp. 4
Long-billed Curlew 2
Ring-billed Gull 2
Western Gull 22
California Gull 12
Caspian Tern 10
Royal Tern 73
Common Loon 3
Black-vented Shearwater 1
Brandt's Cormorant 30
Double-crested Cormorant 3
Brown Pelican 18
Snowy Egret 18
Green Heron 1

Great Egret 16
Great Blue Heron 3
Turkey Vulture 1
Osprey 1
Cooper's Hawk 4
Bald Eagle 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 3
Red-tailed Hawk 9
Great Horned Owl 3
Belted Kingfisher 1
Acorn Woodpecker 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 8
Peregrine Falcon 7
Olive-sided Flycatcher 1
Western Flycatcher 7
Black Phoebe 9
Ash-throated Flycatcher 18
Cassin's Kingbird 5
Western Kingbird 8
yellow-bellied kingbird sp. 7
Hutton's Vireo 3
Warbling Vireo 4
California Scrub-Jay 12
American Crow 21
Common Raven 77
Tree Swallow 4
Northern Rough-winged

Swallow 28
Barn Swallow 4
Bushtit 52
Wrentit 107
Red-breasted Nuthatch 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12
California Gnatcatcher 4
House Wren 35
Bewick's Wren 41
California Thrasher 14
Northern Mockingbird 10
Western Bluebird 2
Swainson's Thrush 1
Hermit Thrush 1
American Robin 2
Scaly-breasted Munia 5
House Finch 104
Lesser Goldfinch 55
Dark-eyed Junco 13
Savannah Sparrow 2
Belding's Song Sparrow 23
California Towhee 76
Rufous-crowned Sparrow 2
Spotted Towhee 47
Yellow-breasted Chat 15
Hooded Oriole 15
Red-winged Blackbird 15

Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Orange-crowned Warbler 34
Common Yellowthroat 33
Yellow Warbler 1
Black-throated Gray Warbler 1
Hermit Warbler 3
Wilson's Warbler 6
Black-headed Grosbeak 10
Lazuli Bunting 1

Observers: Andy Rathbone, Donna Mancuso, Tsaiwei Olee, Kathy Brav, Robert Turner, Manolo Turner, Steve Neal, Emily Lynk, Marci Rimlinger, Dave Rimlinger, Monica Stupaczuk, Gabriele Wienhausen, Robert James, Debbie Regottaz, Karen Messer, Ellen Feeney, Lori Waller, Nancy Richardson, Marg Bache



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