

TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 469

August 2024

A Passion for Pines

by Dan Hammer

Through his hundreds of pencil drawings – including the one at the top of this page – “Mat” (Tsuyoshi Matsumoto) captured the essence of Torrey Pines, particularly of the Torrey pine tree itself.

Most of us know something about Mat’s life and work from reading the *Torreyana* and the anthology *Along Torrey Pines Trails*, seeing Mat’s notecards and prints, and hearing his daughter Helen Matsumoto Kagan speak. (If you don’t know the basics, click [here](#) and [here](#).) At the July TPDS meeting, Helen filled in some gaps in Mat’s story with insight into his working technique, family history, fascinating biography, and longtime fascination with pine trees.



Mat sketched in the Reserve several times a week from 1971 until his death in 1982. “He was very lucky to be drawing in those days,” Helen noted, “before the big droughts and before the bark beetles infested the trees. The Reserve was much more verdant in those days, and there were a lot of old, magnificent trees.” What’s more, Torrey Pines docents and staff quickly became

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 10, 9:00 am

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

Speaker: Sharyl Massey, Environmental Educator and Naturalist

Topic: Remarkable Raptors

Sharyl, a former Torrey Pines docent, will discuss characteristics of several local genera and the adaptations that make raptors unique. We’ll meet three live raptors and learn even more about these particular species. Lastly, Sharyl will share information that DNA research has revealed about this remarkable group of birds.

Environmental education has been Sharyl’s passion for more than 35 years. Most of her career was with San Diego Unified and San Diego County’s outdoor education programs on Palomar Mountain and in the Cuyamacas.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **S through Z** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

“like family” to Mat. Helen elucidated Mat’s creative process by showing us a sketch from one of his sketchbooks alongside a notecard based on it. After a day in the field, he would go back to his studio in La Jolla, copy the sketch onto a poster board, and fill in more detail. (As he worked, he often played music by Bach and hummed along.) He would take that finished drawing to a printer, who reduced it to notecard size. When the drawings were reduced, the color got much darker. Because of this, Helen said, “a lot of people thought my father did pen-and-ink drawings, but actually they’re all pencil.”
(Cont. on pg. 3.)



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 and Angela Bailey. Submissions are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be emailed to

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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

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

President's Message

Fire, fire on the mountain

As you know by now, the Extension suffered from a serious wildfire on Tuesday, June 25 (see pg. 5). I first heard about the fire during a phone call with Interpreter 1 Louis Sands, who said, "Matt, I can see flames coming from the Extension." My heart sank. I have many fond memories of walking there with my family, especially during the holidays. My brother-in-law even proposed to his now-wife on the D.A.R. Trail overlooking the beach.



As State Parks and other partners develop a plan to restore the roughly 27 charred acres of coastal chaparral, I strongly encourage you to donate to TPC's Extension restoration fund. Your donation not only honors those conservation leaders who established the Extension fifty years ago but also reaffirms the noble ideal that this land must be protected and conserved for generations to come.

I encourage those who haven't volunteered at the BLIK to do so. After working several shifts, I can say it is so much FUN. Visitors, especially children, love the exhibits that have been thoughtfully curated by the BLIK team. Thanks to **Ray** and **Jane Barger** for organizing everything so that it is easy to set up and take down display items.

Thanks also to **Lisa Kakone**, who has taken the leadership reins for the newly established TIK (Trail Information Kiosk) Advisory Committee (TAC) (see pg. 9). And to **Cliff Colwell**, our Society's volunteer appreciation awardee. Cliff is a productive member of the Seabees; we are grateful for his hard work and positive attitude.

Lastly, I want to announce that the TPDS board voted to approve our new at-large member, **Bob Friedman**. Bob, a citizen scientist, brings a plethora of relevant experience to the board. Please congratulate him when you see him.

See you on the trails.

Matt Xavier, TPDS President

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(Cont. from pg. 1.)



“My father had a very long and unpredictable road to becoming an artist,” Helen said. Mat was born in 1908 on the northern island of Hokkaido, where his physician father set up a village medical clinic, and his mother was a devout Christian. They had a traditional arranged marriage and a turbulent relationship. Eventually Mat’s father eloped with one of his nurses and sailed off to Vladivostok, Russia.

Mat’s mother took their five children to Takahashi, near Tokyo.

In 1926, Mat left home and enrolled at Meiji Gakuin, a Christian college in Tokyo. After his graduation and ordination as a minister, Mat sailed to the U.S., where he earned two master’s degrees in sacred music. In 1936, he returned to Japan to become a lecturer at his alma mater, but he needed another job to supplement his income. He found work as an organist at a popular dance theater, where he fell in love with Emi Lebedeff, a beautiful Russian-Japanese ballerina.



In the midst of their blossoming romance, Mat was lured to the U.S. with an urgent job offer, which turned out to be a ruse by Mat’s American friends to get him out of Japan before war broke out. With no job, Mat made his way to the large Japanese community in Watsonville, California, where he found work as a tutor, music teacher, choir director, court translator, and farm worker.

In 1941, Mat was hired as a music teacher at an African-American school in Athens, Alabama. All went well until December 7, 1941. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mat was arrested and chained to a chair in the sheriff’s office, where locals paraded by to taunt him.

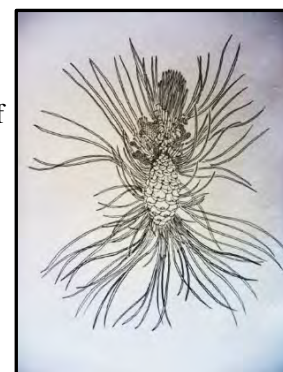
Eventually the FBI picked up Mat and transferred him to Fort McClellan, a nearby Army base. After a short stay in solitary confinement, he passed a background check and was released. Following teaching jobs in Michigan, he was recruited to teach Japanese language and culture at the Military Intelligence Language School in Monterey, California. As a result of this work, he earned the rank of Army Technical Sergeant and was granted permanent residence in the United States.

After the war, Mat and Emi finally reunited in Hawaii, where Helen and her brother were born. Mat had a teaching job at the University of Hawaii, but he wanted to return to Japan to earn his Ph.D. He got a job at the U.S. Naval Base in Yokosuka, home of the Pacific Fleet, as a liaison with the Japanese government.

During the next two decades, Mat took up oil painting, focusing mostly on children. On a trip to the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, he fell in love with the famously beautiful pine trees on the palace grounds. Here are Mat’s early drawing of a Japanese black pine (R, above) and a later sketch of a Torrey pine (R, below).



In all, Mat made more than 800 drawings of pine trees, mostly Torreys. His last completed work was a group of drawings of the High Point Trail that hangs in Helen’s living room (see below). The title is from Psalm 26: “Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house and the place where thine honor dwells.”



After Mat’s death, Emi donated the copyrights of his notecards to Torrey Pines so the Reserve could continue to reap the benefits of his artwork. Helen concluded, “Mat had finally found the beautiful garden and friendly people he had been seeking his whole life.” And TPSNR had found its artist. What the 19th century painters Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt did for Yosemite and Yellowstone, Mat did for Torrey Pines. His legacy lives on through his graceful, beautiful work.

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



General Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2024

Vice President **Harry Proctor** led the meeting.

Approximately 75 people attended.

Speaker: Helen Matsumoto Kagan spoke about her father, legendary Torrey Pines artist “Mat.” (See article on pg. 1.)

Docent of the Month: Ray Barger for his many hours interpreting at the BLIK and for helping to organize its materials and maintenance. He is also a Lodge host and Roving Interpreter. (See article to the right)

Volunteer Appreciation Award: Cliff Colwell for his 17 years as a volunteer at the Reserve as a member of the Seabees and as a Whacky Weeder during the COVID years. See pg. 9.

Extension Restoration Fund: TPC has raised \$20,000 for the restoration of the Extension.

Louis Sands reminded everyone to review the Bear In Mind training and to send him an email once you have completed it. Docents are required to take the training every two years.

The new docent training will be on Wednesdays starting September 25, from 9 to noon.

Louis also mentioned that the Park Aide team is holding two Jr. Ranger programs: July 15 to 19 and July 25 to August 2. He thanked the docents who have signed up to lead the parents on nature walks while their children attend the Jr. Ranger program.

Harry reminded everyone of the CEED Summer Jam at the beach on July 24 from 6 to 8 pm and encouraged docents to bring their musical instruments. Pizza will be provided; bring your own chairs, drinks and snacks.

The newly formed TIK Advisory Committee (TAC) will take inventory of TIK materials and purchase additional or replacement materials as needed. To accommodate longer summer days, a 3-5 pm shift has been added to the schedule. (See article on pg. 9.)

The board has established a committee to develop a conflict resolution policy and will report back to TPDS members.

Gabriele Wienhausen announced that the Museum Committee has reserved the Lodge on August 19 from 7 am to 1 pm for a deep cleaning of the taxidermy. The Visitor Center will be closed until 1 pm that day. Please contact Gabriele if you are able to help. TPC has partnered with TPDS to bring Dr. Chris Lowe, Director of the Shark Lab at Cal State Long Beach, to make a special presentation on white sharks. This program will be held on Saturday, August 17 at 1 pm in St. Peter’s Parish Hall, Del Mar.

Joanne Miale invited docents to participate in the Panorama project organized by the Front Porch Gallery. Contact Joanne for more information.

The Mindful Walk team has scheduled a Mindful Sunset Walk led by **Santosh Nichani** on July 16 at 6 pm, starting at the Visitor Center.

Docent of the Month: Ray Barger

Photo by Herb Knufken

Torrey Pines is a unique collection of environments: the State Natural Reserve with our namesake trees, the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Preserve, and the State Beach. As a new docent in 2016, I focused on the Reserve (particularly the TIK) and on geology, including developing our displays on the porch behind the Lodge.



As your Board VP in 2017-2018, I realized that of our more than three million annual visitors, only about a million visited the Reserve, with most of the rest going to the beach. So, my fellow docent and wife, **Jane Barger**, and I thought, “Why can’t we educate and interpret for our beach visitors?”

This led to us “piloting” what we called the BIK - Beach Interpretive Kiosk - on the beach near the South parking lot stairs in the summers of 2018 and 2019. It was modeled after the TIK, but with a beach and ocean theme. All was going well, but then COVID hit, and the BIK exhibits went into TPDS storage.

But the BIK was not forgotten, and many pulled together in 2023 to create the BLIK - Beach & Lagoon Interpretive Kiosk - at the North Beach parking lot. With a new pavilion and expanded exhibits, including lagoon content, the BLIK is now increasing contact with many more visitors. A common question at the BLIK is “Where are the trails?” Sending our beach visitors to experience the Reserve completes the circle.

Thank you for this honor, and I look forward to performing future service at Torrey Pines with many, and hopefully all, of you.

Ed. note: This is the second time Ray has been named Docent of the Month. To read his article from the November 2018 Torreyana, click [here](#).

June Fire in the Extension

by Joan R. Simon

On Tuesday morning, June 25, a small fire broke out in the Extension of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, just above the entrance at the end of Del Mar Scenic Parkway (photo below). By 12:30, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department posted on X that the fire had been put out by crews on the ground, with the help of a firefighting helicopter.



By 2:00 pm that afternoon, the fire had started up again near the original site as onshore winds fueled the fire, with large plumes of smoke visible for miles. Once the fire got going, it headed up a hill toward homes to the north and east of the Extension. The strong winds and a delay in air support due to interference from an unauthorized drone initially slowed the firefighters' progress in putting out the fire.

About 2,500 residents were told to evacuate to the Del Mar Fairgrounds, which was set up as a temporary evacuation center. (The Fair, as usual, was closed on Tuesday.) Parts of Carmel Valley Road and Del Mar Heights Road were temporarily shut down. By late afternoon, the fire was under control, and within a few hours, evacuees were allowed to return to their homes.

On Thursday, July 27, a small brush fire flared up near the south end of Calais Drive, on the eastern edge of the Extension, but firefighters quickly put it out. In all, 27.4 acres of the 168 acres in the Extension were burned, but no structures were damaged. The investigation into the cause of the morning fire has not yet been completed, but the initial findings are that it was caused accidentally. The afternoon blaze was a result of the earlier fire reigniting. The Extension remains closed to the public with no opening date set.

State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist Darren Smith reports that most of the burned area is expected to recover successfully, with the possibility that some species that respond to fires might be newly revealed. There will be new entry points into the Extension and fencing to protect the

areas that are recovering. The Whacky Weeders will have plenty to do as they work to prevent invasive plants, especially various *Ehrharta* species (South African veldt grass), from taking over the damaged areas. In addition, scientists will be studying the recovery of threatened species such as the Torrey pine, Del Mar manzanita, short-leaved dudleya, and the coast horned lizard.

A number of Torrey Pines docents live in homes that surround the Extension, and some were required to evacuate. **Barbara Wallach** and her husband left their house at 3:00 pm and drove to the North Beach parking lot, where they “watched the helicopters and planes that were attacking the fire.” She described it as “pretty scary to think what might be happening if they were not able to quench the fire.” By 6:00 pm they didn't see any visible smoke and Carmel Valley Road was reopened, so they returned home. **Lynne Small** and her husband evacuated at about 5:00 pm, bringing with them passports and other important papers, clothing for a night or two, and their dog. After a leisurely dinner at the Ralph's shopping center in Del Mar, Lynne learned from her son, who lives in Pittsburgh, that the evacuation order had been lifted (he saw it on X).

Other docents, such as **Dana Suberi**, were alerted to the possibility of evacuating and got themselves ready, but the evacuation order was lifted before they had to leave. **Mary Hohmeyer** and her husband saw intense smoke that was heading in their direction at about 2:30 and drove north to Solana Beach with their dog and some important documents, where they “watched the water-dropping helicopters make run after run.” By 7:00 pm, they were able to return home.

All the docents we spoke to used the same word to describe the fire: “scary.”



Photo by Herb Knufken (distant zoom from Guy Fleming Trail at 11: 10 am)

The Torrey Pines Conservancy is asking for contributions to support the work that State Parks will be undertaking to restore the Extension. To learn about the acquisition of the Extension property, see the August 2009 *Torreyana* article [here](#). And to watch an ABC 10 News video report on the fire, click [here](#).

Two fires on June 25 and one small fire on June 27 damaged 27.4 of the 168 acres in the Torrey Pines Extension. The June 25 fires led to a short-term evacuation of 2,500 residents including several docents. While the final investigation is pending, initial findings suggest accidental cause. The Extension remains closed to the public.



Photo by Joan Simon taken from TP Lodge porch



Photo by Joan Simon taken from TP Lodge porch, zoomed



Drone view: Del Mar Heights School lower left



Photo by SR Dylan Hardenbrook on Margaret Fleming Trail looking east

The Torrey Pines Conservancy is asking for contributions to support the work that State Parks will be undertaking to restore the Extension. To contribute, click [here](#)

A History of Fire Dangers at Torrey Pines

by Judy Schulman, TPDS Historian

While the recent fire in the Extension demonstrated the vulnerability of our park, the threat of fire has long been a concern at Torrey Pines. In his 1883 paper to the San Diego Society of Natural History, Charles Christopher Parry expressed worry about the vandalism he had seen since his 1850 visit to our area. San Diego Mayor Edwin Capps in 1899 expressed his concern about our park being poorly protected from fire. In 1914, Pueblo Forester Max Watson also expressed concern about vandalism. A 1925 newspaper article cited Guy Fleming's worries that visitor carelessness could result in a destructive fire during a dry season. The small fires of 1956 were among the factors that inspired the movement to change control of our park from the city to the state. And in 1960, park supervisor Jim Avant closed the park road to nighttime vehicle traffic to help curtail fire and vandalism danger.

On October 23, 2007, the park was closed to the public for a week because of the devastating Witch Creek Fire, which burned many areas of San Diego County and threatened others. People living in the Del Mar Heights area were asked to evacuate, and the fire nearly reached Via de Valle. Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer requested the closure. She began to pack her truck with some of the taxidermy and historic binders.

The fire that sticks mostly in my mind occurred in 1972, when I was a student at UCSD. During that summer, an arsonist set fire to the trees in the east grove across North Torrey Pines Road from the main part of the Reserve. About 20 trees died, and nearly 200 were damaged. The culprit was responsible for at least a half dozen other fires in the area, including areas near UCSD's Muir College. Those of us who lived in the dorms were asked to be on the lookout for a man "living" in the nearby brushy areas (now built over). Some people referred to him as Mr. Green Jeans; others called him The Green Ranger. State parks conducted round-the-clock surveillance of the area; Old Town State Historic Park rangers were sent in plain clothes.

Sources differ as to the former Virginia resident's reasons for starting the fires. One theory was that he was mad at his girlfriend for unrequited love; another was that he preferred redwood trees. In any event, he was eventually put into a state mental hospital.

As a result of this and other unrelated small fires in the area, extra protection was instituted. Cigarette smoking was no longer allowed. Open cooking fires in the picnic area (now the Children's Pavilion area) was prohibited.

Seeking New TPDS Board Members

by the Nominating Committee

Docent Society board members are the elected leadership of our society. They oversee our activities and events, create and approve new activities, and take care of our finances.

Members of the board are expected to attend the majority of the monthly board meetings – at 1 pm on the Wednesday before the monthly General Meeting, which is on the second Saturday of each month. Board members are expected to actively participate in discussions and decision-making. The board consists of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer as well as five directors-at-large. Each of the five at-large members serves as liaison to a specific docent activity such as the Children's Program, Lodge hosting, weeding, etc.

The nominating committee – currently **Frank Burham, Medi Denker, Steve Neal, Myrna Trust, and Janet Ugalde** – accepts applications and chooses the nominees who comprise a proposed slate of board members for the coming year. The slate is presented to the general membership at the October general meeting, and the members vote at the November general meeting. Please consider serving our society as a board member. Click [here](#) for the board member application form.

Bumble and Buckwheat

by Rhea Bridy

Seaside dance of life

Bumblebee and
Buckwheat

Going gangbusters

Naturally



The arsonist was eventually arrested on August 2, 1972.

Dust on the Trail

by *Crescencio Torres and Stu Rosenwasser*

Each year, more than three million visitors walk the TPSNR trails. Although the trails are well maintained, all these hikers kick up a lot of dust, covering the nearby flora and impacting its overall health.

Following the unprecedented closure of TPSNR during the pandemic, we walked the trails before the Reserve reopened to the public. We observed how the Reserve had seemed to breathe a sigh of relief from the day-to-day pounding of its visitors. Plant leaves were green with little or no dust cover, animal scat littered the trails, and animal tracks were visible. The Reserve had returned to its more natural state.

Once TPSNR opened to visitors, we noticed a distinct change along the trails after just a few weeks of hiking as Roving Interpreters. We saw dust on plant leaves one to two meters into the flora. The lower portions of yerba santa, lemonadeberry, scrub oak, deerweed, and other plants were all impacted. Over the next few weeks, we observed the transition from clean plant cover to dust-covered plants. We discussed our observations and asked, "What does this mean, and should we be concerned?"

Dust on plants along Reserve trails is something we need to pay more attention to. Plants along heavily hiked trails become coated in dust, particularly during dry summers. Scientific research shows that if rainfall is limited, dust particles accumulate and inhibit photosynthesis; in extreme cases, they may smother the flora and kill the plant. Fortunately, in 2023, TPSNR received 11 inches of rain, which temporarily alleviated the trail dust problem. However, 2024 is a La Niña year, a dry and hot year that will only exacerbate the problem.

What can we do? We should be concerned; and yes, if we accept the premise – dust on our hiking trails does harm flora along all Reserve trails – then we should take preventative action. We recommend to California Parks the following actions to safeguard our plant communities:

- Limit the number of hikers allowed on the trails
- Establish on-site conservation practices
- Periodically close hiking trails to reduce the stress on habitat and allow the regrowth of native plants

Good trail management minimizes human impact on the natural environment. We want to invite the public to enjoy the beauty of TPSNR. While maintaining our trails to provide safe hiking experiences, we must also take action to preserve the Reserve's natural ecosystem.

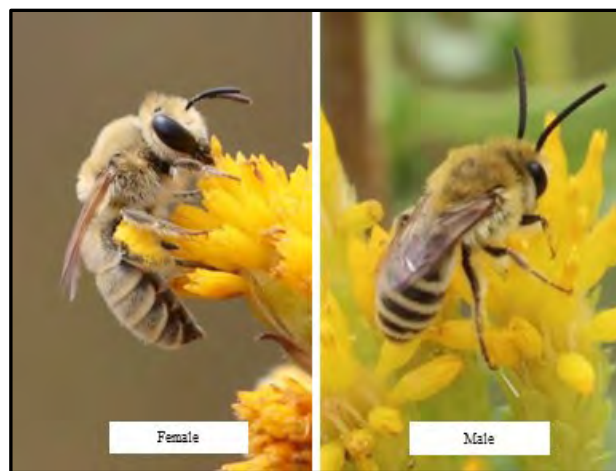
References available on request.

Bee of the Month: Ochraceous Cellophane

Article and photos by *Cindy Pencek of the WannaBees*

As summer moves into fall, you'll find Menzies Goldenbush (*Isocoma menzeseii*) in bloom. This plant in the Asteraceae family is unique because it doesn't have any ray flowers, just disk flowers, giving it a spiky appearance on the top, and it has overlapping layers of sepals below, reminiscent of an artichoke.

Pollinators flock to this flower because it's the main floral resource in late summer and early fall. Here you will find the ochraceous cellophane bee (*Colletes ochraceus*). This bee has big, black eyes that come closer together toward the mouth, giving the face a heart-shaped look when viewed head-on. The head and abdomen are furry. Like all bees, males and females have distinct morphologies that distinguish them. The females have more subdued banding so it looks as if the whole bee has been dusted in gold powder, but what you're actually seeing are very dense, short hairs. The female's antennae are black and relatively short, and she carries pollen on her hind legs, usually bright yellow pollen collected from goldenbush flowers. Males appear to have the gold powder only on their heads and thorax, with sharper black and white bands on the abdomen and longer antennae. The excessively hairy head and thorax on the male remind me of a lion's mane. On both males and females, the tip of the abdomen comes to a triangular-shaped point.



Cellophane bees on goldenbush

The family of cellophane bees (*Colletidae*) got its common name from the secretions that line its underground nests in a waterproof, plastic wrap-like way. This waterproof coating helps keep the developing bee and its pollen and nectar provisions from drying out. The female regurgitates the substance and has a tongue with an adapted shape that can cover the walls of the nest like a paintbrush. The females build nests by digging in sandy soils and are not social,

but they may have aggregations with nests near other bees of the same species, similar to an apartment complex. This species has only one generation per year, with adults emerging in summer or early fall to match the blooming season of the goldenbush.

Many *Colletes* species cannot be identified without a microscope on an immobilized bee, but the coloring of *C. ochraceous* is so unique that females can be IDed with a photo or while watching a bee in the field. Keep on the lookout for them, and if you find one – Eureka!

Welcome to the TAC!

by Lisa Kakone

We are the TIK (Trail Information Kiosk) Advisory Committee (TAC) and are assuming the program management responsibilities for the TIK. TAC members are docents **Lisa Kakone, Gary McCook, Harry Proctor, Toni Mondini,** and **Kathy Simmons**; Ranger Stephanie Adams; and Sr. Interpretive Park Aide Zuzana Volny.

We will be responsible for managing the TIK inventory and kiosk. Docents will work with State Parks to update interpretive materials. If you have any questions regarding the TIK, you may address your questions to me or to any of the other committee members above.

TIK Announcements

Summer hours: During July and August, the TIK will offer an additional shift from 3 to 5 pm daily. Please sign up for this time on Better Impact!

Woodrat and butterfly cutouts: The TAC has moved the woodrat and butterfly cutouts to the Visitor Center. There is no requirement or expectation to set them out at the TIK, but they are available if anyone wants to display them. If you need help setting them up, please communicate with the senior interpretive park aides or Ranger Stephanie Adams.

Volunteer Appreciation Award

Photo by Herb Knufken

During the July 13 General Meeting, Ingo Renner, Seabee coordinator, presented Cliff Colwell with a plaque for his 17 years of service.



New Tides Sign at the TIK

by Zuzana Volny, Senior Park Aide

The TAC (TIK Advisory Committee) is excited to announce the addition of a tides sign on the back of the map board near the TIK. Following the design style of the Torrey pine tree sign, this new sign provides essential information about tides. It explains what tides are and how they affect our beaches, and it provides important safety tips for visitors, especially concerning beach hikes.

I designed the sign. Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook has ensured it meets public safety standards, and Interpreter I Louis Sands has approved it from an interpretive perspective.

Please take note of the following details, which can serve as helpful visual aids when you're speaking with visitors:

Tide Check information: The sign ([Link](#)) includes a section advising that the beach is generally accessible 2-3 hours before and after high tide. This rule of thumb is consistent with the information on our Reserve map.

NOAA tides video: The QR code on the sign links to an informative video about tides, created by NOAA and presented in an easy-to-understand format. You can watch it [here](#).

Photographs: There are two photographs on the sign. One shows the beach during high tide when there is no beach to walk on, and the other depicts a bluff collapse. These images highlight the real potential hazards of the beach.

Stay tuned for the next addition, which will feature redesigned geology information in the final panel!

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

Visitors to our shop may notice that we have a fresh influx of many tiles from Laird Plumleigh Studios.

Of special interest to our Wannabee team is a new item that we haven't carried before: a lovely hexagonal bee tile.

Also returning to the shop is the blue version of our standard ballcap, back by popular demand. Come in and have a look!



Torrey Pines Book Club

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 if you need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, August 13, 1:00 pm

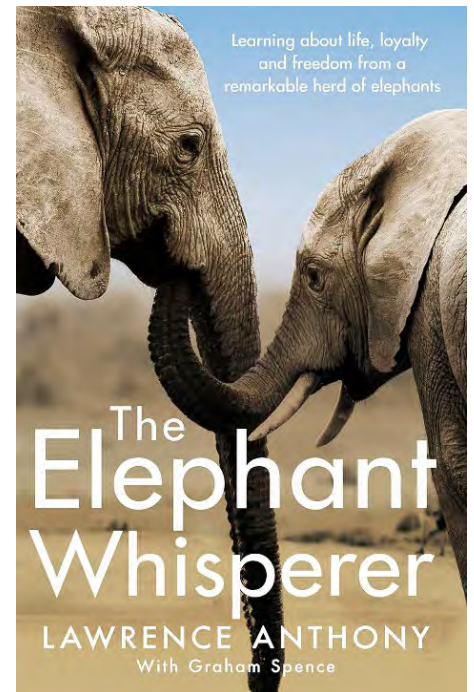
What: *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* by Lawrence Anthony

Amazon says:

When South African conservationist Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a herd of “rogue” wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd’s last chance of survival: they would be killed if he wouldn’t take them. In order to save their lives, Anthony took them in. In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom.

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

September 10: *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* by Lisa See



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 2024

Number of species: 54
(+3 other taxa)

Surf Scoter 6	Brown Pelican 36
Western/Clark's Grebe 10	Snowy Egret 2
Mourning Dove 29	Great Egret 9
White-throated Swift 21	Great Blue Heron 2
Anna's Hummingbird 10	White-faced Ibis 1
Allen's Hummingbird 7	Osprey 4
hummingbird sp. 1	Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Long-billed Curlew 1	Red-tailed Hawk 1
Heermann's Gull 19	Nuttall's Woodpecker 9
Western Gull 32	American Kestrel 1
California Gull 1	Peregrine Falcon 2
Caspian Tern 4	Western Flycatcher 1
Elegant Tern 1	Black Phoebe 5
large tern sp. 5	Ash-throated Flycatcher 17
Brandt's Cormorant 131	California Scrub-Jay 14
Double-crested Cormorant 4	American Crow 6
	Common Raven 26
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 36

Cliff Swallow 6
Bushtit 84
Wrentit 62
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5
California Gnatcatcher 4
House Wren 10
Bewick's Wren 6
California Thrasher 9
Northern Mockingbird 2
Scaly-breasted Munia 7
House Finch 34
Lesser Goldfinch 40
Dark-eyed Junco 2
Song Sparrow 18
California Towhee 48
Spotted Towhee 12
Yellow-breasted Chat 13
Hooded Oriole 5
Brown-headed Cowbird 1

Orange-crowned Warbler 15
Common Yellowthroat 22
Yellow Warbler 4
Black-headed Grosbeak 9

Observers: Andy Rathbone, Donna Mancuso, Dinah Carl, Tsaiwei Olee, Kathy Estey, Robert Turner, Karen Turner, Manolo Turner, David Walker, Nancy Richardson, Robert James, Marci Rimlinger, Maryanna Bache, Steve Neal

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



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