



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

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Putting the Us in Museum

by Dan Hammer

Most American and European museums are based on academic collections of major artworks and artifacts of “western civilization.” They have largely been established and operated by and for people who are older, white, affluent, and educated.

What would it mean to be a museum for all of us? How could it be created? Beginning in 2012, San Diego’s Museum of Man set about answering these questions, and in 2020 the Museum reintroduced itself as the Museum of Us. At the September TPDS meeting, the Museum’s CEO, Micah Parzen, told the story of this transformation, which he called “more a journey than a destination” – one that has been “fraught with landmines and mistakes” and is nowhere near complete.

Origins

Micah began by relating some little-known history of Balboa Park. Opened in 1915 as part of the Panama-California Exposition, the San Diego Museum (as it was then called) focused on anthropology, with wide-ranging ethnographic collections displayed in the traditional encyclopedic manner with a Eurocentric perspective. The Exposition’s “celebration and glorification of colonialism” was reflected in the



Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, October 12, 9:00 am

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

Speaker: Dr. Reinhard (Ron) Flick, Research Associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO)

Topic It’s Not Your Fault: Past and Future of Southern California’s Uplifting Coast

Southern California’s magnificent coastal setting is a gift from its tectonic history, climate, and the physical mechanisms (mainly waves) that alter the shoreline by adding or removing sand. Sea level rise for the past 20,000 years has made this a naturally eroding coast, albeit slowly over the last 6,000 years. Dr. Flick will describe these natural processes and the profound impacts of coastal development over the past century.

Ron Flick retired in 2020 as Staff Oceanographer and Oceanography Program Manager for California State Parks Divisions of Boating and Waterways and Natural Resources. He is one of the founders of the SIO Center for Coastal Studies and continues as a Research Associate at SIO.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **D, E, F** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

Museum’s façade, which features nine European conquistadors and missionaries – and no indigenous people.

When the Exposition organizers wanted to display indigenous people in their “natural environment,” they deemed the Kumeyaay people who *actually lived in the park* “insufficiently Indian” from a stereotypical perspective. They forcibly removed the Kumeyaay from their homes and brought in Pueblo people from Arizona and New Mexico who “looked more the part,” and they set up a “Painted Desert” demonstration village (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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FLASH - Don't forget to donate your ZooNooz magazines to the Museum Shop.

President's Message

What I want to know is: Are you kind?

Fall has arrived and with it a breeze of transformative air. Our society's strength is based on the foundational notion that community, first and foremost, brings us together to accomplish honorable acts. Our community would not be effective without the shared values that are demonstrated every day at the Reserve as we work with each other. From my perspective, it is the values of kindness, mutual respect, empathy, and compassion that guide us.

The board recently approved the formation of a new committee to create a complaint resolution process and create a "principle of community" document to guide this process. If you'd like to volunteer for this committee, please email me. Our society functions best when new leaders emerge and step up to take on more responsibility.

The shark lecture on August 17 at St. Peter's was a complete success, with over 130 folks in attendance. Special thanks to **Gabriele Wienhausen** and TPC's Solange Jacobs for making this event happen. Kudos to **Molly Allison, Mediha Denker, Marian Edelbrock, and Myrna Trust** (also known as "the M&M's") for helping with the setup and refreshments.

Thanks to **Bob Friedman** for helping make the Roving Interpretation forums happen. Over 50 docents attended the forums, where they shared their insights and opinions about the current and future Roving Interpretation programs. We are now looking for docents to join the Trails Program implementation committee; please email me if you have questions or want to volunteer.

We are fortunate that **Mary Makowski** and **Carolyn McLean** have taken on the coordination of our annual holiday potluck. If you want to help with the planning efforts, please contact them. Mark your calendar for December 14!

Lastly, thanks to **Myrna Trust** and **Susan Elliott** for their faithful service to the Docent Training program. Over the last several years, they helped make this program run smoothly and efficiently. On behalf of program coordinator **Janet Ugalde**, I want to welcome **Janice Taylor, Dinah Carl, and Ingo Renner** who are stepping into Susan and Myrna's big shoes.

Matt Xavier

TPDS President



Inside

Putting the Us in Museum	1
President's Message	2
Docent of the Month	4
Children's Program	4
What's on the Beach?.....	5
Bridge Project	6
September CEED	7
Museum Shop Spotlight	7
Cleaning the Lodge.....	7
Bee of the Month	8
Biodiversity Week	9
Haunted Torrey Pines.....	9
October CEED	9
80+: Ann Gaarder	10
Torrey Pines Book Club.....	11

(Cont. from pg. 1.)

with dancing, weaving, and other traditional arts and crafts.



The Museum's inaugural exhibit, "The Story of Man Through the Ages," amplified the dominant Western narrative of the time: that race was biological and that societies had a hierarchical "fitness for survival" based on race. Other exhibits presented indigenous communities as peoples of the past with cultures frozen in time.

Transformation

As the Museum began its transformation, its board and staff asked, "Now that we know better, how can we do better?" In 2011, the Museum presented an exhibition on race developed by the American Anthropological Association. The public's positive reaction made this a departure point for the Museum's transformation. The staff reached out to local indigenous communities – particularly the Kumeyaay and Luiseño – for help in making this a museum "for all of us."

They began by reevaluating the Museum's lexicon, which was rooted in a western scientific viewpoint. This perspective can be very valuable, Micah said, but it's also very limiting. So, for example, the Museum stopped using the word *collections* and shifted to "cultural resources," putting the focus on the people who made them, used them, and imbibed them with meaning; similarly, *artifacts* are now called *belongings*. The human remains formerly known as *mummies* were re-designated as *ancestors*, which led to an effort to either return them to their descendant communities or display them only with informed consent. When you start to use different language, it causes you to pause and think how you can speak and act without perpetuating harm.

The next step was designing (and in some cases redesigning) exhibits relying primarily on indigenous expertise rather than traditional scientific expertise; the goal was to present indigenous cultural resources as products of living cultures rather than frozen relics of a dead past. The Museum rethought its definition of *expert* to include not only scholars but indigenous consultants, treating their evidence and knowledge with the respect they deserve.

The Museum changed its marketing, fundraising, and workplace practices to reflect its new approach. It instituted a "bless and release" policy to amicably part ways with donors who didn't share its values. It allowed staff to take paid leave for their communities' holidays or celebrations, substituting this for some traditional holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. It instituted three days of "community-centered leave" for staff to support communities in any way they might define that support.

The Museum's transformation generated lots of love and support but also a backlash as part of the culture wars. Tucker Carlson called the 2020 name change "wokeness run amok" and "cancel culture at its worst." As Micah said, "a juggernaut of hate" began, but "in many ways it was the best thing that ever happened to us."

The Museum leaned into the change, rethinking its organizational culture and structure. Previously the Museum board was made up of "people like us" – older and well off. Now the board is truly diverse: three trustees are indigenous, and more than half are people of color. Some are younger; others have lower socioeconomic status. Board members are no longer pressured to be major donors, and they are reimbursed for board-related expenses.

What about Us?

Micah offered some suggestions on how the TPDS and State Parks might learn from the Museum's experience. He posed some questions for us to consider: Are we working to educate ourselves about the indigenous peoples of this area? Have we begun to develop meaningful partnerships with indigenous communities? And what about a land acknowledgment – i.e., a formal document acknowledging that TPSNR is on unceded homelands of the Kumeyaay people?

I believe that the answers to the first two questions are that we have taken steps to educate ourselves and develop partnerships, but this is a journey for us as it was for the Museum of Us. As for a land acknowledgment, that is for State Parks to determine. As one docent pointed out, we are not independent actors in policy matters.

If you missed Micah's thought-provoking presentation or want to see it again, click [here](#). To learn more about the Museum of Us, click [here](#).

Docent of the Month: Malana Tabak

Photo by Herb Knufken

"When do you feel most alive?" "In nature," I answered over 50 years ago, and my response has never changed. Although born in Germany, I came of age on the south side of Chicago, far from any ocean but close to a truly Great Lake whose other side wasn't visible. (I was always a little nearsighted.)



My dad taught high school history all year round. I spent my childhood summers at the library and the beach waiting for his two-week vacation at the end of August, when my parents, my two younger brothers and I would pile into the Rambler and "go camping." Yellowstone, the Badlands, Colorado, northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, upper Michigan, New York, and finally (when I was 11) Cape Cod and Nauset Beach. There I discovered the ocean and came out of the water only when I was numb. I was changed by that experience and decided I wanted to live by the sea and study its secrets.

In 1985 my husband and I moved from Chicago to San Diego and began our shared love affair with Torrey Pines. We spent our first Christmas here on the trails and walking the beach south to Scripps Pier. We came every weekend; it was much less crowded in those days. When we had kids, they joined us sharing the wonder of this oasis of the natural world in the second-largest city in California.

I had found the place of my dreams, a setting where pine trees met the sea, and 350-foot cliffs made of exquisite rocks fed an often-empty sandy beach along the largest part of the world ocean. I retired from teaching high school science and became a docent in 2018.

I love volunteering at the Reserve, first at the TIK and the Lodge and later at the BLIK, where I put my passion for the ocean to work with children and adults of all ages. Thank you all for this unexpected honor, and for helping me find purpose in my retirement here at Torrey Pines. And thank you Ellen Browning Scripps for this most precious gift!

Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2024

President **Matt Xavier** opened the meeting.

Speaker: Micah Parzen, CEO of the Museum of US, spoke on transforming the museum to be more inclusive and respectful of the indigenous people who lived on the Museum's land (see pg. 1).

Docent of the Month: Malana Tabak is our Docent of the Month. She has worked many hours in the BLIK, TIK, and Lodge. She was key to helping make the BLIK a success.

Holiday Party and New Docent Graduation: **Mary Makowski** and **Carolyn Maclean** are in charge of this year's party. It will be on December 14, beginning at 11am at the Children's Pavilion. This celebration is in lieu of the December general meeting. Anyone wishing to help with this event or with holiday decorating of the Lodge should contact Mary or Carolyn.

Birding: **David Walker** announced that the San Diego Audubon Society has changed its name to the San Diego Bird Alliance.

Speakers: For five years, **Gabriele Wienhausen** has been in charge of finding speakers for the monthly general meetings. **Malana Tabak** will be taking over this job and asked whether there were any docents who would like to work with her.

Financial Report for 2024 year to date: Matt presented an abbreviated version of the financial report. Any docents wishing more information can consult the bulletin board in the Library or the financial report on the website (docent login/Docent Document Repository) or contact Treasurer **Lynne Truong**.

Refreshments: Docents whose last names begin with **D, E, F** are responsible for refreshments at the October meeting.

Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Program Director

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the retirement of our beloved Program Coordinator, Louis Sands. His enthusiasm and endless support will be sorely missed!

The 2024-25 Children's Program begins on October 3 and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays when school is in session. Make ups will be scheduled for the first Friday of the month.

Teacher signups, using our new Acuity platform, have been very successful. All available sessions through May 2025 have been reserved by teachers.

Docent signups are easy using Better Impact. All docent shifts will be 9:30-12:30, with programs beginning at 10:00. Better Impact will not allow us to offer the detailed information we've given in the past, so a schedule of program details is posted at

torreypine.org/volunteering/docentlogin. Scroll down to DOCENT-LED SCHOOL PROGRAM, then click on “for a list of school programs by date, click [here](#).” The list will be regularly updated to reflect changes. If you have difficulty signing up, please email me or our soon-to-be-appointed new coordinator.

This year docents signing up for the Children’s Program will receive three hours automatic credit each session. The three hours includes arriving half an hour before students, scouting trails, selecting props, sharing recent sightings, and supporting other docents by exchanging learning strategies. Thank you, TEAM, for your patience as we work our way through these changes!

What’s on the Beach? California Mussels

Article and photos by Kathy Dickey

Mussels – do you like to eat them with pasta and garlic? Sorry, I cannot face them. When I look at them, all I see is bait because my father and I used to go the local rocky shores and break them open with hammers to use the gooey, orangey animals inside to catch fish (worked great, BTW).

One of the most common things you will see while strolling our beaches is an intact or partial California mussel shell, pointed at one end. The thick shells are blackish-blue on the outside with strong radial ribs, and grayish-blue on the inside with a pearl-like luminescence. They can be as long as five inches when mature (about three years). If you’re lucky, you might find both halves of this bivalve on the beach, but usually it is just one half or a piece of one.



California mussels (*Mytilus californianus*) are a species of bivalve mollusks. They range from waters off Baja California to Alaska and typically live in rugged, rocky

coastal areas. They attach themselves to rocks or pilings (or onto each other) with fibers called byssal threads, which are secreted by a gland in the foot. Immense communities of up to one million sometimes form, especially if predators are absent. New mussels often attach on top of older mussels, which can kill the ones underneath by preventing them from feeding.

More than 300 other species of marine creatures make mussel communities their home (and refuge from predators), including gastropods (snail-like marine mollusks), oysters, worms, and octopuses. Various barnacles may attach to the shells, especially in strong wave areas.

Mussels are filter feeders. When submerged, their valves open slightly, and cilia move water through their gills. Plankton in the water is caught in mucus and sent to the palps (a sorting area), then to the mouth. Mussels consume dinoflagellates, diatoms, zoospores, protozoa, small algae, and bacteria. They can filter two to three liters of water per hour.

In California, mussels spawn during July and December. The eggs and sperm are released into open water, where fertilization takes place. After 24 hours, small free-swimming larvae begin to form. After two or three weeks, the larvae settle and become bottom dwellers.

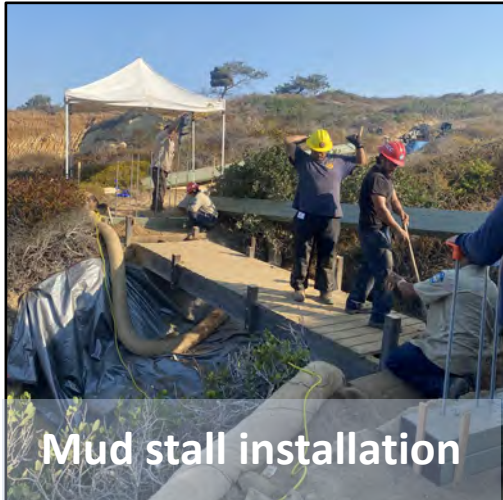
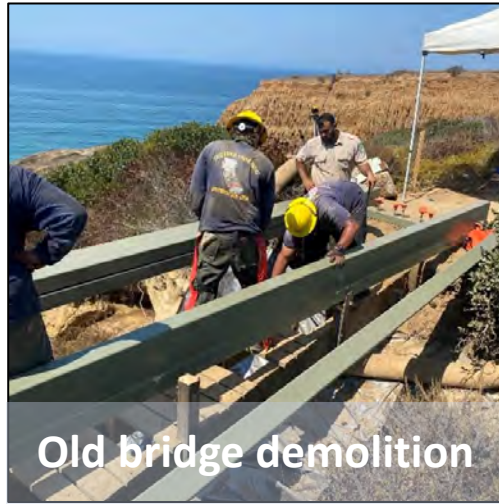
Predators include crabs, shore birds, and sea snails which bore holes in the shell to feed on the soft inner meat. Larger mussels are eaten by sea stars and otters. Surf perch and other fish eat the larval forms. For thousands of years, the local Kumeyaay people harvested mussels and other shellfish for food and jewelry. Fishermen continue to use the animals as bait. Today, the use of local wild mussels as food can be very risky due to dangerous levels of biotoxins that may be concentrated in the meat. The toxins may cause paralysis or death. Harvesting is subject to an annual quarantine from May 1 to October 31 by the California Department of Health. Commercially grown mussels from certified companies are not included in the quarantine. Between 1986 and 2008, the total economic value of the California commercial mussel fishery was \$14.5 million.

UC San Diego researchers have found that the shells of California mussels, a critical species found along the Pacific Coast, are weakening due to ocean acidification.

“Comparing new data with samples collected in the 1950s, UC San Diego Division of Biological Sciences graduate student Elizabeth Bullard and Professor Kaustuv Roy found that ocean acidification is transforming the composition of California mussel shells from mostly the mineral aragonite to the mineral calcite. Aragonite is much stronger than calcite and makes for a better shell to protect against predators and wave energy, two things that are expected to increase with warming waters.”

Bridge Project

The footbridge on the Big Basin Trail (between Razor and Yucca Points) is being replaced. This project is being funded by the TPDS and TPC. Here are a few pictures of the project taken by TP Maintenance Chief Chad Van Doren. See side bar for more details from Chad.



The Statewide Trail Crew and California Conservation Corps are leading the efforts to install the new Fibre Reinforced Polymer bridge kit along with support from the local Torrey Pines Maintenance crew. To my knowledge, this is the first FRP product installed in Southern California, and we hope to use this type of material for the Beach Stair project. The bridge project is going well, and we anticipate completion on or about October 9, 2024.

September CEED: Docents Visit Old Town State Historic Park (Article on next page.)



September CEED: Old Town State Historic Park

by Mukesh Mehta

Fourteen docents attended the CEED walk at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on September 17. We were greeted by Aaron Navarro, a State Parks interpreter, at the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center.

Aaron started the presentation with a land acknowledgement, stating that the park is located on ancestral land of the Kumeyaay, who have inhabited this area for over 10,000 years. In 1769 San Diego became the first Spanish settlement in Alta California.

Aaron took us inside some of the historic adobe structures built in the 1830s. One was the Casa de Estudillo, among the oldest adobe mansions in California. This hacienda-style home has 12 bedrooms, a living room, and a dining room. It was San Diego's social and religious center in the mid-19th century and one of the finest homes of its day. After 1887, when the family moved out, it fell into disrepair. In 1906 John D. Spreckels renovated the property into a tourist attraction called "Ramona's Marriage Place" based on Helen Hunt Jackson's famous novel *Ramona*. In 1968 the casa became part of the State Park system, and the house was restored to a museum identified with the Estudillo Family.

All the docents had a wonderful learning experience on a picture-perfect day in Old Town.

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

We currently have a fresh supply of Torrey Pines wood items made by the Turn Around Vets: a great selection of bowls and some wonderful trees. These make unique gifts for the holidays or any time!



Scrub-a-Dub Dazzle at the Lodge

by Gabriele Wienhausen; photos by Lynne Truong

It happened again! At the crack of dawn on August 19, eleven determined dust-busting docents and volunteers gathered to tackle the biannual taxidermy and Lodge deep cleaning.

Every single taxidermy specimen was inspected and cleaned. The shelves were scrubbed. Museum display cases were pulled apart – did you know that these connect together like Lego blocks and are standing on wheels? – giving the cleaners access to otherwise inaccessible areas. Windows and window screens and even lampshades were washed. No nook or cranny was left unexplored.



Homemade banana bread, blueberry muffins, freshly brewed coffee, and a plethora of snacks provided a steady stream of energy.

We under promised and overdelivered: the taxidermy and Lodge were sparkling clean by noon, an hour before the Lodge was scheduled to reopen for the afternoon shifts. Park Aide Laura Chaing stepped up to welcome visitors again at 12 and cover the desk till the 1 pm Lodge host arrived.

The photo does not lie: docents **Dinah Carl, Connie Jaffe, Robert James, Allen Heryet, Jean Kelleher, Tony Mondini, Lynne Truong**, and I and volunteers Laura Hale, Mahaut Noblat, and Marci Rimlinger had a great time!



The next taxidermy and Lodge cleaning will take place in February 2025. Look for an announcement early next year, then mark your calendar so you can join the fun.

Bee of the Month: Long-horned Bee (*Melissodes*)

by Robert James and Tina Tong

The genus *Melissodes* (mel-is-OH-deez) means “bee-like,” and this medium-sized bee in the family Apidae certainly fits the name. Males are also a striking example of sexual dimorphism, with their extraordinarily long orange antennae (“horns”). These bees have been observed from June through October at the Reserve and are considered a later-season species. They tend to fly in the mornings and early afternoons and are known to be fast flyers. Some observers in our area confuse *Melissodes* with the urbane digger bee (*Anthophora urbana*), which is in the same family and similar appearing.



Male *Melissodes*; Photo by Cindy Pencek

Unlike many of our native bees, *Melissodes* are specialists, with many being found on flowers in the sunflower family (Asteraceae). This is fortunate because sunflowers are usually common and abundant later in the year when most other species are no longer blooming. Our intrepid community scientists, the [WannaBees](#), along with other observers, have [documented](#) *Melissodes* at the Reserve most frequently on wreath-plant (*Stephanomeria diegensis*), yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*), rosin weed (*Osmadenia tenella*), and goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*).

Melissodes are solitary ground nesters like most of our native species but may be opportunistically communal; scientists have observed several females using the same nest entrance. In addition, some species are particular about the soils in which they nest. Therefore, avoiding and minimizing ground disturbance aid in their conservation. As if *Melissodes* did not have enough challenges, long-horned cuckoo bees (*Triepeolus*) are known to lay their eggs in their nests. It may turn out that our most recently featured

[Bee of the Month](#), Matilda’s longhorn-cuckoo (*Triepeolus matildae*), makes use of *Melissodes* as a host, as their flight periods overlap.



Female *Melissodes*; Photo by Robert James

Fortunately, the wing venation in *Melissodes* is an important identification characteristic available for photographers to document. UCSD Ph.D. candidate Jess Mullins adds that hair on the tongue is one of the most important things to see (hard to photograph, but worth trying!), along with the wide, pale hair bands and flat top of the head. So, as we WannaBees know, getting clear photos showing the wing veins and other characteristics can help identify those bees to at least the genus level. According to Professor James Hung, another helpful characteristic is that *Melissodes* in our area have light-colored eyes, whereas other long-horned bee genera have dark ones.

A slight caution is that *Melissodes*, like some other genera at the Reserve such as mining and nomad bees, are difficult to identify more precisely to species, which is best determined by experts with access to a reference collection. In fact, there are 22 confirmed species of *Melissodes* in San Diego County. That said, enjoy and feel free to photo document these late-season bees at the Reserve; this will add to the 35 *Melissodes* individuals recorded in iNaturalist by the WannaBees. The WannaBees can show you how to capture cool photographs, even with a smartphone!

References are available upon request.

Del Mar Sand Aster

by Rhea Bridy

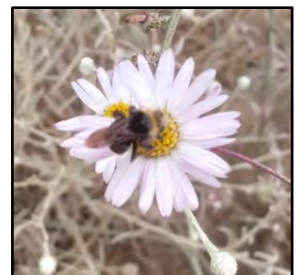
Native bumblebees,

Disk florets of gold.

Can't resist your resilient

Pale-purple petals and

Petite pineapple-like buds.



Biodiversity Week

Article and photo by Laura Chaing, Sr. Interpretive Park Aide

The heatwave sweeping through San Diego County in September made for harsher conditions than usual, while closures of our most popular trail also deterred some hikers. Nevertheless, California Biodiversity Week (September 7-15) was set in stone and we all carried on.

This annual event is a week to celebrate and highlight the beautiful outdoors and promote California's Biodiversity Initiative of 2018. Here at Torrey Pines, we invited members of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to run a plant diversity booth and the Wannabees to run a bee diversity booth. Both had great information and resources focused on San Diego biodiversity and how to bring it to your own home.



Wannabee Cheryl Biernacki (left) and Bonnie Nickel of CNPS

California now has a goal (known as 30x30) of conserving 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. There are many ways to participate and spread awareness of these goals during Biodiversity Week. State Parks encourages each park to host an iNaturalist BioBlitz, with parks competing to see how many species can be observed and identified. With [32 CA State Parks](#) participating, Torrey Pines came in sixth place with 217 identified species, while Point Lobos SNR took first with 348 identified species. Across all the participating parks, there were at least 1,914 unique species documented across California – all in one week! Shoutout to the many docents we saw participating through iNaturalist observations and contributing to these amazing statistics.

If you are interested in joining the Wannabee team and documenting bee diversity at Torrey Pines, check out the [bee monitoring page](#) on the docent website. Additionally, heading into fall (the best time to establish native plants), check out [CNPS's website](#) for native plant and seed sales.

When visiting Torrey Pines SNR, there are always opportunities for unique experiences in nature any day of the year, not just during Biodiversity Week. Explore by attending events, taking guided hikes, and using self-guided tools like iNaturalist to keep learning and enjoying our local biodiversity.

Haunted Torrey Pines

by Judy Schulman, TPDS Historian

With the month of October comes the fall harvest, pumpkin spice latte, and Halloween! What better place than Torrey Pines to tell ghost stories, especially on a dark and foggy night? I know of two, told to me by a park aide back in the 1970s.

First, on the Guy Fleming Trail, it was reported that a small ghostly figure had been seen moving around the trees on the knoll. Was this the fog just darting in and around trees, or was it the spirit of a young child whose ashes were said to have been spread up there?

And then one foggy night (these things all seem to happen in the fog), one of the rangers was in the Lodge finishing up paperwork. He thought he heard someone cry “help me!” He knew no one was around because he had just done a patrol around the building, so he went back to his work. Once again, he thought he heard someone calling. This time he went outside and shined his trusty flashlight around the parking lot. Not only did he hear the voice again, but he thought he saw movement going towards the cliffs behind the Lodge. He called out, but there was no answer. So, he went closer to the cliff's edge to see if someone had fallen. It seemed like he could see a female figure floating in the air. Still calling “help me,” she motioned toward him. Thinking that there indeed was someone who needed his help, he took a step forward to help her – and you can probably guess the rest. As he fell to the bottom of the canyon, you could hear him call “help me.”

I have looked at several books on haunted San Diego and couldn't find any references to our park. If anyone knows of any other spooky stories that take place in our park, please let me know – but carefully since I scare easily.

October CEED Event: Water Conservation Garden

Date: Thursday October 17

Time: 10:00 am

Place: The Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon

Duration: approximately one hour

Difficulty Level: easy walking; please wear closed shoes

For more information, contact **Mukesh Mehta**

Limited to the first 15 docents to respond

80+: Ann Gaarder

Interview and photo by Joanne Miale

Ann, you have an interesting history to share. Can you start by telling us when you became a docent and what it was like then?

I became a docent in 1995. We used to have our monthly docent meetings in the Lodge, we were such a small group! Everyone knew each other. Many of the members in those days had been active in WWII and had such stories to tell!

Was there anything about your childhood that inspired you to become a docent?

I grew up in Naperville, Illinois, now a city but then a small village. For seven years in a row, my school friends and I went to the St. Paul YMCA Camp near Ely, Minnesota, where we canoed the boundary waters between the US and Canada. We'd be out for a whole week at a time, portaging from lake to lake and never seeing anyone. We had all our supplies on our backs, including a reflector oven and enormous sleeping bags. I loved being in nature!

How did you start your career? Was there anything that inspired you?

Yes, I had read Tom Dooley's *The Night They Burned the Mountain*, about medical work in Asia, which hugely inspired me to become a nurse. After earning a BS in Nursing from the University of Iowa, I worked in the Iowa City Hospital Children's ENT, then moved to San Francisco. While working in a hospital there, I overheard a coworker talking about taking a nursing job with the Tom Dooley Foundation in Laos. Her associate dropped out, so I got called. It was 1963, along the Laos-Thailand border on the Mekong River near Burma. The following year, I left and traveled through Malaysia, Penang Island, and Singapore to look for a job in Saigon. They told me to go check out Project Concern, a two-hour flight away in a former US military hospital. At the sparsely equipped hospital, we trained Montagnard medics (who could return to their villages) and saw outpatients as well as making weekly visits to help those in remote villages. I left after 13 months, then traveled through Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and much of Japan before returning to the US.

While working at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, I reconnected with my former Iowa boyfriend. We were married for 23 years (with two daughters). In the 60s, all MDs, dentists, and vets had to serve in the military, so back we went to Asia. This time for two years (1969-71) in Taiwan, where my first daughter was born. Technically it



was a hardship post, no wives, so I went later, paying my own way. I loved the chaos there, seeing open-air shops, babies strapped on backs, water buffalo plowing fields.

Very exciting! So how did you end up becoming a docent?

When I bought my house in Del Mar Terrace in 1993, I didn't even know about the Reserve. My daughters took me there for the first time. Then a neighbor was thinking about volunteering at Torrey Pines. A TPDS member told me that not many trainees lasted long after the training, so I took that as a personal challenge.

What is your favorite activity and what do you like about it?

Lodge hosting, absolutely! I love meeting people and sharing information. I'm an extrovert.

I really go out of my way, taking visitors outside to see views and plants, and around to the whale bones and skull, offering explanations of unique aspects of our park.

Any challenges?

I have a hard time using the POS and cell phone due to dyslexia, so now I prefer to work as a second person. It's only my tenth year of full hours, since my daughter's and my health appointments had made it hard to commit to booking shifts (before today's easy-cancel BI program!).

What else do you like about being a docent?

I like the Book Club: I read a lot, mostly current events, and I write a blog on China. I love the TPDS meetings, seeing people and hearing all our great speakers.

Our members are special. It takes a certain personality to volunteer their time. These people are not out playing bridge, and they are so intelligent. I love being around them.

And what would you say to new docents?

It's so important to keep learning! For both new and old docents!



In Memorium: Marian Casazza (class of 2006) passed away on August 8. She loved gardening and was a member of the Garden Committee from its earliest days, when the group cleaned up the garden in front of the Lodge, as well as Whitaker Garden, and installed new signage in both places. More about Marian [here](#).

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, October 8, 1:00 pm

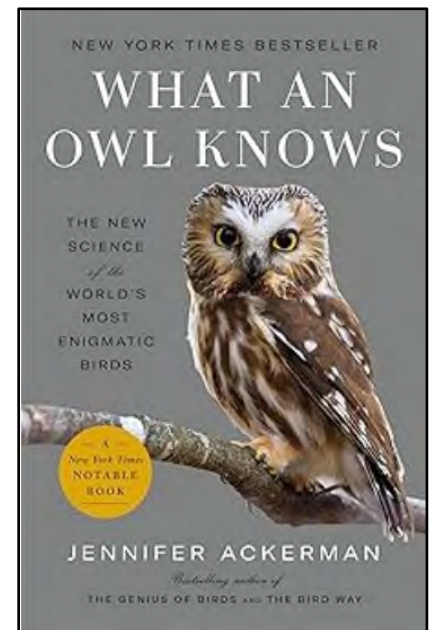
What: *What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman

Amazon says:

In *What an Owl Knows*, Jennifer Ackerman joins scientists in the field and explores how researchers are using modern technology and tools to learn how owls communicate, hunt, court, mate, raise their young, and move about from season to season. Ackerman brings this research alive with her own personal field observations; the result is an awe-inspiring exploration of owls across the globe and through human history, and a spellbinding account of the world's most enigmatic group of birds.

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

November 12: *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: September 2024

Number of species: 64
(+2 other taxa)

Mallard 2	Double-crested Cormorant 18	American Crow 5	Rufous-crowned Sparrow 3
California Quail 4	Brown Pelican 99	Common Raven 44	Spotted Towhee 5
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 2	Snowy Egret 3	Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1	Yellow-breasted Chat 2
Mourning Dove 10	Great Egret 2	Bushtit 47	Orange-crowned Warbler 16
White-throated Swift 40	Great Blue Heron 3	Wrentit 52	Common Yellowthroat 7
Anna's Hummingbird 6	Osprey 2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5	Western Tanager 2
Allen's Hummingbird 6	Cooper's Hawk 1	California Gnatcatcher 6	Black-headed Grosbeak 3
hummingbird sp. 1	Red-shouldered Hawk 4	House Wren 19	
Whimbrel 10	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Bewick's Wren 13	Observers: Donna Mancuso, Kathy Brav, Manolo Turner, Robert Turner, Tsaiwei Olee, Andy Rathbone, Marci Rimlinger, Gabriele Wienhausen, Debbie Regottaz, Dinah Carl, Steve Neal, Robert James, Marty Hales, Nancy Richardson, David Walker
Long-billed Curlew 5	Great Horned Owl 1	California Thrasher 8	
Marbled Godwit 3	Belted Kingfisher 1	Northern Mockingbird 2	
Heermann's Gull 29	Downy Woodpecker 1	Western Bluebird 2	
Western Gull 42	Nuttall's Woodpecker 7	Scaly-breasted Munia 2	
California Gull 2	American Kestrel 4	House Finch 32	
Caspian Tern 1	Peregrine Falcon 1	Lesser Goldfinch 26	
Royal Tern 5	Western Wood-Pewee 1	Dark-eyed Junco 3	
Black-vented Shearwater 20	Willow Flycatcher 1	Savannah Sparrow 4	
Brandt's Cormorant 18	Black Phoebe 10	Savannah Sparrow (Belding's) 4	
	Cassin's Kingbird 1	Song Sparrow 31	
	Hutton's Vireo 4	California Towhee 52	
	California Scrub-Jay 13		

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



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