Torrey Pinecone

A news bulletin for the Torrey Pines Docent Society

Torrey Pines History through Postcards
by Lillian Lachicotte

Our speaker at the January meeting, Judy Schulman, has been a Torrey Pines Docent since 1977. She started her docent training while she was a student at UCSD. Judy is a past president of the Docent Society and was the youngest person to be president of this group.

Judy is a basket weaver. Many of you have seen her beautiful pine needle baskets in the Museum Store.

Judy currently serves on the Board as Vice President and is our unofficial Docent Society Historian. Judy said, “I’ve had that unofficial title (historian) for about 25 years. It was in that capacity that I started collecting postcards. I was interested in comparing before-and-after views. I currently have over 300 different postcards from Torrey Pines (the oldest one is postmarked 1910) and 40 from Camp Callan.”

Judy explained that deltiology is the study of postcards and the word has a Greek derivation: “Deltoid” is a small square writing tablet and “ology” means the study of. The first postcard originated in Austria in 1869 and quickly spread to other European countries. In 1893, U.S. government postcards cost 1 cent to send and private postcards cost 2 cents.

Judy has found that paying attention to details in her collection has given her clues to when the postcards were printed and the history of the area. In a 1911 postcard we saw white tents that were the beginning of Del Mar; the German car garage was visible in 1910 and the bridge was seen in postcards in 1932.

Messages on postcards reveal happenings in San Diego. On April 21, 1918 there was a 6.8 earthquake, epicenter in Riverside (the correspondent was okay). On September 13, 1923 there was a solar eclipse that was obscured by clouds. And on October 19, 1941 a fishing boat beached in the fog with the loss of one life and 25 tons of sardines.

In 1910 the first road was built through the park and remained unpaved until 1915. In 1918 at least two stage lines passed through the park.


In 1950 a family lived in the lodge and a sign advertised “Picnic supplies, fishing equipment, post cards and soft drinks.”

Besides regular sized postcards, there were souvenir folders (a multi-fold series of postcards) and in the 1940’s there were business card sized post cards.

For more information about Judy’s postcard collection, refer to HisTorrey on page 4 of this newsletter.

Also, did you notice the postcard-print shirt our speaker so appropriately wore?
President Rick Vogel called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

Rick announced that the 2010-11 state budget is expected to zero out funding for parks but will give $140,000,000 from off-shore drilling to support the parks system, thus pressuring approval of this off-shore drilling proposal.

There is a "Panic Button" at the docent desk to be used only in case of emergency to summon SURCOM assistance. The TPDS board had approved its purchase and installation. [Details by Ranger Winterton on p. 3]

Docent of the Month for January is Darlene Martineau for her leadership in organizing the 2009 holiday party as well as many hours of service to the Society. Both she and Rick expressed thanks to the Docent Class of 2009 for the holiday party.

Treasurer’s Report: (Ken King): December sales of $5,000 led to annual sales of over $50,000 in the Museum Shop which is a new annual high. Credit card sales exceeded cash, supporting the value of this new ability to make sales. Significant expenditures were for taxidermy, support of Park Aides for approximately six months, publishing the flower brochure and permanent hang tags for parking, but expenditures remained under budget and we have substantial cash reserves.

Ranger Report: (per Rick Vogel): Repairs to the Guy Fleming Trail are expected to be finished next after the work at Red Butte Overlook. We were advised to assume the south leg of the GF Trail will be closed until notice that it is opened.

Wes Farmer has made three sample plant markers. These are available for examination, discussion and evaluation for possible use.

Library: (Rick Vogel for Michael Yang): The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair will again be supported by the TPDS.

Children's Program: (Tony Summers): During 2009 nearly 3,400 students participated in the program on 63 dates. Signups for 2010 are already nearly full but docent volunteers are always needed.

Lodge Duty: (Barbara McCardle): January has only three openings to fill, all for walks. She requested docents sign up for Short Notice List kept at the desk.

Membership: (Walt Desmond): Please pay your 2010 dues in January. Laura Lowenstein will administer distribution of the regional and state park passes rewarding docent hours. See her for your pass/sticker after paying your dues.

Communications: (Lou Adamo): Internet access at the lodge has been "down" intermittently. Lou is working on the problem and the situation will soon be remedied. The weather station is running smoothly.

Museum Shop: (Nancy Woodworth): Nancy requested volunteers to pick up and deliver bottled water for sale in the Lodge. She circulated "Torrey Pines Pins" as an example of a good merchandise item and announced that similarly designed hiking stick medallions would soon be available for sale. A review committee evaluates items being considered for sale through the Museum Shop.

Recycle/Seabees: (Frank Burham): Income for the year was $2,330 from CRV value (46,000 cans). Seabees meet Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at the Lodge. Volunteer Steve Brown is now replacing plant nursery docent Brett Lear who has moved away. A major project is to collect seeds for re-planting in the Reserve.

Whacky Weeders: (Steve Tarkington): With approaching spring, focus turns to veldt grass. Bring your orange vest and join the crew on Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Docent Training: (Sherry Doolittle): We have 25 applicants for training.

Art in the Pines: (Suzan Potuznik): Suzan and Connie Beardsley requested artists to apply for the fundraiser by February 1, 2010. Application forms are on the torreypine.org website.

Rick Vogel pointed out that State Park Access Passes would eliminate the value of "Free Passes" as an incentive to be a docent and he solicited suggestions for replacement incentives.

Jack Friery was recognized as a new Lifetime Member of the TPDS. Congratulations, Jack.

Ken King requested a volunteer to act as Public Relations coordinator to support attendance at the reserve.
Children’s Program

Nearly 3400 elementary school students came to TPSNR in 2009 to participate in our Children’s Program. Each school group had a docent presentation on the topic the school chose from among the five available (geology; whales and dolphins; Native Americans; ecosystems and food chains; and the reserve, plants, and habitats). Then the children were divided into groups of about 10 and each group went on a trail walk led by a docent.

This program goes on almost every Thursday and Friday from late September through May. For the participating docents, it is a very rewarding experience. The children are, to say the least, enthusiastic about their field trip to TPSNR.

While there is a core group of docents who regularly participate in the Children’s Program, sometimes Laura Lowenstein, the program coordinator, has to scramble to find docent leaders. **We would love to have a larger pool of docents participating.** Anyone who would like to join in the Children’s Program is welcome to come along on any program day – no advance sign-up needed. Watch a presentation; go out on trail as an observer with an experienced docent, and then decide if you would like to be one of the docent leaders. We’ll be glad to help you with tips for nature interpretation aimed at children, and if you already have a background working with children, we’ll be happy to learn from you as well.

**Tony Summers**
Children’s Program Director

Panic Button
by Ranger Mike Winterton

For your protection, a panic button, to be used in case of a dire emergency and only when it is not safe to call 911 on the phone, has been placed in the right hand drawer of the Docent Desk. The device is a remote button that’s connected to the alarm system in the park aide office. It looks like a remote control car alarm/open/closing button and acts like that. It’s black plastic, and about the size of a car remote.

To operate the button, simply press and hold. You will see a small light flash; there will be no sound or alarm heard. Pressing the button will send a signal which will notify our dispatch system, thus getting help on its way. You could pick the device up and hold it discreetly until a decision is made to press or not press it. If the button is pushed by mistake, call SURCOM - the number is by the desk – and let the ranger know.

Please know that nothing has ever happened to a docent on duty, but there have been times when docents have felt unsafe. The button is there for your peace of mind and “just in case.”

◊◊◊◊◊Lodge Duty Gems◊◊◊◊◊
by Ken King

Yesterday's experience at the lodge was very entertaining, and I wanted to share some of the tales with you.

First of all, the place was BUSY! There was never a dull moment, as the place was filled with families, including groups of Wildcats and Cornhuskers (the Holiday Bowl was later that day, remember). **Jan Lombardi**, who was the official docent in charge and I (who had dropped by to coach her on the POS system) were very active welcoming visitors, answering questions, and selling items from the Museum Shop. There were many out-of-state visitors; they were the ones in short sleeves, while the locals were wrapped up in winter outfits. All in all, it made for an enjoyable morning.

**Frank Burham** was there, of course, but his recycling run was frustrating: who knew the recycling center would be closed on December 30? And **Roger Isaacson** was there installing the security software on all our computers. Aren't we lucky to have those two fellows around?

We spotted Mr. Roadrunner, who once again is hanging out around the lodge entertaining us. However, we did NOT see an important event. Jan and I were so busy talking with visitors, standing perhaps 2 feet from the coyote, when a little boy asked where the coyote was. GONE! It was there a minute or two earlier, so I raced out to the parking lot, thinking the worst. No sign of anyone loading him into their trunk. Then I called the kiosk (not really thinking it through as it would be in a trunk and the aide was way too busy to search every car), only to find out that **Laura Lowenstein** had hijacked it right out from under us! His ear was falling off and he needed to be repaired. I overreacted, but his disappearance was so startling!

Jan and I had a thought that many have had before: it sure is good to have TWO docents there on busy days. A corollary to that: one way to get the people who used to do Lodge Duty, but don't do so any longer, is to have the pair include one person familiar with the system and one who's not, and make a learning experience from it. There's GOT to be a way to implement that, but how?

Docent Training
by Sherry Doolittle

Training for this year's crop of new docents will begin on February 6th. A schedule of the training sessions can be found on the docent homepage. [Torreypine.org Docent Login at bottom of any page.]

Docents are encouraged to lend their expertise as we take the trainees on trail walks after each of the sessions.
Whacky Weeders In Action  
*by Steve Tarkington*

The docent Weeders have been helping to finish up one project and starting on a new one. When the rains start, new sprouts of natives and those hardy invasives appear all over the Reserve. The New Year finds us pulling up veldt grass (*Ehrharta*), an invasive grass that is native to South Africa, before it can take over and choke out our native grasses and plants. Through the years many Whacky Weeders have helped with this effort. Now *Dave Economou* comes to mind as he takes charge of the Parry Grove Trail to keep out the veldt grass.

The big project the past year, that involved literally thousands of docent, community and park personnel hours, was pulling up all the *Carpobrotus* (iceplant) along Peñasquitos Lagoon off Carmel Valley Road. Carol Martin, a park aide who led the Whacky Weeders with direction from our botanist Darren Smith, put in countless hours organizing community groups to adopt a replanted section and keep out the encroaching weeds.

Two docents who are old hands at pulling invaders, *Vernie McGowan* and *Eva Armie*, are some of the many neighbors who adopted a block along Carmel Valley Road. They have agreed to keep the newly planted natives free of weeds...and they welcome all the help they can get. The formal time when Carol Martin will be available is the 1st Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. ‘til noon. Carol has also adopted a block. Get in touch with Vernie or Eva if you’d like to learn from the masters.

Pictured above is our team at the beginning of the New Year, all ready to tackle the weeds. Come join us and you too can proudly wear an orange vest and get your hands dirty!

HisTorrey A through Z: the letter P  
*by Judy Schulman*

No, you didn’t just experience a six-month time warp! I intentionally skipped from the letter J to the letter P so that I could do a timely piece on the *Postcards of Torrey Pines*. I was originally going to write this article in July 2010, but it made more sense to write it after my January talk.

I began collecting postcards in the early 1980s as a way of doing historic research. I would later find out that artistic license in some styles of postcards would make this difficult. With hand-tinted postcards, items could be added to a scene. Only real view black-and-white postcards were helpful to do before and after comparisons. I currently have over 300 different postcards of Torrey Pines. The oldest postcard I have is postmarked 1910.

The views shown on the postcards fall into one of 14 categories. Within each category, there are color and black-and-white versions. The categories are the beach, Carmel Valley (looking toward), lagoon, Lodge from a distance, Lodge exterior, Lodge interior, the Lone Pine, other Torrey pines in the park, road up the hill, road outside of the park, oven, the picnic area, and sunsets.

The fourteenth category is misc. It includes two postcards of dogs and cats that must have been the pets of the lodge proprietor. There is also a postcard of a sardine fishing boat that capsized on our beach in 1941. I also have souvenir folders and mini postcards.
My most interesting discovery, when closely examining a postcard, was finding what looked like a small structure on the Guy Fleming Trail. It was about 100 yards north of the current dirt parking lot. Using a scanner, I was able to enlarge the view. I brought it to the attention of the park staff. They thought it might have been an outhouse, a resting place used by hikers, or a tool shed.

Recently when I was re-examining an interior shot of the lodge, it seemed like some type of pipe extended out from the opening of the fireplace and ended underneath what looked like a table. Was this some type of precursor to an electric food warming plate?

In examining the back of my postcards, I discovered over 40 different publishers/printers. These ran the gamut from local individuals/companies to nationally known ones. Some local publishers of interest were John Burkholder (first proprietor of the lodge), Imile Eno (photographer and supplier of photographic supplies), Leopold Hugo (photographer), Harold Taylor (a photographer who had a shop at the Hotel Del Coronado), Carl O. Retsloff (La Mesa resident), the Del Mar Drug Store, and the La Jolla Pharmacy.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the California State Park System, then referred to as the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks, also published views of our park. The most interesting nationally known company was Union Oil which produced scenic views of the U.S. from 1939 to 1955. They promoted a new photo process called Photochrome, which ushered in an era of glossy color views.

**Docent Question of the Month (DQOM): Osprey & Helicopters**

_Courtesy of Jim Larrimore_

**Question:** We will be seeing a new Osprey in the skies over TPSNR. Will it be a bird, a plane or Superman??

**Answer:** The Osprey is a new military aircraft. It is the MV-22 Osprey, a hybrid between a helicopter and a plane with revolutionary “tilt rotor” technology. The 57-foot-long aircraft takes off and lands like a helicopter and uses two Rolls-Royce engines to fly like an airplane. We won’t see it overhead very often, as it will mostly take a flight path away from TPSNR. And you will have to look up quickly, as it will be going pretty fast.

Marines are flying the Osprey now in Afghanistan, where it is able to move troops safely above threats on the ground at altitudes up to 25,000 feet and speeds of up to 275 mph. The Marine Corps at Miramar Air Station received a first Osprey in December 2009 and expects three more by April 2010. MCAS Miramar will eventually base up to eight squadrons of the MV-22 Osprey, while Camp Pendleton could get two. For the next two years, pilots and crew at MCAS Miramar will be training to fly the aircraft.

Because it mostly flies like a plane, the Osprey is touted as a lot less noisy than the helicopter that it will replace, the CH-46E Sea Knight. Four Sea Knight squadrons are currently stationed at MCAS Miramar, but they frequently deploy overseas for extended periods. The 1960s-era CH-46E helicopter is recognizable by its distinctive two-rotor design. The loudest helicopter that we see over TPSNR is the heavy lift transport helicopter CH-53D Sea Stallion, which is bigger and has one large blade. Five squadrons of the Sea Stallion are based at MCAS Miramar and it serves as the current workhorse. We often see both Sea Knights and Sea Stallions in the skies over TPSNR.

To recognize the helicopters seen over TPSNR, remember that military helicopters are painted grey. Smaller red helicopters are Coast Guard. Red and white helicopters may be Life Flight helicopters used by UCSD Medical, or San Diego Fire and Rescue helicopters. Smaller commercial tour helicopters are blue or yellow.

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Thanks to Jim Bedinger for authoritative help with the following DQOM:

CH-46E Sea Knight

MV-22 Osprey at MCAS Miramar

CH-53D Sea Stallions

Coast Guard Helicopter
Noose-On-a-Stick

By Hank Nicol, former TPSNR Naturalist

My next door neighbors moved away, leaving a mama cat and her half grown litter of five. Without much trouble they all quickly learned how to use the kitty cat door into my garage—and the second one into my living room. Not surprisingly, the cats grew more and more wild.

I put up with them for weeks, but enough! I called animal control. The man came and collected the three kittens (pretty big by then) easiest to catch. That left two, if I haven’t lost count, the mother and a look-alike offspring. A couple of weeks later the other side neighbor and I trapped the mother in the garage by stuffing a souvenir San Diego Chargers football into the kitty cat door. We chased her on into the kitchen where she dived into the most inaccessible cabinet in the corner behind the plumbing. One call and an hour later the Animal Control guy arrived with his loop-on-a-stick. He poked around until pussy came out in the open. She circled the room twice and then hid behind the stove. I flushed her with a broom and she made the mistake of trying to escape through a closed window. The Animal Control guy clapped the loop around her neck, and she was in the box and on her way to pound—er—shelter—sorry about that.

In the midst of catching the cat I remembered my adventures with noose/loop-on-a-stick. Sorry, I can’t remember a proper name for that, either.

I once saw a picture of a Mongolian horseman catching a cow with one; bigger loop, longer stick. I think I topped the cat a few times. How many elephant seals has the Animal Control guy caught?

The naturalist at Torrey Pines State Reserve (me) was just the guy to take care of a call about a sick seal on the beach below the reserve. Never mind that all the seals were sea lions. But not this time. At far north end, actually in Del Mar, I found a seal lying among the rocks—and it was in a bad way with hole in its side. I thought it had been shot. It looked like other seals I had seen except it was colored backwards, black spots on gray rather than t’other way on. My clear mission was to take it to the Sea World Marine Animal Hospital. But how? It was too big and too slippery. I had brought the noose-on-a-stick. I didn’t want to strangle the critter, but this thing had no neck anyway. After a few tries I looped the noose behind the flippers. Now, what? I dragged the seal in the shallow water along the beach, gaining a few yards with every wave. I have no memory of how we loaded the animal into the pickup. I say “we” because I obviously needed help. The man at Sea World commented, “We don’t get many elephant seals.”

Oh! That explained the coloration. It was a baby. Some baby! It weighed in at 85 pounds. The hole in the seal’s side was an abscess. The infection had been working for some time, and the baby sea elephant died the next day. The rescue had been for naught—to be expected. Very few rescued sea mammals actually survive.

I’m not done.

Alarm! Alarm! A rattlesnake in the restroom! Ranger Bob Wohl would take care of it. He went around the back, hooked up a garden hose, and gave the snake a good soaking. It retreated behind the front door and stayed put. Bob called for help. I picked up the dog catcher. I’ll just call it a “dog catcher” (yes, we did sometimes catch a dog with it) and headed over. I found the very pissed off snake coiled in a long rectangle, squeezed behind the open door and the wall. Carefully I slipped the noose over the head, worked it down to the middle, and clamped it down. The rest was simple. I carried the snake over to a canyon and sent it over the edge. Far enough? I guess. A week or so later I went through that canyon on a long-closed narrow trail called “Fat Man’s Misery.” In one of the wider parts (two feet) I stepped (carefully) over a rattlesnake. The same one.

And one more.

Flat Rock is the destination for hikers doing the Beach Trail at Torrey Pines. The rock is, maybe, 16 X 16 feet across. I’m guessing. I never measured it. Right in the middle is a, perhaps, three feet by five feet rectangular hole purportedly dug by a Welsh (or Cornish) miner looking for coal. It may be 20 feet deep. I know it’s at least eight because some of us dug sand out to that depth. But, most of the time the sand washes in and leaves only a couple feet of water. One day I looked in and saw a shark, not big, one of the kind called “dog fish.” Was this some fisherman’s joke, or did he intend to come back for his catch? I hiked back to the top and collected the “dog catcher.” I swished around three or four times and “Miracolo!” I caught it right around the middle.

Were you keeping count back in the second paragraph? One cat to go. The last one, a look-alike and...
Fog-drip
Moisture wrung from the misty air
streaks the stems
and sparkles on the pine needles.

by Maryruth Cox

The Heermann’s Gull was named after Dr. Adolphus L. Heermann (1818-1865). Dr. Heermann was a surgeon-naturalist with a Pacific Railway survey of the West in the 1850’s. During that survey, Dr. Heermann made it to San Diego. (In one of those odd but inevitable historical accidents, Heermann actually ran into an aging John James Audubon, the seminal American naturalist, in the Rocky Mountains in 1843. Even more oddly, unbeknownst to Heermann, Audubon had taught Heermann’s mother as an art student in 1821—and had flirted so enthusiastically with her that Heermann’s father had fired Audubon and refused to pay him.) Heermann died a birder’s death—while collecting specimens, he stumbled, and his gun went off and killed him.


Bird Surveys back to May 2005 may be found here: torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html
The Pinecone, a calendar of events, notes from business meetings, and other items of specific interest to the docent membership, is published bi-monthly (even months). For odd months we publish the Torreyana. Please submit items by the 20th of the month to the Editor Editors@torreypine.org. Items for publication may also be left in the Torreyana mailbox in the docent library.

February 2010 TPDS Visitor Center Duty Calendar- 1/28/10

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7 | L-Thompson W- Rowbottom | L- Arnold | L- Tarkington | L- Sogo | L- N Lewis | L- Dickey |
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8 | L- Donnelly | L- B Hornbeck | Maids 10 | | |

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10 | Maids | | |

11 | | | | |

12 | Meeting | | |

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L- 10-1 | Lodge Duty Hours | Walks W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) | L- 1-4 | W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00) |

To sign up for an opening, call docent on duty (858 755-8219) to confirm the time & write your name in the Logbook. If you cannot do your duty, please try to find your own substitute by switching with another docent or using the short-notice list. Then call the docent on duty to make the change in the Logbook. **Coordinators:** Irene Larrimore & Barbara McCardle