SAVE STATE PARKS FUTURE

by Barbara Krueger
Photo by Herb Knufken

Marty Benson, Regional Volunteer Coordinator for the State Parks Access Pass Initiative was the February 13, 2010 speaker at the TPSNR Docent meeting. Marty (who introduced himself by admitting he looked about 15 years old) brings CA State Bar credentials, stints as an activist, surfer and filmmaker to his present role of helping the State Parks Access Pass Initiative reach its goal of 700,000 signatures by mid-April.

Marty’s love of grass roots organizing led him to work for the Save San Onofre campaign, which successfully opposed the Toll Road Project that sought to bisect San Onofre State Park. Now he coordinates signature collection for San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties for the State Parks Access Pass Initiative leading to the November 2010 elections.

The Initiative is seeking volunteers to gather signatures for an $18 surcharge on each automobile registration in the State of California. The collected monies will fund State Park maintenance, upkeep and staffing, the State Parks Wildlife Conservation Fund, Coastal Preservation and Conservation and maintenance of marine protected areas.

With the required number of signatures, the initiative will appear on the California November ballot and, if passed, will make entrance into all State Parks free for anyone entering in a motor vehicle with a valid California license plate as well as on foot or bicycle. It will also expand the Governor-appointed nine person commission overseeing park policy to include a new Citizens’ Oversight Committee.

It is hoped passage of the State Parks Access Initiative will prevent parks from being warehouses for future development and ensure that California’s unique, magnificent State Parks will be funded adequately to keep them in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy. If you would like to be part of the initiative effort, inquire at the Museum Shop at TPSNR or contact Mr. Benson at martybenson@mac.com.

Lodge Duty Request for Month of March: There are many openings. Please look at the Calendar (p.8) and sign up if you’re able to help, also as an extra docent on weekends. Thanks!

Next General Meeting
Mar 13, 2010  9 a.m.

(Attendance required for Trainees)

St Peter’s Episcopal Church
Rec Hall
334 14th St
Del Mar

Bradford D. Hollingsworth, Ph.D.
Curator of Herpetology, San Diego Natural History Museum

Amphibians and Reptiles of San Diego County

This Workshop will cover the biology and diversity of coastal San Diego County. It will include an overview of species of frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, and turtles. As the spring wet season continues and warmer weather sets in, amphibians begin their breeding season courtship and become more active. Learn behavior, morphology, defenses, and ecology of these two interesting groups. Preserved specimens, video, skeletons, and demonstrations will expose you to the results of millions of years of evolution.
From the President

I have been collecting signatures for the Parks Trust Fund initiative the last two weekends and the results have been encouraging. Marsha and I have been able to collect a little over 200 signatures in about five hours of sitting in the sun at the head of the Beach Trail. Compared to the 435,000 valid signatures needed to get the measure on the ballot in November, that may seem small, but we have received news that many volunteers around the State have already collected as many as 60,000. When added to the 320,000 that have been collected by paid gatherers, it looks like the effort to get the measure on the ballot will be successful. Keep in mind that the goal is 700,000 total to make sure that at least 435,000 are valid. It appears that the Finance Department has agreed to advance funds based on projected license fee revenues earlier than mid-2011 if the measure passes in November. So TPSNR will not have to wait until mid-2011 to see the benefits. Those of you who are collecting, keep up the good work!

In the meantime, we have some trails that we would like to see open and many that need work. We met with DPR District Management and the TPA and received some important information about those trails we all want to use. First, it appears that the Hobbit Trail and the upper part of the Razor Point Trail may be open by the time you read this. I recently visited the Canyon of the Swifts overlook, and it looks good. Our Maintenance Supervisor, Brian Gaudet, told me that he would review the work and should open the trails by March 1. The Guy Fleming Trail is next in line, and Brian will be starting the actual construction of the South Overlook by about March 10. This date may change, based on required emergency responses in our sector. The biggest issue for Brian and our trails is scheduling his limited staff. This project will require closure of at least half of the Guy Fleming Trail. We are working to ensure that the closure will still allow access to the wild flowers.

Two other trails issues are on the schedule: (1) Parry Grove Steps: Brian estimates that it will cost $28,000 to $40,000 to reconstruct the steps. The good news is that the TPA has offered to help fund this effort. This could start within two weeks after the Fleming overlook opens. (2) Trail delineation to stop the cutting of switchbacks we have seen recently. While this project could cost $175,000, and last several years, TPA has volunteered funding to ensure that the project will be completed.

Save the Parks! Please!

Rick Vogel
President,
Torrey Pines Docent Society

Many thanks to Editor Bobbi Krueger and the docents contributing to this newsletter and to Copy Editors Walt Desmond, Lilian Lachicotte and Richard Chance. And thanks to Vernie McGowan for mailing and distribution.

Roger Isaacson
Publication Coordinator
Docent Society General Meeting
February 13, 2010
by Secretary Bill Eckles; complete minutes in docent library.
Photos by Herb Knufken

President Rick Vogel called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Chuck Anders requested signups for next month's refreshments. February offerings were more than generous.

The February Docent of the Month is Cecil Hornbeck, who wrote the Point-of-Sale procedures manual and delivered way beyond expectations in starting up the POS/credit card system in the Lodge.

Pat Masters was presented a framed picture created by Rhea Bridy in appreciation for generous contributions from the Torrey Pines Association.

The San Diego Women's Foundation advised us that the grant request to support salaries for Laura Lowenstein and Diane Greening made the first "cut" and will be further evaluated with an onsite visit.

Department of Parks and Recreation will fund an Earth Day celebration with a work-project day at TPSNR and South Carlsbad, April 17.

The Natural History Museum "BioBlitz" is scheduled at the Reserve from 3:00 p.m. May 21 until that same time on May 22. We will support them, but not be involved in the actual collection of samples.

Treasurer's Report (Ken King): January Museum Shop sales showed credit card sales were 36% lower than December. The POS system is working well and represents a big step forward.

TPA Report (Pat Masters): The TPA is restoring or stabilizing the Guy Fleming house, replacing windows to original specifications. Electrical is up to "code" and original color repainting is about done.

The TPA is funding a large part of the salaries for Laura Lowenstein and Diane Greening until the end of June when, hopefully, the San Diego Women's Foundation grant will take over.

Committee Reports:
Communication (Lou Adamo): The map of “Punta de los Arboles” is framed and ready to be hung in the Lodge. It depicts the coast from North San Diego County to mid-Baja and is the oldest know reference to the TPSNR as a cluster of trees north of the Bay of San Diego.

Museum Shop (Nancy Woodworth): Nancy and two associates attended a conference last Wednesday and learned of new resources for the Museum Shop.

Trail Patrol (Mike Pisor): Trail Patrol training will begin February 27 at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the benches. Please register patrols in the new "hot pink" calendar at the Lodge desk.

We need many trail patrollers for the anticipated crowds to see the great array of spring flowers.

Recycle (Rick Vogel for Frank Burham): The state has revoked CRV licenses for smaller recyclers. “One Earth” will continue to collect our recyclables but pay us less.

Training (Jeannie Smith): We have 23 new trainees, many attending the general meeting. They are invited to join the Whacky Weeders Monday at 9 a.m.

Art in the Pines (Suzan Potuznik): The date is May 2 for an art festival and benefit. We have received 89 artists replies. The festival will include food, music and art exhibits in the parking lot in front of the Lodge. Shuttle service will be provided from the south parking lot.

Seabees (Sheldon Krueger): Meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

Membership (Laura Lowenstein for Walt Desmond): Laura has "2010" stickers for hang tags and the district park passes for those docents completing their requisite hours for the year.

Announcements:
Steve and Sharon Rose announced that on March 2nd Charles Moore will present on the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" at the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. They also announced that Community Emergency Response Training will be offered beginning April 17 in Encinitas. The program includes 25 hours of training and Steve and Sharon consider it a very good program.

Rick adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Zoo Nooz Magazines needed for the Visitor Center-
Please bring old Zoo Nooz magazines to the ranger/aide office so we can keep the supply going for kids to pick up a free copy when they visit the museum & shop. Thanks.
Laura Lowenstein
Children’s Program Update
by Tony Summers, Children’s Program Director

Flexibility is a requirement for the Children’s Program. If a school bus shows up late, or a school brings more children or fewer chaperones than we expected, we adjust. Presentations are shortened; hiking groups are expanded or merged. We take pride in dealing with the unexpected. But one of our biggest challenges is weather.

If a program day falls just after a heavy rain, or on a day when a rainstorm is a near certainty, the school will generally cancel. Well, you might think, that doesn’t require much flexibility from the docents; they just stay home. But we want the children to have the experience of their visit to Torrey Pines, so Laura Lowenstein, TPSNR park aide, tries to reschedule the program. Since all program days have been reserved for the school year she must find an acceptable day other than a Thursday or Friday and then find docents who can come that day. It is a lot of work for Laura and requires flexibility on the part of docents geared to the usual Thursday/Friday schedule.

Even trickier are days when the rain takes us by surprise. If it starts to rain in the night or early morning and there is a last-minute cancellation, Laura has to notify the docents early in the morning.

Then there are the fortunately rare occasions when it starts raining while the children are out on the trail. In the case of light sprinkles, we just keep going and get a little wet. If there is a heavy rain, we hurry back to the Visitor Center/Museum.

Sixty children in the Museum at one time is a real challenge. Laura has a box of rainy day supplies for activities in the Museum or a sheltered area, and we do have the option of showing the DVD about the Reserve to however many children can squeeze into the theater, but we all hope that we don’t have to resort to that. Even our flexibility has limits and we prefer not to be tested.

Rain is great for the Reserve, but we prefer sunny weather on program days. Can’t wait for spring!

Docent Training Begins
by Sherry Doolittle and Jeannie Smith

The Docent Class of 2010 kicked off their first official training session Saturday, February 20th with the big picture of geology. Keith Meldahl, Mira Costa Professor of Geology and Oceanography, spoke to 23 interested trainees and assorted seasoned docents about the geology of our San Diego coastline and Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in particular. His presentation was informative and well received by the attentive trainees. After the snack period, he added to his lecture with a talk behind the Lodge about the lagoon and a hike to Red Butte for a first hand look at what he had discussed in his lecture.

We are looking forward to the rest of the training this season. As always, docents are welcome to attend any of the sessions for a quick brush-up and to meet our eager docents in training. A schedule of the sessions is located on the Docent Homepage.

Tips, Tidbits and Tales From Lodge Duty
by Ken King

Tip: Where in the POS system is the yellow book "Kwee Tah"?
Having heard a couple of desk duty docents struggle to sell that little book, we've made a few changes: The "cheat sheets" that show a picture with a bar code to scan have been modified to show bar codes for all of the books. If it's easier for you, we added a new on-screen “hot button” for Kwee Tah as well. (By the way, those books are called "Mini Guides").

Tidbit: There was a lot going on at the Reserve on Monday, February 8. And if you had been doing lodge duty as Ann Heinemann and Fran Doolittle were, you could have heard all the information (and misinformation). To recap some of the tales wagging: a bicyclist was on a trail and had fallen into a canyon near the beach; a naked guy was throwing rocks and dirt at hikers and yelling at them; a guy was on a trail somewhere gobbling pills trying to kill himself.

The facts are almost as strange: Several police cars were on the old road by one of the Broken Hill trailheads; a fire engine was at the Reserve; a SDPD helicopter was circling and using his PA to tell at least one person (and I think two) to stay put--police and rangers were coming to get him; I saw police handcuff a naked man about half-way down Broken Hill Trail (I was on the Beach Trail, fully clothed). All this had hikers on the trail playing that old game of "telephone," passing along stories that resembled (or didn’t) what they had heard. Wouldn’t it have been exciting to be on Lodge duty that day?

Trail Patrol
by Mike Pisor

Photo by Mike Yang

Fellow trail patrol members report trail conditions especially after rains. Note trail issues when adding comments to the Tracker system. Send photos if you can, to Laura Lowenstein and the Seabees.

Beach Trail erosion, Jan 26, 2010

All issues pertaining to maintenance and enforcement should be made through the Tracker system, emailed to Mike Pisor. Urgent issues should not be made in the red log book kept in the Rangers’ Office. Personally
notify a ranger or park aide for these urgent issues. Laura will continue to be our connection to the Maintenance Department. She receives the monthly trail patrol reports and periodic emails from me concerning emails and photos I receive from you all.

We have about 20 docents involved in the new trail patrol training. However, due to law enforcement and emergency issues, Ranger Kyle Knox has been unable to complete the ranger portion of the training. For those who could not make the February 27th training, another day will be arranged. Many thanks to Sherry Doolittle and Vince Castiglione for assisting!!

Vince and I visited the glider port earlier this month. In speaking to one of the highly trained gliders, he informed us that gliders (usually) attempt to turn south just before the flat rock area. He noted that gliders are aware that flights over the Reserve are not allowed.

Our patrol hours were down during January, most likely due to the storms. Nineteen patrol members made 130 trips throughout the Reserve and nine trips to the Extension. Ken King and Paul Whitby put in 9.5 and 8.5 hours, respectively!

From the Torrey Pines Historical Files:

by Maryruth Cox

The thirteen volunteers who formed the Torrey Pines Lodge Host program in 1970 (forerunners of the Torrey Pines Docent Society) kept a tally of visitors to the Lodge. The co-chairs, Jessie La Grange and Muriel Knight, reported to Kent Hartwell, Supervisor, TPSR, on January 25, 1971:

“ ---- persons who actually entered the Lodge and showed interest in the materials offered there -- the total was 11,193 visitors (in 1970)----

In 2009, according to Diane Greening (Sr. Park Aide/Interpreter):

“---there were 78,867 visits to the Lodge---”

An increase of seven-fold in 39 years! What next?

In 2009, according to Diane Greening (Sr. Park Aide/Interpreter):

“A photo of the Lodge, taken in 1973 by J.B. Price

Spring Art Festival To Draw More Than 100 Artists

by Barbara McCabe

More than 100 local artists, including several docents, have agreed to participate in the “Art in the Pines Festival” and Sale, which will take place at TPSNR on Sunday, May 2.

The festival, which will benefit the Children’s Program at the Reserve, will feature nature-inspired art in a variety of mediums, including paintings, pastels, drawings, sculpture, ceramics and photography. The emphasis will be on local nature and landscape art. A Plein Air Artist Competition, professionally-judged, will be open to those with pieces focusing on TPSNR.

Many of the artists, including Docent Wesley Farmer, will exhibit their work inside an Open Air Galleria. The Galleria, housed in a large tent set up in the parking area outside the Visitor Center, will offer three pieces for sale by each artist. Others have opted to set up booths of their own outside the Galleria where they can display and demonstrate their work and discuss it with potential buyers.

A special docent booth, displaying artwork by docents Eva Armi, Connie Beardsley, Rhea Bridy, Liling Chen, Diana Gordon, Steve Gould, Herb Knufken, Joy Lamarre, Laura Lowenstein, Cynthia Parnell, Judy Schulman, Sharon Thompson, Bobbi Whitby and Mike Yang, will also be featured.

Jointly sponsored by TPA and TPDS, the event has attracted a unique collection of artists from all over San Diego County, including Joan Grine, Annette Paquet, Grace Schlesier, Sidney Wildesmith and Jeff Yeomans whose renderings of the local landscape have brought them national acclaim.

Guided nature walks, children’s art activities, art demonstrations, live music and food will be available throughout the day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). A free shuttle, courtesy of the TPA, will take visitors to and from the South Beach parking lot.

Connie Beardsley, chairperson of the “Art in the Pines” 2010 Committee, is calling on fellow docents to volunteer their time to help make the event a success.

Plein Air artist Anne Weary works on one of the drawings she will be exhibiting at the upcoming Art in the Pines festival on May 2.

The greatest need is to staff the Open Air Galleria. “The artists will not always be present,” she explains, “so we need volunteers who are willing to keep watch over the displays, interact with artists and prospective buyers and escort buyers to the register inside the Visitor Center. We
need volunteers to operate the register.”

Volunteers are also needed to lead nature walks; facilitate art activities; direct visitors to and from the shuttle; set up prior to the festival, break down and clean up afterwards. With enough volunteers, shifts will be two-to-three hours long.

Senior Park Aide Laura Lowenstein is volunteer coordinator for the event. Docents who are interested in volunteering can email Laura at tpsr.coordinator@roadrunner.com.

HisTorrey: A thru Z; The letter K (Kumeyaay Basketry) by Judy Schulman

When you hold a Kumeyaay basket, you are holding more than a beautiful piece of art. You are holding generations of knowledge about culture, history, botany and construction.

The Kumeyaay used three different methods for making baskets. As with most Southern California Native Americans, coiling was the predominant method. The baskets that we sell/display in the lodge are examples of coiling. About 5% of baskets were made by twining. This looks like open netting. These were disposable utility baskets that could easily be made in the field. They were for rough use like gathering cactus apples. Plaiting was the least used method (about 1%). Sunshades and sleeping mats were made by this method. Other Southern California Native Americans used plaiting to make cradleboards.

The three main traditional plants used for coiling baskets were deer grass (foundation), juncus (stitching), and sumac (stitching). To a lesser degree other plants used include bulrush, milkweed, palm leaves, pine needles, willow and yucca roots.

Typical patterns were animals, geometric forms, natural phenomena, and plants/flowers. The main colors used were black, gold, green, russet, and tan. Black was only obtainable by dyeing. One dyeing method used was burying juncus in iron-rich mud for several weeks. Vegetable dyes were also used. The main shapes were deep bowls, shallow trays, jars with in-curbed rims, and jars with out-curbed rims.

There were many uses for baskets. There were baskets for gathering (seeds, plants) and hunting/fishing. Women wore basket caps to protect their foreheads from the tumpline of large gathering baskets. Food processing was done with specialized baskets for winnowing, parching, grinding, sifting, leaching or cooking. Baskets lined with pitch could carry water. Large (bathtub-sized) willow baskets were used to store acorns. They were put on stilts greased with fat so rodents could not climb up and get to the nuts. Smaller baskets were used for storing personal items. Baskets were also used for playing games and given as gifts.

Baskets were also commercial items. In historic times, they were the third most used trade item (seashells and salt being first and second). Trade occurred not only between groups, but also within a single group. Shortly after the Civil War and into the late 1920s, tourists and collectors sought them. The Museum of Man’s Kumeyaay Exhibit has an excellent section on basketry. Sources used in this article include Southern California Basketry by Justin Farmer (News from Native California, March/April 1988), Diegueno Coiled Baskets by E.L. Davis and William Allan (San Diego Museum of Man, Ethnic Technology Notes #1, 1967) and Santa Ysabel Ethnobotany by Ken Hedges (San Diego Museum of Man, Ethnic Technology Notes #20, 1986).

BioBlitz Celebrates Local Biodiversity by Barbara Krueger

On May 22, the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) will bring BioBlitz to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve to discover what biodiversity there is in one of the county’s most beautiful spots. “BioBlitz” is a 24-hour identification of species in an area. As one of the most diverse counties in the country, San Diego is an ideal venue.

The public is invited to participate between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in science education stations for all ages and interact with working scientists, volunteers, and educators and to hike the trails of TPSNR with trained naturalists. While docents will not be involved in collecting specimens, they will be an important part of the public educational outreach. We'll need docents to lead guided hikes and staff tables devoted to ornithology, botany, mammology, etc.

If you are interested in volunteering for the BioBlitz, please contact Diane Greening. More details can be found at www.sdnhm.org/bioblitz.

Photo by Barbara Wallach, Feb 8, 2010 while weeding. Fresh deer tracks (with dew claws) leading up a slope from the south loop of the Guy Fleming Trail.

When walking the trails don’t just be captivated by the scenery, greenery and flowers. Remember to look down. You just might find some interesting tracks recording who lives in the Reserve. In addition to human shoe tracks, deer tracks are evident to the educated eye.
Walk out the front door of the Lodge and you might see one of the Reserve’s most common chaparral birds—the California Towhee—hopping around the parking lot. It’s a ground-dwelling bird in the sparrow family, rather plain brown, long-tailed, and about 8 ½ inches in total. Its most common call is a loud, sharp, metallic “clink.” We normally expect to see towhees in pairs.

The common or English name for the California Towhee is onomatopoetic—meaning the word is derived from the sound that (some) towhees make. The bird’s Latin or scientific name is *Pipilo crissalis*. The genus *Pipilo* represents the towhees. The “*crissalis*” is the secret to our very own California Towhee—it refers to the unique rusty orange patch under the bird’s tail, called the crissum. Look for the crissum the next time you see one of these birds in our parking lot. (Interestingly enough, the word “crissum” derives from the Latin “*crissare*,” which refers to the movement of the buttocks by humans during sex.)

Photo © Herb Knufken
Please contact the photographer before using an image for any reason: herb1rm@hotmail.com
Herb’s amazing photo site is www.pbase.com/herb1rm

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**Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: February 6, 2010**

**Number of species: 78**

- Snowy Egret 8
- White-faced Ibis 30
- White-tailed Kite 1
- Northern Harrier 1
- Red-tailed Hawk 1
- American Kestrel 2
- Peregrine Falcon 2
- Clapper Rail 1
- Common Moorhen 2
- American Coot 21
- Snowy Plover 25
- Semipalmated Plover 8
- Killdeer 2
- Willet 4
- Whimbrel 1
- Marbled Godwit 4
- Sanderling 5
- Least Sandpiper 9
- Heermann's Gull 39
- Ring-billed Gull 18
- Western Gull 16
- California Gull 12
- Forster’s Tern 2
- Royal Tern 1
- Mourning Dove 1
- Greater Roadrunner 1
- White-throated Swift 10
- Anna's Hummingbird 26
- Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 4
- Nuttall's Woodpecker 2
- Northern Flicker 3
- Black Phoebe 6
- Say's Phoebe 2
- Cassin's Kingbird 8
- Western Scrub-Jay 2
- American Crow 11
- Common Raven 25
- Tree Swallow 3
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3
- Bushtit 62
- Bewick's Wren 2
- House Wren 1
- Marsh Wren 3
- California Gnatcatcher 3

- Hermit Thrush 1
- Wrentit 11
- Northern Mockingbird 1
- California Thrasher 2
- Yellow-rumped Warbler 14
- Spotted Towhee 10
- California Towhee 9
- Savannah Sparrow
- (Belding's) 4
- Song Sparrow 19
- White-crowned Sparrow 6
- Red-winged Blackbird 1
- Brewer's Blackbird 20
- House Finch 11
- Lesser Goldfinch 3

**Observers:** Herb Knufken, Don Grine, Kathy Dickey, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, and Will Cox

(Previous Bird Surveys may be found at torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html)
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Walks

- W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00)
- W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00)

Lodge Duty Hours

- L- 9-12
- L- 12-3
- L- 3-6

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