Bobcats Holding Their Own – for Now
by Pat Finn

Bobcats are the official mascot for the Charlotte, North Carolina, NBA team and Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Also, among others, Montana State and the Universities of Kentucky, Kansas State, Texas State, and, yes, NYU, where the fierce creature replaced the “personified violet” which represented the Manhattan campus for the 1983-84 school year. You can look it up.

This gives you some idea of the range of Lynx rufus in the continental United States, where its habitat includes Southern California and the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.

Megan Jennings is a biologist with the Cleveland National Forest and San Diego State University. Her fascinating talk to the Torrey Pines Docents at the June monthly meeting focused on how bobcats are faring in San Diego County’s Multiple Species Conservation Program area. Jennings and her group study connectivity, or how bobcats connect with those in different areas. She analyzes bobcats’ gene flow across the MSCP, between the fragmented coastal habitat and the inland areas in which bobcats’ habitat is more contiguous. (cont. on pg. 3)
The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the Torreyana bi-monthly, edited by Joan Simon. On alternate months, the Society publishes the Torrey Pinecone, edited by Pat Finn. Both publications include the monthly hosting calendar, announcements and information concerning membership meetings. Submissions for either publication are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be submitted to Editors@torreypine.org. Please send postal/email address changes to: Torrey Pines Docent Society P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014 Attn: Membership or to Membership@torreypine.org. Web sites: TPDS www.torreypine.org TPA www.torreypines.org Visitor Center phone 858.755.8219.

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TPDS Board Members: President: Bill Eckles Vice-president: Bob Doolittle Treasurer: Carolyn Butterfield Secretary: Lynne Truong Dir. of Communications: Lou Adamo Dir. of Programs: Barbara Justice & Marie Johnson Dir. of Training: Janie Killermann Dir. of Lodge Hosting: Irene Larrimore & Jan Lombardi Extra newsletters are available in the Docent Library.


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Many thanks to Editor Joan Simon and the docents contributing to this newsletter and to faithful Team Torreyana. And thanks to Marian Casazza for mailing and distribution.

Roger Isaacson Publication Coordinator

Message from the President

So summer is pretty much here and the pace of the first half of the year has slowed a bit. Still, the Strategic Planning Committee is strategizing, the Green Team is streamlining the TTK and working to move the water dispenser out of the Lodge and the Children’s Program docents are breathing a collective sigh of relief as the youngsters head down the hill, their heads filled with facts of nature, peace and quiet. Even the Museum Shop has a new inventory of summer treasures for visitors to tote to places east. All is well.

Our rangers and partners in operating this beautiful Reserve are accomplishing lots of improvements, notably the ADA Trail upgrade, striping the road, adding cross walks, and soon they will be making progress on Parry Grove. The TPA is thoughtfully seeking and finding ways to compensate for the State’s taking away their ability to issue member parking passes. There’s lots of progress.

Still, there are many problems at the Reserve and we need to put our heads together and come up with solutions. We are a group of well over two hundred intelligent, mature, adult lovers of nature and the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. We have lots in common, while bringing very diverse profiles to the organization. For sure, we have differing points of view, different solutions to problems. But each problem is really a cloaked opportunity to communicate and integrate and move our group forward. It is very important that the tried and proved method of cooperation continue as a defining characteristic of our group.

Thank you,

Bill Eckles President, Torrey Pines Docent Society

And late breaking news from the rangers:

• The new estimated completion date for the Broken Hill/ADA Trail: September 1, 2013.
• Our trail crew is installing stairs along the South Beach Bluff Trail.
• There are three upcoming environmental resources projects:
  1) removal and possible replanting of dead Torrey pines in the Extension (near “the swing”)
  2) removal of non-native eucalyptus and palm trees from the Lagoon
  3) planting of Torrey pines and scrub oaks on the east side of North Torrey Pines Road
Above: Three of Megan Jennings' bobcat study sites. The pink lines represent linkages or connectivity between areas.

(Jcont. from pg. 1)

Jennings hopes this analysis will offer clues as to how bobcats might respond to the effects of climate change, such as changes in rainfall, fire frequency and temperatures. Predicting probable responses will enable wildlife biologists to plan for the future availability of habitat and adequate connectivity.

Jennings has collared 17 bobcats and set up 36 remote cameras in order to chart barriers to their movement and learn how to facilitate it, and to map the causes of mortality (road kill and mange are the big ones) and where they occur most.

They have learned, for instance, that creating places for bobcats to cross roads without becoming road kill is not much use without fencing to direct the animals toward the crossings.

Jennings’ key findings at present: connectivity is working for bobcats in San Diego County – for now, especially in the east-west direction from coast to inland. North and South connectivity is not working so well.

In the TPSNR, the biggest challenges for bobcats are local roads without underpasses and access from the bluffs to the lagoon.

A young San Diego County bobcat is captured by one of Megan Jennings' cameras as he makes his way through a culvert.

For more on Megan Jennings’ research, visit tinyurl.com/MJenningsResearch

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June 2013 Docent Meeting Minutes

Excerpted from notes of TPDS June 8th, 2013 General Meeting, by Hank Beck for Secretary Lynne Truong. Complete minutes are in the docent library.

Megan Jennings was the guest speaker; she presented her research on the urban bobcat population and the connectivity between open spaces in the county.

Ken King summarized the results of the Strategic Plan and encouraged everyone to sign up for four focus groups they had identified. (see pg. 5) Sign up sheets were provided.

The Docent Class of 2013 graduated with 27 new docent volunteers. Janie Killermann introduced the class and congratulated them while Lauryn Sherman, a class volunteer, presented a thank you picture and a plant to each of the training coordinators. (see pg. 6)

The science fair award winners were recognized by Frank Burham and Sally Whitlock with special thanks to the judges and a call for volunteers to coordinate next year’s judging panel. Each of the two young scientists was given a $250 check and a one-year pass to TPSNR.

Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook thanked all of the docents for their hard work. He reiterated the mission of the Reserve, i.e. to protect, preserve, and educate the public while emphasizing that revenue and special events are a priority for the State. He then summarized how AITP meets those goals.

- Regarding food at the event, he said that while the rules of why no food is allowed in the park are being violated for the event (to keep the animals wild, to not spread unwanted seeds, and to not generate food trash), he feels the mitigation efforts are effective, including that of educating the public.

- He also addressed the new food truck in the lower South Lot and asked for anyone interested
to design a “sandwich board” sign prohibiting food and to include educating the public as to why.

• He also addressed the issue regarding special walks and said that nothing has changed other than Julia Miura will be the contact point in order to ensure that corporate outings that are trying to circumvent the fees will be weeded out. All others will still be directed to the docents.

• The Parry Grove staircase work is on hold until Sept 1st due to the Gnatcatcher breeding season. It will, hopefully, be done in 2013. The South Fork of Broken Hill is the primary focus of the CCC crew now, improving the trail surface although they are seasonal employees and must take three months off during the summer.

• Other work in progress is the ADA trail to Whitaker Garden overlook and road striping and cross walks, including signage, for which he described the locations.

The Docent of the Month was awarded to Ann Smith Mercandetti. She took a moment to ask for volunteers for the Komen Cancer walk on Nov 15th from 8:30 to noon to screen walkers for pink feathers.

Children’s Program
by Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson, Children’s Program Directors and Louis Sands, Children’s Program Coordinator

We would like to thank all the dedicated Children’s Program docents who gave wonderful walks and presentations throughout this year. The letters from students and their happy faces show how much our program is appreciated. Take a look at the bulletin board on the front porch of the Lodge to see samples of their letters. The range of schools involved is all the way from Fallbrook to Chula Vista.

We had a great turnout for our year-end wrap up/evaluation meeting on June 7th. There was a lively discussion with lots of good ideas for future programs. Afterwards we enjoyed each other's company at a delicious potluck lunch.

Louis shared statistics from his annual report. A total of 3,231 children from 40 schools participated in the Children's Program so far this year, coming on 56 days. The grade levels ranged from 2nd to 5th grade. Plants and Habitats was chosen one time, Ecosystems and Food Chains 15 times, Geology 9 times, Native Americans 26 times and Ocean, Whales, Dolphins three times. Bus grants were given to 19 schools that could not afford the bus fee.

We are looking forward to our outing to the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center at Pauwai (Poway) August 15th. And we are planning our “Getting Ready for School” session for September 5th.

Docent of the Month
Ann Smith Mercandetti

A number of years ago I met a physician and her husband when I was at the Broken Hill Overlook. Originally from Persia (Iran), she was a physician in Philadelphia, and they were here in the area for a medical conference. At some point in our conversation, the gentleman turned to me and said, “This is sacred for you.” I later enjoyed a dinner out with them, as I also did several years later with a small group of teachers from South Korea who were studying English at UCSD for a month, and who I also met at the Reserve. It is amazing working at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve where we meet people from all over the nation and from around the world.

I cannot remember when or how I started hiking at TPSNR after moving here from the Midwest in 1979, but I had done a lot of hiking miles at TP before I saw the sign at the bottom of the hill about docent training. I signed up, class of 2005, not yet really understanding what being a docent involved. Shortly thereafter I set my goal of 200 volunteer hours annually for 10 years. I have now passed 230 hours for 2013, so I have only two more years to reach my goal. I want that gold Docent pin!! And I want it with 2,000-plus service hours completed at the Reserve.

I am a Michigan “farm girl”, a University of Michigan School of Music graduate twice over, loved my career of teaching elementary general music in Michigan, Iowa, and for 22 years for the Oceanside Unified School District, assigned mainly to the schools on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base, chosen Oceanside’s Teacher of the Year 1996-1997. Living on La Jolla Village Dr. with six lanes of traffic outside the front door of my condo, hiking and working at Torrey Pines helps keeps my life “in balance.” I retired from teaching for health reasons in 2001, began working “part time” as Organist/Director of Music at the Naval Air Station North Island's chapel, so as a civilian, I completed 32 years of my career working on a military base with military children and families. Many times I have gone to the Reserve because I needed to be there to rest my heart, to renew my spirit from a difficult experience. Becoming fully retired September 30, 2012, I now have no responsibilities but the ones I make for myself, and being involved with TPSNR remains at the top of my “I WANT to do this” list!!

I like the “attitude” of the TPDS - that we are docents to help others who come to the Reserve, introduce people to new and unique information about the

July 2013 Torryana 4
Reserve, and work to preserve the naturalness of the Reserve. Like the Great Lakes which “surround” the two peninsulas of my home state of Michigan, TPSNR is a “gem”, an incredible gift, and I am loving the time I “get” to work in this special place. My thanks.

A Day at the Lodge...
by Arline Paa

Interesting people today at the desk...a family of four from South Africa on a year’s trip around the world. How did they find us? On the way to the zoo they noticed the sign and the green area on the map -- that is what they look for in places they visit, that green area on the map. They hiked almost all of the trails. The family has been on the road since January, two boys ages 12 and 14, traveling with one suitcase each. The destinations are fixed but the sights they see are all spontaneous. What an adventure and education for all....an interesting day at the Lodge.

Food Truck at South Beach

The CA Parks Department is permitting on a trial basis a food truck to sell food on Saturday and Sunday at the South Beach between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The truck is provided by Curbside Bites and will vary from day to day. It will arrive no later than 10 am and will park on the sidewalk east of the restrooms in the south lot. The vendor is responsible for trash generated by the truck. Food purchased from the truck, as well as any food brought to the beach, is not allowed in the Reserve.

Web image

The purpose of this trial is to provide a convenience to visitors, earn additional income for State Parks (a percentage of the gross goes directly to the Parks Department) and minimize traffic in and out of the South lot for food runs.

Because this is a trial, Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook welcomes your comments so that the Parks Department can improve the event and evaluate its effectiveness.

Strategic Planning
by Ken King and Janice Barnard

Thanks to all of the docents who signed up to be on one of the four task forces that are being organized. A summary of the objectives of each task force is shown below. Each task force will decide on implementation strategies, priorities and timing. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee will assist in setting up the initial meetings and then step back to let the task forces do their work.

While the size of each of these groups is sufficient, we want to be sure that every docent has the opportunity to participate. Please contact us if you didn't get a chance to sign up at the June meeting and wish to do so now. The "safety" task force could use a few more members.

Ken King and Janice Barnard.

1. Improve TPSNR Interpretive Programs
   • Create and increase interpretive programs
   • Refresh and improve museum and shop to enhance education and experience
   • Assist in implementing Lodge historical improvements
   • Assist in plan and implementation for Whitaker Garden
   • Improve interpretive materials for ADA
   • Review, update and improve signs, labels, brochures

2. Develop community awareness of TPSNR
   • Create position or team to monitor external threats to the Reserve
   • Create materials and designate docent(s) to do community outreach
   • Develop a comprehensive program to protect the Reserve inclusive of other stakeholders (TPA, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, etc.)
   • Develop ways to communicate broader environmental issues to the public and docents
   • Implement green programs that support zero initiative

3. Improve the safety for TPSNR users
   • Identify key areas to improve safety
   • Work with Park employees to develop ideas to improve traffic flow within the Reserve
   • Determine new areas within the Reserve that would benefit from improved access

4. Create a digital document system to manage TPDS archives and programs
   • Create system for digital archives including rules, procedures, and organization
   • Work with Board to preserve critical organizational and historical documents
   • Work with other committees in deploying new and improved technologies to support programs (training, Museum, Board files, special events, etc.)

Marvin Alper, 1938 - 2013

Marvin Alper, docent Class of 2009, passed away on April 30, 2013 at the age of 74. An MIT graduate, he had a career in computer sales before retiring and eventually moving to La Jolla. He worked as a Lodge Host and Trail Patroller at Torrey Pines Reserve. In addition, he was an avid participant at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSD and volunteered at the San Diego Symphony, The Old Globe, and the La Jolla Playhouse. He is survived by his wife Janice, four children and two grandchildren.

Marvin’s obituary is here: tinyurl.com/Obits-MarvinAlper
They’re EVERYWHERE!!

Docent Class of 2013
by Janie Killermann

Have you seen all of those enthusiastic, energetic new faces? They’re EVERYWHERE! On the beach! On the trails! At the TIK! In the Lodge! Welcoming guests! Playing videos for viewers! Selling books and guides! Working with the Seabees! Leading walks! Filming falcons!

Seems like everywhere you turn at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve these days, you’re sure to be spotting one or more of our twenty-seven newly-graduated docents. Be sure to greet them with a warm welcome and share with them your excitement about the special places and activities that you treasure most at TPSNR.

Here to help you know who to look for is a group photo of this good looking bunch of folks.

What is Available on Docent Login?
by Roger Isaacson

If you have not recently logged on to Docent Login at torreypine.org you may have missed some recent additions. There are now links to the TPDS vimeo.com/ site where a number of training videos may be “streamed,” so there is little or no waiting for a long video to download. Right now we have the following nine videos available:

- Museum Tour- Barbara Wallach-2013 (1:01)
- Plants- Mary Friestadt and Walt Burkhard- 2013 (1:15)
- Plants- Margaret Fillius- 2012 (0:54)
- Interpretive Hike Tips- Diane Greening (0:25)
- Geology- Keith Meldahl- 2010 (0:50)
- Children’s Program Training, four videos on ecosystems, geology, Reserve plants/habitats, and Kumeyaay

Also on the Docent Login page is the link to go directly to the TPDS Google Group to peruse all postings: groups.google.com/group/tpds

To go there you must already be a member and have your own password. (We now have about 150 docents that receive the GG postings via email.)

Docent Shirts

Docent Shirts: We have on hand one Ladies short sleeved khaki in L, $15; one Men’s short sleeved khaki in XXL, $15; and two Men’s long sleeved olive in L, $18. If anyone wants one of these shirts, please contact Jeannie Smith at HeyJeannie@sbcglobal.net

We also have extra magnets, should you lose the magnet back for your name badge.

FLASH From Laura Lowenstein: Don’t forget to donate your ZooNooz magazines to the Museum Shop.
Did you know?*
Echoes of An Empire: The Cochineal
by Tom Polakiewicz

The cochineal beetle, *Dactylopius coccus*, hiding inside the scaly white patches on coastal prickly pear cactus, played an important part in the wealth of three empires. The Aztecs, the Incas and the Spanish all prized the beetles for the brilliant red dye made from their dried bodies.

From the second century B.C. onward, cochineal dye was used in Mexico for ritual and ceremonial textiles. In the Aztec empire, subjects were required to pay taxes in the form of dried bags of cochineal. Cochineal was also produced throughout the Andean regions of South America. In the Inca empire, as in Mexico, it was the color of royalty and religion. For the Spanish, cochineal was the stuff of both beauty and commerce. It was far better than the dyes that were available in Europe and Asia. The Spanish used their control of the cochineal-producing areas in the Americas to monopolize the trade throughout the world. Their ships brought cochineal to Spain, where it was exported to all of the European countries, and to Manila, where it was sold to Japan, China and India. It wasn’t until the nineteenth century, when the Dutch established a cochineal plantation in Java, that the Spanish monopoly on American cochineal was broken.

For use in textiles, cochineal has now been overtaken by chemical dyes. Today it is used primarily in cosmetics and food coloring. Like a fallen empire, cochineal retains a mere echo of its former importance.

Source: Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin, Winter 2010

*This “Did You Know?” tidbit is one of an occasional series of submissions from Tom Polakiewicz.

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Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: June 1, 2013

**Number of species: 60**

- Gadwall 9
- Mallard 8
- Blue-winged Teal 1
- Ruddy Duck 2
- California Quail 18
- Eared Grebe 1
- Western Grebe 12
- Brandt's Cormorant 1
- Double-crested Cormorant 9
- Brown Pelican 80
- Great Blue Heron 5
- Great Egret 5
- Snowy Egret 18
- Green Heron 1
- Red-shouldered Hawk 1
- Virginia Rail 1
- Long-billed Curlew 1
- Heermann's Gull 1
- Western Gull 16
- Caspian Tern 6
- Forster's Tern 1
- Royal Tern 4
- Eurasian Collared-Dove 2
- Mourning Dove 17
- White-throated Swift 10
- Anna's Hummingbird 10
- Nuttall's Woodpecker 3
- Peregrine Falcon 4
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1
- Black Phoebe 10
- Say's Phoebe 2
- Ash-throated Flycatcher 1
- Cassin's Kingbird 6
- Western Scrub-Jay 6
- American Crow 10
- Common Raven 7
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow 24
- Cliff Swallow 7
- Bushtit 12
- House Wren 5
- Marsh Wren 6
- Bewick's Wren 2
- California Gnatcatcher 2
- Wrentit 38
- Northern Mockingbird 5
- California Thrasher 2
- European Starling 6
- Orange-crowned Warbler 1
- Common Yellowthroat 20
- Yellow-breasted Chat 2
- Spotted Towhee 19
- California Towhee 24
- Savannah Sparrow 6
- Song Sparrow 14
- Black-headed Grosbeak 2
- Red-winged Blackbird 19
- House Finch 90
- Lesser Goldfinch 23
- American Goldfinch 1
- House Sparrow 2

**Observers:** Kathy Dickey, Jack Friery, Herb Knüfken, Frank Wong, Eva Armi, Blair Francis, Gary Grantham

Previous Bird Surveys may be found at [torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html](http://torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html)

Herb Knüfken’s amazing photo gallery may be found here: [pbase.com/ herb1rm](http://pbase.com/ herb1rm)
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Walks:

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

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