



March 2021: Reserve Updates & Events

Dear Members and all Supporters,

Spring is finally here!

This year's Annual Meeting was different from all 70 meetings before. Instead of gathering on the beautiful (and sunny!) patio of the Martin Johnson House overlooking the ocean--as we have in many years past--we met online. Nevertheless, guest speaker Dr. John Hildebrand's presentation on whales and whaling delighted the audience. If you missed it, please find a link to the recording below.

This spring, more educational experiences are coming your way. Our TPC Speaker Series starts later this month. Please read on for more details on our next three speaker events and where to RSVP.

Last but not least, March is Women's History Month: it's time to honor one grand lady in San Diego's history without whom the Reserve wouldn't exist today.

Sincerely,
Torrey Pines Conservancy

Torrey Pines Conservancy's 71st Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 28, at 3 pm a group of about 85 members, donors, and friends attended this year's Annual Meeting. Panelists included TPC President Peter Jensen, TPC Treasurer Donna Close, Executive Director Susanne Florin, and Darren Smith, California State Parks biologist and John Hildebrand Ph.D., oceanography professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

TPC President Peter Jensen thanked two outgoing counselors for their service and dedication to the Reserve and its preservation: Barbara McCardle and Ken King. Both brought tremendous energy and talents to the organization and will be very missed. Jensen welcomed two new counselors to the Board: John Hildebrand and Ed Vodrazka. Jensen talked about past projects of the organization. Donna Close gave an insight into TPC's financials, and Executive Director Susanne Florin thanked all supporters for their generous donations throughout 2020.

Darren Smith summarized the health of the Reserve and its trees, noting that beetle trap counts are well down from previous years --good news!. The audience was impressed by his photos of how nature had taken over during the closure of the Reserve, illustrated by photos of overgrown trails and rampant growth in other areas.

Presenting Whales and Whaling, a perspective from La Jolla and beyond, John Hildebrand shared recent research on gray whales, much of it gleaned via tagging Western Gray Whales. Hildebrand also shared the history and current status of whaling, and the future of gray whales in the face of climate change and rising sea levels, including the possible recolonization of the North Atlantic!

[See a recording here](#)

Upcoming Speaker Series: "The Little Gems Worth Knowing"



You have heard us mention Short-Leaved Dudleya (and its endangered status) many times, thanks to TPC efforts funding new habitat areas and "seed bulking" (seed harvest and seedling propagation for transplanting into a specific area of the Extension). But how about Amole, Miner's lettuce, Biscuit root, Jewelweed, Skunkweed, Turkish Rugging, or Bird's Beak? Join docent Barbara Wallach's presentation to learn more about some of the smallest and least-known plants in the Reserve, then try to locate them during your spring and summer hikes.

Saturday, March 27th at 10 am [RSVP here](#)

Upcoming Speaker Series: "Torrey Pines Bloom Zoom"

This year docent Margaret Filius, author of "The Bible" (aka "Native Plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve & Nearby San Diego County Locations") will bring a "zoom bloom" right to your living room. Learn in the peace and quiet of your home and locate these beauties on your spring hikes!

We are also offering a member special discount on Margaret's amazing book, a must-have for all avid hikers and Reserve lovers. Get your copy now at [TP Boutique](#), TPC's online store.



Saturday, April 17th at 10 am [RSVP here](#)

Upcoming Speaker Series: "Birds of the Reserve"



Docent Marty Hale helps us all "take wing" with a deep knowledge of common birds of the Main Reserve, including the spectacular Peregrine falcon (always a fun topic!). Marty will include birdsongs and calls as well as general information about our common birds, and where and when in the Reserve you can best see and hear them.

Saturday, April 24th at 10 am [RSVP here](#)

Upcoming Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Workshop II

OK, take heed all of you who love to take the long view (and how important this is!). Your input is needed at a second public planning workshop "TPSNR: Managed Retreat of the North Beach Parking Lot" sponsored by the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation.

[Please find more information and the agenda here.](#)

Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 pm. No need to RSVP. We will have the zoom link to the event on [our website](#).



Women's History Month: Let's Celebrate EBS!



Many have played a role in the preservation and celebration of Torrey Pines' rarest-of-the-rare habitat, but none has had more impact than Ellen Browning Scripps. Let us recount the dates and ways:

--June, 1908 Miss Scripps (as she was fondly known throughout San Diego) purchases Pueblo Lot 1338. This lot embraced the northwesterly portion of the cliffs on which the Torrey Pines were located and contained some of the largest stands of trees. It still does have a notable stand, but alas the iconic grove where the trees were most wind-sculpted was lost 110 years later to bark beetle degradations.

-- June, 1911. She purchases a portion of Pueblo Lot 1339.

-- August, 1912. She purchases an addition portion of 1339, which includes all of the trees lying between the Old Torrey Pines Grade (now in the Reserve) and the Santa Fe Railway.

-- June, 1916. Guy Fleming and Ralph Sumner, representing the San Diego Society of Natural History and the San Diego Floral

Association, conduct a two-day botanical study of the region and call for preservation of the Torrey Pines and their unusual environment "from further threat of spoliation." They implore Miss Scripps to be the patroness of what today we would call an "environmental movement," and she agrees.

-- June, 1921. Miss Scripps appoints Guy Fleming as Custodian of her lands and city-owned lands on which Torrey Pines were growing. The whole is designated The Torrey Pines Preserve.

-- April, 1922. She retains Ralph D. Cornell, a Los Angeles landscape architect, to make a report and draft a sound program for safeguarding the natural values of the Torrey Pines Preserve.

-- Summer, 1922. She funds construction of the Torrey Pines Lodge, which opens 1923.

-- April 19, 1924. Miss Scripps, in her last will and testament, gives all of her property in lots 1338 and 1339 to the City of San Diego to be held in perpetuity as a public park.

She states, "Permanent preservation of those rare trees and securing in perpetuity the scenic beauty of that region is vital."

The "city park" would eventually become the California State Reserve we know today! And our organization, Torrey Pines Conservancy, remains dedicated to her original vision.

Dear Miss Scripps, none of us -- individuals, non-profit organizations, local and state government -- could

have done it without you! Thank you.

Ways To Support The Place You Love

[Make A Tax-Deductible Donation](#)

[Become a Member or Renew Your Membership](#) (new!)

Shop at [Torrey Pines Boutique](#) (See Toni William's beautiful painting!)

Spread Out Your Giving: [Monthly Giving](#)

For questions, please call Susanne at (858) 437-7371 (7 am to noon, Monday- Saturday).