

May/June 2021: Conservancy Updates & Events

Greetings!

Summer is almost here and life almost back to normal. At the Torrey Pines Conservancy, we have concluded a virtual spring speaker series. We are looking forward to the next event, "Kumeyaay Ethnobotany," this July 17 and hope to see you there via a Zoom session.

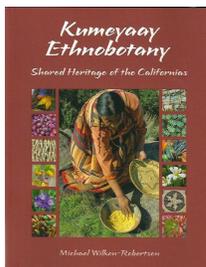


In the meantime, we plan to enjoy your photos on Instagram. Please post your favorites at #whyloveTorreyPines. A great prize awaits a lucky winner. See below for more details.

As we write this, June Gloom is in full force, but what better time to explore the Reserve than when our fair-weather visitors have decided to go elsewhere in search of sun. See you on the trails and beach!

Sincerely,
Torrey Pines Conservancy

TPC Summer Speaker Event on July 17 at 10 am "Kumeyaay Ethnobotany"



For thousands of years, native peoples have made their homes on the coast, and in the valleys, mountain ranges and deserts of northern Baja California and southern California. Through lifetimes of interactions with native plants in the region's diverse landscapes, they have continuously refined their botanical knowledge, passing it from generation to generation. Today, many Kumeyaay in the far-flung ranches of northern Baja California still regularly practice the skills necessary to transform native plants into food, medicine, arts, tools, regalia, construction materials, and ceremonial items, among others.

In his talk, Michael Wilken will explore the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias.

Wilken's research and advocacy work with Native Baja Californians has centered on (and championed!) traditional arts (pottery, basketry, oral narratives and song), ethnobotany, history, languages and cultural landscapes. He has developed lifelong collaborative relationships with native artists and traditional authorities to foster cultural revitalization and sustainable community development. Wilken's fascination with native plants and the natural landscapes of the Californias has inspired him to explore the many ways that humans have interacted with their environments, from the ancient past, into the present.

[RSVP here.](#)
[Michael's book is available here.](#)

Instagram Contest



Show your love for Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Post a nature photo of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve #whyloveorreyppines and follow us at #torreypinesconservancy.

The winner, judged on a combination of aesthetics, technical excellence (i.e. focus and exposure) and human interest, will be announced on June 30 on Instagram #torreypinesconservancy and on Facebook. Judges will include a professional photographer, magazine writer, and graphic designer. Don't be intimidated! All

shots welcome. We're not looking for the next Ansel Adams.

A gift basket with Torrey Pines merchandise awaits. Show your love for the Reserve!

Photo by Herb Knufken

Torrey Pines Conservancy's Spring Speaker Series 2021 by Susanne Florin

In our spring speaker series at the Torrey Pines Conservancy, we started out exploring "The Little Gems Worth Knowing" with Barbara Wallach. Barbara took us



on a tour of the smaller gems of the Reserve, the tiny treasures that we often walk by and rarely pay attention to. While some, such as the Scarlett larkspur, are hard to miss (at 6-7 feet, they stand tall!), other plants require a closer look. A magnifying glass wasn't necessary at the talk. Barbara shared beautiful macro shots of those smaller members of the plant communities.

Mesmerizing shots could also be seen at Margaret Filius' "Torrey Pines Zoom Bloom." Margaret showed us what flowers were blooming at what location at the Reserve at the time of her talk. She also shared a wealth of information on each flowering plant. From the oak at the Reserve to the short-leaved dudleya (this year, the *Dudleya Drevifolia* is especially small), Margaret shared a wealth of information on each flowering member of the Southern maritime chaparral and the coastal sage scrub plant community.

Marty Hales focused on the main birds of the Reserve in her talk "Birds of the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve." Marty played the songs of the most common, year-round avian residents (Wrentit, California towhee, Spotted towhee, Bushtit, California gnatcatcher, California trasher, Bewick's wren) and explained the difference between songs and calls. While bird songs are more musical and often used to announce territory, bird calls are less musical to our ears, and they are used to alert other birds of dangers or to communicate with partners. Marty explained exactly where to look for birds (on the ground or in a bush), and when to look (best season and best time of the day). Marty gave her audience great tools to become birders!

After flora and fauna, TPC's next speaker event was all about people. Ed Vodrazka, State lifeguard, read from his recently published book "Stories from Sea Level." Ed shared three stories from his collection of favorite lifeguard stories (that span a 50-year career!). One story Ed read is about a boy's trials to become an ocean lifeguard. The young man struggles and considers himself a black cloud. After being on duty during three Fourth of July tragedies (among them, quite unexpectedly, a plane crash) and making nineteen heroic rescues, he gets awarded the medal of valor. All of Ed's stories were filled with a great sense of humor, and much love for the people Ed met along his way.

The last event of the speaker series was also the first stewards of Torrey Pines--the Kumeyaay. In his talk "The Kumeyaay on the Coast," Richard Carrico shared decades of research on the Kumeyaay's life on the coast. Richard's goal, to make the portrayal of the Kumeyaay less "murky", was definitely achieved in his talk.

All speaker events are available at torreypines.org.

Del Mar Heights Elementary School: Public Can Comment Until June 11

The Del Mar Union School District has published an Environmental Impact Report that examines plans to raze and replace Del Mar Heights Elementary School. Members of the public can comment on the document through 4 p.m. on June 11. The campus at 13555 Boquita Drive is within the City of San Diego. The school district prepared the impact report after a lawsuit challenged its environmental review as inadequate. [Open the notice of EIR availability.](#) [Open the EIR.](#)

Upcoming Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Construction Activities

In May SANDAG crews began the next phase of emergency repairs south of 4th Street in Del Mar. The goal is to repair the slope from a recent bluff collapse in late February. During the first phase crews clear vegetation, remove debris, grade sections of the bluffs, and build a support berm to further reinforce the bluffs. Concrete barriers, or "K-rail," will temporarily be installed on the beach to protect beachgoers from falling debris and to minimize bluff erosion from high tides. Crews will continue repairs through this summer and install new sea walls along the beach just south of 4th Street later this summer. Work on the bluffs is ongoing and is anticipated to be complete in fall 2021.

Renew Your Membership

[Make A Tax-Deductible Donation](#)

[Become a Member/ Renew Your Membership](#)

Shop at [Torrey Pines Boutique](#)

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

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

[#torreypinesconservancy](#)

