

The Piñon

March 2022

A monthly update for members and donors of Torrey Pines Conservancy



Dear Members, Donors and Friends,

So good to see many of you at our Annual Meeting. If you missed it, the recording is now online at torreypines.org.

Spring has sprung! We are celebrating spring with [a bird walk](#) and [a mindful walk](#) the last weekend of March. We promise both walks are suitable for all (not only early birds!).

The blooming we see throughout the Reserve and the Extension would be impossible without the work of our pollinators, the bees. Their numbers are declining due to habitat loss and climate change. Please read on about an exciting new bee monitoring project that the Torrey Pines Docent Society just launched.

You can also see what's blooming (and thank the bees!) at our traditional wildflower hike on April 16.

See you on the trails and at our upcoming hikes!

Sincerely,
-Your Torrey Pines Conservancy

Torrey Pines Conservancy's 72nd Annual Meeting



On a sunny February Sunday afternoon, a group of about 70 members and donors of the Torrey Pines Conservancy (TPC) gathered on the vast porch of the Martin Johnson House located on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The 72nd annual meeting of the organization started with President Peter Jensen's remarks. Jensen thanked the outgoing directors Anne McCammon, Secretary, and John Durant for their service on the Board. Jensen introduced three new incoming directors: Barbara McCardle, Roger Showley and Dave Van Cleve.

Jensen also introduced President-elect Rick Gulley and handed over the presidency. The new president thanked Jensen for his longstanding service on the TPC Board of Directors. Jensen was honored with the Guy Fleming Award in recognition of his dedication and many outstanding contributions to the organization. Gulley also gifted Jensen an oversized name tag as a memento of his many years serving on the Board.

Gulley introduced Cara Stafford, environmental scientist at California State Parks. Stafford gave an overview of the Reserve preservation efforts. In 2021, 120 Torrey pine saplings were planted. In 2022, 244 saplings were planted as part of an experimental restoration focused on determining conditions that best enable pine establishment. The goal is to plant a total of 450 trees within the next two years. In addition to Torrey pines, the team planted 581 maritime coastal scrub plants—many of which are believed to possibly tolerate dry conditions predicted to be the future condition at the Reserve. They planted into areas heavily hit by beetles – where Torrey pine mortality was high – and other areas where Torrey pines still stand. The team is measuring tree growth and ecological conditions to assist with niche models. The recent plantings are a collaboration between California State Parks and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) and the Center for Plant Conservation (housed with SDZWA).

Donna Close, TPC Treasurer, gave a report on the organization's sound financial status. Close also provided an overview of projects accomplished in the last decade, most of them under Jensen's leadership. Susanne Florin, TPC Executive Director, then spoke, thanking all members and donors for their ongoing financial support. Florin announced upcoming events and hikes (all are welcome!) and thanked Jensen for his nineteen years of service on the Board.

The featured speaker of the day was Ed Vodrazka (see photo above), TPC Director, retired lifeguard and California State Parks employee. Ed Vodrazka was joined by his family, his wife Jennifer and their kids supporting him from the sidelines of the meeting. Vodrazka had the audience laughing with his humorous account of his time living at the Guy Fleming House, located in the heart of the Reserve. What does it mean to live at the Reserve and to raise a family in this pocket of wilderness? From ocean rescues, to

leaky roofs and wooden swings in the Torreys, from wildlife encounters to sunsets, Vodrazka's amusing and heartfelt anecdotes (and photos!) captured the audience's attention.

Photo: Diane Ailor

Docents Help Monitor Most Important Pollinators at Torrey Pines



We are proud to report that our sister organization, the Torrey Pines Docent Society, and Professor James Huong, University of Oklahoma, are working hard to keep a pulse on Torrey Pines native bees at the Reserve and the Extension.

Did you know that San Diego County is a global diversity hot spot? 700 bee species can be found in our county. This is a disproportionately high number due to San Diego's plant diversity as well as the county's climate and height diversity.

The Torrey Pines native bees are unlike the non-native Western Honey Bee, *apis mellifera*, that live in colonies, store honey (and can cause painful stings!). A vast majority of native bees do not make honey, are not social and do not sting.

Professor Huong and the volunteers at the Torrey Pines Docent Society take photos of different bee species and upload them online. So far, almost 300 different bee species have been identified. For more information, please [view here](#). If you would like to help, [please let us know](#).

Mindful Walks



Mindful Walks are special walks where you can slow down, breathe in fresh air, delight your senses, and be in the present moment. We will be setting out in small groups of 10. The 2-hour walks start at the Lodge (Visitor Center) on Sunday, March 27 at 8:00 am. [RSVP here](#).

Bird Walk



Docents Kathy Dickey and Marty Hales will take us on a bird walk on Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 am, leaving from the Park and Ride off Carmel Valley Road. The walk will take us along a nice, flat area that includes riparian and lagoon views. Space is limited. [RSVP here](#).

Torrey Pines Conservancy Online Store

Did you know that all members and donors receive a 20% discount on all items costing \$10 or more? All store proceeds go to the Conservancy's conservation and preservation efforts at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. Please use the following coupon code: member20. [Shop here](#).

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