

POINT LOBOS

Quarterly



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Point Lobos Association

Route 1 Box 62,
Carmel, CA 93923
831-625-1470
www.PointLobos.org

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edited by Stan Dryden

Docent Administrators

Joe & Pat Bova

Administrative Assistant

Kristina Rosado

Cooperating Association Ranger Liaison

Chuck Bancroft

Graphics Contributors

Chuck Bancroft	Pat Bova
Matt Buonaguidi	Stan Dryden
Betty Loesch	Kevin Shabram
terry6082	Tim Thomas

Copyeditor

Charles Schrammel

Point Lobos Magazine Editorial Director

Dida Kutz
dida@didakutz.org
queries welcome

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*The mission of the Point Lobos Association is to support interpretive
and educational programs that enhance the visitor's experience, and to
assist California State Parks in preserving
Point Lobos State Reserve.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judd Perry



As I write this, I am sitting in the Whalers Cabin enjoying a beautiful sunny August afternoon overlooking Whalers Cove. It reminds me once again why Point Lobos State Reserve is such a treasure. The untrammelled natural landscape, Monterey pine and cypress forests, and the abundance of birds, harbor seals, sea lions and sea otters remind me of the difference between a State Reserve and a State Park. This is one of the few places where man treads lightly on the land and leaves little of himself behind.

Of course, it was not always so, especially here at Whalers Cove. In times past it was the site of a number of thriving businesses – an abalone fishery and cannery; a granite quarry; an aggregate quarry; and a coal loading port, to name a few. For the most part, the scars of human activity have been healed by natural forces, with only the Whalers Cabin Museum to remind us of the days that once were. If you have not visited the Museum, you owe it to yourself to do so soon.

It is also days like this at Whalers Cove that the importance of the fight to keep Point Lobos Reserve – and all of the other State Reserves, Parks and Beaches – open and operating for the enjoyment and relaxation of our citizens and visitors

from all over the world. As I write, the battle over California's budget still rages, even though some apparent progress has been made to keep some, but by no means all, of the State Park system open for the coming year. It is currently thought that over 100 parks and beaches will be closed due to budget constraints, and even those that remain open will be severely impacted by cuts in operating and maintenance funding.

The fight for the survival of our State Park system is not over, and perhaps will never end until we put the system on a predictable and sustainable funding source, out of the mainstream of the annual General Fund budgeting process. In the meantime, your Point Lobos Association will continue to plan for the possibility that the Reserve will be among the State Park units that are ordered closed after Labor Day. We believe that closure, if ordered by the State, can be avoided with increased operational funding through the PLA and we hope to follow that course if the worst scenario occurs.

Even if the worst case is avoided, Point Lobos Reserve will have to look to the PLA for even more operational funding than is being provided today. The PLA and your Board of Directors are dedicated to

providing all necessary assistance to our Reserve.

We urgently need your help in this time of the Reserve's great need. You can continue to make your State Representatives understand how important the Reserve and the entire State Park system is to you, and the need to provide funding sufficient to keep all State Reserves, Parks and Beaches open and available to the public. You can continue to assist the PLA in its efforts here at Point Lobos through your generous donations, both by renewing your annual membership when it comes due at the highest level you can afford and, if you can, by making special donations between membership renewals. You can ask your friends and neighbors to join the PLA and its fight to preserve the wonders of Point Lobos. You can join the Point Lobos Docent Group, which is funded by the PLA, and directly contribute your time and talent to the cause. And, you can consider the PLA as a worthy recipient in your estate planning. There are many ways to serve, and I ask you to consider one or more of these.

I hope to see you soon at Point Lobos State Reserve.

POINT LOBOS B

Oct. 3, 2009 6:30 pm. *Reservations required! Call 8*
Jean Grace

All of you Point Lobos Association members, and people who want to become members, can look forward with pleasure to this once-a-year event. Those of us associated with this spectacular natural place cherish this moonlight "tradition." Please join us!

WHEN? The full moon occurs on October 3rd, which is lucky for us as it's a Saturday. The Reserve will stay open for us until 10:00 pm. The general public will be asked to leave the reserve by 6:00 pm, and the entrance kiosk will open for those with reservations at 6:30.

The moon will rise on the flat eastern horizon at about 6:17 pm, and it should appear in all its elegance above the Santa Lucia Mountains by 7:30 or so. "Civil Twilight," when the sun is a mere six degrees below the horizon, ends at 7:13. Even if the vault of our sky is drifted with fog, the diffused moonlight is amazingly bright. For this evening, you should bring flashlights, but you very well may be able to do without their added light. And don't forget binoculars or even a telescope!

HOW? Reservations are required by Friday, September 25th. Please call 831-625-1470 and give the number in your party and membership status, and remember, please, no children under ten. Your name at the entrance kiosk will give you free entry into the reserve that day.

WHERE? We will gather at Bird Island picnic area. A membership table will be set up so you can check in and/or contribute your membership dues for PLA.

WHY, and WHO? This gathering celebrates our membership in the organization that works as a partner with California State Parks, and provides funding for the volunteer docents and for events and special projects to promote and protect the Reserve. We embrace your becoming, or being a member, especially the many of you who have invested in a Lifetime membership. This special membership is available to all!

Y MOONLIGHT:

31-625-1470.

WHAT? We will enjoy hot delicious chili, cornbread, and salad prepared by former ranger Glen McGowan and his wife Sandy. Cups, plates, utensils, and bottled water will be provided; you are welcome to bring other beverages.

EARTH'S MOON: The moon is (besides the sun) the most obvious and changing of the earth's visible celestial objects, and humans have probably always been enthralled by it. The monthly full moon has had many names in human history. The Harvest Moon (or Dying Grass Moon) is, by definition, the closest full moon to the autumnal equinox in the northern hemisphere, signifying the commencement of the fall harvest. Since the monthly names usually reflect human activities during the year's seasons, and since the seasons are the opposite in the northern and southern hemispheres, there are also opposite activities reflected in the moon names. So it is that the "Harvest Moon" in the northern hemisphere is the "Planters' Moon" in the southern, ushering in their spring season.

Most years the Harvest Moon occurs in September, with the full moon of October carrying the title of Hunters' Moon. But 2009 is an exception.

The moon rises an average of about 48 minutes later each night over the year, but the exact timing varies. Around the time of the September autumnal equinox the difference is less, especially in higher latitudes. Thus it rises earlier than most moons, providing enough light to continue working outdoors after sunset. The Harvest Moon is no closer to us, on average, than any other full moon, so its measurement and its color are the same as other full moons. But because of the importance of this moon's longer period of light, our awareness of it seems to lend us more exquisite perceptions, and we could swear that it's bigger and brighter than usual.

As the closest celestial body to Earth, the moon has been a natural focal point as our imaginations have broadened and we have raced into the heavens. 2009 has seen both the 40th anniversary of the first steps on the moon by the crew of Apollo 11, and the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of the telescope to examine the skies. Come join us to celebrate our moon and Point Lobos State Reserve October 3.

Observations

Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

On May 21st at 11 am the big truck pulling the horse trailer rolled into Whalers Cove parking lot. Already on the scene are Monterey Sector Superintendent Dana Jones and Ranger Chuck Bancroft. The production crew from National Geographic is preparing for the day's film briefing. Sue Houghton, who grew up in Carmel Valley, is the producer for the Natural History Unit for National Geographic Television and Film. Brook Holston, from Pacific Grove, is assistant producer for National Geographic. Her best friend and husband is Phillip Powell, who is a long time friend and associate of Ernie Kovacs, the principal photographer for National Geographic on this project. Ernie and Phillip have worked together on many projects for National Geographic and Sea Studios* video, audio, and multimedia exhibits for aquariums, zoos, and museums. Randy Miller,

Point and Granite Point. The question is....how to get all the equipment to the location the easiest way possible without having to carry Kona in his carry cage all the way around on the trail? Leave it to the Boss, Dana Jones, who calls lifeguard Erik Landry. The rescue boat stationed at Whalers Cove is prepared and launched. The photographers and their equipment are transported across the cove to the beach. Kona is loaded into the boat along with Randy, assistant handler Joe, and Phillip. This will be



Kona's first boat ride. Kona had never been to the beach before and you could easily tell this beautiful animal was thoroughly enjoying himself, walking along the rocky shore, smelling the kelp washed up on the beach, wrestling with Randy, running back and forth as the script dictated, and munching down on reward treats from Joe. The filming moved from the beach up to the Granite Point Trail with shots taken of Kona enjoying the



owner of Predators in Action of Big Bear, California steps out of his truck to greet the crew for this National Geographic production, *The Secret Big Sur*. The filming of Kona (the mountain lion) is to take place on the rocky beach between Coal Chute

scenery, lying down to rest, and baring his teeth for the dramatic scenes. Other scenes for the production were taken at the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley. We expect to see the DVD released sometime in October.



Beginning in 1914 with the production of *Valley of the Moon* starring Jack Conway and Myrtle Stedmen, Point Lobos has been the location of over 45 different film projects. In many of the films only parts were filmed at or near Point Lobos. Some of the most notable films are *Treasure Island* (1934), starring Wallace Berry and Jackie Cooper; *The Graduate* (1967) starring Ann Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman; and *Turner and Hooch* (1989) with Tom Hanks and Mare Winingham.

In just the past year Point Lobos and Carmel River State Beach were the sites for: One Ocean Productions of Winnipeg, Canada; J. Crew from New York for their fall catalog; Turchin Productions of San Francisco for a documentary on a research project at CSU Monterey Bay; Tigress Productions from Bristol, UK for a documentary interview with a leading marine biologist; *Carmel, The Movie*, produced locally with scenes at Carmel River State Beach; Needham Productions, New York for the Urban Outfitters catalog; Sycamore Productions of Austin Texas for a documentary on sea palms; Shensuntzu LLC, for

a documentary interview with a local expert oceanographer; Galatee Films of Los Angeles for an underwater environment documentary; British Broadcasting Company, Bristol, UK, for a documentary on sea otters (returning in 2010 to continue filming); The Wayne Dyer Project, Carlsbad CA; Hokuto International, Inc. from Japan, for a Wingspan in-flight magazine article on sea otters and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

* Sea Studios Foundation, Monterey <http://www.seastudios.com>



"POP" ERNEST DOELTER

THE ABALONE KING

by Tim Thomas

In the spring of 2008 Tim Thomas, curator at Monterey Maritime & History Museum, guest curated an exhibit on abalone as "food and beauty" held at the Awa Museum in Tateyama, Japan (poster at left). It was Tim who took the story of "Pop" Ernest to Japan.

was the juice from the abalone), then rolled it in cracker crumbs, and cooked it quickly in olive oil. Soon people were coming from everywhere just to try Pop's fresh abalone steaks. They were singing songs or writing poems about the abalone, like:

*Oh! Some folks boast of quail on toast,
Because they think it's tony;
But I'm content to owe my rent
And live on abalone.*

In 1913, two important events occurred that altered the course of Pop's life. First, the city of Monterey raised Pop's liquor-license fee, so he packed up his family and moved to San Francisco. Second, the State of California passed a law that said the Japanese could no longer export abalone out of California!

In 1915, at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, the World's Fair came



Ernest "Pop" Doelter was a larger than life character, forever tied to abalone and Monterey's Japanese community. Pop and his family first moved to Monterey in May of 1907, where he opened a small "European" style restaurant called Café Ernest. He soon became fascinated with the emerging Japanese abalone industry and could not understand why the people of Monterey were not eating this marine delicacy. The Japanese, finding no market for abalone in the Monterey area, let alone anywhere else in the United States, were then drying it and shipping it back to Japan, China and Australia, where there was a large Chinese community. Seeing an opportunity, Pop began to experiment with ways to prepare the abalone. It was at his restaurant on Alvarado St. where he first discovered the need to tenderize or pound the abalone, very similar to how the Germans tenderize veal. After pounding, he dipped it in an egg wash, where he added his secret ingredient, "abalone nectar" (the "abalone nectar"



Detail of the menu created by Jo Mora for Pop Ernest's Abalone and Seafood Restaurant, late 1920s. Below, contemporary shrine to Monterey in the Chiba Prefecture of Japan.





Pop circa 1930.

to San Francisco and Pop introduced fresh Monterey abalone to the world.

Shortly thereafter, he moved back to Monterey where he went to work for A.M. Allan at Point Lobos brokering fresh Monterey abalone and mussels to restaurants all over California. He also helped develop the process of canning the abalone so it could be enjoyed internationally.

In 1919, he left Point Lobos and opened the first restaurant on Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf. This new restaurant featured his original abalone recipes. One such dish was abalone stew served in an abalone shell, with holes sealed by lead. Pop employed his own Japanese dive crew to harvest abalone not only for his restaurant, but also for selling fresh abalone steaks to restaurants and hotels all over the west.

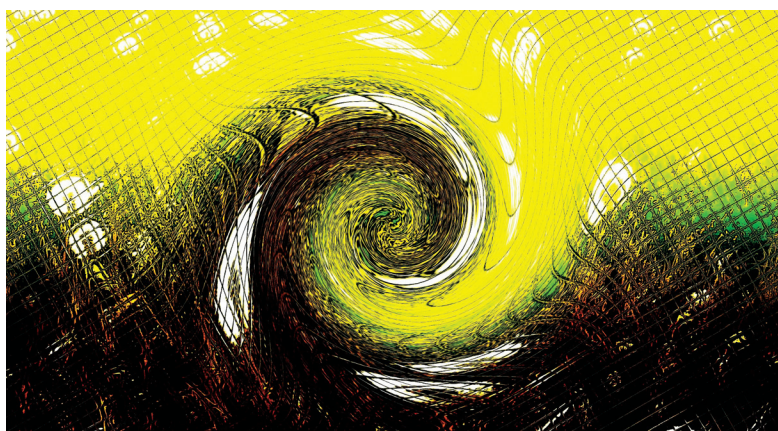
Pop was instrumental in turning the abalone, once described in 1900 as resembling a "rubber boot," into one of the most popular and expensive delicacies in California. By popularizing the abalone, Pop extended the life of the Japanese abalone industry at Point Lobos, and more importantly, in Monterey to the beginning of World War II. Because of Pop and his famous abalone recipe, there are many homes in the Chiba Prefecture of Japan, homes where these pioneering divers once lived and where their families still live, that have "shrines" to Monterey. Each shrine has large polished red abalone shells—some world record size—that came out of Monterey Bay over 100 years ago!

Ernest "Pop" Doelter died in 1934 and his restaurant closed in 1952.

THIS AREA IS SUBJECT TO UNEXPECTED LIFE-THREATENING SWELLS AND CURRENTS

Charles Schrammel

Those signs always get me; I see them in the calmest areas at the most gorgeous times, when the ocean looks as threatening as an alpine lake. Yet they are to be heeded, no matter the look of the sea, as my dad and I learned at Point Lobos Christmas Day 2004.



I was in Monterey for Christmas that year as a Resident Advisor in the dorms at CSU, Monterey Bay, and my parents had come up from San Diego to hang out with their eldest son. We had breakfast in Monterey and headed to Point Lobos for a hike and relaxation.

When we pulled into the parking lot my mom headed to the restrooms and my dad and I headed down to some tide pools to pass the time, walking right by a warning sign reminding us of unexpected changes to the surf. We found plenty of life among the rocks—the abundant flora and fauna that make Point Lobos an alluring place. Wandering through the maze of rocks and pools and out onto a rock platform that

slanted away from the ocean toward the parking lot, we came across some interesting formations and erosions that drew our attention to the fact that the whole platform was soaking wet. This seemed peculiar given the bright sun and low tide.

Just as we stood wondering what size wave could have left the area soaked, there was a loud crash and we looked up to see a wall of water looming above our heads. We had scarcely the time to drop a knee and lock hands for balance before the water came down on us. It was akin to swimming in the ocean. My dad's Levi's and flannel shirt absorbed the sea water like a sponge and we were left there amazed and laughing in spite of ourselves as a second smaller wave sprayed us even more. As we walked up the short hill to the car my mom came toward us shaking her head—it was not the first time something like this had happened.

A combination of our protected location, rock sloping toward land rather than sea, and the support we offered each other prevented any serious injury; however, many people are not so fortunate. Surf and swell warning signs are in place as a preventative measure aimed at preserving life and health. As you stroll along the preserved coast of Point Lobos State Reserve, heed the warning signs and enjoy the sights and sounds dry and in good health.

Quotes from the Docent Log

edited by Stan Dryden

May 5: Lynne McCammon

It is obvious that spring has sprung as you stroll around the Reserve. Flowers are abundant, harbor seals and their pups are evident, and last but not least the otters were in full force this month. Our count was 44 adults and 9 pups. They weren't in their usual areas, but hopefully, the relentless otter counters did not miss a one.

Bird Island rocks are the home of three black-crowned night heron nests. One had two chicks and the rest only had an egg or two. The Brandt's cormorants were not on the island, however a few have taken up residence with the sea lions.

The month of May is a very busy time for the Reserve. The State has a statewide otter count and we also count the harbor seals. The day we counted the seals we had a very high tide. The harbor seals were not able to rest on the rocks. The China Cove area was a playpen for the pups. The counters arrived there to find a half dozen of them frolicking in the cove. A piece of wood in the shape of an adult seal was a toy for the pups to swim over and around. The final count for the harbor seals was 32 adults and 30 pups.

May 7: Dick Gorman

Gordon Parker, age 67, showed up at the Whaling Station while I was working with Kerstin Jones. As a boy, he used

to come to Point Lobos on his bike from Carmel regularly. He sometimes stayed in the Whalers Cabin as guest of then Ranger, Pinky Ransom. He recalls catching plentiful gopher cod, lingcod, monkey face eels and monkey cod from the rocks (when

such things were allowed). A. M. Allan's complete whale skeleton was still standing at that time.

May 8: Jeff Johnson

I was scoping at Bird Island, checking out the three black-crowned night heron nests. I



looked around and saw a very long line of children and chaperones approaching. There were about 70 kids! I lowered the scope and focused on the nest with the two chicks, then sat on a rock next to the scope and told each kid to close one eye and look through the eyepiece without touching the scope. Every one of them claimed to see the nest and at least one of the birds!

The following week the same thing happened with a group of about 30 high school students. Same result. What a payoff: wide grins, "Wow!" "Awesome!" "Thank you!" Made my days.

May 17: Norma Davis

Unusual sights while scoping at Sea Lion Point. Brandt's cormorants have displaced sea lions on their usual "snow" covered rocky island. The sea lions have retreated to a smaller, more distant rock. An otter has hauled out on the harbor seals' favorite flat rock in the small cove directly below me, keeping company with three seals. Pelagic cormorants were on their nests on the cliff face to the left of me.

May 19: Sharon Hoffman

In addition to curious visitors from many distant lands with many questions, I was lucky enough to have 85 courteous students from Davis, California, patiently waiting their turn to enter Whalers Cabin and ask their questions. They were taking notes, reading books, and enjoying their visit. Bravo to the students and to their adult chaperones.

May 22: Pat Bova

I walked the Sea Lion Point trail and stopped to speak with visitors from France. They were excited that the rocky outcropping (below the juncture at Sea Lion and the Headland Cove) had a mother harbor seal, her pup, AND an otter all lying in the sun. I did not see the otter at first glance. When my eyes adjusted to the shadows on the rock, there it was!.. It was exciting to see an otter hauling out on this rock, as well as seemingly making a couple of new friends with the seals. Look for it in the bottom right corner of the photo on this page.

May 26: Connie Dallmann

Wildflowers galore! I counted 22 different species in the short distance from the Information Station to the Old Veteran tree.

June 9: Lynne McCammon

The weather for this month's otter count was just perfect. It started out with high fog, but the sun wasn't far behind. When the sun is out so are the western fence lizards. We were able to count fourteen of them on the South Shore trail. Pelagic cormorants were nesting in the cliffs around the Sea Lion

Point area. In the same area we observed a very small otter grooming itself. We waited to see if its mother was around. No matter, this little guy decided to haul out on the rocks with the harbor seals. (It is unusual to see otters on land, and very rare to have three sightings so close in time... Ed.) The consensus of the group was that it was a small adult otter. The raft of otters was present off Sea Lion Point at the outer edge of the kelp. The final count for this month was 35 adults and 2 pups. This count almost matches last year's tally.

June 11: Spence Myers

I was starting my song and dance about the Whalers Cabin when this very pleasant young man told me that he was Justin Allan Morris, the great-great-grandson of A. M. Allan, the man who preserved Point Lobos for us all to enjoy. He shared a great deal of interesting information about the Allan family, including the fact that the family still owns the land around the old coal mine



in Mal Paso Canyon. The family has tried to give the land to Point Lobos, but it is landlocked amid other properties so there is no reasonable access to it.

**June 25: Fred Brown
(with Paul Reps)**

The cormorants were nesting on Bird Island – at least 3 dozen nests and more being built with kelp. Eight or nine western gull chicks were on the rock at the end of the Bird Island Trail. We had the scope on the black-crowned night heron on her nest with two beautiful blue eggs, dazzling the visitors with the sightings. One couple was excited that they were able to get the cell phones out of their teenage daughters' hands, and they all spent some time looking at all the chicks and a young night heron. Great day!

June 25: Jean Grace

On a busy and beautiful cool gray day, I was closing the Information Station when an excited family came from the Cypress Grove Trail. They tumbled all over each other telling me about their sighting of a whale. They said it had been less than a mile north of North Point, swimming eastward at a leisurely pace. I was pretty sure that it wasn't a gray whale at this time of year, and decided it must either be a humpback or a minke whale. This family from Arizona seemed to be very knowledgeable about wildlife, including marine life. I reopened the roll-up door so we could check my favorite whale book, *Whales and other Marine Mammals of California and Baja*, which we sell there. It is beau-

tifully illustrated, with good descriptions and comparisons of sizes and diving patterns. When we looked at the page on the minke, they all exclaimed, "That was it!" They were impressed with the likeness of the illustration of the dive sequence shown on the pages.

June 28: Chris Stone

The new harbor seal pelt and swatch brought oohs and aahs from the visitors. So many had seen seals from afar and were delighted to be able to touch and feel the velvety fur. (Chris, who also works at the Marine Mammal Center in Marin,

stops it was announced that the couple had just become engaged. There was a big roar of laughter and congratulations.

July 14: Lynne McCammon

The weather on the second Tuesday of the month was magnificent for the otter count. The sun was out and we had little or no breeze. The first thing we observed was a feeding frenzy at different parts of the Reserve. The expert (Ranger Chuck) seemed to feel there was a good source of food coming through. The kelp was extremely thick and we saw a lot of green "kelp otters" (bull kelp air bladders



was instrumental in bringing these specimens to us.-Ed.)

July 9: Karen Patterson

On the trial run of my walk with a Treasure Island theme, I had four new docents from my class, a family of six, and a couple from Germany. Between

are often mistaken for otter heads-Ed.). The otter count for this month was 22 adults with 4 pups. Last year at this time our count was a little more (32/4).

July 16: Joe Hendrickson

From the Cypress Grove Trail, spotted two black oyster-

catchers and at least one fluffy young one on the east side of the Pinnacle. (Adult oystercatchers are common, but it is a rarity to spot their nests and young.-Ed.)

July 20: Carol Bloner

Went to Bird Island to see what birds were in residence. No black-crowned night herons and no western gull chicks, although I did spot one gull large enough to have fledged. So much New Zealand spinach growing that chicks, even large ones, could have been hidden. Brandt's cormorants were so sparse that I was able to count the nests: a sad total of 22 nests.

August 2: Terry Tellep

A visitor to Whalers Cabin commented on how similar the cabin was to a building at a winery where he had worked. He said that Schrammsberg Winery in Calistoga has the oldest wine caves in California, dug by Chinese laborers in the 1860's. He said the bunkhouse that the Chinese built for themselves to live in looks just like Whalers Cabin! Apparently it is still standing and used as a storage shed. He mentioned the floorboards at Schrammsberg were made of redwood.

August 2: Terry Tellep

A glorious summer day at Point Lobos! While at Info Station I could see humpbacks breaching and spy-hopping all afternoon, with a pod of approximately 100 dolphins not far away. Some visitors reported seeing between 6-12 humpbacks – I saw about 3 at a time. Even more delight-



ful was witnessing the faces of young children, their parents, grandparents, all exclaiming with joy and awe, enraptured by this beautiful sea dance. Strangers were pointing out the humpbacks to each other, sharing binoculars, standing on the benches side by side, laughing together. I especially remember one young family with a young boy and girl who lingered for a long time. Taking turns standing on the bench by the Info Station – we passed binoculars back and forth. Such beautiful light and joy in their eyes as the five of us held each other's gaze and shared big smiles that expressed more than words could ever capture. Dozens of people came off the trails from North Shore, Cypress Grove, and Sea Lion Point enthralled with Point Lobos and *just beaming!*

August 5: Stan Dryden

Another docent reported that leopard sharks could be seen in the shallows near the harbor seal beach just down the road from the cabin. When I arrived, there were 6 of them swimming in a circular pattern. I took some

photos with my puny camera, then went on a walk. Two hours later I found three rangers looking down from the same spot. There was also a stingray, which was more difficult to see since it blended in with the sandy bottom. As I was walking down the road to my car I spotted (no pun intended) another leopard shark swimming in the kelp just below the road, and got this photo.

August 6: Kevin Shabram

I got this picture (see back page-Ed.) on North Shore trail at about 6:00 pm. At the base of Big Dome, this bobcat ran across the trail just in front of me. As I fumbled with my camera it stopped, sat down, then laid down right in front of me. Needless to say, I filled up my camera's disk taking pictures of it. What a beautiful animal!





Photo courtesy Kevin Shabram.

Point Lobos Association



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Carmel, CA 93923
831-625-1470

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