

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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Graphics Contributors

Jeff Armstrong	Matt Buonaguidi
Chuck Bancroft	Jacob Bentley
Ed Clifton	Tom Clifton
Art Muto	Paul Reps
Chuck Schrammel	Daniela Vaughan

Officers

<i>President</i>	Judd Perry
<i>Vice President</i>	Skip Flohr
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sandy Hale

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John Hudson	Glen McGowan
Lynne Miles	Joyce Olcese
Carl Voss	Paul Wineman

Docent Administrators

Joe & Pat Bova

Administrative Assistant

Kristina Rosado

CA State Parks Liaison

Chuck Bancroft

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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*Kayak eye view (early winter storm clearing) Bluefish Cove.
Photo courtesy Matt Buonaguidi.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judd Perry



I want to personally invite each of our members to attend the Annual Meeting of the PLA membership on January 16, 2010. Please see the back page for more details and be sure to put it on your calendar.

At the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on five new PLA directors: Dick Dalsemer, Sharon Hoffman, Jeff Johnson, Rick Pettit, and Jay Sinclair. They will be replacing Ed Clifton, Glen McGowan, and Paul Wine-man, all of whom have served the maximum of six consecutive years as directors, as well as Lyle Brumfield and Brandi Katz, who will also be leaving the Board at the end of the year. As painful as it is to see these talented people leave the Board, we believe that their very large shoes will be well-filled by the incoming group. The slate of officers to be voted on by the Board following the meeting is: Skip Flohr, President; Steve Dennis, Vice President; Sandy Hale, Treasurer; and Judd Perry, Secretary.

I have had the great honor and privilege to have been president of this wonderful organization for the past three years, and it is with some sadness that I write my last Message in these pages. I cannot do so without expressing my most profound appreciation and gratitude for the help and support of all those who have made these last three years so enjoyable and rewarding. They are too numerous to

name, but they certainly include each of the volunteer PLA directors with whom I have been so fortunate to serve. They are some of the hardest working people I have ever known, taking on work assignments without hesitation and carrying them out with the great resourcefulness. And, there is the volunteer Docent Group, whose support is one of the primary goals of the PLA. Year in and year out, this dedicated group of men and women collectively spend tens of thousands of hours at the Reserve, greeting visitors and interpreting the Reserve to them, staffing the Information Station at Sea Lion Point and the Whalers Cabin Museum, providing guided walks to visitors, school children, and business groups, and handling dozens of other tasks and assignments that keep the Reserve and the Docent Group itself running. And there is also State Parks' staff at all levels, without whose assistance, guidance and knowledge, the PLA's efforts would be hopeless. I am very pleased to tell you that the PLA's relationship with State Parks staff has never been better. From Monterey District Supervisor Mat Fuzie, to Monterey Sector Supervisor Dana Jones, to Point Lobos Chief Ranger Chuck Bancroft, to Ranger Matt Buonaguidi, and to every maintenance person, lifeguard, and seasonal employee in the Reserve, the

PLA has received nothing but the highest degree of support, cooperation, and assistance.

But most of all I want to thank our PLA members for their steadfast support over the years. You are the glue that binds all these other groups together and makes it possible for the PLA to carry out its mission "to support interpretive and educational programs that enhance the visitor's experience and to assist California State Parks in preserving Point Lobos State Reserve." I respectfully ask each current member of the PLA to continue your membership support at the highest level you can afford. If you are reading this Message and are not a current member, please use the envelope included in this magazine to join today. And if you are looking for a great holiday gift, give someone a gift membership in the PLA, which will ensure that they receive each quarterly issue of the PLA Magazine and remain abreast of the wonderful things going on at the Reserve.

Finally, don't forget that winter is the time we experience some of the clearest weather at Point Lobos, and also the time we see gray whales off the shores of Point Lobos on their southern migration

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

UNDER MY BRIM

Ranger Chuck Bancroft

The history continues:

1862—Active whaling started in the spring with sixteen Portuguese whalers and their families, mostly from the Azores. They lived in white-washed cabins in the meadow above Carmelo Cove. Between whaling seasons they worked on neighboring ranches. During the active whaling season a man would be stationed on Whalers Knoll on a rock platform. When whales were spotted he would run a flag up a pole or shout down to the cove that whales were coming. The men would launch one or more boats and row out into the sea about one mile. The harpooned whale was dragged back to the cove by the rowing sailors and tied to long cables suspended from Window Rock to the landing and pier. Large pieces of blubber were cut away and placed in one of the large kettles and rendered into oil. The oil was placed in drums and then sent to Monterey and elsewhere to be used as lamp and machine oil. “The flames and smoke of the quays, the shrilling of seagulls, the shouting of the men, and all the attendant excitement were in marked contrast to the peaceful locale—

the small frame cottages, the pigs and goats and cows browsing roundabout, and the neat little gardens.” -Anonymous

—During this time a company of Chinese fishermen shared Point Lobos with the whalers. They caught mackerel, cod, halibut, sardines, flounder, and some shellfish. Abalone shells sold for \$20 per ton. These fishermen devoted themselves primarily to catching, salting, and drying fish for the San Francisco market. Abalone was merely a sideline.

1863 —The San Carlos Gold Mining Company was formed by a group of prominent citizens who capitalized it to the amount of \$50,000. The company prospected at Point Lobos and in the area, but it was a dismal failure and the entire organization folded in a short time.

1874—Abner Bassett died, leaving his share of the Point Lobos estate to his wife and eight children. His appraised one-half of the 8,018.56 acre Rancho San Jose y Sur Chiquito at \$15,000. He still did not have clear title to the land as he

died before the courts decided on the fate of the Rancho.

1875—Old time residents say the famed Monterey cypress tree growing next to the Whalers Cabin was planted about this time.

1875—Several coal mines were being developed in the mountains to the south, notably in Mal Paso Canyon. Point Lobos became a shipping point.

1877—The Point Sur Lighthouse was built of Point Lobos granite from the old quarry.

1879—Robert Louis Stevenson lived in Monterey late 1879. It is said he visited Point Lobos during his local travels. It is thought that his visit meant a lot to him and was the inspiration for “Treasure Island.” In the book he writes of many things that can be seen at Point Lobos.

1880—A suit was filed in the United States District Court to settle the respective claims that went back to Jose Castro’s time. The following people claimed the land of Point Lobos and vicinity: Joseph Emery 1/2; the Bassett heirs 1/2; Sidney Johnson 1/3; the heirs of D.R. Ashley 1/4; W.T. Baggett 1/4; and Joseph Gregg, who claimed about 1,000 acres north of San Jose Creek.

Observations

Sparky Starweather, State Park Squirrel

I travel frequently around the Reserve and to Carmel River State Beach. You have to keep your eyes open and moving all the time to catch a sighting of the most elusive visitors. Fortunately, Ranger Chuck always has his camera ready and was able to photograph these wonderful birds. I've been watching them for several weeks.

The yellow-rumped warbler, also known as butter butt, was at Whalers Cove. Three birds were flitting back and forth between the rock rip-rap and the divers' access point and the coastal



yellow-rumped warbler



winter wren

There's a big pile of rounds at Rat Hill. Trees come down during the big storms and the rounds are taken to storage and split into fire wood for the park employees. (Helps save on the cost of propane to heat

the state residences.) The secretive winter wren flits from pile to pile looking for insects.

These raptors having been hunting at the Carmel River Lagoon Wetlands Natural Preserve. The American kestrel has been perching on the top of poles and on the old barn. From its perch it takes off and hovers over its prey before plunging. It feeds on liz-

ards and small mammals, and small birds in winter. The



kestrel

has been around for about two weeks. The merlin catches birds in flight with a sudden burst of speed instead of diving. They will also go after insects and small rodents. Small in stature at about 11 inches in length, they have a wingspan of about 25 inches. And yes, the osprey is still here. This male has been changing its location from Whalers Cove to the Wetlands to



merlin

Carmel Bay. I saw it the other day flying northeast with something big in its talons. When you come by the Reserve ask for Ranger Chuck, and he can tell where he's been seeing it.



osprey

Finding Our Path: A New Era of Access at Point Lobos

Charles Schrammel

Wandering the trails of Point Lobos the human impact is visible in the erosion, occasional garbage, and odd under-educated tourists ducking under wires to avoid walking



CCC workers leveling the trailhead.
Courtesy J. Bentley

fifty feet to a stairway (I personally witnessed this at the base of the Sea Lion Point trail on Saturday November 14th). With high impact usage of this type comes many costs, not least of which is access, and more specifically, disabled access.

Point Lobos is a gorgeous, functioning example of coastal ecosystem, yet much of it remains unavailable to those in wheelchairs, on crutches, or with other limited walking ca-

pabilities. To further prove this point my brother and I made an attempt on the Sea Lion Point trail with my daughters jogging stroller. Even with large wheels we were forced to portage both the stroller and my daughter over many obstacles. In places the trail narrowed to a couple feet, in others the rocks or ruts were too severe to roll over. Carrying the stroller was not impossible, though tiring, and logistically impractical in those areas where the trail narrowed.

With considerable physical work from the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and monetary support from the Point Lobos Association (PLA), the Carmelo Meadows and Granite Point trails have been taken into a new era of access for people of all abilities. The ends of both trails now sport benches and bridges over boggy areas, and drainages that meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, the trail beds have been im-

proved with decomposed granite foundations. These improvements offer a glimpse toward a



sustainable trail system capable of dealing with numerous hikers over a long period of time without eroding, as many of the older Point Lobos trails have done. Access to the Whalers Cove area (including Whalers Cabin, the Pit, Coal Chute Point, and Carmelo Meadow) are now convenient and passable even in wetter weather. Improvements run as far as the Pit; the trail taking hikers to Granite Point remains unchanged.

Walking the new trail system is a comfortable way to enjoy the north end of Point Lobos. In contrast to many other trails the new footpath is free of roots,

rocks, and other tripping hazards, making it possible to spend more time staring into the trees and out



to sea, watching what is happening all around you rather than obstructions underfoot.

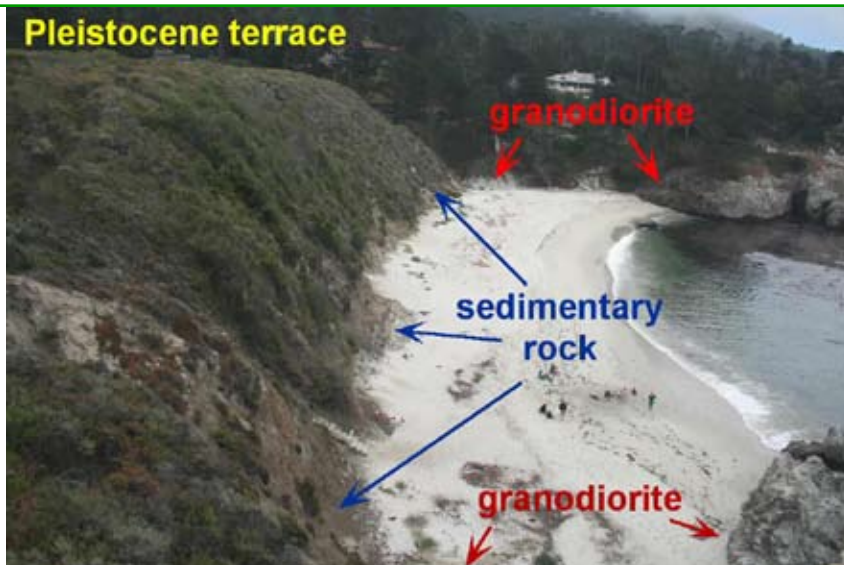


Footbridge construction.
Courtesy J. Bentley



CCC and State Park workers constructing the foundation for the Granite Point trail.
Courtesy J. Bentley

Pleistocene terrace



Rocks of Gibson Beach at the south end of Point Lobos State Reserve.

THE GEOLOGIC ENIGMAS A

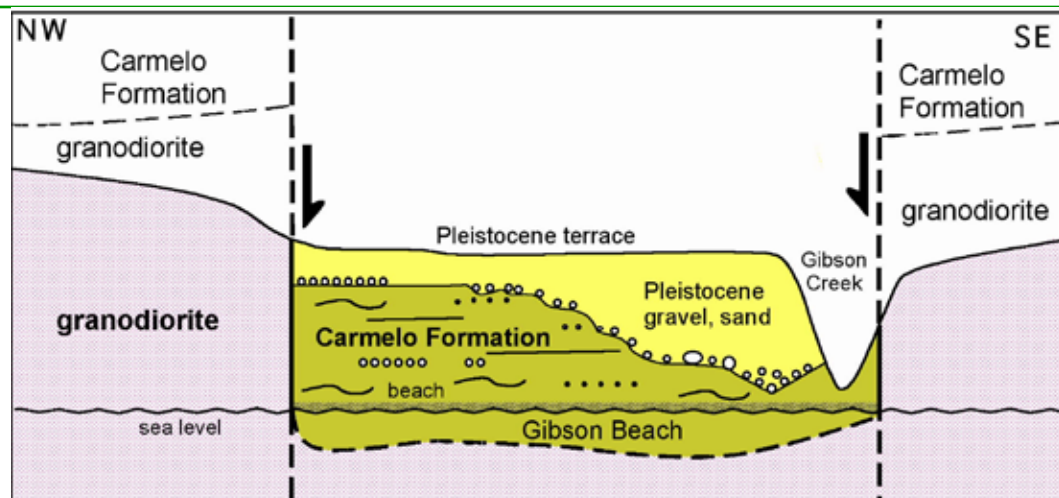
Ed Clifton

Geologists from around the globe come to Point Lobos to examine the remarkable ancient submarine canyon deposits that crop along its shoreline. They ponder processes of underwater gravel transport at Sea Lion Point. At Weston Beach, they puzzle over the myriad traces of animals that lived beneath the canyon floor. They marvel at the complexity near the canyon wall in The Pit. But they rarely visit the sedimentary deposits at Gibson Beach at the southern boundary of the Reserve.

There seems little compelling reason to spend time on these rocks. They are poorly exposed, compared to the marvelous outcrops along the rest of the south shore. The strata consist mostly of monotonous shale. The rocks are sheared and broken: few beds can be traced more than ten feet or so across the outcrop. And finally, the orientation of the strata—they dip steeply seaward roughly parallel to the cliff face—offers only a thin interval of rock for scrutiny. They are, in a word, relatively uninteresting compared to the remarkable exposures of sandstone and conglomerate elsewhere in the Reserve. Yet, these rocks have been an important part of the geological saga of Point Lobos. They are the primary

source of the few fossils that have been found at the Reserve. Early on, geologists noted the presence in these strata of a high-spined snail (*Turritella pachensis*) that lived only during the late Paleocene Epoch (55-60 million years ago). But later, other geologists identified tiny microfossils (foraminifera) in mudstone at Hidden Beach that indicated an early Eocene age (50-55 million years) for the submarine canyon fill at Point Lobos. These geologists noted that the snails at Gibson Beach were not in the best of shape and could have been misidentified. To make matters worse, the fossil snails collected at Gibson Beach have apparently been lost, precluding any attempt at reevaluation. As a result of this apparent conflict, the age of the Carmelo submarine canyon and its fill has been cast in doubt—is it Paleocene or Eocene?

Geologists have long considered the sedimentary strata at Gibson Beach to be part of a faulted block of the Carmelo Formation that was dropped into juxtaposition with the granodiorite (Sketch 1). As such, any observations made of these rocks would therefore bear on the origin and age of the Carmelo.



Sketch 1. Previous interpretation of Gibson Beach strata as a down-faulted block of Carmelo Formation within the granodiorite, as seen in cross-section looking toward the beach from the sea.

AT GIBSON BEACH

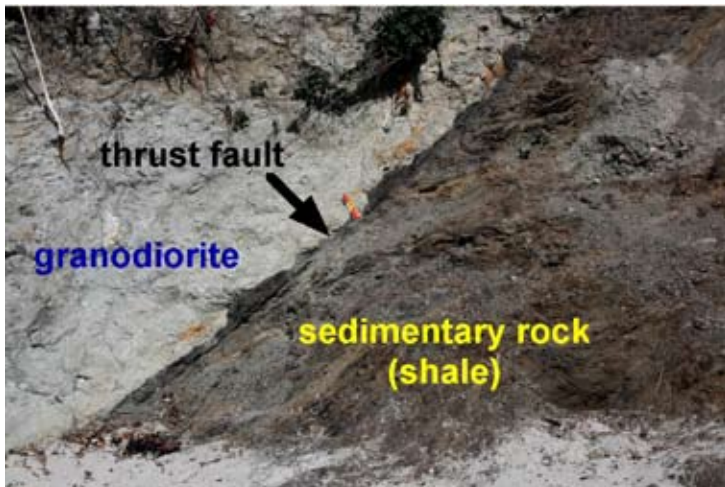
Some similarity exists between the Gibson Beach strata and the Carmelo Formation. Both were probably deposited on an unstable slope in water depths measured in hundreds, if not thousands, of feet. But the Gibson Beach strata are mostly shale, a rock type uncommon in the Carmelo Formation, and although a few volcanic rock pebbles are present in the few sandstone beds at Gibson Beach, there are no conglomerates like those that dominate the Carmelo Formation. Thin-bedded sandstones, common at Weston Beach and elsewhere in the Carmelo, are uncommon at Gibson Beach, where they also lack the abundant trace fossils found in such beds in the Carmelo Formation. Other differences exist as well. The relation between the two sets of rocks remained an enigma.

The giant waves associated with the January 2008 storm cleanly exposed the contact between the granodiorite and the sedimentary rocks at Gibson Beach and allowed us to see, perhaps for the first time, its true nature. Rather than being in a down-dropped fault block, the sedimentary rock here underlies the granodiorite. The contact is a thrust fault (Sketch 2, next page) along which

the igneous rock was pushed over the sedimentary strata. The Gibson Beach strata thus have no necessary relation to the Carmelo Formation.

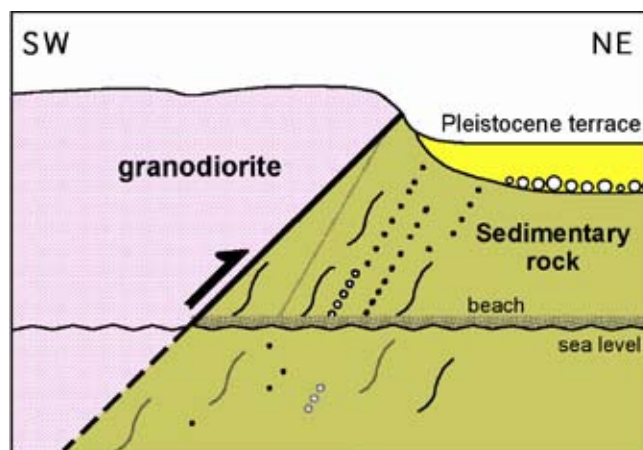
Typically in geologic studies, new observations raise new questions, and a revised view of the geology at Gibson Beach is no exception. Some of these can be answered; others remain unanswered.

Are the sedimentary rocks at Gibson Beach part of the Carmelo Formation or something else? The definition of the Carmelo Formation has changed since it was named and first described in 1893 as the "Carmelo Series," a derived name from "Point Carmelo," the term used on U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Maps of the day for what we presently call "Point Lobos" (on these maps, "Point Lobos" applied only to Sea Lion Point). The Carmelo Series was described as conglomerate and sandstone of perhaps Eocene age (34-55 million years ago), without regard to origin. In the following years, as the age and depositional setting have become better known, the definition has been refined. Today the "Carmelo Formation" applies to sedimentary rocks on and around the Monterey Peninsula, deposited in a deep marine setting during late



Thrust fault at the north end of Gibson beach.

Sketch 2. Revised interpretation of Gibson Beach strata, as seen in cross-section looking toward the north-western end of the beach. Granodiorite is thrust over the sedimentary rocks.



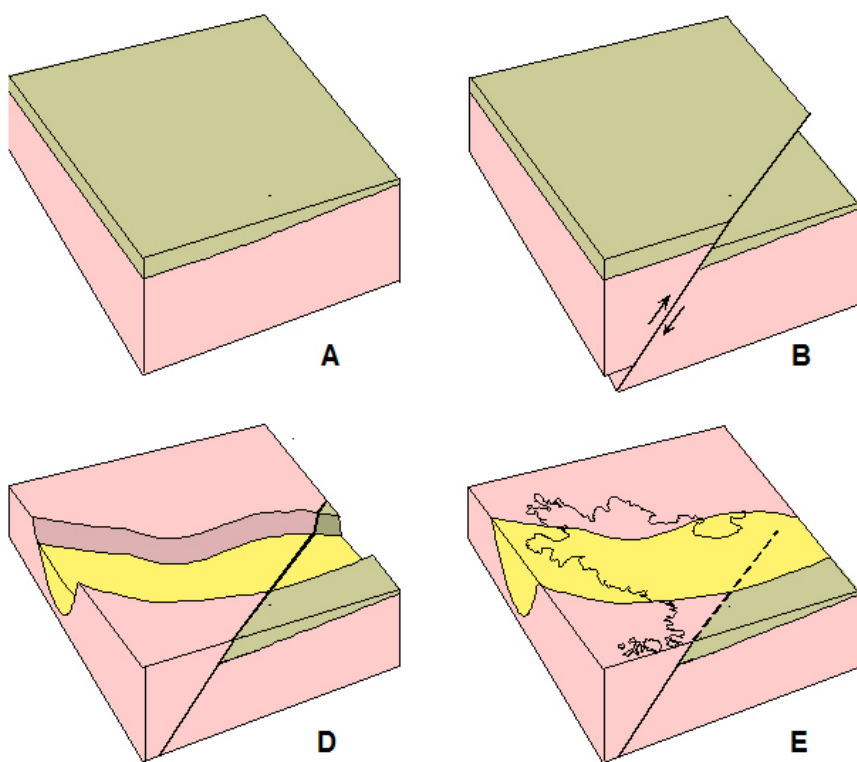
Paleocene to early Eocene epochs (50-60 million years ago). Since the strata at Gibson Beach fit this definition, there is no reason to call them anything other than Carmelo Formation.

More important than the name is how these strata fit into the geologic history of Point Lobos. Previously, the most simple (and hence most likely) explanation for these deposits is that they accumulated at the same time as the canyon fill, but off to the side out of the main part of the canyon, and were dropped by faulting to their present position. With the recognition of the thrust fault, a different history becomes probable, with a new, hitherto unrecognized chapter. As before, the geologic story of Point Lobos begins with the cooling of the granodiorite at depth within the earth, somewhere in Southern California (or northern Mexico) and continues with uplift and exposure of the granodiorite in deep water

on the margin of the continent (or the landward side of a large basin at the continental margin).

The new chapter begins during the late Paleocene Epoch (55-60 million years ago), when marine mud accumulated deep beneath the sea atop the exposed crystalline rock (block diagram A). The deposition of this mud was episodically interrupted by debris slides coming down the slope from shallower water. The rocks thus produced crop out today at Gibson Beach.

The timing of succeeding events is uncertain. We have evidence that the submarine canyon was filling with sand and gravel during the early Eocene Epoch (50-55 million years ago), but cannot say if the thrust fault at Gibson Beach developed before, after, or during the cutting of the canyon. If the fault could be found to displace the canyon fill, it would prove that it is younger than the fill. Burial of the fault by the fill, on the other hand, would demonstrate that thrust-faulting predated



Sketch 3. Block diagrams showing possible evolution of the lower Paleogene sedimentary rocks at Point Lobos. A. Mud (tan) accumulates on a deep marine slope atop Late Cretaceous granodiorite (pink). B. Thrust fault breaks the section and pushes granodiorite over the mud (shale). D. A submarine canyon cuts into both the shale and the granodiorite and begins to fill with sand and gravel (yellow). E. Possible situation today against an outline of Point Lobos. In this interpretation, development of the thrust fault precedes the cutting of the canyon. Equally plausible scenarios can be developed in which thrusting follows canyon filling. Their difficulty is the problem of tracing the fault through, and offsetting, the canyon fill.

the canyon. Unfortunately, we cannot trace the thrust fault inland from the shoreline—a lack of inland rock exposure hampers observation and interpretation. The block diagrams show a sequence of events in which the fault predates the canyon, but other scenarios, where the faulting postdates the canyon filling, are also possible. The interpretation shown was selected because it was the easiest to draw, and because we have nowhere seen similar thrust faults displacing the canyon fill.

How extensive is the thrust fault and the sedimentary section beneath the granodiorite? Does our Point Lobos “foundation” sit at depth atop another succession of sedimentary and igneous rocks? Some thrust faults can move overlying rock for miles relative the underlying strata. The amount of fault displacement at Gibson Beach, however, may not be particularly large. The thrust fault probably crosses the rocks on the south side of the Gibson Beach cove, but its trace is incon-

veniently hidden behind a set of rockwork stairs. Nearby, adjacent to the mouth of Gibson Creek, the shale appears to rest depositionally on granodiorite. Hence the crystalline rock seems to lie just beneath the shale; moving it over this sedimentary rock would not require a lot of displacement.

Although thrust faults have been known to generate some particularly nasty earthquakes, the fault at Gibson Beach is unlikely to present a significant seismic hazard. Although it is the largest fault at Point Lobos, it seems to have limited offset, as noted above. It is probably also a very old fault. Thrusting occurs where the rock strain is compressive, a stress field common to subducting continental margins. The continental margin of Central California ceased to be subductional about 30 million years ago.

Ed Clifton, Geologist Emeritus, U.S. Geological Survey, wrote A Fossil Submarine Canyon for the Summer 2008 issue of this magazine.

Quotes from the Docent Log

edited by Stan Dryden



August 28: Glen Eubanks

I heard a rustling behind the Information Station, and saw a brush rabbit chewing on a brown stem of grass. I thought that surely it could find something better. Later it was still there, chewing on the green top of the giant rye grass it had cut down. It stayed for about an hour enjoying its meal. Later yet a fist-sized baby bunny appeared in the parking lot. I was able to point it out to several visitors.

August 29: Barbara Baldock

It was a beautiful morning today at Pt. Lobos. My husband Phil and I had the 9 – 11 am shift at the Whalers Cabin. Kevin the lifeguard asked Phil to watch him through binoculars as he paddled out to talk to a guy on a sailboat who was anchored in Whalers Cove. He had been there since yesterday. The park

aide told us it was an archeologist who had obtained permission. This turned out to not be the case.. Kevin said it is illegal for a boat to anchor in the cove unless it is an emergency. Kevin told us that

the guy argued with him so he left and came back to shore and called the Coast Guard. We were glad he was safe, as there was little we could do from shore except watch.

Sept. 6: Sally Sikes

Labor Day weekend. I was walking on the Lace Lichen Trail with my family. As we approached the entrance station end of the trail I saw a plant I had never seen before, growing on a pine tree on the road (north) side of the trail at eye level. Luckily my daughter, a botanist, was with me and told me it was pine

mistletoe. I was so surprised because it looks nothing like the familiar oak mistletoe. It's always fun to discover something new to me at Point Lobos.

Sept. 7: Terry Tellep

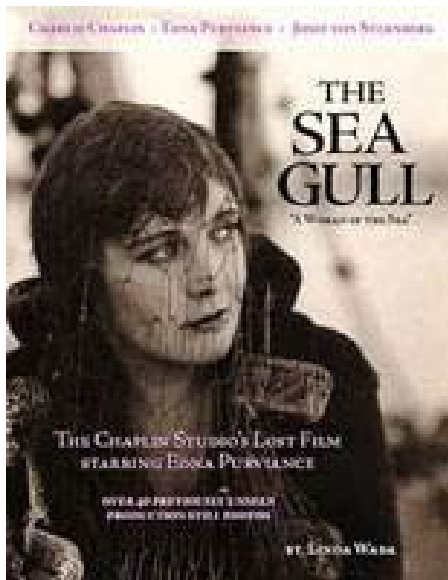
At Whalers Cabin two young inquisitive sisters took me in tow asking that I explain just about every display and item in the museum. Arriving at the "Movie Making at Point Lobos" display they pointed to the photo of Edna Purviance in the 1926 film *The Seagull* in which she has a fishing net draped dramatically over her head. "Why does she have that net over her head?" they asked. I replied "I'm not sure, I haven't seen the

movie...How do you think it got there?" The eldest piped up "Maybe they were fishing for ladies, instead of fish."

At Information Station, a group of young adult linguistic students

from the Monterey Institute of International Studies were great entertainment. One had seen the clipping of an otter holding a video camera at Elkhorn Slough, and asked me how to pronounce the word "slough." I gave the correct pronunciation.





tion, and then they looked up its meaning and etymology on an iPhone. Besides slough being an inlet, we learned it has another meaning—a state of deep depression, moral degradation, or spiritual dejection—as in “slough of despond.”

What a great title for a poem!

Later when I was at China Cove, the beach was packed – I counted over 50 people. Babies in grandparent’s arms and families of varied constellations stretched out on colorful blankets. A lone umbrella offered shade on this sunny Labor Day holiday. Faces and bodies relaxed. Big smiles. Lying on the beach, I closed my eyes to listen to the music of children and families talking energetically in many languages, and laughing in a universal one – all against the background of the soothing lapping of the tourmaline waves. Gilded in the late afternoon light, a kneeling and squatting circle of toddlers and young children, all of different nationalities, were engrossed at the water’s edge – they had dug a large hole in the sand,

and were peering deeply into it, fascinated by a treasure they had found. With rapt attention they were keenly observing a crab. A perfect portrait of cultures uniting in their fascination and delight in nature.

Sept. 8: Lynne McCammon

The peninsula has been having beautiful weather and Tuesday September 8 (the day of the otter count) was no exception. As usual, with the large amount of kelp present it was a tough job finding our furry friends. I am happy to report our count: 27 adults and 2 pups. The baby otters were quite small. Maybe they were born in recent weeks. Bird Island was devoid of any birds. They have all moved to Sea Lion Point.

Sept. 12: Rick Pettit

Early evening in late summer along the south shore

The sun hidden,
the light soft gray

Surf bounces high off the
Weston rocks, and booms
in the hollowed coves

Trails dusty; awaiting rain

Gray-green spikes of pungent sage, burnt umber of buckwheat’s spent flowers, the bright yellow splash of mock heather’s late bloom

Cormorants stipple the island, black against white, silent

Now a broad-winged blue heron softly lands, and stalks through the crowd, who quickly part in deference

The surf cascades and swirls

The day imperceptibly ending

And then, through the birds, a quick ripple passes: a

peregrine darts over, and lands halfway up the whitened slope, where he stands in the falling light, alone, still, shrewd.

Sept. 14: Sharon Hoffman

The traffic was heavy out on the ocean today. Dolphins were spotted off Cypress Grove, as well as humpback whales. A woman rushed to the Information Station to say she thought she saw a blue whale. She recognized it from the shape of the spout—a narrow stem spreading out in the shape of a plume. We looked it up in a whale book, and it was exactly as she had described! She was very happy, and I was also happy that she had seen it.

Sept. 19: Jeff Johnson

I was one of five docents leading walks for a student group of approximately 60 college and graduate school students. They were here for a World Wildlife Federation convention in Monterey. We met at the entrance station, and had a two-hour time budget.

I took my group on a loop hike that included Whalers Cove, North Shore Trail, the Info Station where I picked up a scope, Sea Lion Point, Piney Woods, and the Pine Ridge and Mound Meadow trails. At Bluefish Cove we saw a great blue heron, a great egret, and a snowy egret fishing together on the kelp canopy. At Sea Lion Point we saw a raft of otters, harbor seals, and California sea lions. The visitors, as smart and engaged a group as can be imagined, were ecstatic!

Sept. 23: Rick Pettit

While minding Whalers Cabin, I chanced into conversation with the archeologist assigned to the Granite Point Trail accessibility project. He had recently found a Rumsien tool: a bone awl from the bluff above Whalers Cove. And, working in the Coal Chute Point vicinity, he had unearthed some small stones, some black, some white. Hmmm. Could they be...? When late 19th-century Indian-head pennies were found in the same spot it offered an explanation. These stones and coins belonged to Japanese men who had been gambling the game Go; probably on the porch of one of the Kodani Village houses. These stories fired my mind with vivid pictures of days gone by at Point Lobos, as will undoubtedly be the case for future Reserve visitors who gaze on these artifacts.

Sept. 27: Stan Dryden

A visiting former history professor (Rutgers and UC Berkeley) told me that otter

pelts were traded to China in the 1800s, mostly by Boston fur traders. He said that this was a major market for otter pelts, in that the United States did not have much else of interest to the Chinese. Otter was considered a royal fur in China.

Oct. 13: Lynne McCammon

Not very often does weather interfere with the otter count. Prior to Tuesday the weather people were warning us of an upcoming storm. Well, they were right! The water that the storm brought was welcomed, but not the destruction that it caused. After calling the otter counting crew to cancel I contacted the park aide at the entrance kiosk to inform her of what was going on. She informed me that the Point was closed due to the high winds and rain causing it to be unsafe.

Oct. 14: June Banks While walking Cypress Grove Trail, I scan my surroundings for movement to help spot birds, etc. (hope-



fully a bobcat). I was heading toward the point from the tree-trunk-turned-bench, when I saw the movement of a family of quail, on the ground. Usually I see quail in what must be a favorite type of location, on a fallen tree, horizontal now, which is somehow propped up so it's a few feet off the ground. But here was a family with 6 young ones, scratching at the ground, and each action sent a plume of dust out behind the bird. It was sort of charming to see these little dust storms arising from the busy group, looking for food, I assume.

Oct. 15: Connie Dallmann

I thought the large number of Heermann's gulls seen at Whalers Cove last month would be temporary, but it appears that they are encamped for the winter. Today, many of them were excitedly fishing along with cormorants and Western gulls.





Also saw great egrets, snowy egrets, double-crested cormorants, and Western grebes.

Oct. 18: June Banks

While I was on duty at Whalers Cabin, Ranger Chuck Bancroft stopped his truck outside, quickly came inside to get the telescope and tripod, and set it up outside the cabin. He called to me, "Want to see an osprey?" Excitement!

As he was driving, Ranger Chuck had noticed something

in a tree across Whalers Cove, and sure enough, there was a beautiful osprey in a Monterey pine. He told all the visitors nearby about what they could see in the scope, told them about the bird, and soon visitors were telling other visitors about it. Chuck was in the cabin telling tales about when he lived there. He enjoyed all of this for almost an hour. I brought a bird book outside to show the osprey



page, and it was passed around. A couple of people said they'd never seen a "bird book" before.

New discoveries all around! And of course, I enjoyed telling people about the other

birds and animals in the cove that day.

Enthusiasm is wonderful, because it attracts people who perhaps weren't interested in birds, but they join the group, see the osprey, hear the reactions around them, and perhaps they gain a new appreciation of the natural world. Perhaps they will notice birds, trees, etc., more often.

One man talked about how being in nature was so calming and important to him, and he was so excited about the osprey that he started out to walk the trail in hopes of getting a photo close-up. Later I walked that same newly opened handicapped-accessible trail (which is wonderful) and we met again. He was so happy about the pictures he had taken and wanted to share them. He enthused again about how much he enjoyed Point Lobos.

Oct. 21: Sandy Wagner

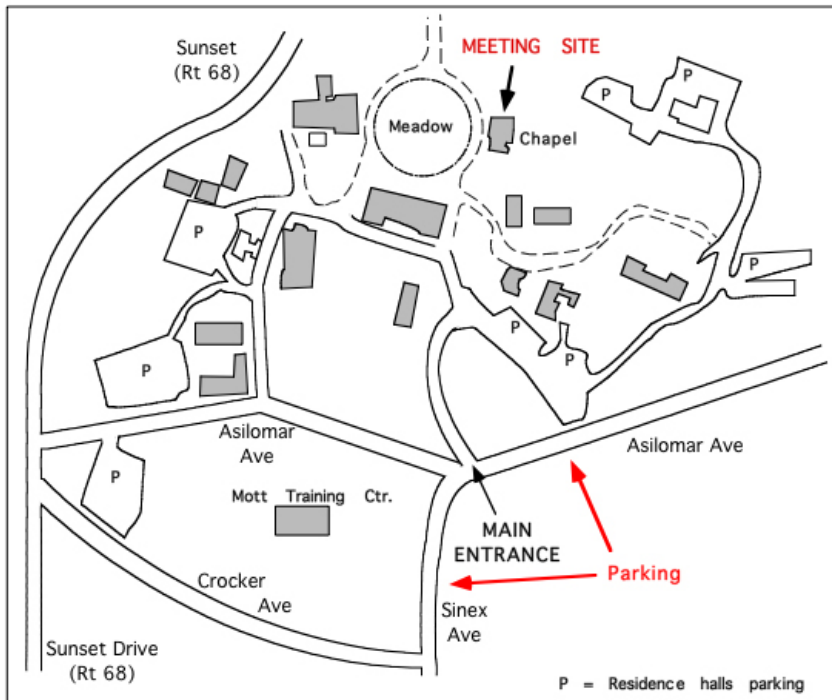
Today we had an auspicious visitor in Whalers Cabin. Three young people walked in, and I heard one of them point out Mr. Allan in a photograph and identify him as a family member. With my curiosity piqued, I asked him his relationship and he introduced himself as Cory Mast, the great, great, great grandson of A. M. Allan. He did not remember many details about Mr. Allan; though he did remember fondly his time spent at Point Lobos as a child. This charming young man is now a student at UC Davis.



Point Lobos Association Annual

Membership Meeting:

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 at 9 am
Asilomar Conference Center chapel



Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove
Location of the Chapel, meeting site for the Annual Point Lobos Association Members Meeting

Join us at the Chapel at the Asilomar Conference Center, 800 Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove for our Annual Meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Jim Covell, Senior Manager for Guest Experience at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, who for the past 22 years has worked with over 700 volunteer guides and staff members at the Aquarium on ways to share the magic of Monterey Bay with aquarium visitors. Jim will be speaking on *Point Lobos, An Interpreter's Playground – the challenge of interpreting the unique resources of Point Lobos Reserve to a diverse audience.*

Jim Covell is a founding member and Fellow of the National Association for Interpretation, and currently serves as its President. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the foremost authorities on the art of interpreting the natural world.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a social period and morning refreshments. The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., and will include a report on the Association's activities during the past year and the election of directors to the Association's Board of Directors.

Point Lobos Association



Route 1, Box 62
Carmel, CA 93923
831-625-1470

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