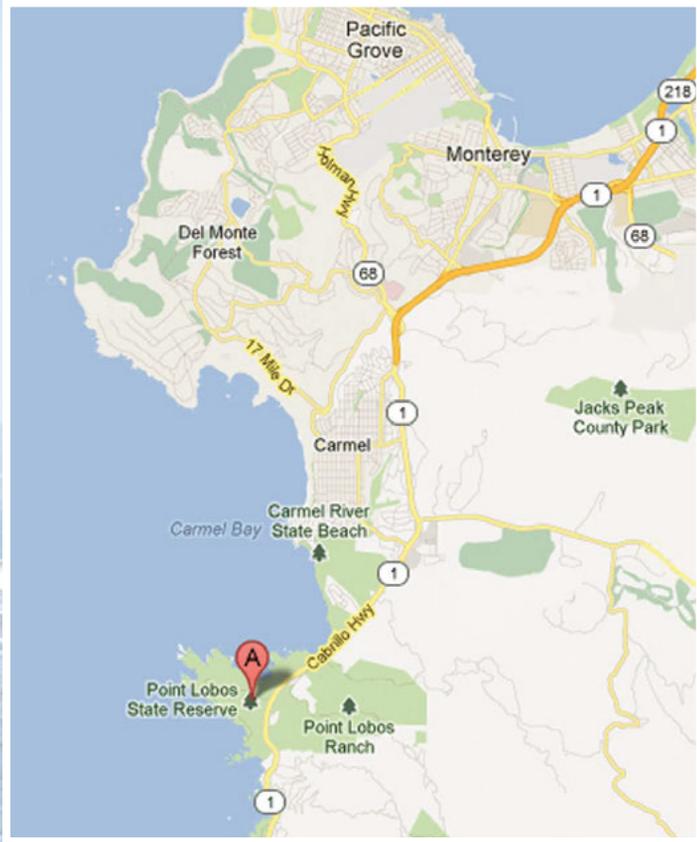


Volume 37 \* Number 4

Winter \* 2013

# POINT LOBOS





Route 1, Box 221789  
 Carmel, CA 93922  
 866-338-7227  
 www.pointlobos.org

**President**  
 Sandy Hale

**Vice President**  
 Augie Louis

**Secretary**  
 Bill Eckert

**Treasurer**  
 John Drum

**Directors**  
 Karen Bernstein  
 Fred Brown  
 Stan Dryden  
 Skip Flohr  
 Sharon Hoffman  
 Jeff Johnson  
 Elizabeth Martinez  
 Patty Parker  
 Stella Rabaut  
 Jay Sinclair  
 Cindy Walter

**Docent Administrator**  
 Judd Perry

**Development Coordinator**  
 Tracy Gillette Ricci

**Cover:**

*A Flurry of YOY: Juvenile Rockfish Surround a Diver*  
 by Phil Sammet

Point Lobos Magazine is printed on recycled paper and published four times per year by the Point Lobos Foundation. Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. PDF versions available at [www.pointlobos.org](http://www.pointlobos.org) Or scan this code.



**Docent Coordinator/School Group Coordinator**  
 Melissa Gobell

**Cooperating Association Liaison**  
 Sean James

**Development and Communications Director**  
 Anna Patterson

**Point Lobos Magazine Editorial Director**  
 Dida Kutz  
 dida@didakutz.org

**Copyeditor**  
 Charles Schrammel

**Image Contributors**  
 Chuck Bancroft  
 Gary Banta  
 Boehms Graphics  
 Fred Brown  
 CSUMB Seafloor Mapping Lab  
 Dida Kutz  
 Denis Lincoln  
 Jonathan Martin  
 Celie Placzek  
 Phil Sammet  
 Pauline Troia  
 Randy Warren

**Features**

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The Rockfish Files<br>Phil Sammet    | 6  |
| Seastar Wasting Disease<br>Chris Mah | 8  |
| A Diver's Eye View of Point Lobos    | 10 |

**Departments**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| A Message From the President<br>Sandy Hale | 3  |
| Observations<br>Sparky Starkweather        | 4  |
| Notes from the Docent Log                  | 12 |
| Announcements                              | 15 |

The Point Lobos Foundation advances visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, protects its natural environment for future generations, and strengthens the Monterey County network of coastal California State Parks.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sandy Hale



Thanks to all of you that came to the Moonlight Walk. Hope (my wife) and I loved it; we hope you did, too. Thanks to the Easy Access team, the Mobile Interpretive Van (MINT) team, and the many informal walk leaders. Thanks to the many donors of food and wine, auction items, and raffle prizes. Thanks especially to the events committee and all that helped make this our most memorable Moonlight Walk ever. For a complete list of supporters and a great video of the event by Fred

Meeting at Asilomar on January 11 will be Ernest Chung, new chair of the State Park and Recreation Commission. Ernest—through the counterpart of the Foundation there—was instrumental in keeping China Camp State Park open. He currently is deeply involved with Parks Forward, the Governor’s initiative to re-envision State Parks. He will take a long-term view of the future of our state parks.

On January 18, we will celebrate Underwater Parks Day at the Reserve. In February, members of the Cypress Grove Steward level or higher are invited to participate in “Mushroom Madness” —a private mushroom hunt at the Santa Lucia Preserve, followed by a mushroom-themed lunch at the Santa Lucia Preserve’s Hacienda. See page 15 of this magazine for more information on both these events.



I am pleased to announce that Patty Parker, a CPA and CFO of Summit Furniture, has joined our Board of Directors. I had the pleasure of serving with Patty when she was treasurer of one of the largest non-profits in Monterey County. Welcome, Patty! This is my final “President’s Message.” At the Annual Meeting, we will put forward director Augie

Louis

Brown, go to [pointlobos.org/themoonlightwalk](http://pointlobos.org/themoonlightwalk)

Thanks to first-time grantors the Yellow Brick Road for support of school walks, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District for support of the Lace Lichen Trail extension, and the California State Parks Foundation for its technical assistance grant. Thanks also to the McGraw Hill Companies and Demand Solutions Group for providing volunteers and grant funding to restore damaged trails... and thanks to all of you who tore up the old trailbed and made countless trips with full wheelbarrows on our own trail work day on October 19.

The featured speaker at this year’s Annual

to be president. I thank everyone on the board; and I thank all of you who, through the Foundation, directly support the Reserve. The needs are growing, and your support is critical. Please consider making a year-end donation...and, again, thank you.



---

# Observations

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

The holidays are fast approaching and with them come family gatherings, great feasts, and of course, football. Go Niners! A holiday get-together would not be complete without the turkey.

The wild turkey, throughout its range, plays a significant role in the cultures of many Native American tribes in North America. Outside of the Thanksgiving feast, it is a favorite meal in eastern tribes. Eastern Native American tribes consumed both the eggs and meat, sometimes turning the latter into a type of jerky to preserve it and make it last through cold weather. They provided habitat by burning down portions of forests to create artificial meadows to attract mating birds, and thus give a clear shot to hunters. The feathers of turkeys also often made their way into the rituals and headgear of many tribes.

Most North American kids learn turkey identification early, by tracing outlines of their hands to make Thanksgiving cards. These big, spectacular birds are an increasingly common sight the rest of the year too, as flocks stride around woods and clearings like miniature dinosaurs. The wild turkey's popularity at the table led to a drastic decline in numbers, but they have recovered and now occur in every state except Alaska.

Wild turkeys travel in flocks and search on the ground for nuts, berries, insects, and snails. They use their strong feet to scratch leaf litter out of the way. In early spring, males gather in clearings to perform courtship displays. They puff up their

body feathers, flare their tails into a vertical fan, and strut slowly while giving a characteristic gobbling call. At night, turkeys fly up into trees to roost in groups.

Predators of both adults and young include coyotes, bobcats, cougars, eagles and (with the exception of adult males) great horned owls, and domestic dogs.

Wild turkeys live in mature forests, particularly nut trees such as oak, hickory, and beech, interspersed with edges and fields. You may also see them along roads and in woody backyards. After being hunted out of large parts of their range, turkeys were reintroduced and are numerous once again.

The idea that Benjamin Franklin preferred the wild turkey as the national bird of the United States comes from a letter he wrote to his daughter Sarah





Bache on January 26, 1784. The main subject of the letter is a criticism of the Society of the Cincinnati, which he likened to a

chivalric order, which contradicted the ideals of the newly-founded American republic. In one section of the letter, Franklin remarked on the appearance of the bald eagle on the Society's crest:

Others object to the bald eagle as looking too much like a dindon, or turkey. For my own part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly; you may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk; and, when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him, and takes it from him. With all this injustice he is never in good case; but, like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward; the little kingbird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America, who have driven all the kingbirds from our country; though exactly fit for that order of knights, which the French call Chevaliers d'Industrie.

I am, on this account, not displeased that the figure is not known as a bald eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a

much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours; the first of the species seen in Europe, being brought to France by the Jesuits from Canada, and served up at the wedding table of Charles the Ninth. He is, besides (though a little vain and silly, it is true, but not the worse emblem for that) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards, who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on.

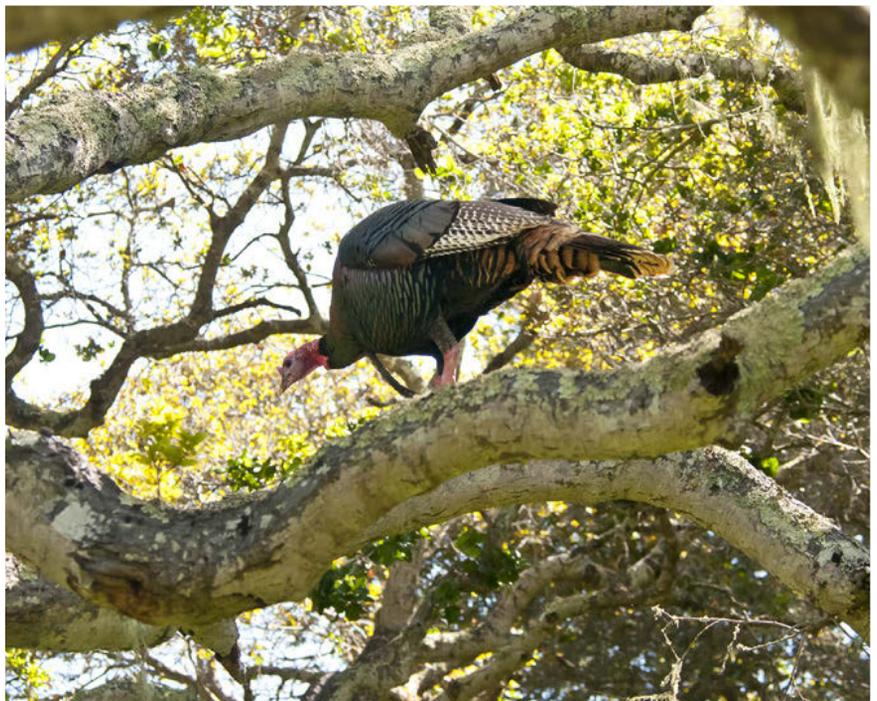
*References:*

Dickson, James G., *The Wild Turkey: Biology and Management* (A National Wild Turkey Federation and USDA Forest Service book). Stackpole Books, 1992.

Pritzker, Barry M., *A Native American Encyclopedia*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Hutto, Joe, *Illumination in the Flatwoods: A Season with the Wild Turkey*. New York: Lyons & Burford, 1995.

Smyth, Albert Henry, ed., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, Vol. 10 (NY: The Macmillan Company, 1905-7).



---

# Captain Phil Sammet

Diver Representative, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## The Rockfish Files



**T**his year is like no other year I have seen in my 25 years of diving the Monterey peninsula. The reefs and kelp forests around Point Lobos and the entire Monterey peninsula are teeming with young rockfish.

Each spring the many species of rockfish release massive amounts of larvae into the water column. Unlike many bony fish that broadcast fertilize, our local rockfish fertilize eggs internally. After the eggs are fertilized the larvae are released en masse for

strategic reasons. After being released the larval rockfish are pelagic, living near the surface of the ocean. They float around for several months before settling on the reefs in schools of “young-of-the-year” or “YOY.” While in the pelagic stage they become prey to all types of other fish, including other rockfish.

The “magic” happens between the pelagic stage and settlement on the reefs. Water temperature, predation,

currents, and many unknown factors directly affect how many fish make it to the juvenile stage. But any long time diver in this area can tell you that this year was big.

Some things we do know: larger, older rockfish produce more eggs, therefore, more larvae. Point Lobos and other Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that have been created in past years allow many species of rockfish to grow and become more reproductively potent. I believe this is one contributing factor in this year’s amazing recruitment of rockfish. If you are looking for the payoff for MPAs, this is it. There are millions of baby rockfish swimming around Point Lobos waiting to be eaten by lingcod, larger rockfish, and salmon. My commercial fisherman friends caught salmon this year with their bellies full of not squid or baitfish, but with rockfish. From my experience this is unusual.

I have also been listening to fish biologists at the National Marine Sanctuary meetings. Their science seems to back up what we as recreational divers are seeing, the largest recruitment of rockfish since such things have been recorded. I can imagine the population of rockfish doubling in just a few short years.

In the meantime, all the animals around Point Lobos are enjoying this year’s bumper crop of rockfish. Shearwaters, sea lions, cormorants, harbor seals,

---

and even the divers have been seeing Mother Nature at her best.

I should add a word of caution here. Even with this year's abundance of fish, and the best humpback whale shows I have ever seen, we must be ever vigilant and keep our eyes on the big picture. Ocean acidification and pollution are continuing to threaten our oceans like never before. Although our body of water seems to be improving, overfishing and warming waters worldwide are ever-present threats to the health and well being of our sanctuary and our future. It is my goal to give the next generation a better environment in the future.



# Seastar Wasting Disease

by Dr. Chris Mah



The west coast of North America is home to an endemic and iconic fauna of starfishes, displaying a striking diversity of form and occupying a multitude of ecological roles. Sea stars (also known as asteroids or starfish) are among the most familiar of marine animals and in some cases, such as with *Pisaster ochraceus*—the ochre star—are well known as model organisms for the keystone species concept in ecology (i.e., that one species' presence has a powerful influence on the structure of the community). Similarly, the large multi-armed sunflower star, *Pycnopodia helianthoides*, a fast sea star predator with 20-25 arms, whose presence sends potential prey quickly scurrying out of the way, is also a familiar inhabitant of shallow-water settings in the Pacific Northwest.

These prominent and colorful species are the highlights of any tide-pooling trip to the Pacific Northwest coast. Ochre stars are a common highlight as their bright orange and purple colors stand out against the bluish-grey of the dense mussel beds upon which they sit and feed. Sea stars are familiar animals to any tide-pool visitor or SCUBA diving enthusiast.

But something is wrong.

Observations from divers have seen dramatic cases of starfish populations affected by Starfish Wasting Syndrome. A mysterious wave of symptoms, including pronounced white lesions, arm loss (with no regeneration), and tissue deterioration has been observed in British Columbia and California and gone by the names Starfish Wasting Syndrome or Starfish Wasting Disease. A starfish die-off on the east coast of the familiar Atlantic species, *Asterias forbesi*, is also now being recognized.

In British Columbia, a massive die-off of sea stars left scientific diver Jonathan Martin shocked as he ran surveys through regions that were once carpeted by sunflower stars. All that remained were white,

decayed piles of tissue and a skeleton where once a disk, arms, and tube feet were present. (Video here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElSbLpQQows](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElSbLpQQows))

Accounts of Starfish Wasting Syndrome have also been reported among researchers, citizen scientists, divers, and interested others in California as well. Although reports of wasting syndrome in California have not been as dramatic, it remains to be seen how much of an impact has been made on populations of different sea star populations along the California coast.

Starfish Wasting Syndrome itself remains poorly understood. At the moment, it remains unclear exactly what sort of agent causes it. Research on the “disease” suggests that it is associated with higher temperatures and in some cases, habitats with poor current flow. The disease is observed in different species of sea stars, suggesting an environmental issue is at play.

The full ecological impact of a starfish die-off is uncertain. The loss of sea stars for marine ecosystems can have significant and important ramifications. Sea stars occupy significant, if not, vital roles in their ecosystems, ranging from predators to detritivores. Removal of a sea star predator from a system that had previously been in balance can result in unbridled growth of potential prey species such as mussels or sea urchins. There are many accounts of sea urchin “barrens” where the removal of predators, such as sea otters, has resulted in a huge population explosion resulting in a monoculture of animals, changing the ecological structure of a community.

Citizen science has been rallied in an effort to begin monitoring of this situation with multiple institutions tracking incidences of starfish wasting syndrome along the coast. Hopefully these observations can provide us with useful information on the dynamics involved with this disease.

Inaturalist site: [www.inaturalist.org/projects/pisaster-disaster-tracking-starfish-wasting-disease](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pisaster-disaster-tracking-starfish-wasting-disease)

UC Santa Cruz monitoring site: [www.eeb.ucsc.edu/pacificrockyintertidal/data-products/sea-star-wasting/index.html](http://www.eeb.ucsc.edu/pacificrockyintertidal/data-products/sea-star-wasting/index.html)

Vancouver Aquarium: [www.vancouveraqua.org/act/research/sea-stars](http://www.vancouveraqua.org/act/research/sea-stars)



*I was dismayed to see evidence of this disease in three species of sea stars while diving at Bluefish Cove a couple times during the month of November. Not only did I see it in rainbow stars (photo above left; confirmed by CM), but also in giant spined and sunflower stars.*

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

*Chris Mah is a research collaborator at the National Museum of Natural History and author of the highly engaging Echinoblog at [www.echinoblog.blogspot.com](http://www.echinoblog.blogspot.com)*

—DK

---

# A Diver's Eye View of Point Lobos State Marine Reserve Without Getting Wet



Until now, the only way to experience the amazing topography of the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve has been to secure one of the 30 permits issued each day to proficient divers. Even then, without the guidance of someone extremely familiar with the territory within the Reserve, you'd be unlikely to know where you have been while seeing the extraordinary kelp forests, schools of fish, and friendly seals.

Point Lobos is an amazing underwater seascape. Imagine crazy knife-edge structures as tall as skyscrapers; giant pinnacles

unravaged by the erosion of their land-based counterparts; chasms barely wide enough to swim through; ledges dropping into unfathomable depths; topography that was above water before the last ice age, preserved as it must have looked thousands of years ago when the first humans camped on its shore.

But thanks to the efforts of some dedicated members of the Bay Area Underwater Explorers (BAUE) and the generosity of the local dive community, visitors to Whalers Cove will soon be able to visualize what the Point Lobos underwater world looks like—without getting wet.



Soon, a permanent 3D model of the underwater park—measuring 4' wide by 4' long by 1.5' high—will be located near the restrooms at the Whalers Cove parking lot, helping both divers and other visitors understand what lies beneath the sea (see photo).

### Creating a “Must-See” Model for a Must-See Location

Making a museum-quality 3D model of the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve is no simple task. In fact, it is probably the first anywhere to include such levels of accuracy or detail. The model has been literally years in the making, beginning with improving on existing maps, which were fuzzy, inaccurate, and incomplete, and not helpful for visualizing what was below the waves,

In 2010 BAUE began a project to fill the gaps in the mapping data. More than two dozen BAUE divers spent three days braving 44-degree water in a difficult, painstaking manual process of mapping a section of the ocean floor, using knotted and numbered lines to coordinate depth measurements in a grid pattern. They successfully mapped a rectangular section of the underwater topography.

This manual approach, however, was impractical for the entire expanse of the underwater reserve. So BAUE member Gary Banta raised money from the local dive community, BAUE, and Central

California Council of Diving Clubs to fund the use of California State University at Monterey Bay’s (CSUMB) Kelp-fly, high-resolution multi-beam sonar equipment on a special platform, to map the entire undersea area at a 1-meter resolution. The result was a beautiful data set worthy of a model.

Using his own time and expertise, as well as additional contributions, Banta has used a CNC (computer numerical control) machine to carve the shape of the underwater topography in special foam. The foam will be used to create a silicone shell mold into which the final concrete model will be cast.

The displayed model will be made of sand-colored concrete. Other areas will be painted in natural colors to represent rocks, kelp, and above-water rocks and vegetation.

When this impressive, durable model is installed at Whalers Cove, divers will finally be able to picture the underwater topography so they can navigate their way to points of interest. And non-diving visitors will surely gain a greater appreciation for the mysterious realm below the waters, making them more likely to support efforts to preserve and protect this extraordinary treasure. Installation is forecast for later this winter.

Email Gary Banta at [gary@banta.org](mailto:gary@banta.org)



---

# Notes from the Docent Log

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

## Moonlight in Point Lobos

Fred Brown

9/22/2013

Beautiful post-rainfall weather helped make this year's Moonlight Walk event one of the best ever. An enthusiastic group of PLF members and member-docents witnessed the setting sun swallowed by the clear horizon, and paused to catch the legendary green-flash ... still waiting. We then walked the Bird Island Trail searching for the rising moon... It finally rose above the hills at about 9:10 pm, a big, bright beacon lighting up the south shore. Thanks to all who made it happen – the event, not the moonrise, including the PLF board, the Easy Access group and, of course, Anna Patterson and Tracy Gillette-Ricci.

## A "Decent Docent" Prize

Tama Olver

8/23/2013

A sparkling, sunny day with stark white foam on blue water - a perfect day to walk shoreline trails and talk to visitors. The whale watching was wonderful with both humpback and blue whale sightings. Along the North Shore Trail, I encountered a man and his college-age daughter. He said he had a prize for the first "decent docent" he saw that day. His aunt had recently died, and, in going through her things, he had found a book, *Birds of Point Lobos*. The visitor had come with the intention of giving the book to the first "decent docent" he saw. He said I was "more than a decent docent" because of the litter grabber I was carrying and awarded me the prize. The book was written by Milton Frincke and Harold Terry in 1956. The book's map shows some current trails missing, but much of the current Reserve is unchanged. An interesting bird note is the mention of wild California condor sightings in the extreme south-east section of the county, though the birds must have been well on their way to their final rescue by 1956. He asked that I look toward the back of the book for pricing: \$0.10 each, \$1.00 per dozen, and a student price of \$0.05

each. I feel lucky to have been in the right spot at the right time to win the prize and get an authentic glimpse into the Reserve's history.

## Like Clockwork

Tom Clifton

10/30/2013

I love it when a plan comes together. You put a little blurb in the docent newsletter about the annual termite hatch and a few days later we finally get the rain needed to initiate it. The termites did their part, streaming out of their burrows and taking to the air. The birds also did their part, coming out in droves to gobble up as many termites as possible. One black phoebe was so active catching termites I thought it might pop. All of the usual suspects were there: dark-eyed juncos, Bewick's wrens, ruby-crowned kinglets, chestnut-backed chickadees, pygmy nuthatches, Townsend's warblers, California thrashers, and white-crowned sparrows. In addition, I spotted a northern flicker, a yellow-rumped warbler, an orange-crowned warbler, and a western fence lizard taking part in the feast. This fine birding day was made better as I walked along the Whalers Knoll Trail and heard the distinctive hoot of a great horned owl. Not what you are expecting at 2:00 pm, but after a bit of searching, I spotted it in a pine and managed to get a few photos. That made my day...

## From the Mouths of Babes

Fernando Elizondo

10/28/2013

A misty morn didn't dampen the spirits of a fourth grade class from Natividad Elementary School in Salinas. I guided them through a two-mile trail walk... Spotting and hearing sea lions, watching stellar jays looking for a breakfast treat, and examining a very cool-looking spider web. We checked out a super old-looking Monterey cypress, touched a pine cone, and learned the difference between poison oak and California black berry plants. After such a busy morning,

one student offered the most challenging question of the day, "Who made Point Lobos?"

**We Aim to Please**  
**Stan Dryden**  
**10/17/2013**

After not having the answer to the second-most-common visitor question at Point Lobos, I was ready the fifth or sixth time it was asked. Walking down the South Shore Trail, I spotted an otter with pup quite a distance off shore, but just beyond the kelp line. So it was easy to spot when a man asked THE QUESTION near the parking area outside Piney Woods. Got it in my scope, and after the man looked, he called to his wife who was sitting down by the water. As she walked up to the scope she told me, "I have come all the way from Virginia to see an otter." You can probably guess the reaction when she looked through the scope. Her expressions of gratitude set me up perfectly for the old Joe Friday line, "Just doing my job, ma'am."

**Inspiration Points 1**  
**Pauline Troia**  
**10/8/2013**

The most beautiful weather continues. On Sunday an otter, egret, and great blue heron hung around in China Cove enjoying the sun and charming the many visitors. I was fortunate in leading a walk for six Bay Area women accompanied by their art teacher, Rhoda. All were packing compact gear for quick sketches using watercolor, pencils, and pens, with a water reservoir for washes. They were ooh'ing and aah'ing over the scenery, flora, and fauna. In no time their pleasure was translated into remarkable sketches they were pleased to share. Their teacher was kind enough to send some of these inspired works to be shared with the docents.



**Inspiration Points 2**  
**Randy Warren**  
**11/9/2013**

While walking the Bird Island trail and observing a peregrine falcon, I caught a special view and caught the image with my iPad Mini. I went home and from the photo sketched a spring-like interpretation of Bird Island Trail south to the Highlands.

**Mega Moth Spotting**  
**Nelson Balcar**  
**9/12/2013**

Last month, during a public walk on the Cypress Grove Trail, a teen visitor called out from the back of the pack, "What's this neon green thing?" This was not in my docent training! We were all glad to have this observant young man along for the walk as everyone else had passed up this spectacle. With just a quick verbal description, Gail Griffin provided a web link, "This might be your guy?" I think we might have answered the green thing question. The location of the moth in a Ceanothus bush was a clue! The green



caterpillar belongs to the monster Ceanothus silk moth. With a five-inch wing-span, it is possibly the largest moth in North America. The caterpillar is now cocooned in a well-disguised brown mass, and if it is “on time,” the moth should emerge in January or February.

**Above and Beyond Duty's Call**  
**Celie Placzek**  
**9/10/2013**

The wind picked up as we left Bird Island late this morning and started heading up South Shore Trail. Off shore in the kelp bed, we spotted something white floating about and soon we realized that it was an otter playing with a white plastic bottle. It batted the bottle about like a child with a beach ball. In spite of the fun the otter seemed to be having, it made

me ache. We watched the otter for some time as it moved its “ball” north towards Weston Beach. Just south of the entrance to Weston, the wind blew the plastic bottle into the cove—the magical cove where the iridescent kelp hangs along the walls. By now, the otter had lost interest and had disappeared. Now was my chance to do my duty, but I wasn’t willing to go for a swim just yet. I watched anxiously as the strong southerly wind pushed the plastic bottle into a slot between the rocks. I scampered out on the rocks — well actually I made my way on my backside over the rocks ‘cause I don’t have much scamper left in me. There I saw the plastic bottle bobbling just out of reach. Inching my way down toward the water, I was able to hook the bottle with my walking stick—and voila—this discarded mass of plastic was now headed for a more appropriate disposal in the recycle bin rather than in our ocean.

**Die Reine Wahrheit**  
**Anne Mollett**  
**10/23/2013**

It has been very busy at the Reserve this week, perhaps due in part to Yosemite’s closure. Among a group congregated near the pelts was a young girl with her parents. When I realized their English was limited, I asked where they were from. “Germany” was the answer. I wear a badge indicating I speak Spanish, but opportunities to use my fractured German are actually more frequent. Undaunted by my admitted lack of ability, in particular with article and adjective endings, I proceeded to give it my best shot. The parents were clearly relieved and their eight or nine year-old daughter, who had appeared bored, suddenly perked up. I was on a roll about the otter’s diet so I picked up the model of the seeohr (so-named for its ear-like shape?) to continue my story. At the Information Station or Whalers Cabin, no matter the language, I especially enjoy talking with children about the abalone. Before the family departed, I looked at the little girl and said, “Mein Deutsch ist schlecht, nicht wahr?” (My German is bad, isn’t it?) Without a second’s hesitation, she resoundingly replied “Ja!” I was still laughing when I drove out of the Reserve a couple of hours later.



Photo by Denis Lincoln, [dmlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:dmlincoln@gmail.com)

# Share Point Lobos this holiday season

Are you searching for the perfect gift? Give a gift membership to the Point Lobos Foundation and show your loved ones just how important it is to preserve this California treasure.

Members receive a subscription to the beautiful and informative Point Lobos magazine, invitations to exclusive events at the Reserve and a 20% discount on merchandise. Memberships start at just \$25 and are 100% tax-deductible.

**Return the enclosed envelope to join us today!**

## SAVE THE DATE

### POINT LOBOS FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 11 | 9:00 am

Merrill Hall, Asilomar

*Guest speaker is Ernest Chung, Chair of the California Parks and Recreation Commission. Members are welcome to attend.*

### UNDERWATER PARKS DAY

Saturday, January 18 | 11:00 am - 2 pm

Whalers Cove, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

*Learn about our Marine Protected Areas, visit with local coastal preservation groups and get up-close-and-personal with invertebrates. Great for families!*

### MUSHROOM MADNESS!

Saturday, February 8 | 9:00 am - 2 pm

Santa Lucia Preserve and the Hacienda

*An invitation-only event for our most generous supporters- a mushroom hunt led by Ranger Chuck, followed by a four-course mushroom-themed lunch at the Hacienda.*

## MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

*In memory of* **Dr. George Haltiner**

Mary Haltiner

*In memory of* **Kurt Loesch**

Mary Beach

Ray and Eleanor Harder

James and Barbara Tabeta

*In memory of* **Mary Whisler**

William Booker

*In honor of* **Millie Campbell**

Michael L. George

*In honor of* **Evelyn and Bob Apte**

Jean Reilly

## THE SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

*Use of donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, is restricted to the education and direct support of the Point Lobos Docent Program and the school education outreach programs relating to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.*

Wayne Cipperly

Anton and Carolyn Damas

Carl and Carol Voss

## GRANTS

**The Yellow Brick Road**, to provide transportation grants for schools

*The gifts listed above were made between July 16 and October 15.*



*Continued from pg. 14.*

**Beauty and the Beasts**  
**Roger Dolan and Eileen Fukunaga**  
**6/5/2013**

*From Roger's morning shift at Whalers Cabin:*  
Calm morning, the cove is like a millpond.  
Stratus forms a blanket. Small swells  
break upon the beach and  
Time the heartbeat of the sea.  
Grains of sand roll up and back  
at the break of each wave  
Thoughtless in the moment.

*From Eileen's afternoon shift at Whalers Cabin:*  
Nicely said, Roger. I believe there are bats in  
the cabin today. When all the visitors left and  
it was quiet, I could hear them "chattering,"  
probably saying, "Finally, peace at last!"  
Ed. note: On 6/5/2013 the Whalers Cabin  
visitors book was signed by visitors from  
Georgia, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania,  
Colorado, Singapore, Australia, and Canada.

**Congratulations!**  
**Celie Placzek**  
**8/26/2013**

As a docent, when I'm at the Reserve interacting  
with visitors I like to turn them on to seeing  
new things in new ways. When I'm not at the

Reserve, my passion continues spreading and  
sharing its magic through photography. The  
image I made titled *Facing Lo Tide* features  
iridescent seaweed from Weston Cove. It was  
accepted into a juried show at Piedmont's Art  
on the Balcony and won first prize. Through art  
and through words, the magic of Point Lobos  
stretches into a world without boundaries.

