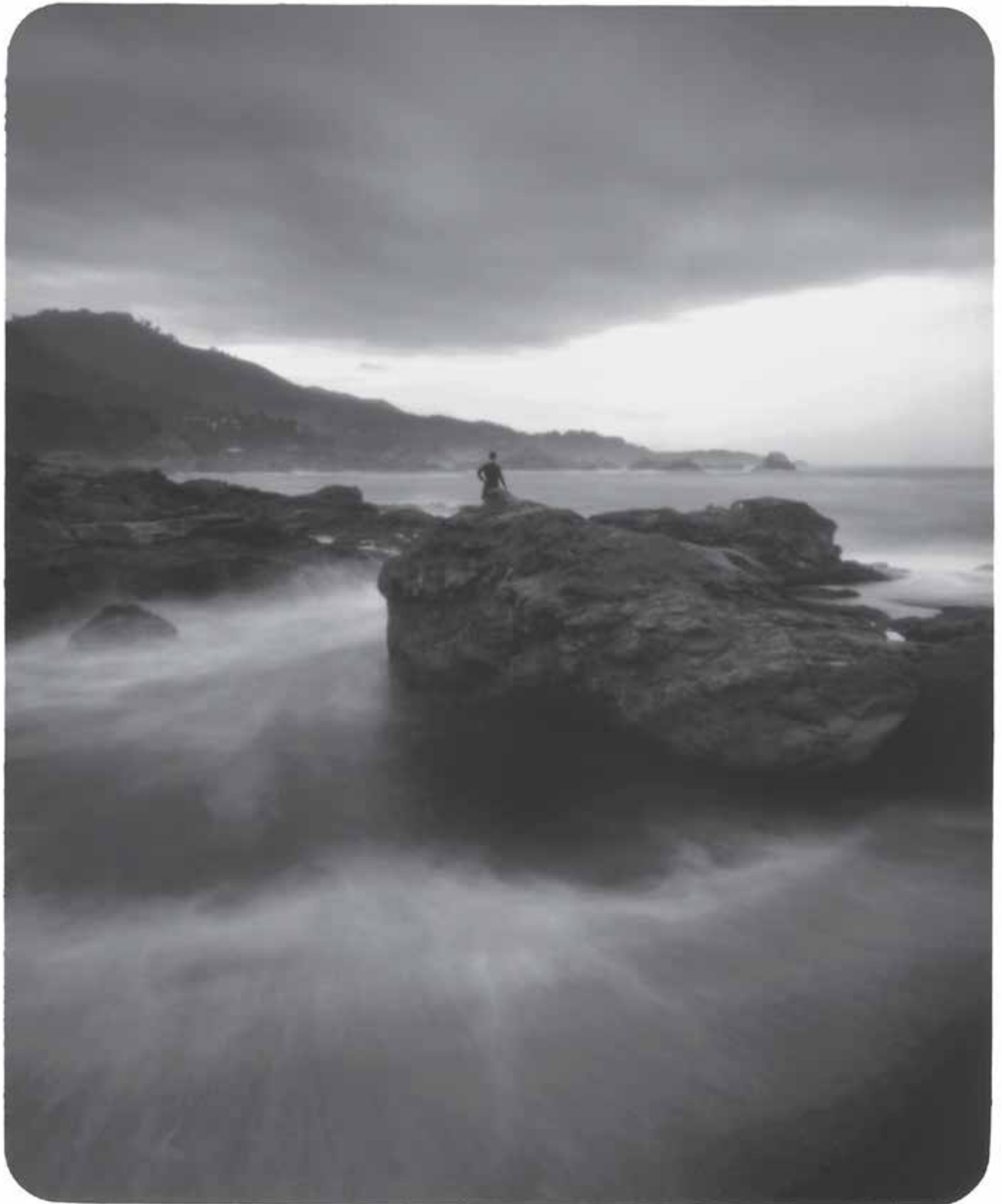


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POINT LOBOS





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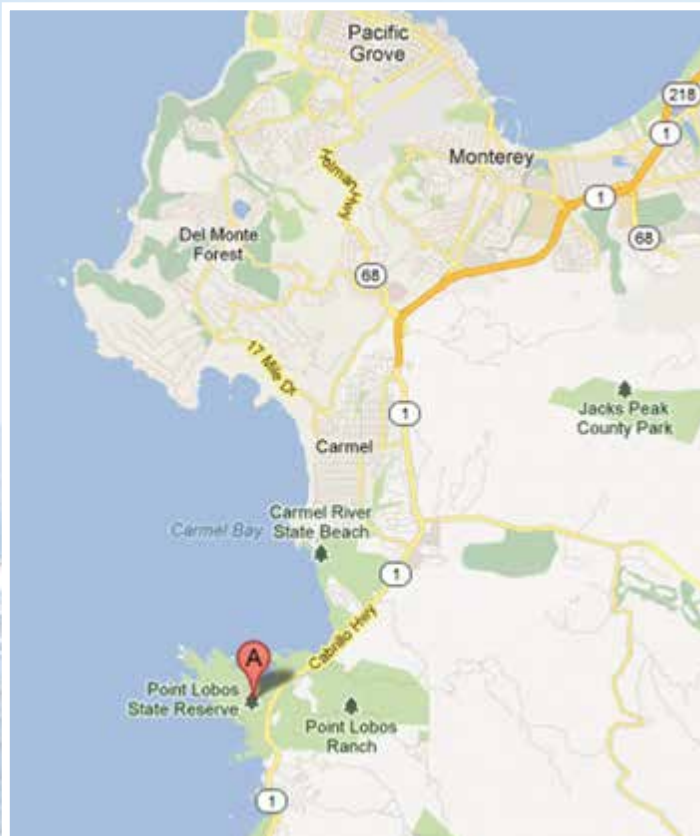
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The Mission Statement of the Point Lobos Foundation is to advance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to protect its natural environment for future generations, and to strengthen the Monterey County network of coastal California State Parks.

Message from the President

Augie Louis



On a perfect summer evening at Piney Woods picnic area we recently hosted the annual docent appreciation dinner. Judd Perry, Tom Clifton, Marie Murphy, Stan Dryden, and Paul Reps received special recognition for their extraordinary hours of service. These five gave between 415 and 560 hours of their time to work at Point Lobos.

Our docents have been particularly important this year. I'm probably not surprising anyone with the news that the visitors being counted at Point Lobos are setting records. There seems to always be a line of cars backed up at the entrance kiosk waiting to get into the Reserve. The number of cars parked along Highway 1 seems to stretch as far as the eye can see. While a big part of our mission is to support and enrich the visitor's experience at Point Lobos the number of visitors is creating problems. We have 180+ docents volunteering their time working within the Reserve. They are straining to keep up with the demands attendance is creating. I want to offer a special thank you to ALL of our volunteer docents. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and recognize your dedication and hard work.

I want to bring you up to date on our efforts toward a new general plan at Point Lobos. State Parks encountered trouble with the performance of their first planning consultant. They have terminated their contract with this firm and have now entered into a new contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc. The big task now is establishing alternate use plans. Alternate use plans are descriptions of what uses are appropriate and which are inappropriate. Initially the focus will be to establish a range of plans from minimal to expansive. There will be public meetings to solicit input and to gauge which uses have the greatest public support. Once the

alternatives are established, a final phase of selecting the preferred plan will be announced and discussed during public meetings. The board of directors will be deeply involved in this effort and we hope all our members and the larger community will be involved as well so the final product will be one we all can support. This effort will provide our roadmap for activities and projects well into the future.

Beyond our borders the Parks Forward Commission has been working very hard developing a roadmap for our state parks across California. They just released their draft report on July 30th. I highly recommend you review this report at <http://bit.ly/1uXw8Fm>. Their recommendations are rooted in two overarching findings. First, today's state parks are debilitated by outdated organizational structures, technologies, and business tools, and by a culture that does not adequately reward excellence or innovation. Second, the system does not provide a park experience that serves all Californians or attract other potential visitors.

A number of their recommendations include building stronger relationships with non-profit partners. This is precisely what our foundation is here for. Furthermore, the draft conclusions seek to develop new amenities for better engagement with the public, particularly our youth and those who do not currently use our parks.

I want to make special mention of Carly Rudiger, who authored the article in our last issue titled "From Point Lobos to Internment and Back Again." Carly is a senior at Carmel High School and did a wonderful job with this article. We are hoping to get more young people involved in the future.

As always thank you for your membership and continuing support.

Observations

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

It's everywhere and very invasive! Look at many of the still-isolated rocky outcroppings throughout the Reserve and you will see this naturalized non-native invasive species, *Carpobrotus edulis*. Fergus the Forager (<http://fergustheforager.co.uk>) tells us that it is "Also known as ice plant, kaffir fig, sour fig, and pig face, hottentot figs are a member of the Aizoaceae or stone plant botanical family. The plant was named after an African tribe that used this plant for food and medicine."

It is believed the fruit was introduced as early as the 1500s, carried in sand used as ship's ballast, then dumped when no longer needed. In England

of Caithness in Scotland." The same practice of ballast dumping occurred here in California as well.

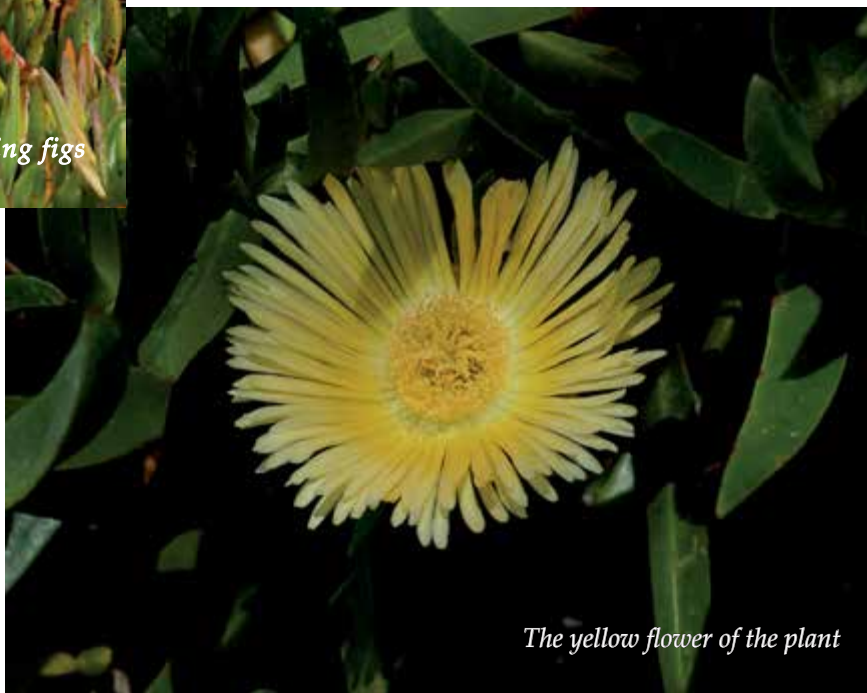
C. edulis was actively introduced here in the early 1900s to stabilize dunes and soil along railroad tracks. It was later put to use by Caltrans for similar purposes. Thousands of acres were planted in California until the 1970s. It is found throughout coastal California and the Channel Islands, especially in areas with a warm winter climate. It inhabits coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, bluffs, dunes, and beaches, where it creates dense mats that increase soil organic matter over time, allowing new non-native species to invade. Because *C. edulis* can propagate vegetatively, even small stem fragments can regenerate into a new plant, making control difficult.

Ice plant is still abundant along highways, beaches, on military bases, and in other public



A mat of ripening figs

it was introduced into gardens as early as the 17th century, but not recorded in the wild until 1886. It spread through discarded garden material; it was also used in some places to stabilize dunes. Fergus continues with "This attractive alien now grows profusely in the wild, carpeting vast areas, especially in warmer coastal regions such as Cornwall and the Scilly Isles [both of Great Britain]. It can be found sporadically elsewhere, and as far north as the coast



The yellow flower of the plant



The inner crust of the fruit

been used to staunch bleeding and is said to speed the healing of wounds. It seems to have antiseptic qualities, and has been used for mouthwash and as gargle for sore throats. The juice has also been employed to calm itching from insect bites to eczema.

When ripe the fig is a little sweet but also salty, reflecting its seaside habitat. To eat the fruit, bite or cut off the end and suck out the pulpy inner flesh. South Africans commonly use them in jams. During many of my wanderings in the summer and fall when the figs are ripe, I've stopped to squeeze the fruit to get to the "jelly" on the inside. Tastes just like a fig. A sweet little flavor and a little salty at the same time.

See the back page

for a traditional conserve recipe.

and private landscapes. It spreads beyond landscape plantings and has invaded foredune, dune scrub, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, and most recently, maritime chaparral communities. In California, ice plant is found in coastal habitats from north of Eureka, and extends south at least as far as Rosarito in Baja California. It is intolerant of frost, and is not found far inland or at elevations greater than about 500 ft.

The Monterey District Resource team is actively involved in spraying this invasive to remove it from all areas of the Reserve and to restore those areas to native species. A dedicated group of Point Lobos docents have been trained and are part of the team that regularly controls many non-native species in the Reserve.

On a more positive note, the plant is also reported to have various medicinal properties. Juice from the leaves has



The jelly and fleshy inner core

A New Way to Connect to Point Lobos

Anna Patterson

Several years ago, a few Point Lobos docents had an idea. How would the visitors' experience be improved if there were a mobile interpretive station that could travel throughout the Reserve, connecting more people to Point Lobos? Then, in true docent fashion, they worked tirelessly to make it happen. In this case, "they" refers to docents Pat Sinclair (class of 2009), Bob Petty (class of 2009), and Judd Perry (class of 2005)—the MINT visionaries.

with visitors at various itinerant locations throughout the Reserve using a wide selection of interpretive resources. While docents do excellent interpretation when meeting visitors on trails or leading public walks, there is no substitute for having reference materials and objects readily available that can be touched and experienced directly by visitors.

The experiment exceeded expectations across the board. They recorded from 40 to 169 visitors per two-hour shift, and dozens more at special events involving the Summer Adventures and Junior Lifeguard Programs. The station afforded more opportunities for docents to serve, especially those who no longer are comfortable walking the trails. A donation box placed at the station provided an additional revenue source, bringing in \$600 after 55 hours in 2012.

The success of that experiment led the MINT team to research vehicles that could be better equipped for interpretation. Enter the bug-mobile—a green energy Polaris GEM eL XD electric vehicle that could be customized to store and display interpretive materials.

The Point Lobos Foundation then worked with the Kathleen and Austin Barrows Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County to

share in the purchase of the \$20,000 vehicle that is now covered with eye catching graphics and staffed every weekend. "The MINT Station allows visitors to connect with Point Lobos in a new way," said Augie Louis, Point Lobos Foundation President. "It inspires visitors and helps them understand why Point Lobos is special and needs to be protected. With over 550,000 visitors each year, it also meets



Docents (left to right): Judd Perry, Bob Petty, Carol Greenstreet, and Trudy Reeves.

During the summers of 2012 and 2013, the team borrowed an electric van and experimented with an innovative way to bring educational and interpretive services to the public: the Mobile INTerpretation (MINT) Station. The goal was to expand these services to the public by allowing docents to interact

a great need in terms of serving more people."

Locations are chosen based on the dynamic nature of Point Lobos, and each MINT shift seeks to connect visitors with the Reserve in a personal, meaningful way. MINT displays are set up with a variety of touchable items: pelts, skulls, shells, fossils, beaks, and feathers along with binoculars and a

spotting scope to bring distant animals up close.

At times during the spring MINT will be set up at Bird Island, one of the birthing locations of harbor seal pups. Docents will engage visitors by talking about these animals, seeking to inspire visitors to care for and protect them. At other times of year, the MINT Station will focus on rafts of sea otters, migrating pods of gray whales, humpbacks gorging on schooling fish, birds nesting, wildflowers blooming, or simply observing the rough and tumble life on the rocky shores of Weston Beach.

It will also be staffed for special occasions like Point Lobos Foundation events and State Parks programs. And year round, visiting school groups can follow their hikes through the Reserve by eating their lunch at Piney Woods while checking out some of our terrestrial residents. "Imagine eating your peanut butter sandwich accompanied by an opportunity to feel the softness



The beautiful MINT station.

of a brush rabbit pelt," says Pat Sinclair, lead docent coordinator, "or to contemplate the jaw of a mountain lion."

Today, the MINT team has expanded and there are a lot of docents volunteering their time at the station. This

project is a great example of Point Lobos docents acting not only as volunteers but also as innovators to constantly improve and expand on the educational opportunities offered to visitors.

The project was made possible because of dedicated docents, funding from Point Lobos Foundation members and donors (thank you!), and a generous grant from the Kathleen and Austin Barrows Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. To see the MINT Station on your visit to Point Lobos, ask a docent or stop by the Information Station at the Reserve.



The MINT station inspires visitors of all ages.

All Fired Up!

Three Local Sculptors Find Unique Inspiration at Point Lobos



Lyle Brumfield, Former Retiree

A beginning, an adventure, not just an ending! Retirement is the greatest opportunity you'll ever have to discover new and different interests. Just ask Lyle Brumfield, an ex-Marine Vietnam veteran, who sold his 100-employee business in the Midwest after almost nineteen years of operation and moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

What next? Lyle, a Type A personality, immediately began giving back to the community, volunteering as a docent and board member at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; counseling small business owners; providing Medicare counseling for the Alliance on Aging; and serving as a member of a local chapter of CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team).

Then, as an adventure, he took a pottery wheel throwing class. Talk about a rush! Lyle found something primal about taking a hunk of moist clay, and making something of beauty. He was HOOKED! That was some ten years ago, and he's more excited now than ever. Lyle uses unique hand-blended glazes exclusively, and prefers to throw with a minimum of five pounds of clay, though he occasionally ventures as high as fifty pounds—no easy task by any standard.

What retirement? Life is too sweet to slow down now! ~LB



Dana Goforth

Each seedpod sculpture is unique and recreated from a pod found on hikes in Point Lobos and other state parks. Using large foam molds to support slabs of wet clay, I reinterpret the designs, textures, and proportions of pods. I want my work to be larger than life, featuring the unique nuance of a particular pod. I use a special dark stoneware clay body and fire the work to 2300° F. The final seedpod is mounted on a stainless steel base for display. ~DG

www.danagoforth.com



Douglas Downs

I have lived for thirty-five years in Pacific Grove, and have been a frequent visitor to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. As a result of those visits, my sculptures have grown out of my dialog with the elemental aspect of bird, space, sun, sea, and twisted, spiraling wind-swept cypress trees.

In pursuit of the essence of animal, I use a kind of bronze calligraphy to define the interplay of form and space. Using the play of polar opposites—external and internal, positive and negative space—I establish the boundaries of my artistic experience.

My sculptures can be seen at the Carmel Art Association, where I have been a member since 1981. ~DD



Notes from the Docent Log

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

Viva los Seniors
Fernando Elizondo
6/9/2014

I know that middle kids can wear me out after a school walk, but then Vickie Odello and I led a group of 22 visitors from the Emoryville Senior Center. I met 11 seniors who were READY for Point Lobos—chatty and curious about everything—and full of energy. They were particularly interested in Point Lobos history and the role of Joseph Emery among others. As one shared, “This was a mini United Nations!” On the Sea Lion Point Trail (disability access, as if they needed it!) they all practiced the familiar sea lion bark, accompanied by youthful and unself-conscious laughter. They asked when the sun was coming out! My practiced response: “It’s out—just above the Big Sur mist!” This was a fun group...and at the end all shared with pride what they had learned that they didn’t know before the trail walk. Then they turned to me and asked, “What did YOU learn?” I was so impressed with this group that is active every-day; I gave each a high five and they all headed to Whalers Cabin to extend their adventure.

California Dreaming
Paul Reps
7/18/14

Today, I believe, completes my viewing of all possible wildlife sightings at the Reserve! I’ve seen a mountain lion with cubs in Mound Meadow, bobcats many times (most memorably at Bird Island), whales, dolphins, killer whales, and more birds than I can document! But today we saw something I’ve never seen: a “Sports Illustrated” swimsuit model having photos taken for the upcoming 2015 issue of the “Sports Illustrated” swimsuit issue.



Great blue heron courtesy Dave Evans.

Bird Bullies
Dave Evans
7/9/14

New life in and around Whalers Cove is flourishing. It looked like the great blue heron fledgling was squawking up a storm because the black oystercatcher parents were dive bombing the youngster to drive it away from their own fledgling. But no, it was the prickleback the heron parent had captured that was the focus of all the squawking, which only intensified as the fish disappeared down the parent’s gullet. Much unhappiness all around, as the heron fledgling

didn't seem to understand the point of the dive bombing any more than the heron parent noticed all the squawking—the problems of parenting? At least the mohawk on the heron is coming in nicely.

Otter Family?
Deborah Ju
7/11/14

I participated in the July otter count along the South Shore Trail and was very thankful that I had my trusty spotting scope with me because I saw something I had never seen before or even heard of! I saw a mother sea otter with the smallest pup I had ever seen. It must have been born within the past couple days. When I looked closely with the spotting scope, there was a very large juvenile otter lying across the mother's feet! This was the first time I had ever seen, or even heard

Adventures (disability access program) today out at Bird Island. Today was the first time I'd seen the western gull chicks and the cormorant chicks out at Bird Island. Adorable!

Even more amazing, amusing, interesting, intriguing, and exciting to me were the two sea otters rolling around down in the calm waters at Bird Island doing the aqua tango! The show was really quite mesmerizing with all the rolling around and entwined bodies on the surface of the water. The after-mating ritual of self-grooming, preening, and "bubble-fluffing" (what is the technical term for this sea otter behavior?) was followed by a wrap up in the kelp and some kicked-back relaxing.

[Ed. Note: Carieanna (center in photo), Brenda Wolver, Donna Jennings, and Manus Donahue are new docents—Class 36—who have contributed their notes for this issue.]

Critters 1
Donna Jennings
6/25/2014

Yes, a snake skin from a gopher snake, confirmed by Tom Clifton! As Brenda Wolver and I attended to the MINT van display with lots of kids and parents visiting, a young boy brought over a snake skin he found near the picnic table at Bird Island. Brenda explained that we normally keep things where they are found, but he seemed disappointed that we did not want to keep it for our display. Reluctantly, we did bag the snake skin (BTW—it was quite large) into a plastic bag and placed it in the MINT van for safe keeping. Of course we forgot to leave a note on it for the next MINT van driver. Sure hope they are okay with snake skins.

Critters 2
Tom Clifton
7/1/2014

My last two shifts at the Cabin have featured bats! On Saturday one came out and flew around the cabin for a minute before climbing back into the roof. Then yesterday we spotted a couple of bats underneath one of the roof boards just below the track lights. Vicki Odello reported seeing them there last week as well. I had the 3:00-5:00 PM shift both times and don't know if they are equally active in the morning and mid-day shifts. However, Ruthann Donahue and Donna Jennings also observed three bats peeking out from the roof boards



Class 36 photo courtesy Jon Jennings.

of, an otter with two pups. There were 6 spotters in our group and I was glad to have all the other eyes to confirm the sighting. It would seem that she must have already weaned the older juvenile because it is my understanding that an otter can only nurse one pup at a time, but the teenager hadn't broken the tie. Time to get a life, buddy!

[Ed. Note: In a recent otter count, 73 adults and 2 pups were spotted in Point Lobos.]

Class 36 Observations
Carieanna Hess
7/2/14

I was on shift for the Easy Access



Gopher snake courtesy Tom Clifton.

during their morning shift. So clearly they are settled in and may startle the visitors. If that happens, it is a good idea to point out that our bats are harmless, consume lots of insects, and as a result, make evening walks in the Reserve more enjoyable. How do they get in and out of the cabin? I still haven't figured that out, but they are small enough that they don't need much of an opening.

Whale of a Time!

Fred Brown

7/16/2014

What a great day for the Salinas Public Library School Walk! The kids were entertained with a show by a big blue and several humpback whales that were having fun in the sea. A special treat for all right off the Sea Lion Point cliffs! No photos—of course.

The Whale Show

Manus Donahue

7/16/2014

My first school walk as a new docent and a few internal butterflies as I greeted the kids from the Salinas Public Library Program. A great group who clearly loved being out on such a gorgeous day. I tried to use all my interpretation

training, but all everyone wanted to know was, "Where can I see whales?" Right on schedule as we rounded the China Cove curve, there they were: dozens of humpbacks performing off Bird Island! "My" kids, as well as several international visitors, were enthusiastically giving the wave as whale after whale breached in the brilliant sunshine. Thank you, Point Lobos, for making it so easy to wow visitors of all ages.

Behind the Scenes

Fernando Elizonda

7/12/2016

The Salinas Summer Library program requested a trail walk for July 16. So I scurried off to prepare introductory programs at Cesar Chavez and John Steinbeck libraries. At both libraries attendance and energy levels were noteworthy as the kids eagerly anticipated what they might see during their visit. Yes, the expected questions were... what animals will we see?...what can I bring for lunch? Then the unexpected...what happens if we see a dangerous animal? I thought for a moment, and then because it was a bilingual presentation, I responded, "The most dangerous things at Point Lobos are...CARROS!" The group responded with delighted clapping and nodding of heads.

[Ed. Note: Cars! – in Español.]



Memorials, Tributes, and Grants

April 16, 2014–July 15, 2014

MEMORIALS

In memory of Stephanie Drum
John and Patricia Buhler
Sharon and Jerry Hoffman
Steven Korovesis
Jon Love
Stella Rabaut and Donald Williamson
James and Gloria Rodda
Summit Homeowners Association
Board of Directors
The Yeomans Fund

In memory of Allan McMillan Hudson
The McFann Family

In memory of Dora Lee Patinkin Rubin
Sharon and Jerry Hoffman

TRIBUTES

In honor of Carrieanna Hess
Robert Danziger

In honor of Bob Danziger
Joe Manning

In honor of Lorna Claerbout, Marie
Murphy and Rick Pettit
Werner W. Ju and Deborah Shoub-Ju

In honor of Gabriel and Maria Elizondo
Fernando Elizondo

In celebration of Catherine Goldschmidt's
marathon run
David Buchanan

In honor of Sandy Hale
Ernie and Candy Scalberg

In honor of Marie Murphy
The New Docent Class of 2014

In honor of Paul Reps
Sandra Bronstein and Bethann Lane

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.

Joan Del Secco
Spencer Myers

GRANTS

Anonymous, restroom improvements and invasive plant eradication

Robert R. and Gayle T. Meyer Family
Fund, Central Indiana Community
Foundation, *unrestricted*

The Pebble Beach Company Foundation,
transportation for school programs

Photo by Shane Menshik.





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Sour Fig Conserve Recipe from South Africa

This is a traditional South African recipe.

2¼ lbs ripe sour figs
2¼ lbs brown sugar
1 lb seedless raisins
peel from 2 oranges
juice of 2 lemons

Chop the orange peel finely and place in a bowl with the raisins and sour figs. Cover with water and set aside to soak for 2 hours. After this time turn the entire contents of the bowl (fruit and water) into a large pan. Bring to a boil then stir in the sugar and lemon juice. Bring back to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and continue simmering until the mixture is transparent and thick (about 1 hour). Take off the heat and ladle the hot mixture into sterilized jars. Cover with waxed paper soaked in brandy then screw the lids on firmly. Set aside to mature for at least 2 weeks before use.

Adapted from a recipe on <http://www.celtnet.org.uk>

