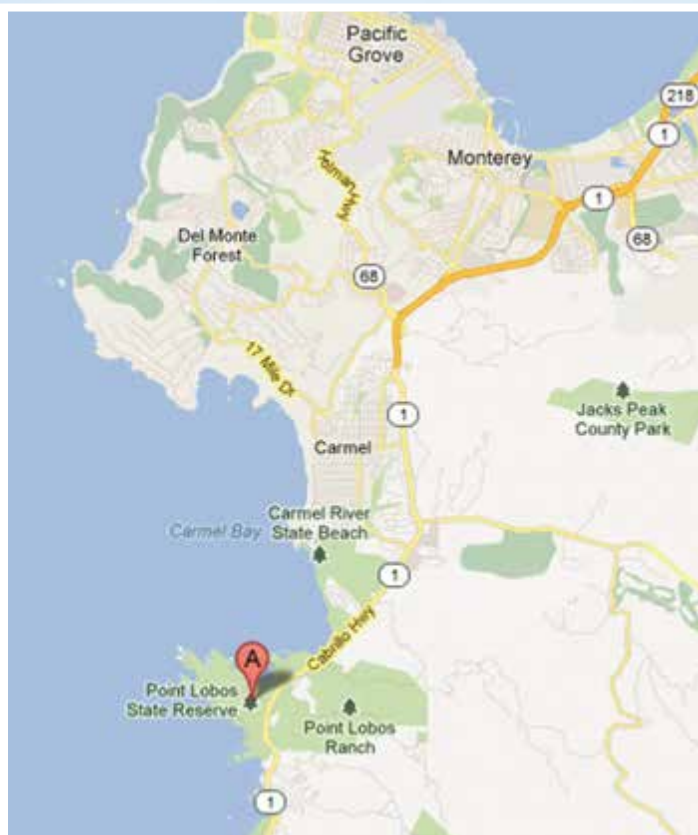


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# POINT LOBOS







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Cover: *Whalers Cove* by Delia Bradford. [www.deliabradford.com](http://www.deliabradford.com)

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.



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# Message from the President

Augie Louis

As I write this, the temperature is about as hot as it gets at Point Lobos. My thermometer reports 82 degrees. Spring is upon us at Point Lobos and the visitors are arriving in ever increasing numbers. On your next visit please be sure to visit the Whalers Cove parking lot to see the newly opened model of the underwater areas of the Reserve. Point Lobos Foundation was the largest single contributor to this project. We are quite proud to work collaboratively with Bay Area Underwater Explorers (BAUE), who led the installation of this model. I personally try to stay above the surface of the water, so the model is an important way for me to learn about the underwater reserve. I also recommend visiting our Facebook page to see some of the video and still images taken by divers.

When you are visiting the reserve keep your eyes open for the MINT van. This is our brand new mobile interpretative display. The small electric vehicle has now been wrapped with eye-catching graphics. Our docents can use the van to carry exhibits out into the reserve to help the public understand what they are seeing and what to look for. We should all be proud of this new feature and for providing the funds to make this purchase.

You can also learn about a new venture we have been working on over the last year. It is called the Lobos Corona Parklands Project. We have an article for you in this issue. I have high hopes for this collaborative effort. We have been looking across Highway One to the east at the A. M. Allan Ranch, which is owned by State Parks, for some time. We feel this area can provide some new features that will make Point Lobos healthier and more enjoyable

for visitors. Collaborating with State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks, The Big Sur Land Trust, and ourselves will give us the momentum to open access to these areas and provide some infrastructure to accommodate visitors. Working groups such as Lobos Corona are springing up around the state. These collaborative efforts can solve some of the gaps in funds when our state of California funding sources are not available.

***COLLABORATING WITH STATE  
PARKS, MONTEREY PENINSULA  
REGIONAL PARKS, AND THE BIG  
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US THE MOMENTUM TO OPEN  
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PROVIDE SOME INFRASTRUCTURE  
TO ACCOMMODATE VISITORS.***



The groups can also provide valuable input into land use decision-making and how we can create great parks for our kids and future generations of users. The Lobos Corona area covers a vast landscape, probably greater than most of us can access in our hiking boots. With one eye we are focused on how best to create a new type of park that we can be proud of, and with

the other eye we want to make small immediate steps forward toward our bigger dreams.

Please look thoughtfully at our funding request, "They're Your Trails," inside this issue for our renovation and extension of the Lace Lichen Trail. This is a very important project for the reserve. Together, and with all of our efforts, we can make this happen.

I hope to continue to bring you news of progress on our big dreams and concepts as well as how we are doing in making some steps toward making these dreams a reality.

As always thank you for your membership and continuing support.



# Observations:

## PRETTY FLOWERS THAT CAN KILL!

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

***“Cape ivy is the California coast’s biggest and baddest weed.” A quote from the National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.***



Cape ivy was introduced to the eastern United States in the 1850s as a common house plant. Its pretty yellow flowers are proof positive that looks can kill. It was introduced to California a century later in the 1950s. It is now a serious threat to most of the western coast of North America.

The ivy forms impenetrable mats as it climbs native shrubs and trees to form a solid layer that blocks out light and smothers other vegetation. It drapes from tree to tree, aptly nicknamed the “kudzu of the west.” Cape ivy is unsuitable forage for most wildlife due to the presence of strong chemical compounds (alkaloids and xanthones) in its leaves. It is known to be toxic to mammals and spiders, and there is some evidence that it is harmful to aquatic organisms. This monoculture of a bully plant reduces habitat for pollinators, and drastically alters bird diversity. Cape ivy most likely alters ecosystem level functions like nutrient cycling and food web dynamics as well.

Currently Golden Gate and Point Reyes National Seashore to our north are working together to remove 188 acres of ivy patches in both parks. The basic plan is to first create containment lines around the patches to stop the spread. Then all vegetation in the patch must be completely removed and raked to bare ground, and tarped to compost on site. Native shrubs and trees will resprout and refill the area over time, with staff consistently following up on ivy resprouts for the next 3-5 years. Different methods have been used in removal, mainly manually or with power tools, but also employing judicious herbicide application and innovative methods such as goat grazing and prescribed fire. Staff have also monitored different treatment plots and mapped ivy areas to be contained or removed in the future.

—From <http://www.nps.gov/goga/naturescience/cape-ivy-control.htm>







*Intertwined Cape ivy and wild cucumber*

In the Monterey sector of California State Parks, Point Lobos, A.M. Allan Ranch, and Garrapata State Park have been invaded by this noxious growth. Over the years our resources team (supported by the Point Lobos Foundation) and volunteers have tried to keep this plant from taking over the world... at least our part of the world. Volunteers have been trained to spray herbicide, while other volunteers have been trained to keep a watchful eye for new patches that can be attacked. In the past, firefighting teams from Soledad State Prison have been instrumental in removing large patches of Cape ivy from San Jose Creek Canyon and Garrapata State Park.

And the watchful eye should also keep an eye on the native wild cucumber. The similarities in these two plants can cause the untrained to look twice. They have similar growth patterns and can be found in the same places, often entwined.

The wild cucumber is an annual plant that grows from seed

each spring and dies in the fall. It is a climbing vine with long twisted tendrils that entwine the leaves, stems, or branches of other plants. It is usually found growing over the low branches of trees or shrubs but can grow as a dense mat on open ground. The flowers are greenish-white with six petals.

The habitat of wild cucumbers is quite variable. Areas of thick shrubs or trees with adequate moisture seem to be ideal habitat for wild cucumbers. However, because they are annuals, they will grow wherever they can. While the large seeds tend to fall to the ground below the parent plants, they could be carried around or cached by birds or mammals, and if uneaten, could end up growing in odd locations.

Ranger Chuck tells the story of a visitor who brought a tuber to him wondering what it was. After an explanation the visitor left the tuber at the office. Ranger Chuck put the tuber up on the south-facing windowsill. Condensation and good sunlight caused the tuber to sprout, and before too long the greenery was taking over the window. Needless to say the expanding growth soon found a new home outside in the forest.

The accompanying pictures illustrate that the Cape ivy has very shiny glossy leaves and the wild cucumber does not.



*The beautiful but tiny flowers of wild cucumber*



*A group of prickly wild cucumber fruit*

# FINDING COMMON GROUND THEN WAI LOBOS CORONA PARKLANDS PROJECT



Land Trust, and the Point Lobos Foundation had come together to make and embody a public statement about their joint working relationship. Four leaders signed a memorandum of understanding declaring their intention “to significantly enhance public recreation, outdoor education, and stewardship opportunities.” The commitment is to preserve the parklands and open space between Carmel and Garrapata State Park (nearly 10,000 acres) while simultaneously making them accessible for public enjoyment.

Years of planning, land acquisition, and park preparation, enabled by considerable public and private funding, have laid the groundwork for this Lobos Corona Parklands Project area. The area includes Palo Corona Regional Park; the former Whistler Wilson Ranch and High Meadows Open Space; Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; the former A.M. Allan Ranch; Carmel River State Beach; Hatton Canyon; Garrapata State Park; and the Coast Ranch and South Bank Trail.

What an ambitious idea! Everyone knows these are among California’s most spectacular coastal areas and vistas. This stunning landscape, with its diverse habitats and wildlife has compelling cultural and historical roots.

Opening the conversation, Ernest Chung, chair of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission, spoke of the significance of this April 9, 2014, gathering. As California State Parks celebrates State Park’s 150th Anniversary, these trailblazers (pun intended) were looking forward to the next 150 years. Chung emphasized the need to involve diverse groups of individuals and organizations to work collaboratively on park preservation. In caring for nature, we heal ourselves and our society.

Rafael Payan, General Manager of the Monterey Regional Parks, spoke of transcending the boundaries created by humans that have fragmented the beautiful landscape. He urged moving beyond planning into implementation

by Stella Rabaut

It was a day fresh with signs of spring and promises of new beginnings—not a cloud in the way. Challenging the drought, generous rains from the week before made possible the bright green and yellow sprouts in surrounding alfalfa fields. Sounds of sirens signaled lifesaving efforts at Monastery Beach, a reminder that beauty and danger constantly co-exist. The open gate to Palo Corona invited the small gathering to enter. This included local press, present to witness and record and enjoy this momentous happening.

Visionaries from California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, the Big Sur



# ALKING THE TALK T: *THE LAUNCH*

of a seamless trail system. Connecting our lots of land helps connect our communities.

Mat Fuzie, Monterey District Superintendent for California State Parks, reported that his experience has taught him that when ego is kept in check, joint focus and effort generates effective collaborative actions and outcomes. “We should be managing contiguous parklands to provide a seamless experience and combined stewardship for the people of California.” Bravo!

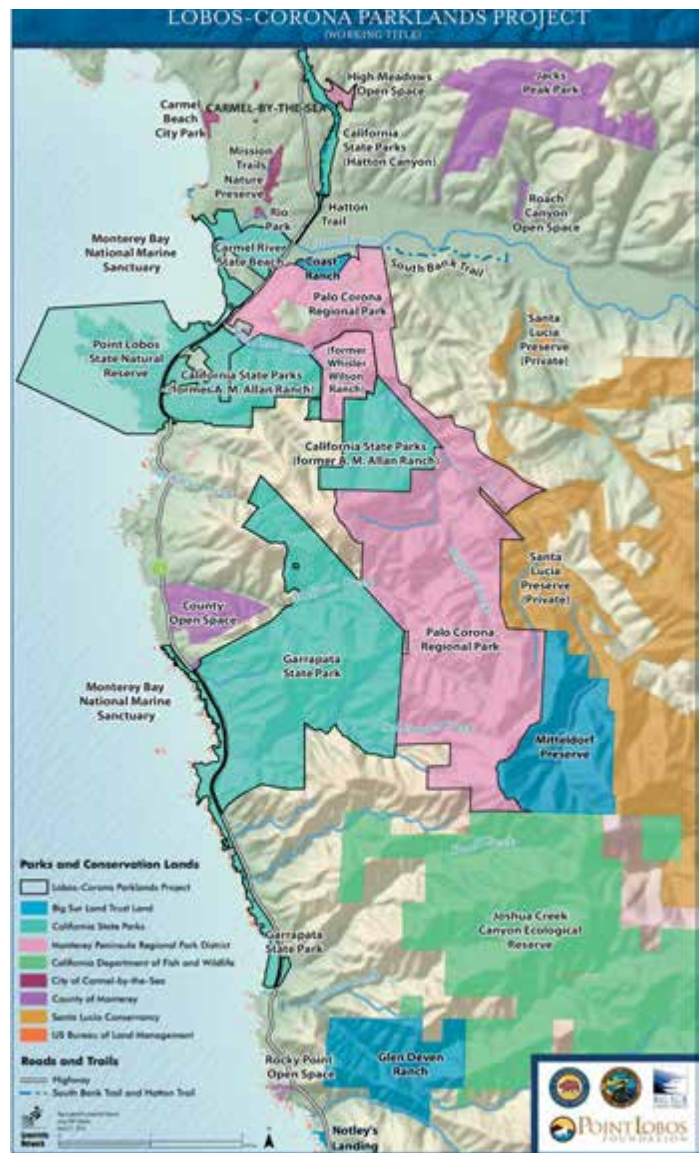
Point Lobos Foundation President Augie Louis also highlighted the benefit of leveraging each group’s strengths. He featured the Point Lobos docent program, with its rich and extensive history of welcoming, informing, and guiding. The goodwill in this new consortium would give the public greater vision and a chance to go further, both literally and metaphorically, by connecting and extending the trail system. For example, the migration of the whales across the bay can be viewed from vistas in the extensive Lobos Corona Parkland. An enlarged vision has been both the motivation and the desired outcome for this collaborative gathering.

Bill Leahy, Executive Director of the Big Sur Land Trust, applauded board members who over the last 35 years managed to preserve Big Sur lands. The challenge now is to move from acquisition to action, inspiring both love for and stewardship of the land. Future citizen stewards can be recruited and nurtured.

The message was clear. In any human organization the whole is more complex and resourceful than the sum of the parts. In both land preservation and human enjoyment of nature, collaborative efforts will bring better results. Everyone wins! No more talking. Time for action!



As the speeches finished, a slight wind blew the map of the region off its pedestal. On cue, the group moved forward, heading past the white barn, reconvening at Inspiration Point—a fitting place to reflect on the importance of this moment and the limitless possibilities for the future.







# WHAT'S KR AKEN?

By PATRICK WEBSTER

Why a massive mischievous mollusk merits more meditation from me, and you.

From Wikipedia: Kraken (/ˈkreɪkən/ or /ˈkrɑːkən/)[1] is a legendary sea monster of giant proportions that is said to dwell off the coasts of Norway and Greenland.





## *“What’s out there?”*

The question comes as I struggle behind a towel, hopping and pulling and slipping out of a thick wetsuit in the Whalers Cove parking lot. On a blustery Monday afternoon in February, the place is a melting pot of outdoor enthusiasts: locals and travelers, CamelBaks and coffees, boaters and land-lubbers. But I certainly stand out as I shed the intraplanetary exoskeleton I use to look at aquaterrestrials. Between grunts and muffled curses, I attempt to answer the question:

“It’s amazing! The kelp is gorgeous, the fish are big, and the invertebrate life today is stunning! There was this crazy comb jelly and these cyclical salps and...” My interrogator’s eyes glaze over. “Oh, and we didn’t see it today, but some divers saw a giant Pacific octopus here last week!”

Eyes widen, jaw drops. “Whoa, a giant octopus!? Out here? That’s awesome!” Everyone’s a sucker for a good octopus story.

As of last count, the winter of 2013–2014 saw at least six different GPOs touring within eight-arms’ reach of Point Lobos’ shores. Giant Pacific octopuses (*Enteroctopus dofleini*)—or “GPOs”—are unusual visitors to the recreational diving depths of Central California: “This winter’s bumper crop is unprecedented in my seventeen years or so of experience” remarks Clinton Bauder, a veteran of diving at Point Lobos who witnessed the “tentacular” winter first-hand.

More common further north and deeper down, GPOs like it cold: the Monterey Bay Aquarium currently has several GPOs living large on the free room and board, and each enclosure is equipped with its own dedicated chiller, keeping the tenants in clammy 48°F water year-round. No one is exactly sure what awoke these krakens—though a quirk of octopus biology is a possible candidate.

Cephalopods—meaning “head foot” (the arms of an octopus originate from the creeping foot of the ancient mollusk ancestor of snails, clams, and squids) —live fast and die young. A senior GPO is five years old, and once it has mated, it’s all downhill. Females lay upward of 50,000 eggs and tend to them until they hatch, ignoring food and wasting away in a process called “senescence” until her brood’s collective birthday. Males have a similar physical and mental breakdown. They amble around aimlessly into the open as their aged bodies and mind waste away, nonplussed by potential predators and sometimes heading to shallower, diver-filled waters. Whatever the reason for their visit, both us temporary marine mammals and these head-footed creatures seemed moved by each other’s presence.

“It was a very spiritual and emotional moment for me,” recalls local professional diver Andrew Morgan of his encounter with a mid-size GPO on a technical dive to the Great Pinnacle outside of Whalers Cove this winter. “Whenever you are in the water with

*(continued on page 11)*





# They're Your Trails!

Point Lobos trails connect 550,000 visitors each year from all over the world to California's Central Coast. With almost 10 miles of trails, including more than three miles of ADA accessible routes, Point Lobos accommodates people of all abilities and ages.

Today, the only direct access for walk-in visitors is along the main road. Vehicles are often competing with hikers, cyclists, and strollers to get from the entrance of Point Lobos to the ocean. Help expand the Lace Lichen trail to provide a new, safer route from the entry kiosk to the ocean.

The extended trail will make Point Lobos safer for pedestrians and vehicles, and improve the experience for hikers who will be immediately introduced to the natural environment on a trail. The project will cost almost \$300,000 to complete.

Support your trails with a tax-deductible gift using the envelope provided, or scan the code to make a donation online at [pointlobos.org](http://pointlobos.org).



*Photos by Dave Evans.*



(continued from page 9)

an animal that has a larger wing span than you, it is an exciting and surreal experience.” The largest of the known octopuses, GPOs routinely weigh in over 50-plus pounds and stretch more than 15 feet from arm tip to arm tip (with outrageous reports swimming around of 600 lb and 30 foot monsters). When these mega-mollusks get curious, things can get interesting.



This winter’s meetings of vertebrate and other-than-vertebrate generated some killer footage. Mr. Morgan’s personal video shows a loving caress between two different aquanauts. Another video made waves across social media, and depicts a heated debate over the ownership of a particular camera rig at Bluefish Cove.

The attention that these events garnered is a testament to the mythos that cephalopods have earned over millennia of study. Such is their draw that the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s newest special exhibition, “Tentacles: The Astounding Lives of Octopuses, Squid, and Cuttlefishes,” features the world’s most diverse collection of living cephalopods ever assembled. Tucked away in the exhibit’s aptly named GPO Grotto are two Oregonian visitors chilling in their cooled aquaria. As human visitors peer past their own reflection and into the eyes of these animals, many are struck by the mirror-like image this alien reflects back.

When you read “alien” just then, what did you see? Perhaps the glowing finger of an extraterrestrial

in need of cell service, or Marvin chasing that rascally rabbit, or perhaps the bug-eyed creep Han shot first? Those “aliens” share distinct characteristics: they have a face, stand upright, and are varying levels of murderous... basically, human. Our most successful box-office extraterrestrials are just superficial distortions of ourselves. We don’t give much thought to things that aren’t like us: 97% of animals don’t have a backbone, yet one of the most fundamental delineations we make in nature is the distinction between vertebrates and invertebrates. Mathematically at least, we’re the weird ones! The backbone-less desperately need a spokes-sorta-person to help us care.

So we have the octopus, alone in the invertebrates to shows us the glimpse of ourselves we need in the aliens we’ll pay attention to. For example, they walk along the seafloor, go hunting, live in a den, and take out the trash.

*“Ah, that’s nice.”*

But their eight arms smell, taste, and touch as they stroll; a parrot-like beak chops up lunch, and a drill-bit tongue bores into dinner.



*“Whoa, um...”*

A GPO has a face, with eyes and a bag-like mantle forming a “head.”

*“Oh, OK, we’re back, good.”*

And then its arms grow around its mouth, and that “head” houses respiratory, reproductive, and digestive systems.

*“Wait, what?”*





They display their emotions on their skin, seem to recognize and cherish their aquarium trainers, are given puzzles to solve when they're bored; they learn and experiment and test things out, then deceive us in turn and sneak into next-door tanks to eat their neighbors.

*"No, no, no. All of this in a larger-than-human, squishy relative of scallops?"*

Indeed. And there's more.

While scholars struggle to define our most cherished of human faculties—curiosity, personality, playfulness—there is a general unease with such traits appearing in such a different branch of the tree of life. Somehow the tools and toils the octopus has been given along its evolutionary path remind us of our own. We have a natural affinity for anything that mirrors our abilities, especially in that mightiest of tools our brains tell us we possess above all other life forms: intelligence.

But can we trust our brains to be fair in that assessment? Are we smart? We're the only ones who are telling us

we are. What if we're just human? And as we have succeeded at being human by being human, octopuses are adapted as themselves to be what they are, and there's sagacity in each way of being. Does the genius of Mozart need to be directly analogous to the genius of Newton? Or do they each have a say as to what "genius" is?

In practice, the tools that an octopus has are vastly different from ours: an octopus' arms are its feet and tongue and nose, its skin is an invisibility cloak, its large brain encircles its throat! An octopus should then be expected to be differently smart than us, adept in its environment with unique adaptations making it a genius unto itself—like us, then.

This is perhaps why encountering these creatures resonates so strongly with our species, why Point Lobos' wild winter and spring waters were so special this year. Meeting a giant Pacific octopus offers a glimpse of an alien intelligence, an opportunity to look at an animal that seems to look back. These octopus encounters might help us understand who we are, and encourage us to recognize the wisdom of all species, beneath the waves and on land, as we all spin around the sun.





# From Point Lobos to Internment and Back Again

by Carly Rudiger

FBI raids, Japanese royalty, documents secretly burned, a lucrative business, racism, and forced imprisonment. This is not the plot of a new James Bond movie, this is the story of two families and a connection to each other and Point Lobos that has lasted three generations.

Gennosuke Kodani was born in 1867 in a tiny village in Japan. At the age of 30, armed with a degree in marine biology, and at the request of the Japanese Department of Agriculture, Kodani was asked to travel to Monterey to verify the rumor that there was a proliferation of red abalone beds that could provide a food source to Japan.

Kodani arrived in October of 1897 and immediately rented property at Whalers Cove, a spot teeming with abalone beds and offering natural protection for an abalone processing business. The following year, Alexander M. Allan purchased Point Lobos, and a personal and professional relationship lasting more than thirty years began between the two savvy businessmen.

"It was very unusual at that time for a Japanese and American businessmen to form such a tight bond," Gennosuke's granddaughter, Marilyn Kodani says.

With Allan's finances and Kodani's scientific training and connections to abalone divers in Japan, the two formed the Point Lobos Canning Company. By 1916, after opening another cannery in Cayucos (San Luis Obispo county), the company was sending 6,000 cases (288,000 pounds) of abalone to China and Japan yearly. This accounted for almost 80% of the total California abalone market.



For more than 30 years, Gennosuke Kodani managed the abalone fishery and cannery at Whalers Cove. He and his wife Fuku raised nine children at what was referred to as "Kodani Village." Across the cove was the Allan family home, where Alexander and his first wife Satie raised their three girls.

The families socialized together often, and their children went to Bay School together. The Kodani's loved to entertain at Point Lobos and had numerous famous guests out to visit. On two different occasions they hosted picnics for members of the Japanese Imperial Family.

In 1930, at the age of 63, Gennosuke Kodani died. That same year at age 72, Alexander M. Allan passed away.

The cannery was closed in 1931 due to the Great Depression and the diminishing supply of abalone. Three years later, the Allan girls sold Point Lobos to the government in order to preserve it as a state park, which was their father's wish.

The Kodani home was physically moved to the other side of Highway One, where Fuku continued to raise her children. It was this



house that was raided by FBI agents in 1942.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan dropped bombs on Pearl Harbor, and two months later President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued executive order 9066. Japanese were forced to abandon their homes and businesses, and sent to internment camps throughout the west simply because they were of Japanese descent.

Though the Kodanis were loyal to the United States and had lived on the Monterey Peninsula for more than four decades, they feared that their connections with the royal family of Japan would be misinterpreted.

"The family was afraid that my grandmother Fuku would be sent back to Japan or that they would be put into a more severe internment camp, so they burned the journals that Gennosuke had written in every single day," Marilyn remarks.

Still, the FBI came to the house, and took Fuku, her son, and four of her daughters to what is now the Salinas fairgrounds. Here the Kodanis and other Japanese families were held in horse stalls for four months. Next, they were loaded onto trains and taken to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona, where they were assigned to Block Number 219-13-H.

Their home for the next two years consisted of a 20 x 24 foot room with no internal walls for privacy, no furniture, no bathroom, and tarpaper walls that wind and sand often blew through. The Kodanis had become prisoners, deprived of privacy and dignity.

Unfounded fear and racism were the reason the Kodanis and 120,000 other Japanese Americans (3,800 from the Central Coast) were forced into internment. Most had to sell their homes or business for only pennies on the dollar, and all had to leave with only what they could carry. Eighty percent of those interned were second- and third-generation Japanese Americans.

Despite the turmoil and the fact that her sons-in-law were overseas fighting the Japanese, Satie Allan and her daughters wrote letters testifying to the loyalty and conscientiousness of the Kodanis and asked for their release. The Allan family also stored all of the Kodanis possessions in their barn for safekeeping during their entire internment.

Marilyn's father Seizo was a firefighter for Carmel Highlands Fire Department when he was taken away and interned. Both of his bosses wrote letters in his support, and assured him that he would have the same rank when he returned.

When the war finished and the Kodanis were finally freed, some of the family members returned to the Monterey Peninsula, where Seizo was indeed hired back at the Carmel Highlands Fire Department. He went on to become Fire Chief before retiring. Fuku died in the same house that she had raised her family in.

Just last year, local historian Tim Thomas discovered that many families on the Monterey Peninsula also supported the Japanese when they returned. Thomas found a collection of petitions that hadn't been seen in 70 years with over 440 signatures from residents of Monterey wanting to "insure [sic] the democratic way of life" for Japanese returning home.

John Steinbeck, Doc Ricketts, Robinson Jeffers, Ed Weston and his wife Charis, as well as business leaders, educators, attorneys, janitors, and clergy were some of the signatories.

Thomas is proud of the fact that such a wide variety of people stood up for their neighbors and fought against racism.

Both the Allen and Kodani families have remained close friends and have been taking care of each other and breaking the barriers of racism since the day that Alexander Allan and Gennosuke Kodani met more than 116 years ago. It is because of them that people of all colors and walks of life continue to share in the natural beauty that is Point Lobos.





# Notes from the Docent Log

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

**Whale of a Spout**  
**Nelson Balcor**  
**2/10/14**

Weather conditions were unsettled with multiple rain clouds scattered about, a high overcast, and a sustained north wind. At about 4:15, a few hardy visitors, escaping some rain showers, were gathered about the Info Station when Paul Mason, with unaided eye, called out a spout that seemed to be lingering. We had seen a few whale spouts just moments earlier. Through my binoculars, I could see a vigorous vortex rotation and very quickly we could all easily see a growing water spout sending seawater spinning into the air just beyond the entrance to Headland Cove. The spout easily exceeded twice the height of the headlands of Sea Lion Point. Within a minute of first sighting, a funnel cloud, and then a second, could be seen extending down from the base of the cumulus cloud mass directly overhead! All were moving to the south, the funnel clouds faster than the water spout, until, after just three or four minutes, all dissipated. A few visitors were snapping away and a woman who had jogged by a few minutes earlier came running back breathlessly saying, "You should report this to KSBW because you're docents; they would believe you!" End to another unique Point Lobos day—with the words "always pack a camera"—long lingering in my head...



*Witches teeth by Art Muto.*

**Shut Up!**  
**Paul Reps**  
**4/2/2014**

Today was the Big Sur Marathon and Highway 1 was closed until 1:00PM. I was able to get in early through one of the caravans and set up shop. June Banks and I had the whole Reserve to ourselves. What a dream! We had great stories to share as the crowds started to build slowly, then it was like everyone came in at once. Because of all the communications, police, sheriff, and peace officer support in the parking lot supporting the marathon, it was like we were both standing in Times Square!

Three ladies came in and parked by us, rolled down the window and said, "We've been trying to find this flower book on Amazon and other book sites and can't locate it. Might you know where we can get a copy?" We curiously asked which book they were referring to, and they said the *Point Lobos Wildflower Book*! June and I looked at one another, smiled, knowing this was Art Muto's book. "You can get a copy right here!" we said. The woman's reaction was a big, screaming "SHUT UP!!!" Does that mean something else if you are under thirty?

They came over to us, purchased the book, and told us their dearest friend was moving to Texas, and they had been spending the past couple of weeks traveling around taking selfies among the various flowers they were finding. They planned to insert their pictures in the pages of the book where flowers are identified as a reminder to her of this wonderful place. Now that's a new twist on a sale of the book! They left delighted trying to figure out how they could get a photo of the witches teeth in the Info Station parking lot, a funny sight to see!

**Early Evening Visitors**  
**Nelson Balcor**  
**9/12/2013**

On trail watch yesterday, I came across two Pebble Beach caddies who were friends, a Santa Cruz man absolutely passionate about land use issues and his photography, and a



family of three—the geologist mom and biologist dad from West Virginia getting ready to see their daughter off for a year of graduate work in nature illustration at CSUMB.

Each one of these six people, in their own way, was bubbling over with energy about this place; I hadn't yet experienced this in such concentration. Sensing their intense draw to the natural world here at Point Lobos is an amazing reward for becoming a docent. Visitors see someone wearing the green vest and it seems to trigger an outpouring grounded by our connectedness to the natural world. More than enough to make me want to write about it even though words fall short...

alongside Ed. Lucky me! Examining the strata at Weston Beach and surmising at what may have been millennia ago is pure joy. Growing up in Carmel, we would hang out at "13th" [Ed. note—*13th Avenue*] watching years of sunsets and waiting for the always elusive green flash. Then came THE DAY last month. It was closing time at the Reserve and on a whim, I pulled in. Ed happened to be closing the Info Station and was heading to Weston Beach to try to capture a certain fracture of the strata in the "golden hour" light. Sheepishly, I asked if I could come along and then beamed that I got to. Ed missed the natural light but used the camera's flash for a successful photo. "Speaking of



**Best Day Ever**  
**Vicki Odello**  
**3/2/2014**

Once upon a time, a long time ago, I attended a "Geology of Point Lobos" lecture given by Ed Clifton. Most impressed, I was, of his knowledge and presentation, but I also loved his passion and demeanor. Years later, I am an awe-struck docent

flashes, maybe we will see one tonight," he said as the sun hit the water. I asked him if he thought the "urban legend" true. He said he had seen it once before in his life. We watched, waited . . . as the sun melted into the watery horizon. Then very subtly, very slowly, a dark olivine shadow began to appear where sun met water for about a second then slowly faded away. It was so dark rich olivine in color that I questioned if it was a figment of my imagination. I



turned back to Ed, "Was that . . .?" "Yes, I think that was it!" he said. He saw it too! On the inside I was going out of my mind at what just happened but tried to remain "grounded." It wasn't the green flash that was so unbelievable. It was the Green Flash, at Weston Beach, at the Golden Hour, with Ed Clifton... and me. With immense gratitude, Best Day Ever!

**Larry and Carol Rychener**  
**Of Flies and Fence Lizards**  
**3/24/2014**

We were scoping at Sea Lion Point this afternoon, a beautiful day made less enjoyable by hoards of kelp flies hatched out by the recent warm weather. After a while I noticed a small fence lizard darting about after the pesky insects next to the trail. I pointed this out to a young visitor, who quickly got down on the ground and began catching the flies and feeding them to the lizard! Although this was technically feeding wildlife I couldn't find it in my heart to discourage such a salutary endeavor. Unfortunately neither she nor the lizard's efforts seemed

to make much of a dent in the fly population.

**Fernando Elizondo**  
**Kids These Days**  
**4/30/2014**

School walks are a continuing burst of surprises. There we were heading down the trail

with some fourth graders from Bardin Elementary School in Salinas, and I spotted a sticky monkey flower. Appropriately, I shared the medical wonders and the Ohlone uses for this miracle plant. As I turned to continue, Rafael shot to the front of the line, pulled up his pant leg, and exposed a scratched knee. As any good Ohlone doctor would do, I administered medical attention . . . a roar of giggles were the result. On another venture were some middle schoolers from Los Angeles who were captivated by a spider web outlined in morning dew. The iPhones clicked away, a teaching moment for docents-in-training Diane Salmon and Robert Grace, who shadowed the walk and joined in the fun.



**Rocks of Ages**  
**Fred Brown**  
**3/8/2014**

The tide pools at Weston Beach were a busy place Saturday with many visitors taking advantage of the 0.6 tide at mid-day. They were joined by the Fresno State geology class making their annual field trip visit. The students were led by Christopher Pluhar, head of their paleomagnetism laboratory, which focuses on using the magnetic signal recorded in rocks to learn about their age and tectonic history. The particulars of the Carmelo Formation were part of their classroom curriculum. However,



now that they were able to actually see and touch the rocks, they were giddy with excitement as they followed the feathery imprint of some unknown ancient sea floor dwelling bivalve creature now immortalized in the sandstone. They were bouncing around the rocks with their topographical maps



of “Weston Beach, Point Lobos,” making note of everything they were discovering first hand—chondrites, Hillichnus, tiny tubes possibly made by small shrimp-like organisms, and of course, concretions. (Thanks Ed!) I took the liberty of pointing out a favorite feature of the area: the VW bug formation along the slanted wall. Chris was surprised he never noticed it before—always something instructive and fun and comical at the same time. [Ed. note—See the spring 2014 issue of the Point Lobos magazine for Ed’s latest article about the geology of Point Lobos.]

**Mom in Control**  
**Rick Pettit**  
**4/24/2014**

Last Saturday I headed out to the Sea Lion Cove overlook to see what I could see. The pelagic cormorants were refurbishing their cliffside nests with seaweed, the sea lions were talking loudly about whatever it is they find to talk about, and the

guillemots were showing off their resplendent feet. Down by the left front edge of the big flat rock there was a mother and pup pair of harbor seals lounging. Then another pair appeared just below them, and that mom apparently thought the other mom up on top had a good idea. So on the next little swell, Mom 2 half floated, half wriggled up, et voilà: there she was. But when she looked around for junior...whoa, where was he? So swoosh, back into the water she goes. But he wasn’t where she left him, so she dashed left for about 20 feet, then back right about 40, then left 60, then back 80. And then I lost sight of her. I don’t know how she felt, but I was getting a bit panicky. A seal pup couldn’t be lost so easily, could he? But whew—on the third pass of her systematic coursing, there by the rock’s far-western end—finally!—was the wayward little guy. Then they headed off, after their little demo of one reason *Phoca vitulina* is so successfully widespread.





# Memorials and Tributes

January 16 - April 15, 2014

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Erma Bombeck  
William Bombeck

In memory of Stephanie Drum  
Kit Armstrong  
Michael and Karen Bernstein  
Eleanor "Bunny" Boyle  
John Buhler  
Tim Dillon  
Grandchildren JT, Zoe and Wyatt  
Bill and Priscilla Eckert  
Sharon Ellingson  
Skip Flohr  
GE Healthcare West Region Service  
Team, 1998-2008  
James Hughes  
Jeff Johnson and Sharyn Siebert  
Patricia Jonik  
Elizabeth Juliano  
G. Keller and Marcia McDonald  
Carl Kreibich  
Brooks Leffler  
Augie Louis and Holly Hudson-Louis  
George and Carol McManmon  
Carol Navin  
Carrie Lynn O'Donnell  
Padre Trails Camera Club  
Dave and Patty Parker  
Judd and Sharon Perry  
Pat and Jay Sinclair  
Robert Sleeper  
Michael Rasmussen  
Brian Strohecker  
Milissa Van Eps  
Trish Van Eps  
Cynthia L. Vernon  
Ivan Young

In memory of G. W. Gregory  
Angela LaFrance

In memory of the "Over the Hill Mob"  
Elspeth Bobbs

In memory of Robert Taunt  
Sharon and Jerry Hoffman  
Jeff Johnson and Sharyn Siebert

In memory of Jud Vandevere  
Mary Ann Matthews

## TRIBUTES

In honor of Gabriel and Maria Elizondo  
Fernando Elizondo

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. MJ Hood  
Suporn S. Hood

In honor of the anniversary of Kristen  
and Jeff Kuhlman  
Karin Herold Leonard

In celebration of the marriage of  
Karen Monson and Chris Wagner  
Eric and Jeanie Adler  
Stuart and Nancy Batchelor  
Dan and Linda DeWitt  
Cory and Jim Ferrara  
Russ and Mary Beth Hagey  
Pam and Peter Hart  
Deborah Herman  
Waldo Hinshaw and Susan Kopiwoda  
Virginia Wright and Rick Blamey

In honor of Kate Spencer  
Linda and Jim Murray

In honor of Ruth and Richard Zirker  
Daniel Zirker

## 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.*

Jean Artz  
Lorna Claerbout  
Alex and Eva Glazer  
Gregg Margossian  
Paul J. Mason  
Henry and Ann Zamzow

*White Egret, Whalers Cove. Photo by Paul Reps.*







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**Return the enclosed envelope to join us today, or scan the code below to become a member.**



*Docent Art Muto, one of the wonderful guides on a wildflower excursion in San Jose Creek Canyon, shares his knowledge with a member, May 2014.  
Photo by Anna Patterson.*

## UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

### Calling all Birders!

Friday, August 15 | 10:00 - 11:30 am

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

*Learn about the birds of Point Lobos with a guided exploration. Space is limited, please RSVP to Tracy Gillette-Ricci at [tracy@pointlobos.org](mailto:tracy@pointlobos.org).*

### The Moonlight Walk

Saturday, September 6 | 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

*What started over 20 years ago as a BYOB&B (bring your own bottle of wine and chili bowl) has become the Point Lobos Foundation's beloved annual member appreciation event. Enjoy a docent-guided exploration of the Bird Island Trail by moon. All ages welcome.*

*Registration will open later this summer.*