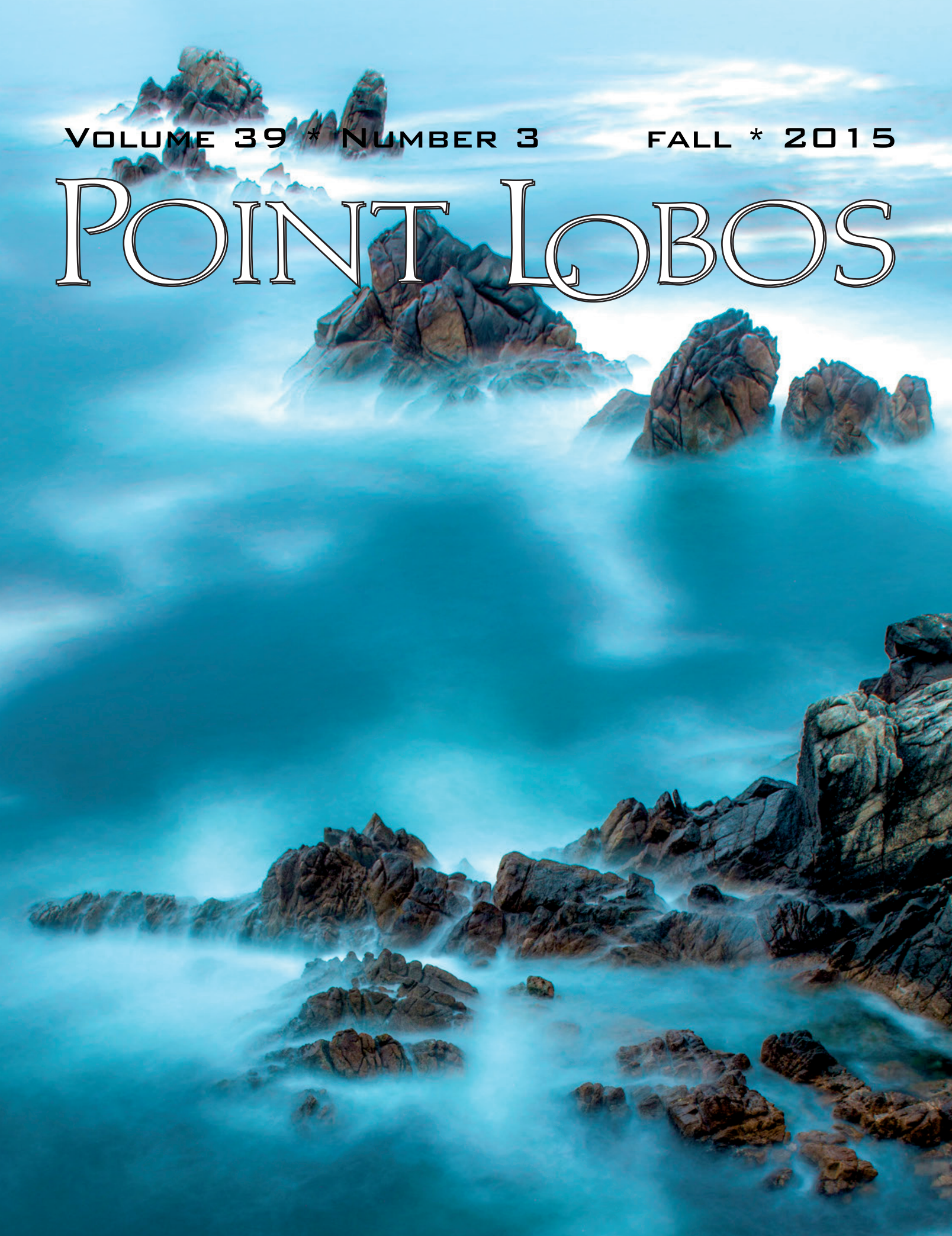
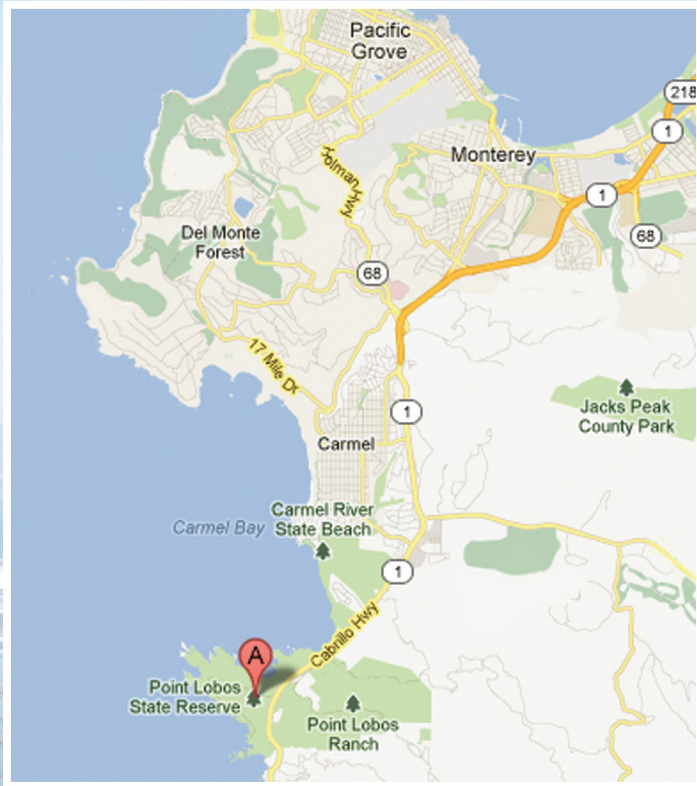


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POINT LOBOS





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Features

Protecting Point Lobos 6
Sean Noble and Elizabeth Koch

Departments

A Message from the President 3
Augie Louis

Observations 4
Sparky Starkweather

Notes from the Docent Log 9

Memorials and Tributes 14

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LoganNortonPhotography.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



The new Lace Lichen Trail inside Point Lobos is now open. The Foundation provided the largest component of the funding for this project. The new trail was constructed by State Parks and the California Conservation Corps and it looks wonderful. The trail surface is smooth decomposed granite and can accommodate a wheelchair very easily. Please come visit this new and improved trail; you won't be disappointed. The new trail provides a much safer Reserve. Thanks to all of our members who made donations toward this work. You should be very proud.

I have tried to report on the progress of the General Plan in some of my prior messages. In late July, State Parks hosted a public meeting to present their ideas for designations, uses, and protection zones for Point Lobos and three surrounding parcels. The General Plan will update the 1979 plan for Point Lobos. Obviously a lot has changed over 36 years. The General Plan will also focus on the A. M. Allan Ranch located across Highway 1 from Point Lobos. This 1,300 acre parcel was purchased by Big Sur Land Trust in 1993 as additional park land to support Point Lobos. The ranch has not been opened to the public partly because no General Plan has been completed. The Carmel River State Beach is also part of the General Plan effort. This area includes Monastery Beach and the Odello west lagoon areas at the mouth of the Carmel River. The final parcel is called Hatton Canyon. This parcel was transferred to State Parks from Cal Trans after the freeway proposal was voted down. Each parcel presents lots of planning challenges and with four park properties it becomes a rather confusing mixture.

The public meeting did not go well. There was simply too much information to present in one short evening meeting. The presentation was rushed and no questions were taken from the audience. State Parks included a proposal for an aerial trail (aka zip line) for the A. M. Allan Ranch. This idea was

broadly opposed. I think it is safe to say that a zip line is totally out of character for this area. They also proposed a visitor center, parking, and an educational facility for the Odello west parcel. This was also broadly opposed. The adjacent lagoon habitat, the high likelihood of flooding, and the location on the west side of Highway 1 combined to earn this idea many negative comments.

Unfortunately, these ill-conceived proposals overshadowed other more positive ideas. The proposals included continuing Point Lobos as a classified Reserve. This is a high level of protection that allows for visitors. We support this. The A. M. Allan Ranch was proposed as a State Park, which is a lesser protected status. This would allow for visitor facilities to be located on the east side of Highway 1. We like this arrangement because of the potential of meeting visitor needs outside of the Reserve and providing an orientation to visitors so that when they enter Point Lobos they understand the higher protection status and treat the area with greater respect. Opening the A. M. Allan Ranch will take some pressure off of Point Lobos and provide visitors with other hiking opportunities.

We have a committee working very hard to assemble a vision and goals for this General Plan. We hope to build some momentum toward the ideas we favor by collaborating with other local groups. Our efforts are different from those of State Parks and we all need to understand that the General Plan is controlled by State Parks. We hope to influence and guide the efforts of State Parks toward a preferred plan that could be supported by the Foundation and all of our members as well as collaborating local groups. This General Plan is intended to form the guiding principles for management decisions over the next 30 years. It is vitally important that State Parks gets this right.

Observations

The Faces of Summer

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

This has been an extraordinary summer! Unusually warm weather, no precipitation to speak of, unless you want to count the fog that came and went on a daily basis. Still, remarkable weather for us and the thousands of visitors to the Reserve. Lots of cars were parked on the shoulder of Highway 1 and droves of people walked in every day. The docents were kept busy at the entrance station greeting the walk-ins, handing out the rules, and guiding people to the new Lace Lichen Trail so they wouldn't have to walk on the roadway. And of course two and three nature hikes free to the public in various places around the Reserve each day. The mobile interpretive station also known as the MINT van set up at the Bird Island parking lot, and docents thrilled people with information and displays about the wildlife. Everywhere you went on all the trails you could hear the voices of visitors from Asia and Europe and South America as well as accents from all over the USA. We are truly a global destination!

The thrill of seeing the beautiful landscape was enhanced by the wildlife that also visits the Reserve on a regular basis. From the Bird Islands, to Sea Lion Point and Cypress Grove and all along Carmel Bay from the North Shore Trail to the Carmel River mouth...joys to behold with oohhs and aaahs and lots of pictures to take and memories to share with friends and family.





The faces that inspired me throughout the summer are shown here. I spent way too much time at Bird Island, but it was worth it. Black-crowned night herons were successful at two locations. Western gulls had many little puff balls of gray with polka dots. The rock doves nested in a cavern below the cormorants. A paper wasp nest on the cliff side thankfully was far from where people were standing at Pelican Point.

And on the trail down to the overlooks the peregrine falcons put on a screaming and zooming show for folks. A young peregrine with breast markings in a vertical pattern had a high-pitched squeaky voice, while the adult sounded like the

fierce predatory bird that we've come to know.

But the biggest thrill of all was seeing the humpback whales along the south shore at Sea Lion Point and especially at Monastery Beach during a feeding frenzy. Gulls, cormorants, pelicans, and sea lions enjoyed the best buffet on a humungous school of anchovies.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer and get ready for fall and winter. Gray whales will be making their long journey to Baja and back. I'm excited about an El Nino year with good rainfall. We need the water desperately in California...not only for humans, but for the animals and of course MUSHROOMS!!!! 'Til then...HAPPY TRAILS!



A new research program addresses natural resources



Funded by the Richard Grand Foundation, this exciting new program is a combined effort on the part of the Point Lobos Foundation, the Monterey District of California State Parks (State Parks) and California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Two graduate students from CSUMB's Applied Marine and Watershed Sciences masters program were hired in the summer of 2015 to begin collecting data for two projects. Managed by environmental scientists at State Parks, the resulting data and recommendations will be used to assist State Parks in making management decisions for the Reserve. Most importantly, the data will be stored so we can begin to build an archive of real-time natural resources information necessary to protect Point Lobos for generations to come. The Point Lobos Foundation is delighted to have the opportunity to continue building on the following initial projects, as described by the interns themselves.—AP

Project: Coastal Bluff Erosion and Trails

My name is Sean Noble and I am a master's student at CSUMB and an intern with CA State Parks, working in Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. I am a Monterey Bay native, growing up in Santa Cruz. I attended UCSC and earned a degree in marine biology. After graduating I took a break from school and worked as a wildlife rehabilitation technician with the SPCA for Monterey County. However, after a couple of years of being clawed, scratched, and bitten by a selection of Monterey's diverse wildlife, I decided it was time to return to school.

The Applied Marine and Watershed Sciences program at CSUMB seemed like a natural fit for me. I took an interest in using new technologies and methods to approach existing issues. I am particularly interested in GIS (geographic information system; a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze,

manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data), remote sensing, and modeling techniques. I am currently at the end of my second year, and my last graduation requirement is the completion of an approved internship. When my advisor brought up working with State Parks in Point Lobos, I jumped at the opportunity. Point Lobos is a remarkable area that perfectly represents my dual interests in terrestrial and marine systems.

While Point Lobos is known globally for the scenic beauty along its coastal bluffs, the ecological value cannot be underestimated. It is home to many iconic marine mammals, like harbor seals, sea otters, and the California sea lion from which the area gets its name. (Spanish settlers called them sea wolves—*lobos marinos*.) The terrestrial side is no less impressive, sporting a vast array of native flora and fauna. The addition of the significant cultural history of the area makes it obvious why it was selected as a reserve and entrusted to California State Parks for protection. It is an honor to work at Point Lobos.

Working with California State Parks' environmental scientists, I am assessing the status of the coastal bluffs, trail conditions, and visitor impacts on Point Lobos. Additionally, I will be examining potential discharges into the designated area of special biological significance off the coast of the Reserve. To do this, I am using a combination of data sources, including remotely sensed data, visual assessments, and direct measurements. Using LiDAR (a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and



analyzing the reflected light) data processed by the NPS remote sensing center, I am building a model that predicts erosion vulnerability within the Reserve. Additionally, I have been assessing and mapping trail degradation, visitor created trails, and coastal bluff erosion using GPS. Finally, I will be surveying areas to estimate soil loss from the trails and bluffs. This data will be organized into a geodatabase and analyzed to highlight areas that are a high priority for conservation or restoration.

The goal for this analysis is to inform future land management decisions with the best available data. This may help identify those trails benefiting from changes to reduce erosion, impacts to sensitive native soils, and disturbances to marine mammals. When contemplating trail placement it is important to balance these factors with visitor enjoyment and education. With this in mind, I will be analyzing different conservation programs from other protected areas to identify successful strategies that may be implemented in Point Lobos.

Overall, this has been rewarding project and a great learning experience. I am enjoying the challenge and responsibility of working in a unique and



diverse landscape. My hope is that the work I do here will help land managers make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the Reserve.

Project: Marine Mammals, Shorebird and Seabirds

Greetings, readers! My name is Elizabeth Koch. San Francisco Bay Area born and raised, I moved to Southern California where I earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology from California State University, Long Beach. As an undergrad, I volunteered at the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and connecting all generations through community involvement in hands-on restoration and education in wetland and watershed science, coastal ecology, and environmental sustainability. After graduation and during my year long break before returning to school as a master's student, I was a research assistant for the Coastal Dolphins of Orange County Project studying the population dynamics, social ecology, behavior, and distribution of Pacific Coast common bottlenose dolphins along the southern California coastline using photo identification.

I am now a second-year graduate student and making my way back up the coast in the Applied Marine and Watershed Science program at California State University, Monterey Bay. As part of my program, I was responsible for attaining a professional internship that would develop the skills I've learned in the classroom and further the pursuit of my career goals. How lucky am I to have ended up here?

As an intern, I developed and initiated what I



The impact of visitors to China Cove (top) and Weston Beach (bottom), as well as other popular sites in the Reserve, is being studied by intern Elizabeth Koch, a graduate student at California State University, Monterey Bay.

hope will become a long-term wildlife monitoring project that focuses on the abundance and distribution of marine mammals, seabirds, and shorebirds within the Reserve. The study area is currently defined by the rocky intertidal and near shore areas between Sea Lion Cove and Gibson Beach. However, I would like to see the project expand to the north shore. Within the study area, I have defined a transect that is divided into counting blocks. Within these counting blocks are established observation points from which I survey the surrounding area using binoculars and a spotting scope and record the abundance of each species I observe. These surveys are traveled by foot and are conducted before, during, and after Reserve hours.

In addition to these surveys, I also monitor the areas where park guests have unrestricted access (in particular the intertidal stretch between Piney Woods and Weston Beach) for disturbance. This stretch is also divided into monitoring blocks. Each block is monitored for a four-hour period during which I record all wildlife observations, any human-caused disturbances (which includes those caused by park visitors, kayakers, offshore boats, and low flying airplanes), and the number of guests present in each block at 15-minute intervals. Using these data, I hope to be able to identify disturbance hot spots within the park.

Studies similar to these are important when making management decisions, especially considering the changes we are seeing (climate change, sea level rise, increased park visitation, coastal bluff erosion, etc.) Having this baseline data set will allow us to detect changes over time and better inform decision makers regarding management and mitigation efforts.

To the park staff and docents I've come across on the trails, it's been a pleasure meeting you. Your commitment to Point Lobos is incredibly inspiring! To those readers I have not met yet, keep an eye out for me at the park. I'll be the young woman wearing a California State Park volunteer hat carrying my weight in gear.

NOTES FROM THE DOCENT LOG

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

All Things Great and Small
Fred Brown
8/4/15

An afternoon was spent exploring the tide pools at Weston Beach with my seven year-old grandson Ian. We carefully stepped from rock to rock, watching the crabs dart quickly into their narrow crevices. We came upon a somewhat larger lined shore crab that didn't do the familiar, furtive sideways crab-crawl, so we looked closer and carefully touched the carapace—still with no reaction. This led to our discovery that the large right claw was stuck in a tight slot and wedged in with a smaller rock. Perhaps a large wave had forced the claw into this position.

The forgetful boy scout in me had neglected to come prepared for such a situation, so no tools were available for the extraction. Ian, though, found a slender smooth rock that would fit into the space below the small rock, and with some effort, I was able to pop the rock out, and the claw was freed.

The claw was lifted slowly, opened and closed a few times, then tucked away, and in a flash, our crab scampered into a deep dark slot in the wonderfully intricate, though sometimes life-threatening, mudstone sedimentary formations of Weston Beach.

The rescue team then returned their watchful eyes to the sculpin, sea anemones, hermit crabs, and the many other creatures that seemed to be happy to have a seven year-old boy peering into their busy habitat. "Do you think he was waving to us?" "Maybe," I said.



Great and Small 2
Celie Placzek
7/17/15

The fog had already started rolling back in this afternoon. Most folks had left the reserve with the exception of a young couple at Weston Beach. I noticed they were carrying a child's yellow plastic pail along with a small green shovel. As they approached their car, I greeted them and asked what they had in the pail. "Oh, a little crab," the young man replied. "Yes, we want to show it to our little baby when he awakens," the woman said, motioning to the sleeping child in the car. I told them that they are not allowed to take anything, plant, animal or even rocks from the Reserve. "Oh" she said "We'll put it back when we get to Fremont." I wanted to tell her that would be like dropping it in outer Mongolia and saying, okay, now find your way

home. Instead, I cautioned that the animal would most likely be dead by the time they returned to Fremont and putting "it back" where it was found was the only option. They agreed and while the father was returning the crab to Weston Beach, I quickly googled "purple shore crab" on my iPhone to show the young mother where she could learn more about these intriguing little crabs. I further offered that they could return when their baby is older and show him where purple shore crabs live in the wild.

A Crabby Finish
Fred Brown
7/17/15

A tiny purple crab
in a little yellow pail
was going off to Fremont,
though it may as well been jail
For shore crabs cannot survive
in parking lots and malls;
they need the inter-tidal zone
and rocks where they can crawl

Hammering Home the Message
Manus Donahue
8/10/15

Docents showed up in force for an unusual Friday afternoon school walk. We hosted about 40 Chinese exchange students who were spending their summer in California. I had seven of the students—all teenage girls. I quickly realized that their English was about as good as my Chinese, but I was sure that the magic of the tide pools would translate without words. On the way to the ocean, I pointed out poison oak, and using my Oscar-not winning skills, I tried to convey the danger along with the warning, "Don't touch this!" The walk progressed and as we were going up the hill to Seal Lion Point, the girls started singing and dancing, "U Can't Touch This." I was so proud of my communication skills until later when a much more "with it" friend pointed out this is a very famous rap video by M.C. Hammer. I now have my first rap video on the iPad and a new way to inform visitors of the poison oak menace.

Docent Duties?
Vicki Odello
8/9/15

A very jovial young man asked if I would take a few pictures of him and his gal with his iPhone. "You bet!" I said. Click, click. "Take a few more,"

he said. Sure! Click, click, click. "Just keep taking pictures," he added. "Um...OK." I replied slightly awkwardly, but willing.... Click, click, click, click... Gal admonished Guy for being demanding of the nice docent....it all made sense when he dropped to his knee and asked for her hand in marriage. My heart was pounding as I became aware of my huge responsibility to capture their moment. Click, click, click, click, click, X 40. Confident I got several good shots, not knowing what to do with myself standing there as a third wheel waiting to return his iPhone, I then turned to the people-filled parking lot and yelled, "SHE SAID YES!" A grand applause ensued from all. What a thrill for me! Very happy for them!

A New Bird Listing
Carol Rychener
8/3/15

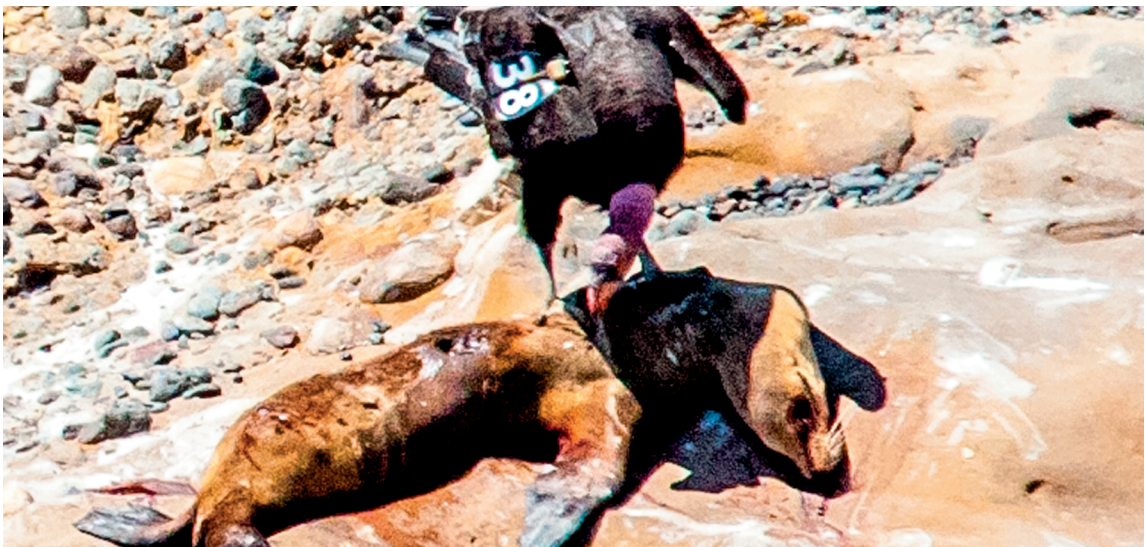
While at the Information Station, I was delighted to receive reports of a condor sighting from very enthusiastic visitors. However, the location of the sighting was in question. One group pointed in the direction of Sand Hill Trail and the other groups pointed in the direction of Cypress Grove Trail. The wing tag on the condor in question was reportedly #46, and there was no question about that. Soon after, another visitor reported seeing condor #47 in the south part of Point Lobos. Later, Dave and Gretchen Evans saw condor #38 feeding on a sea lion carcass at Sea Lion Cove. I guess we can claim August 1, 2015, as THE day of the condor at Point Lobos.

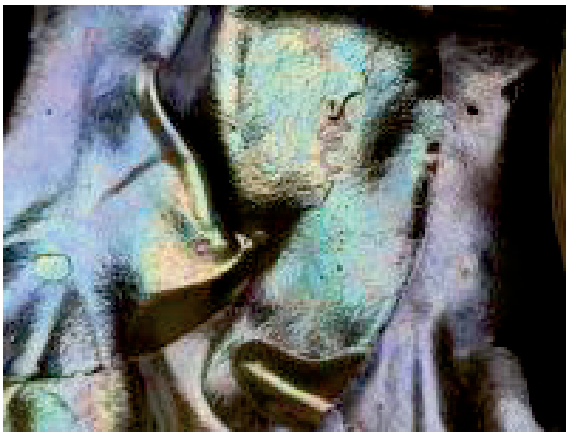
Condor Verification
Dave Evans
8/1/15

Well, it's official. Condor 38 has landed!!! Point Lobos has now got photographic evidence of condors in the Reserve. Most of the visitors were staring in wonder at the humpbacks, cormorants, sea otters, and all the other "usual suspects." Oh yeah, and a condor!

Additional info, forwarded by the Grand Poobah of all things birds (and pretty much all things), Tom Clifton: the condor in the pic is actually condor #538—Miracle—who was the first completely wild chick in Big Sur in over a century. Her parents laid, hatched, reared, and fledged her without management intervention. How cool is that...our own little Miracle at Point Lobos.







A Whalers of a Happy Ending

Castel Ortiz

8/3/15

While I was on duty at the Whalers Cabin a man walked in, and in heavily accented English, asked if I was in charge. He handed me a purse that he had found on a trail. I opened the purse, which seemed to belong to a young girl, and unexpectedly found over \$200 in cash and gift cards. However, there was no sign of any ID or the contact info I was hoping for. The cabin quickly crowded up. I resolved to contact the kiosk and Info Station once I had some privacy due to the contents of the purse. Meanwhile I hung it on our docent chair and hoped for some good luck. Toward the end of a very busy shift a mother and her teenage daughter walked in. The girl nonchalantly commented to her mom that the purse looked like her sister's. Overhearing this, I asked where her sister was and she brought her in. The girl was so excited to see the purse and, after quizzing her on the contents, I happily reunited them.

More Happy Whale Tails

Dave Evans

8/2/15

Star billing for most visitors on Saturday, and nearly every day this past week, actually went to the humpbacks. Several visitors and docents snapped pics as the whales breached a couple times and then headed over to the kelp outside Sand Hill Cove for a little "otter imitation." After spyhopping a few times and vocalizing (very cool), we noticed the humpback was rolling in the water. Out came the binocs and scopes and we discovered kelp being wrapped around its body and then trailing from the flukes as the whales moved further out to sea to join a huge pod of dolphins streaking north. Recent dolphin

pods have easily numbered in the hundreds. The whale leading the dolphins appeared to be a blue whale, but I couldn't be certain.

Visitor Envy

Paul Rep

7/25/15

Okay...today while gate greeting I was told about whales feeding off of Sea Lion Point. So, as visitors came in, and believe me, there were hundreds, I sent them out to the Point, using the new Lace Lichen trail. Well, the bumper was everyone leaving shared their stories about what they saw and how grateful they were that I sent them out to watch the whale activity! Then a visitor came to me grinning from ear to ear, so excited about the photograph he took. He proudly showed it to me and I wilted with envy; he photographed not one or two, but FIVE humpbacks breaching at the same time! Happy to do my duty at the gate, but...

Two Little Chicks Are They

Susan DuCoeur

8/1/15

Since early June I have been watching the black-crowned night herons at Bird Island. One family in particular has been of interest. In early June, I spotted an adult watching over an egg, then in early July, I realized there had been two eggs. A few days later I got a clear view of the two chicks in all their chartreuse glory. Yesterday, after a two-week absence, I returned to the Reserve and found the little ones were becoming teenagers—tall and skinny—and were beginning to lose their wonderful bright color. They had been left alone, and during the hour I was at Bird Island neither mom nor dad returned. At first the chicks remained in the nest, but later they began to explore the area around it, perhaps a first venture into independent life.

Point Lobos, 1969

Chris Miller

7/23/15

I found this description of Point Lobos in a 1969 brochure from the Automobile Club of Southern California. Some things don't change...

"Time seems to recede in this quiet primeval paradise, which holds a wealth of wilderness beauty to be discovered along the well-planned roads and trails. Headland meadows—graced

(continued on back page)



MEMORIALS

In memory of Sally Hartwell
Robert and Francis Osborne

In memory of G. Edward Huenerfauth
Carl and Karen Sorensen

In memory of Richard M. Jacobs
Linda R. Jacobs

In memory of Richard "Dick" Lehrberg
Mary Brayton
Joel Bresler
Kamie Cicinelli
Larry and Sharon Hicks
Thomas Lopez
Norman & Diane Beamer & Tasca
Marla Pirner and Frank Davi
Jamie Stern and Steve Brown
Diane Stone
Colleen Sweet
Neal Whitman

TRIBUTES

In celebration of Steve Dennis
David Dennis

In honor of Mary Gale
Margaret Clark

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 school education outreach programs relating to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Tom Breckon
Diane Diggins
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In honor of Jeff Johnson
Gordana Stjepanovic and Michael Phelps

In memory of George "Judd" Perry
Dan and Barbie Maschmeier
Michael and Betty Maurutto

In memory of Michael Zamzow
Henry and Ann Zamzow

GRANTS

Rani Fischer
To support restoration of cypress trees at A.M. Allan Memorial Grove

Pebble Beach Company Foundation
To provide transportation funds for local school programs

All gifts listed were made between April 16, 2015 and August 1, 2015.



Image by Chris Axe, chrisaxephoto.com

What's your legacy?

A planned gift to the Point Lobos Foundation can meet your charitable and financial goals and help protect Point Lobos into the future. Contact Anna Patterson, Development Director, at 866-338-7227 ext. 101 or anna@pointlobos.org for more information.



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(continued from page 13)

by small deer, wildflowers, wind-warped Monterey cypress and moss-hung Monterey pine—overlook a rough surf-sprayed coast and its richly populated tide pools, sea otter and sea lion colonies, and primly perched ocean birds.”

Kelp Help on the Beach
Celie Placzek
7/20/15

I hustled over to Point Lobos when the gates opened last Saturday for a chance to get nose to nose with my favorite purple iridescent kelp. It was going to be a really low tide at Weston Cove and I wanted to wade out and see if I could capture some seaweed magic with my camera. Soon after I had set up my tripod and settled in, I heard the crunching and crumbling of tiny little pebbles behind me. Before I knew it, there was a large family of maybe eight or ten wanting to know what I was seeing. I always feel a little self-conscious replying, "It's this beautiful seaweed. Come closer. May I show you?" I held up a long slithery piece kelp hanging from the rock wall. Oh, you have to

come even closer, I urged. And they did, one by one carefully maneuvering over the slippery rocks in their sandals and tennies. Even reluctant dad finally joined us. And here, do you see a little crab hiding in the crack? "Oh there's another crab," the seven-year-old discovered. And if you're very still, more may creep out just a little bit further, I offered. They were enchanted. One of the older girls picked up a piece of feather boa kelp and with great giggles modeled it for the rest of us. What fun! I was elated. I didn't want it to end, but the incoming tide had other designs on our morning.

So, if you try to pinch a crab
right here in this Reserve,
and toss her in a yellow pail
you'll get what you deserve.
For there is docent Placzek
and other docents who
will ask you to replace it
— and you'd better do it too
—Celie Placzek