

# POINT LOBOS

Fall 2016





Photo: U.S. Geological Survey

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Melissa Gobell | melissa.gobell@parks.ca.gov

### Grants and Special Projects Coordinator

Ali Cameron | ali@pointlobos.org

### Point Lobos Magazine Editor

Reg Henry | regwriter43@gmail.com

### Front Cover

*The inside of Whalers Cabin, September 1934. Photo by George Vaughan. Vaughan, who was living there with his family at the time, did much of his work at the drafting table in the lower left where documents related to the work being done at Point Lobos, can be seen. Photo: Point Lobos Foundation*

### Photo Spread, pages 10-11

*Humpback whales, Whalers Cove, August 2015,  
Photo: (c) Kip Evans, Mountain and Sea Productions*

*Advancing visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, protecting its natural environment for future generations, and strengthening the Monterey County network of coastal California State Parks.*

**www.pointlobos.org**

PO Box 221789 | Carmel, CA | 93922 | 866.338.7227



# President's message

Cynthia Vernon

It's been nine months since I took on the position of president of the Point Lobos Foundation board of directors. So much has changed in that time.

We've said goodbye to three wonderful directors this year: Jeff Johnson, Jay Sinclair and Augie Louis each served at least six years. They made tremendous contributions to Point Lobos through their service during a period of rapid growth and change.

Monterey District Superintendent Mat Fuzie left his post after more than 10 years and is now deputy director of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. We look forward to working with his replacement, Brent Marshall, in this vital role.



Superintendent Marshall comes to Monterey after four years as district superintendent at Oceano Dunes District. He joined the Department of Parks and Recreation in 2002, and worked in the Gold Fields and Mendocino districts before arriving in the Central Coast at San Luis Obispo Coast District

in 2006. Brent has also filled supervising ranger roles at Carpinteria State Beach in the Channel Coast District and at the Big Sur Sector in Monterey District.

We welcomed a new grants and projects coordinator to the Point Lobos Foundation, Ali Cameron. Ali holds a master's degree in international policy and development from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey. She brings several years of experience working with grants and operations for the environment, humanitarian aid and refugee resettlement projects in the U.S. and the Middle East.

We reluctantly said goodbye to former Point Lobos Magazine editorial director, Dida Kutz. Dida took the magazine from a basic newsletter to a professional publication and we are grateful for the time she spent with us.

After a period of soul-searching (and member surveys), Reg Henry has taken on the role of editor for the Point Lobos Magazine. Reg is a former editor of The Herald who had a 45-year career in journalism and in retirement still writes a nationally syndicated column for the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette. He retired in

2014, moved back to this area in 2015 and is now a Point Lobos Docent and member of the foundation.

Earlier this year, the Point Lobos Foundation board of directors and key personnel from the Monterey District of California State Parks spent a full day together in a facilitated retreat. The time was spent crafting a joint vision and allowed both organizations to better understand one another and strengthen our partnership.

That understanding will help us as we continue to participate in the ongoing Carmel Area General Plan process. The alternative presented by State Parks in June was not well-received by our community, and we share many of the concerns expressed during community meetings. The main issues are regional ones — traffic between Carmel and Big Sur, more visitors than we can accommodate and a lack of safe parking. We remain committed to working with State Parks and other stakeholders to identify solutions that will work for our community.

We want this magazine to be fun and informative. We want it to transport you to Point Lobos. Most importantly, we want it to be accepted as a small gesture of appreciation for your support. At Point Lobos, we are blessed with a resource that is loved by many but cared for by few. Thank you for being one of those dedicated people.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Vernon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Above: Cynthia Vernon. Cynthia is the president of the Point Lobos Foundation, serves on the board of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums and keeps busy in her day job as chief operating officer for the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Center left: New Monterey District Superintendent Brent Marshall.*





*George Vaughan, left, and F. L. Olmsted Jr., the planners of the Reserve, on a vacation trip into the Mexican desert in 1930. Photo: The Vaughan family*

# Visionaries took the land and made a Reserve

The jewel of the State Parks first needed expert polishing

By Kevin Shabram

There is a spirit at Point Lobos that affects almost everyone who visits. Painters and photographers have attempted to capture this spirit but its reality can only truly be experienced firsthand.

For years, conservationists endeavored to ensure this spirit was protected for future generations. When the Point was acquired by the state in 1933, it seemed their goal was achieved, but there was still much to be done.

Great controversy and debate raged over whether the state could do more harm than good. It was clear Point Lobos needed some greater protections.

To address this challenge, the Point Lobos Advisory Committee was formed. John Campbell Merriam, a well-known paleontologist and adviser to the committee, proposed a plan to perform a comprehensive study of the site. Merriam was a founder and president of the Save the

Redwoods League. He was also president of the Carnegie Institution, which would provide a \$10,000 grant for the project.

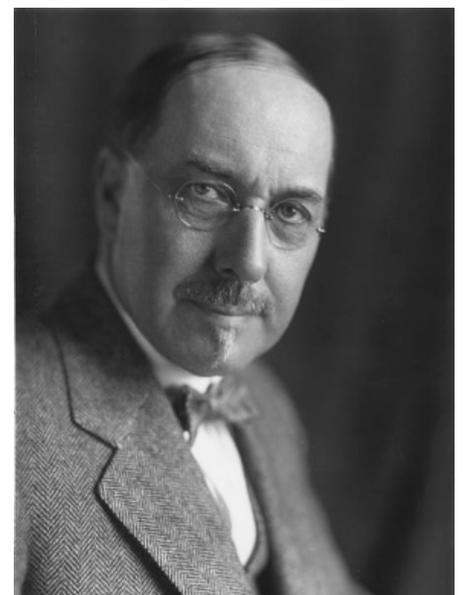
This was the first study of its kind applied to a state or national park. It included participation by some of the country's leading scientists and naturalists covering all aspects of the environment at Point Lobos.

Merriam's plan was to look at the problem scientifically and provide a basis for answering the question of how to provide access to the public while still preserving the natural environment.

In January 1934, the advisory committee selected Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. to do the landscape report and plan for Point Lobos. Olmsted was a passionate conservationist who was involved in the creation of many state and national parks. He was the son of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. who was a designer of New

York's Central Park. The senior Olmsted is considered to be the father of landscape architecture.

The landscape report itself had two goals. First, to survey the Point's condition — documenting and mapping the flora, fauna and areas of interest. Second, to



*John Campbell Merriam, Photo: Carnegie Institution Washington DC.*

come up with a general plan for its use and protection. The general plan and recommendations would be backed up by the entirety of the scientific study.

Olmsted was no stranger to Point Lobos. He had done two earlier on-site reports. The first was commissioned by the non-profit Point Lobos League in 1927. This report helped define the boundaries of the proposed park and documented its condition.

In this report, Olmsted pointed out the fragility and uniqueness of the site. "It would be a crime against future generations to permit this precious promontory to be used as an ordinary public seashore park," Olmsted wrote. "It is essentially a 'museum piece' and it ought to be treated as such." Even in 1927 consensus was building that Point Lobos should be treated differently.

The second report was included in the State Park Survey of 1928, which was mandated by legislation passed the previous year. Olmsted took on this survey in February 1928 and completed it in 11 months. The \$15,000 provided by the legislation did not even cover his expenses. He and members of his firm surveyed 325 potential sites narrowing them down to 125 to recommend as parks. These sites pretty much define the present-day California State Parks system.

Olmsted submitted the survey on Dec. 31, 1928, and promptly checked himself into a hospital for exhaustion. Newton Drury, executive director of the Save the Redwoods League, characterized his efforts as simply "heroic."

Early in the summer of 1934 a young landscape architect named George Vaughan arrived at Point Lobos to complete the planning for the Reserve. His family had close personal ties to Olmsted's and he would often refer to Olmsted as "Uncle Rick." Vaughan was Olmsted's traveling secretary during much of his previous work in California.

Vaughan spent two years at Point Lobos, mapping, photographing and putting together the report. He was guided in his efforts by Olmsted, who spent several months on site, and Merriam, who visited Point Lobos every summer. He also worked with many of the scientists conducting the various studies.

Vaughan lived in the Whalers Cabin with his wife Martha and their baby daughter Zibette. The cabin was not only his home but also his office. Much of the work on the report was done there. As the work progressed, Vaughan directed many of the restoration efforts including the removal of structures, the elimination and rerouting of roads,

and the creation and layout of formal trails.

On Feb. 2, 1936, the advisory committee met at Point Lobos to finalize the report and recommendations. With its implementation, California's first true state reserve was born. The report was very well received by conservationists throughout the country. The study became a model for how it should be done. Merriam applied it himself to the creation of Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

Olmsted and Merriam, who were also involved with the development of the redwood parks in Northern California, were completely captured by the spell of Point Lobos. They understood its significance. There were many deserving redwood park sites but there was only one Point Lobos.



*George Vaughan's wife, Martha, with daughter Zibette on the stairs of the Whalers Cabin. Photo: The Vaughan Family*

They were just two of the many dedicated men and women responsible for the Reserve we know today. As the latest general plan for Point Lobos is being developed, it is important to take note of the first one. For we are living in the future that was contemplated by that report.

*Kevin Shabram, a lifelong resident of Carmel who is an electronics design engineer by profession, is the docent historian at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.*

**December 1926** – Point Lobos League is formed and the campaign for acquisition begins.

**Summer 1927** – John Merriam visits A.M. Allan and his family to discuss the future of Point Lobos.

**October 1927** – F.L. Olmsted Jr. submits the first report to the Point Lobos League.

**November 1927** – California legislation passes state park bills.

**February 1928** – Olmsted takes on California state park survey.

**January 1929** – A.M. Allan in poor health, his family requests that negotiations with the park commission be put on hold for the remainder of his life.

**February 1930** – Allan dies.

**October 1930** – Allans'

daughters contact Merriam to reopen negotiations for acquisition.

**November 1933** – The state acquires Point Lobos minus parcel four (Moss Cove) for \$631,000.

**November 1933** – The Point Lobos Advisory Committee is formed.

**January 1934** – Work begins on scientific study of Point Lobos.

**February 1934** – Olmsted is commissioned to produce a detailed report and general plan.

**June 1934** – George B. Vaughan and family arrive at Point Lobos and take up residence in the Whalers Cabin.

**February 1936** – Point Lobos Advisory Committee meets in the warden's cottage to finalize the report.

**October 1936** – Vaughan and his family head home to Cedar Grove, Maine.



*George Vaughan with his daughter Zibette at the Cypress tree near Whalers Cabin in 1935. Climbing in trees is frowned upon today. Photo: The Vaughan Family*

# From the editor

By Reg Henry

When we are little, adults ask us: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” In the history of precocious kids, I think no child has ever answered: “I want to be a docent.” Funny thing, that.

Yet here we are — some of us — all grown up and happy how life has turned out. Of course, some of us did become what as kids we wanted to be. As soon as I put aside my dream of becoming a sports star (only a lack of athletic ability held me back), I became a journalist like my dad.

It was only after many years as an inked-stained wretch that I went to Docent U at Point Lobos in retirement. I learned new subjects — botany, geology, marine mammals, birds and merchandising of caps, vests, postcards etc. at the Information Station — and was unleashed after my May graduation on the unsuspecting public.

Now I find myself with one foot in my new life as a docent and one foot in my old life as an editor. This wasn't the plan but it seemed right. The Point Lobos Foundation was looking for someone to edit its magazine, which had been suspended in the interim, and I knew a guy who had a little time to spare. Yes, that would be me.

As both a new docent and member of the foundation, I also straddle these kindred worlds and I hope both experiences inform what I do as the new editor (for the moment, temporary) of the revived magazine. What are my plans for the next couple of issues?

In some ways, the challenge parallels what I faced when I first came to Monterey to edit *The Herald* in 1988, a stint that was to last five years. Back then, by and large, the locals loved their newspaper. It was the voice of the community — sizable and respected. Any changes to it were viewed with alarm.

The Point Lobos Magazine is similarly loved — we know this because the foundation did a reader survey. This affection is a tribute to the former editor and all who worked with her. But my brief is to make the magazine even better, the same challenge back at *The Herald*.

So when inevitably changes are made, they will be made gradually, so that the pain doesn't spark insurrection. We don't need a mob with pitchforks at the Reserve except to help with the reseeding.

The one thing you may notice is that Sparky Starkweather, the State Park Squirrel, who had his own column, has retired on his state pension. Please do not begrudge him his well-earned acorns. At a future time, he may return to do a children's feature. The good news is that Chuck Bancroft, the legendary ranger who speaks fluent squirrel and used to translate Sparky's comments, will write articles under his own name.

The magazine has a new feature, a Point Lobos-themed crossword, which a fellow-docent classmate of mine, Mike Pair, kindly volunteered to do. But Mike and I are not expert puzzle makers and we need the help of foundation members or docents who can produce a more conventional and challenging puzzle. If you are interested, please contact me. I think a puzzle might

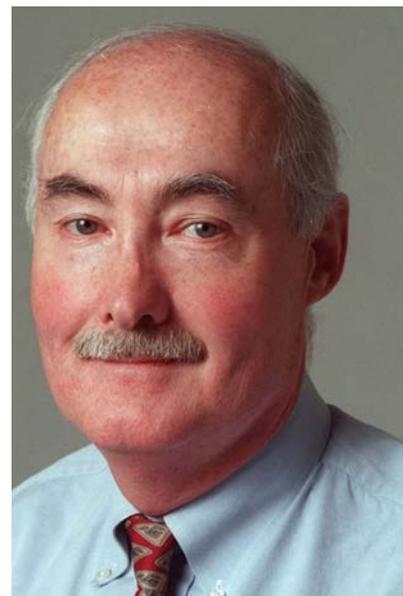
be especially fun for docents at Whalers Cabin as they seek to fill in time before the arrival of 50 visitors all at once. Why, I bet the Portuguese whalers did crossword puzzles in between whales.

Being a docent and being an editor are similar trades: They are all about telling good stories — truthful, interpretative and compelling stories (and the pictures that speak 1,000 more words). That is my goal and this is the first installment in fulfilling it. I thank the Point Lobos Foundation for the opportunity.

What I have learned is that the people who love Point Lobos are an extraordinarily talented and caring group. I want to give them the best magazine I can and I want to tap their talents to help make it excellent.

What do I want to be when I grow up? With Point Lobos in my life now, I never want to grow up.

*Reg Henry is editor of the Point Lobos Magazine. His e-mail address is [regwriter43@gmail.com](mailto:regwriter43@gmail.com).*



*Photo: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

# When the smoke clears

The Soberanes fire spared Point Lobos but raises questions about the future

By Chuck Bancroft

This summer we were all intimately involved with the Soberanes fire, which burned tens of thousands of acres, destroyed many homes and uprooted many lives.

Unfortunately, it was not the first time nor the last time for such an event to happen. All over California multiple fires kept Cal Fire and local departments too busy sometimes to take even a short break.

My wife and I live just out Carmel Valley Road. As I write this, the big fire camp off Rancho San Carlos Road has moved but smoke still lingers over the Santa Lucias. Blackened moonscapes are up Mal Paso Canyon and at the “top of the world” at the end of Corona Road, virtually across and down the street from Point Lobos.

I know what devastation might have occurred had the Reserve not been spared. I was involved with the Basin Complex fire in Big Sur in 2008. Many of the park staff from Monterey helped in Big Sur to transport vehicles and assist the Big Sur staff anyway we could.

The fire camp was at Andrew Molera State Park and during our assignments we saw the horror of this massive conflagration.

Sad events are also imbedded in my memory from my days at Will Rogers State Park and Topanga State Park in southern California.

The Mandeville Canyon fire and Agoura-Malibu fire erupted Oct. 23, 1978, with the Agoura-Malibu fire racing from the inland suburb and growing into a 20-mile wide front that reached the Pacific Ocean. It claimed three lives, 230 homes and 254 structures and burned 25,000 acres. The separate Mandeville fire sped from Mulholland Drive into Kenter and Mandeville canyons to Pacific Palisades, destroying 20 homes.

I'll never forget being at Will Rogers with fire trucks everywhere to protect these priceless

buildings and the collection of memorabilia of the great American humorist. During the following days, I patrolled Rivas and Rustic canyons (one on each side of the state historic park) and the devastation brought tears to my eyes.

Still, in the aftermath of the fires, we could see roots sprouting from many of the native brush species in the mountains behind the park. How quickly nature started to restore what had been lost.

In January 1981, I came to Point Lobos as a fairly new ranger of three and a half years. It was wonderful to see the pine and redwood forests so similar to the forests where I grew up south of San Francisco. Glen McGowan was my supervisor for 22 years at Point Lobos.

In 1983, he became a Level 3 Burner, having studied with Dr. Harold Biswell from U.C. Berkeley's forestry department. He would write the prescriptions for controlled burns in Point Lobos. Cal Fire from the Carmel Highlands was a large part of the program.

The first burning of 40 acres took place in the pine forest with the main road, South Shore Road and Mound Meadow Trail as the boundaries. After the fires were completed and extinguished, Glen with Dr. Biswell led nature walks through the forest to show the new growth of grasses and other plants, including abundant wildflowers coming up where before pine duff and litter had predominated.

Glen also wrote burn prescriptions for Carmelo Meadow and the Hudson fields. During closing patrols in my early years, I remember seeing two different herds of deer feeding in Big Mound Meadow and below the Hudson House in the field.

The idea that fires can have both good and bad effects is not new. The native people also burned the fields to increase the production of grasses, which provided better browse for the deer.



*Controlled burning to manage grasslands at Big Mound Meadow, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Date unknown. Photo: California State Parks*

Unfortunately, pitch canker fungus arrived in 1986. It is not known exactly how it arrived in California but infected nursery stock is suspected. Within eight years the disease spread to all three wild American populations of Monterey pine.

Though the disease can be wind-borne, beetles are the usual vectors. Were the trees in the fire zone affected and stressed? Then did the beetles carry the disease to the stressed trees?

As a precaution, management at the time had halted controlled burns. For several years a controlled burn was performed at Big Mound Meadow but not in the forest. However, in recent years, a crew from Soledad prison has been at the Reserve to remove many smaller trees to open up the habitat.

But there is still too much debris, downed trees and light fuels that could be a potential catastrophe. Just imagine if the embers from the Soberanes fire had crossed over Highway 1 from upper Corona Road in the Carmel Highlands!

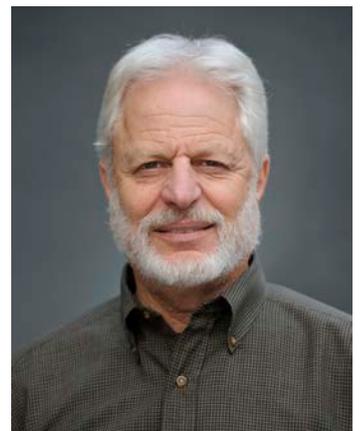
Should State Parks do more to protect Point Lobos

by removing more of the fuel load and reinstating the small controlled burns?

Point Lobos is a beautiful and unique habitat with incredible biodiversity. In many places it is still untouched by human interventions, but one uncontrolled fire like Soberanes could have a major impact on our treasured landscape.

The Reserve was lucky this time, but the fire has given us an opportunity to think about precautions that might be taken to stay lucky.

*Chuck Bancroft spent 31 years of his 35-year career as a State Parks Ranger at Point Lobos. Photography, nature walks and programs for members of the Point Lobos Foundation help keep him busy. The views expressed here are his own. Photo at right: Michael Troutman, DMT Imaging*









By Fred Brown

How do we connect young people to the wonders of California's coast and marine protected areas and foster California's next generation of conservationists?

This is not an idle question. Kids who regularly spend time exploring the outdoors are healthier and have reduced incidence of stress and attention deficit disorders. Connecting with nature at an early age builds confidence, increases academic performance and helps youth become leaders. And they are generally happier.

California State Parks and the Point Lobos Foundation are focused on finding creative ways to make our parks accessible and meaningful to everyone, with a particular emphasis on youth. By incorporating new technology with our existing school outreach programs, we can actively engage children with their natural environment through interactive and educational tools.

With that in mind, we are introducing *Discover Point Lobos*, an app which uses interactive media to bring students into a virtual Reserve for exploration and discovery and gives teachers and students a chance to explore the story of Point Lobos in greater depth in their schools and homes.

The app is not a substitute for a field trip. With its stunning digital images, video, interactive games, and engaging content, it is intended to be a pre-visit orientation and educational tool to prepare students for what they may see, hear and experience at Point Lobos, and encourage them to continue learning after a visit.

Additionally, it helps teach common core standards to students in a very effective and compelling manner and provides a resource that may not be available to all students. *Discover Point Lobos* protects all

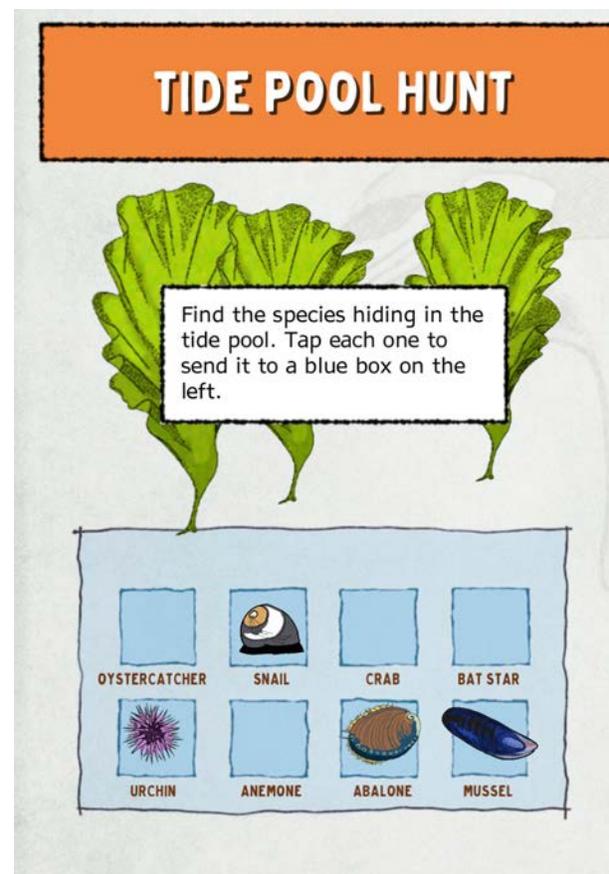
our parks by increasing knowledge and promoting conservation of their valuable resources.

Although the content has been developed especially for kids in grades 4 and 5, our school outreach program target age, you'll find that kids from eight to 80 will enjoy the games and content, which have a range from the simple to the more complex.

A major feature of the app is the Species Book, which is used to complete the games, and serves as a reference source for the 96 different plant and animal species described.

As well as all the varied species along the three trail games, you'll find icons among the trail clues that when selected will show short "Ask a Docent" videos of Point Lobos Docents and State Parks staff.

There are interaction games, Forest "poop" Clues, and the Food Web Game that uses the species



cards to drag into place all the various species that are involved in knowing what eats what. A rotating bobcat and a southern sea otter provide a 360-degree look at these interesting animals.

The plant habitats are also featured, along with our iconic Monterey pine and Monterey cypress, and the geology section highlights the funky features of the Carmelo Formation.

Point Lobos has a long and fascinating history of human habitation, and a specially designed time-line, beginning with the Rumsien and Ohlone Indians, sweeps through the centuries with pictures and brief excerpts of the activities that took place at Whalers Cove.

The Rocky Shore provides the Pool Hunt and the Tide Pool games that warm you up to the more complex Ecosystem Game which requires a balanced underwater ecosystem. By adding producers and predators in such a

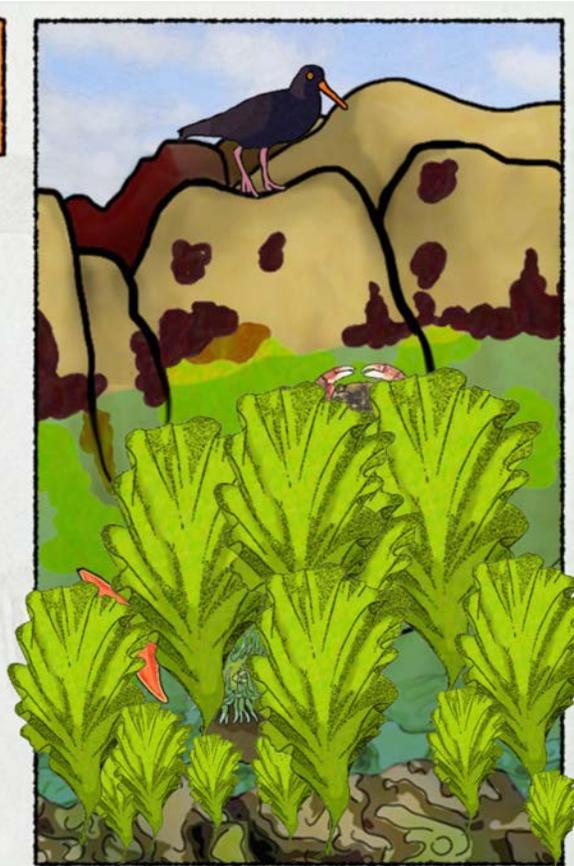
way as to maintain balance in the tide pool, the game continuously shows the predators consuming the producers, while a monitor and a balance gauge show your success, or lack of it, in keeping your tide pool healthy.

Finally, Point Lobos is only partly on land; most of the Reserve is contained in the surrounding 700-plus acres of Marine Protected Area. So, underwater we go with video and photos of the ocean creatures that call water their home, from sea otters and harbor seals to white sharks and orcas. An important safety video by Lifeguard Kevin Brady explains how to stay safe while diving at Point Lobos.

*Discover Point Lobos* provides an opportunity for kids of all ages to learn about nature, and to appreciate the unparalleled experience that Point Lobos provides in conservation and environmental stewardship.

*Discover Point Lobos* was developed by Kip Evans' Mountain and Sea Productions Team and funded by California State Parks Foundation, the Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop, the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation and the Point Lobos Foundation. *Discover Point Lobos* is available free through the iPad App Store.

*Fred Brown is vice president of the Point Lobos Foundation, the chair of the Visitor Services Committee and a Point Lobos Docent who is an avid school outreach nature walk leader.*



*Upper left: Home screen image for Discover Point Lobos app. Lower left: One of many interactive and educational games to engage children. Lower right: Docent Ed Clifton (left) being videotaped by Kip Evans (far right) and assistant. Photo: Fred Brown*

# Notes from the docent log

Compiled by Ruthann Donahue



Photo: Celie Placzek

With the fog clearing, I trekked out to Sea Lion Point with a scope to view coastal wildlife — and visiting “wildlife.” Not to be disappointed a group from Madrid, Spain, approached, with many questions and genuine enthusiasm. Communicating with their broken English and my limited Spanish, we observed a raft of 20 otters, wrapped up in the kelp forest. We also moved the scope to observe harbor seals, sea lions and one lone whale heading north. While observing, we shared stories of Spain and the beautiful California coast. They enjoyed hearing the history of how Point Lobos got its name, and I shared the legend that the barking sea lions on the rocky point sounded like wolves and inspired the Spanish to name the area Puntas de los Lobos Marinos, Point of the Sea Wolves. Hasta la vista, amigos! *Randy Warren, 8/18/2016*

While walking along the South Shore Trail at low tide yesterday, I saw a couple bending over an exposed rock at Weston Beach. They seemed so intent at what they were observing that I walked up and asked what was happening. One of them replied that they thought the formation in the rock must be the remains of a tube worm from eons ago. Indeed it was a long rope-like formation and not knowing the real answer; I whipped out my iPhone, took a photo of it and sent it to Ed Clifton, our resident geological expert, who in turn gave us the answers. Is that remarkable or what? Here’s what Ed had to say:

“What a spectacular trace fossil! I can tell you the name of the trace, but can only hazard a guess at the trace maker. With trace fossils is it a lot easier to guess what the animal was doing than the identity of the animal itself. I think most paleoichnologists, (what the trace fossil experts like to call themselves — it does sound very scientific!) would call the tube “Thalassinoides” (which also sounds very scientific!). The tube is composed of sand which presumably filled the burrow after its occupant moved on. There are so many other traces in your photo that I couldn’t begin to count them all!”

How lucky we are to have such a gracious scientist in our docent family. Thanks Ed !

*Celie Placzek, 6/3/16*



Photo: Lorna Claerbout

A woman who is a frequent visitor from the Los Angeles area arrived at the Information Station during my shift. She was very upset because she had seen a dead harbor seal floating in the water at China Cove and heard a baby seal crying on the beach. She was about to start her drive back but was truly distressed. I talked her into taking a walk on the Cypress Grove trail before she left so she could soothe her spirit before her long drive. I lent her a pair of binoculars and told her where I had seen a sea otter with a baby on her chest just 15 minutes earlier. She came back to me an hour later and thanked me for the idea. She was feeling much better! *Deborah Ju, 5/10/16*

Summer brings another busy shift at the Information Station with visitors from Asia, Europe, the far corners of the U.S. and just around the corner. Everyone was curious about something. Today's top three questions were: Where is the bathroom? Where can I see otters? What's the orange stuff on the trees? But I also got two new-to-me queries. The first was from a disgruntled man who asked why we don't have more and clearer signs — or docents — on the trails in order to warn newcomers about poison oak. I did my best to answer truthfully but diplomatically. My favorite new question came later, however. A young lady from France asked, "Where can I see a chateau?" Thinking fast reaped its own reward when I sent her off to enjoy Point Lobos' own Chinese "chateau" at Whalers Cove. I hope she enjoyed the cabin museum. We aim to please if possible! *Anne Mollet, 6/15/16*

Recently I was off duty and buying stamps at the local post office on my way home from a shift when the clerk paused in mid-transaction and asked, "What's a decent?" I was like, "Daah?" Recognizing my confusion, the clerk helpfully pointed at my jacket's docent patch. Coming around to understanding, I smiled and explained, "Oh, you mean docent! We are guides and we interpret the natural and cultural history at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. We help people connect with the wonders and values of the natural world." I can only presume the folks in line behind me were pleased that the U.S. government representative and I had gotten over our initial failure to communicate and agreed that docenting was a decent way for one to spend one's time. *Sue Addleman, 6/15/16*

A couple of otters were catching some rays on the lower rocks of Bird Island yesterday, along with harbor seal moms and newborn pups. The baby harbor seals begin learning the ropes from mom immediately. One pup attempted to “scale” the rocky heights, only to slide back into the ocean. Mom, other seals and otters looked on. We couldn’t help but smile at the perseverance needed to navigate just the right tide swell and just the right “flipper hold” to overcome the slippery algae and slope of the haul-out spot mom chose. Really, mom? Here? Finally, after five different attempts, success! We all applauded. *Dave Evans, 4/10/16*



*Photo: Dave Evans*

Mid-May and the end of the harbor seal pupping season is nearing. Females are leaving their weaned pups and some of those pups are congregating on the near shore rocks at China Cove. I observed eight of them getting to know each other. Suddenly what seemed to be an irate mother seal interrupted the small group and extracted — by nudging and cajoling — one reluctant pup. They finally disappeared into a nearby kelp bed and rested. Apparently, it wasn’t this pup’s time yet! *Marlene Testaguzza, 5/20/2016*

On a walk from south of Weston Beach to Bird Island this morning I met up with a happy young couple, Danny and Christina, who tagged along with me. It was Danny’s first trip to Point Lobos and he was loving all he was seeing. He particularly noted how good it was to be out in such a beautiful place. As we were climbing up the stairs to Bird Island, I noticed what looked like a high-tech gadget on Danny’s ankle and asked him what it measured. He openly told me that he was on parole and that this was a tracking device. He and Christina then shared their hopes for the future. Danny now has a job as an auto inspector and Christina is an anesthesia tech in a hospital trauma center. It was so good to have them feel safe and accepted as they celebrated Point Lobos. *Alexanne Mills, 6/20/16*

Point Lobos reopened today after an eight-day closure due to the Soberanes fire. Smoke is still clearly visible in the Reserve but that did not deter visitors. At the Information Station travelers from Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand all remarked that Point Lobos was a starred stop on their trips to California and all but one group hoped that they could make it to Big Sur on their journey down. That group of New Zealand students, however, were traveling south to north and came up Highway 101 to avoid the fire. They were certain that the heat from the fire was nothing compared to the Central Valley. All agreed that the natural beauty of the Reserve showed through in spite of smoke and marine layer.

Around noon, several fire trucks pulled into the parking lot and then headed down to Piney Woods picnic area. They said they were taking a break and totally appreciated the serenity of Point Lobos. We are so in debt to these dedicated and brave public servants.  
*Ruthann Donahue, 8/2/16*

Thanks to the cooperation of State Parks staff, the Point Lobos Foundation, the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum and our own docent corps, a legion of citizen scientists showed up at Weston Beach – at sunrise! – to participate in Snapshot Cal Coast 2016. Conditions were nearly ideal with a minus 1.1 tide and calm seas. A bioblitz is a nature scavenger hunt to identify as many species as possible within a limited time period with the goal of documenting biodiversity within a certain geographic area. In this case the blitz target was sponsored by Snapshot Cal Coast and focused on coastal biodiversity.

The Weston Beach blitz went beautifully on our first try. The flora and fauna of the rocky intertidal biosystem were impressive in their diversity and beauty. We photographed more than 100 plants and animals and are proud that our contribution will help promote better understanding and protection of California's marine life. *Mary Conway, 6/8/16*



*Photo: Mary Conway*

With our cameras and the caution by State Parks District Interpretive Specialist Pat Clark-Gray to step only on bare rocks and never move animals from place to place, Docent Jan Klinefelter and I cautiously crab-walked out the slippery rocks of Weston Beach to stalk and identify targeted species of the California tide pools. Jan spotted and I recorded as we looked under patches of kelp and rocky ledges for our prey. Instead of waterproof notebooks and pencils, our observations were recorded on smart phones and cameras. Jan summed up the experience as, "Pure delight. It was like looking through a microscope at tiny sea gardens." Each time I sat down on the slithery rocks, sometimes involuntarily, I discovered tiny miracles from a different world, filled with storybook creatures. How fortunate to have this opportunity to contribute to the Snapshot Cal Coast Project! *Christine Bertko, 6/8/16*

# Acknowledgements

Memorials, tributes, grants and bequests | Nov. 1, 2015 - Aug. 31, 2016

## MEMORIALS

In memory of T. Colin Barton  
Ellie Bloomfield  
Greg Gallaway

In memory of Matthew Bernhisel  
David Bernhisel

In memory of Erma Bombeck  
William Bombeck

In memory of Patricia Bowler  
Karen Bowler

In memory of Gene Bullock-Wilson  
Barbara Bullock-Wilson  
Louise Stuart

In memory of Donald Dommer  
Ted and Cynthia Walter

In memory of Stephanie Drum  
John Thomas Drum

In memory of Milton and Dixie Frincke  
John Frincke

In memory of Jean Grace  
Timothy Blomgren  
William and Connie Dallmann

In memory of Patti Grigsby  
Hubert Grigsby

In memory of Allan and Mary Hudson  
Margaret Hudson

In memory of Richard Jacobs  
Linda R. Jacobs

In memory of Kyuja Yoo Kafka  
Robert M. Kafka

In memory of Phyllis Kelley  
William and Connie Dallmann

In memory of David B. Keister  
Ruth Anne Keister

In memory of H. "Tom" Keyani  
Theresa Gaffney  
Barbara Keyani  
Edith Lassen  
Kate Parker  
David Prasifka

In memory of Violet Klein  
The Klein Family

In memory of Sheila Lillian Kreiger  
Robyn Kreiger

In memory of Charlie Krone  
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In memory of Harry Kuroiwa  
Harriet C. Kuroiwa

In memory of Richard "Dick" Lehrberg  
Anne Acker  
Catherine Lehrberg

In memory of Kurt Loesch  
Jacolyn Harmer and Samuel Hungtington

In memory of Jan and Jenifer Mills  
Grant Mills

In memory of Robert A. Pankonin  
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In memory of Claire Reordan  
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In memory of Murl, Jane and Brian  
Rigmaiden  
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Margaret Feemster

In memory of Betty Silvestri  
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In memory of Daniel Francis Sullivan  
Phil Swisler

In memory of Martha Swisler  
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In memory of Robert O. Taunt III  
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In memory of Barbara Ulrici  
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In memory of Jud Vandevere  
Judith and Bruce Cowan

In memory of Mary Williams  
Ralph Williams, Jr.

In memory of Peter J. Wong  
Evelyn Wong

In memory of Chen Wei and Sungshen Mo  
Caroline Roberts

## TRIBUTES

In honor of Bob Andonian  
Linda and Barry Brummer

In celebration of Nelson and Laura Balcar  
Werner Ju and Deborah Shoub-Ju

In honor of James and Betsy Bramsen  
Sigrid Gray

In honor of Ed Clifton  
Fred and Carolyn Brown

In celebration of "Go Outside to Go Inside"  
Trudy Stringer Reeves

In honor of Hope and Sandy Hale  
Sarah Godfrey

In honor of Dee Myers  
Spencer W. Meyers

In honor of Celie Placzek  
Roger and Jeane Samuelsen

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Roger and Jeane Samuelsen

In honor of Jean Reilly  
Annis and Nick Kukulan

In honor of Dennis Rizzi  
Bonnie Gillooly

In honor of Deborah Shoub-Ju  
Helen Ju

In honor of Steve Vagnini  
Timothy Smith

SISTER ANNA VOSS FUND

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.

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BEQUESTS

The Estate of Jean R. Grace

The Estate of Julia B. Poduch

*This list includes individuals who have made a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, grantors, Sister Anna Voss Fund contributors and those leaving a legacy to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.*



Artist: Jerry Schurr, serigraph, "Point Lobos", 1982



Box 221789  
 Carmel, CA 93922  
 866.338.7227  
 www.pointlobos.org

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# Creatures of Point Lobos

Created by Mike Pair

## Across

- 1 Warm-blooded one
- 4 Coastal aquatic mammal
- 7 A group of otters floating in the kelp
- 8 Animal hair

## Down

- 2 Oceanic
- 3 Largest animal
- 4 Type of whale
- 5 Black-and-white ocean predator
- 6 Abalone eater

Answers at [www.pointlobos.org/crossword](http://www.pointlobos.org/crossword).

