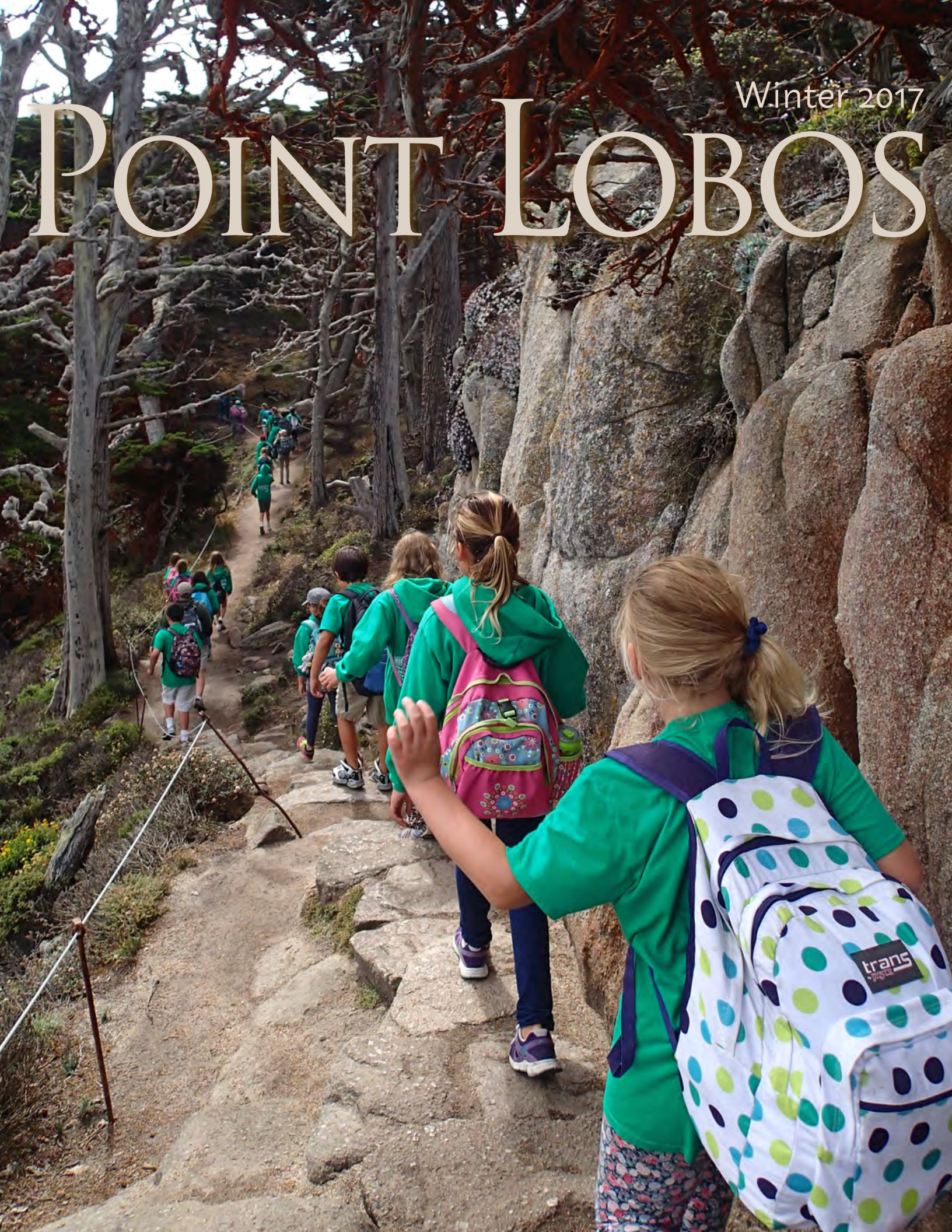


Winter 2017

POINT LOBOS





*A docent provides a close-up look at the magic of Point Lobos.
Photo: John Drum*

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Front Cover

A group of day campers in the Summer Adventure Program hike along the Cypress Grove Trail. Photo: California State Parks

Center Spread, pages 10-11

*'Point Lobos, An Artist's View' by Judy Miller.
www.judymillerdesign.com*

Correction: *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, known as blue blossom, was misspelled in the summer edition.

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President's message

What was it that sparked your love of the natural world?

For me, it was growing up next to a wooded area with a stream and being given the freedom to spend lots of time there: climbing trees, building forts, catching frogs and just exploring with my neighborhood friends. I also had teachers who encouraged my interest in animals and parents who took our family on “nature walks.”

Most of us who care deeply about our environment have moments like these etched in our memories. A specific point in time where the light turned on and we marveled at the wonders around us. In fact, studies have shown that children who spend time in nature with a trusted adult are much more likely to grow into people who care about and care for the natural world.

This issue is focused entirely on programs for children that do just that at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. It's programs like these that make those moments—the moments that create the future stewards of our natural world. These programs inspire, amaze and energize over 20,000 young minds each year. Your contributions, and the support of our broader community, allow these programs to reach as many children as possible. Thank you for your generosity!

At the end of 2017, I'll be finishing my two-year term as President of the Point Lobos Foundation. It's been both challenging and extremely rewarding, as the PLF continues to grow, evolve and make



Cynthia (at front) visiting the Milwaukee City Zoo, 1962

a difference at the Reserve and in the larger Carmel Area State Parks. I'm deeply grateful for the dedication, passion and support of the people with whom I've been privileged to serve, especially the PLF Board of Directors, the PLF staff, Monterey District of California State Parks staff and the Point Lobos Docent Corps. We still have much work to do, but the future—reflected in the eyes of our youthful visitors—looks bright indeed.

Best wishes for a nature-filled 2018!

Cynthia Vernon 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.





Second-graders from Hollister Prep, a charter school, prepare to take a docent-led hike. Photo: John Drum

Walking the nature walk, talking the nature talk

School students hike to new knowledge on the Point Lobos trails
by Reg Henry

Imagine you are 9 years old and in the fourth grade at a Title I school. Found across California — including in Monterey County — these schools can't afford to provide much more than the basics and therefore qualify for the federal assistance program called Title I.

If you are a student in one of these schools, you aren't able to rely on school funding for trips to get you outside. You might have never been to the ocean, much less to Point Lobos.

Then one day you are given the chance to go on a field trip to Point

Lobos with your school and you see the sight of your young life — the Pacific Ocean, big and blue. Your world has been expanded beyond its previous horizons. You are amazed.

Other wonders await you. Where the water meets the land, you find tide pools, ancient rocks, cypress and

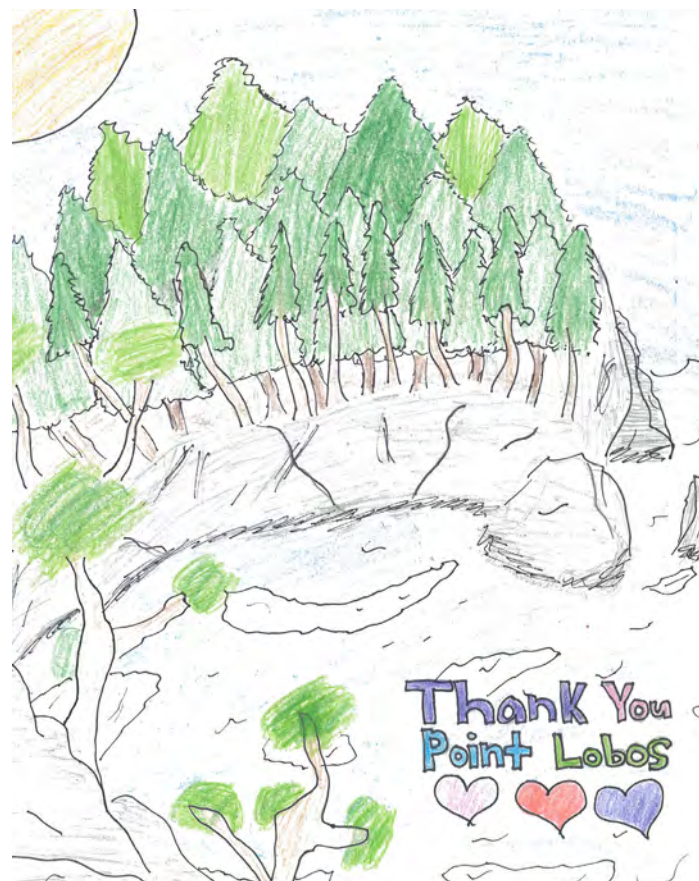
pine forests, flowers and plants, all making up distinct little environments. Animals are here too in the sea and on the land. Kind adults called docents explain it all.

For what could be the first time, you are conscious of meeting nature in her home and you are told that everything has its story and these stories are connected. It's a lot to absorb when you are 9 but you are so happy you forget that this is school work. Learning may never be the same for you again.

Thousands of school students come to Point Lobos every year and docents who lead school walks do see youthful epiphanies.

Docent Fernando Elizondo, a former superintendent of the Salinas Union High School District and veteran school walk leader at Point Lobos, describes these awakenings as "that inquisitive moment on the trail when they start to point to things that have caught their interest. They make a connection to what you are talking about and that is what it is all about."

But these moments do not happen by themselves. For Title I schools, the buses that bring the students are funded by the Point Lobos Foundation. Without funding, that field trip may not happen and a fourth-grader may never have the chance to be amazed.



Melissa Gobell, the docent coordinator/school group coordinator, puts the average cost to have a bus come from within Monterey County at \$500.

Of course, kids being what they are, not every young visitor acts like a budding John Muir or David Douglas. Some are bored and fidgety. Some just see it as a day out and a chance to romp around.

Yet even the seemingly jaded kids appear to enjoy the experience. At the urging of their teachers, they often send thank-you notes describing their experience. "Dear Point Lobos Foundation," says one in the files, "Thank you for paying for the bus to Point Lobos. I had a wonderful time. My class and I got to see a lot of animals and different plants. While I was in Point Lobos, I saw sea otters, sea lions, birds, poison oak and squirrel ... I can't wait to get home and tell my mom. Sincerely, Raquel."

Who knows what seed of learning has been planted in any child? Seeds that fall and bloom are among Nature's miracles. In the case of the Reserve, miracles that awaken school children to the environment are the result of a systematic process of cultivation.

School-age children have been coming to Point Lobos for years, long before an official program of school walks was in place. They would come with family, youth organizations and school groups. When available, State Parks rangers and docents would give nature walks to local schools if that could be arranged.

The first organized program was Adopt-a-School, which called for a small team of docents to give a presentation at an adopted school and later host a field trip to Point Lobos. The foundation, then called the Point Lobos Natural History Association, paid the school for the cost of the school buses for the field trips.

Unfortunately, the program lapsed but the value of the idea was not forgotten and was revived in 2011 in its current form, thanks largely to Docent Paul Mason.

Today school walks are a regular event. The program operates in two parts. The first, named the School Outreach Program, is dedicated to Title I schools. The foundation provides \$20,000 each year to help schools pay the cost of transportation and California State Parks waives the entry fees.

The season for these visits runs September through April. An application packet advertising the program is sent out to 40 Title I schools in Monterey County,

stretching all the way to King City. Docents go to the schools to do a pre-visit presentation and docents lead the tours when students arrive at the Reserve. Schools can also use the Discover Point Lobos app to prepare their students.

But school walks are open to all schools, not just Title I schools and not just in fourth grade. This is the second part of the school walk program. Private and public schools, paying their own way, come all year round with students up to grade 12. Some are from other California counties, other states and sometimes overseas. Entrance fees are waived for these schools too.

All schools, Title I or not, must go to the foundation web site to request a guided walk. Each school is limited to 60 students and one bus and no more than 120 students a day can be accommodated. Schools are expected to provide one parent to accompany every six or seven students.

In its first year, 2011-12, the School Outreach Program served 1,400 students. Ms. Gobell estimates that 1,800 students from Title I schools in the county now receive tours with an additional 6,000 coming from a wide range of schools in the other category.

A pilot program has begun this year to use three retired local teachers from

the Salinas area as volunteer school walk guides. They will supplement -- not replace -- the docent ranks and will wear blue vests instead of green.

So many lessons to teach. So many students to reach.

Reg Henry, a docent and school walk leader, is editor of the Point Lobos Magazine



Below, students feel the pelts at the Information Station. Photo: John Drum



A walk in the park

The trail to adventure

by Rochelle Dolan



Students learn about coastal shrub habitat.

Come. Join me for a walk. That is, a school walk with active 9- and 10-year-old boys and girls at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Our time together begins after the children have been on a school bus, often for at least an hour, traveling, anticipating and waiting anxiously to arrive at the crown jewel of the California State Parks system. We docents meet them midmorning at the Piney Woods picnic area after the children and adult chaperones have disembarked from the bus and have been divided into equal groups of six or seven students plus one adult.

We walk together to a quiet but very interesting grove in the Monterey pine forest for introductions and to learn the rules that we all must follow to keep our beautiful Reserve clean and our adventure safe.

To make signaling my own group a little easier, we decide at this initial meeting on a group name such as "The Explorers" for the hike. The children are anxious to get under way so after we briefly explore some of the characteristics of the Monterey pine forest we head off to see the mighty Pacific, the largest ocean in the world.

On the way we always stop and identify one of the most prolific and troublesome plants for human beings in the Reserve... POISON OAK ("Leaves of three, let it be!"). As with all our plant identifications, we discuss plant size, leaf shape and color and impact on the environment.

Onward to the ocean. While we are standing on rocks that look like sand, we discuss the oceans of the world, the rocks of Point Lobos and the intertidal zone all the while on the lookout for the fab three marine mammals that live at Point Lobos all year... sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters. On the Sea Lion Point Trail, fellow docents are waiting with telescopes to provide us with a closer look.

Our 1½-hour hike takes us through several different environments where we discuss the various plants and animals that live in each. The children learn to distinguish the differences between Monterey pine and Monterey cypress trees. It's magical if we get to observe migrating gray whales or feeding humpback whales. Without exception, the students climb on rocks, touch plants, look and listen for animals and lose any sense of the world outside the Reserve.

We end our time together with a quiet walk through the Monterey pine forest environment. Even though we are less than a few hundred yards away, we cannot hear or see the ocean, nor can we hear those constantly barking *lobos marinos*, the sea lions (sea wolves) that prompted the early Spanish visitors to give Point Lobos its name.

A day of discovery and adventure is a wonderful thing but after a two-mile hike everyone is ready for lunch. We don't dally around. We stop for our final conference to share favorite sightings and events, ask questions, express appreciation and say our good-byes. Then off they go, hopefully enriched with the wonder of a new world to which I hope they'll want to return.

Rochelle Dolan has been a docent since 2009.





*Above, Daniel Williford. Photo: California State Parks
At right, Daniel's office in Whalers Cove.
Photo: Dave Evans*

Taking Point Lobos to the classroom

by Trudy Reeves

Daniel Williford has been a busy guy recently. He has visited classrooms in Brazil, Egypt, Canada, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay and Panama. Between visits abroad, he has appeared in classrooms throughout California and elsewhere in the United States. But no jet lag for him!

Daniel delivers his presentations while standing among the Monterey cypresses near Whalers Cabin or floating above the kelp forest in Whalers Cove in his specially outfitted kayak. He presents marine science curriculum in 30- to 45-minute live segments from Point Lobos to students around the world.

Videoconferences of the California State Parks' PORTS program (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) are broadcast from various state parks directly to classrooms.

Beginning in 2004, PORTS became a free distance-learning resource for classes K-12 in California. PORTS has since expanded beyond its California roots to classrooms all over the world. The newest addition to the PORTS program could be called, "LIVE from Point Lobos, it's Daniel Williford."

Daniel broadcasts from both land and sea. His land-based lessons integrate science with the cultural history of Whalers Cove, such as whaling activities and abalone harvesting and canning. From his kayak, he extends kelp forest lessons to whatever proves photogenic in the moment. Harbor seals may pop up around his kayak while he paddles by with his iPad mounted onboard capturing video images of these curious residents to the delighted squeals of his student viewers.

Daniel taught high school biology, botany and Spanish before joining State Parks. He became a State Parks Interpreter in 2006. Since then, he has trained other rangers and docents as interpreters of natural resources. Through PORTS, his infectious enthusiasm and passion for science and the environment reaches far beyond the confines of a single classroom or state park.

"I always wanted to bring science awareness to as many people as possible. PORTS allows me to do just that by talking with lots of people who are not able to visit our parks."

Daniel communicates with teachers in advance to tailor his presentations to the needs of each classroom. With third-graders, he might emphasize survival and life cycles in line with California core curriculum. For sixth-graders, he might focus on career paths in environmental advocacy, and occasionally "What it's like to be Daniel."

He always leaves time for questions. "I love the surprises, challenges and the natural enthusiasm of the students' questions. It seems that every hand goes up in a second grade class. Students in other countries amaze me with their political savvy."

In preparation for this school year, the Point Lobos Foundation provided Daniel with over \$2,000 in equipment, including a waterproof case for his iPad, a spotting scope and the latest GoPro equipment for sharing underwater images. Even if students can't come here to walk the trails or dive into the kelp forest, support of the Point Lobos Foundation helps bring Point Lobos to thousands of students each year through Daniel.

In addition to selling homes on the Monterey Peninsula with Sotheby's International Realty, Trudy Reeves is a writer, certified California Naturalist and Point Lobos Docent. Her e-mail address is trudyreeves@gmail.com.









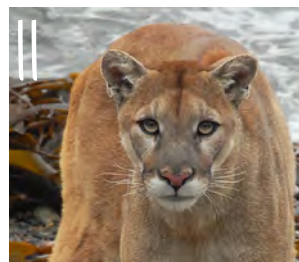
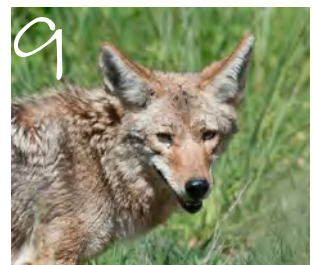
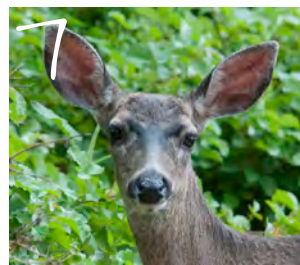
Faces in the crowd of critters

Kids need your help
to enjoy nature

by Chuck Bancroft

Some of my most treasured moments as a State Parks Ranger at Point Lobos were the school nature walks and in-class programs for kids -- kindergarten through high school. I even took college students on walks to showcase the variety of techniques for sharing nature with others. Now in retirement, I still get to share my enthusiasm and knowledge with both school kids and adults.

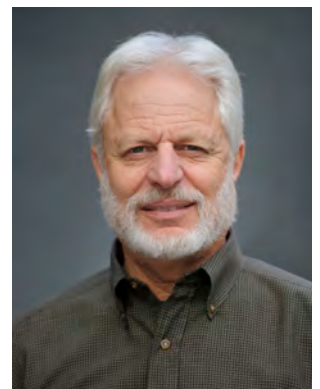
Something I was always thrilled by was helping others to see not just the obvious but those things both great and small. On a walk we could stand for long moments just watching the antics of a variety of creatures using just our bare eyes, binoculars or spotting scopes.



As parents and grandparents you can enjoy the same things I did with kids. Joseph Cornell is the author of *"Sharing Nature With Children."* This book offers many different techniques for guiding your kids and grandkids on exciting adventures. The activities are easy to adapt for large and small groups and I used them all the time in my programs.

Here's something you can do with the kids at home. Above are 12 photographs of faces in the crowd of critters that can be seen at Point Lobos. Your collective task is to identify the different critters and send your answers to me at sparkystarkweather@gmail.com. I'm offering prizes - a stuffed otter and a set of notecards for the first five to send in the correct answers. Each entry must come with a mailing address and child's name. Submissions will be accepted until December 15. I'll notify the winners by e-mail.

Chuck Bancroft spent 31 years of his 35 year-career as a State Parks Ranger at Point Lobos. In retirement, he still does programs and nature walks for members of the Point Lobos Foundation.



At a glance...

Your gift supports the important youth programs below, connecting young people to our natural world.

PORTS

Virtual, educational visits to Point Lobos for 10,297 children in the 2016/2017 school year.

Discover Point Lobos

Free iPad app for kids, downloadable at iTunes, offering educational games, sights and sounds and an introduction to the flora, fauna and history of Point Lobos.

School Programs

Two programs operated throughout the school year offer docent-guided walks, classroom presentations and transportation grants for schools that need it. Serving 7,968 children from 21 counties in California in the 2016/2017 school year.

Junior Rangers

Operated seasonally and serving over 200 children annually.

Summer Adventures

Summer camp program for kids 8-12 operated by California State Parks and serving 90 children annually.



Notes from the docent log



Compiled by
Ruthann Donahue

As I assembled visitors for my walk, I noticed a teenager with his eyes glued to his phone. When his dad suggested that they join my walk, he rolled his eyes and went back to his phone. But dad prevailed and they joined in.

As I welcomed my group, my reluctant tourist was still one-on-one with his phone. I took a chance -- and challenged him with a friendly wager. "Bet you a buck you can't keep your phone in your pocket for the next hour." His response: "You're on!" I thanked him for being a good sport and later noticed that I hadn't seen his phone as we toured Cypress Grove.

At the end of the walk, I ceremoniously congratulated him and gave him a dollar, to the cheers of the group and his parents. He promptly put his prize into the donation box, gave me a high five and then said: "I really enjoyed your walk. Thank you very much for all of the great information." Made my day

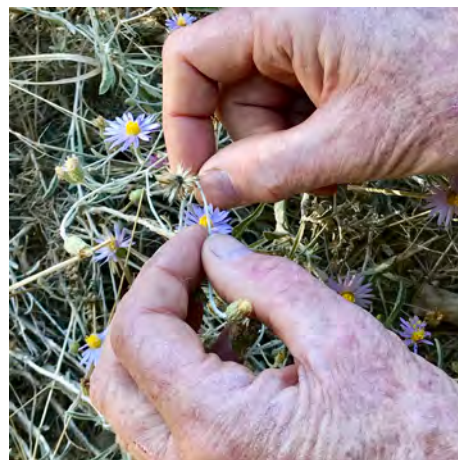
Robert Andonian, 8/1/2017

On a clear, bright September day, landscape architect and Docent Katie Spitz led docent volunteers down the South Shore Trail to collect seeds for coastal scrub habitat restoration. Joining docents were Julia Fields, Point Lobos' very own restoration ecologist, and Rand and Adrienne Sparling, visitors from Chicago.

As we fanned out along the trail, it was difficult to focus on seed collection. Reserve visitors were universally curious about what we were doing. It was a great educational moment, talking about habitat restoration, preservation and stewardship. Visitors' interest in preserving Point Lobos is so great that I am sure many could have been drafted to participate.

Equally distracting from seed collection were humpbacks repeatedly surfacing nearby. In the crystal clear waters of a small unnamed cove near Weston Beach, a harbor seal glided back and forth as dozens of anchovies boiled out of the water to avoid becoming lunch. Occasionally, one would hear the snap of the seal's jaws. One leaping anchovy had the misfortune to land on top of the kelp. Struggling to return to the water, it was picked off by an alert gull -- and we were expected to focus on collecting seed pods!

Robert Grace, 9/2/2017



At top, Docent Dave Evans collects seed.
Below, nimble fingers finding the native seeds. Photos: Celie Placzek

Photo: Mary Conway



A visitor at Weston Beach pointed out a beautiful school of fish in a tide pool. The fish were waiting for the tide to come back in so they could get back in the open ocean. Neither small nor large, I approximate they were 6" long and 0.5" wide. They shimmered with a green color from the top edge of their backs, but their overall color was dusky blue. Were these anchovies or some small fingerling salmonoid type?

Mary Conway, 10/4/2017

I remember learning that Monterey cypress trees need fire or a very hot day to release seeds from their cones, but do I remember correctly that the same is true for Monterey pines? Supposedly you can hear them opening like popcorn.

Friends, it may not have been as hot Saturday at the Reserve but I can tell you that at Corral de Tierra it was 100 degrees plus. There are plenty of Monterey pines around there, so I sat down in a nice grove in the shade, cracked open a cold beer and waited. I had a book and plenty of time, so I thought I would hear them then, if ever. I toughed it out for about 30 minutes, but then it got so hot that I

had the choice of another beer or just going home disappointed. So I went home. Now I ask you: Has anyone actually heard the cones opening or is it just another tale told around the campfire?

Spencer Myers, 9/3/2017

No bogus info here, Spence, and, yes, I have heard some crackling on hot days, though not as loud as popcorn popping.

The Monterey pine and cypress are adapted to cope with fire. Their cones remain closed until opened by fire heat or extremely hot weather. The seeds are then discharged to regenerate on

the burned forest floor. Since fire is controlled in the Reserve, our forests are not regenerating. State Parks plans to plant hundreds of Monterey cypress seedlings from the cypress tree seeds in the A.M. Allan Memorial Grove to do what nature has been prohibited from doing.

Fred Brown, 9/5/2017



I noticed there were hundreds of fish in a tight formation along the cliff side of Sand Hill Cove. With their mouths open, two harbor seals were having fun acrobatically swimming around and through the tight ball of fish in the clear emerald green water. Visitors were transfixed!

Fred Brown, 10/5/2017

Editor's note: Whatever the species, a result of this influx of bait fish is an astonishing number of Brown Pelicans visiting the Reserve.



Photo: Chuck Bancroft



Photo: Max Georis. Winner of the "Capture" photo contest from the 2017 Sunset Walk raffle.

NEW for 2017! Are you or someone you know a federal employee? Each year, federal employees (and retirees) have the opportunity to designate a portion of their earnings to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to support charities.

Your gift of any size will help preserve 550 square acres of beautiful coastline and beaches, protect more than 250 plant and animal species, and provide stewardship education to the children who visit each year.

During your 2017 Combined Federal Campaign, please choose the Point Lobos Foundation #94498!

Save the date

Saturday, January 20, 2018 | 9am-12pm
Annual Membership Meeting
Quail Lodge and Golf Club, Carmel

A perfect opportunity for Point Lobos Foundation members to catch up with friends and learn how your gifts are advancing our shared mission. Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director of the Ventana Wildlife Society, will be the keynote speaker.

Acknowledgements

Memorials, tributes and grants June 22 - October 20, 2017

MEMORIALS

In memory of John Patrick Adikes
Rosemarie Griffith

In memory of Roland Bennetts
John Frank Bennetts, MD

In memory of Patty Carothers
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Haworth

In memory of Donald and Jeannette
Dommer
Ted and Cynthia Walter

In memory of Richard Eckert
Mrs. Jean K. Eckert

In memory of Shirley Rosenberg
Saul Rosenberg

In memory of James and Dorothy
Schmidt
Paul A. Schmidt

TRIBUTES

In honor of Reg Henry
David Recht

In honor of Deborah and Werner Ju
Donald and Marie Murphy

In honor of Kelsey Creveling
David Otterbach

GRANTS

Pebble Beach Company Foundation
for school program transportation

Richard Grand Foundation
for restroom improvements

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.

For the anniversary of Deborah and
Werner Ju
Robert and Maribel Andonian

Ping & Amy Chao Family Foundation

In memory of Mary Cipperly
Wayne Cipperly

Kymberly Janisch

LEGACY GIFTS

Estate of Betty Lou Loesch
for interior and exterior preservation of the Whalers Cabin and Whaling Station Museum according to the National Historic Preservation Act

In light of the contents of this issue, the Point Lobos Foundation would like to thank the following grantors for their support of programs for youth at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Arkay Foundation

California State Parks Foundation

Community Foundation for Monterey County

Monterey Peninsula Foundation

Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation

Pebble Beach Company Foundation

Ping & Amy Chao Family Foundation

Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop

Photo: Fernando Elizondo





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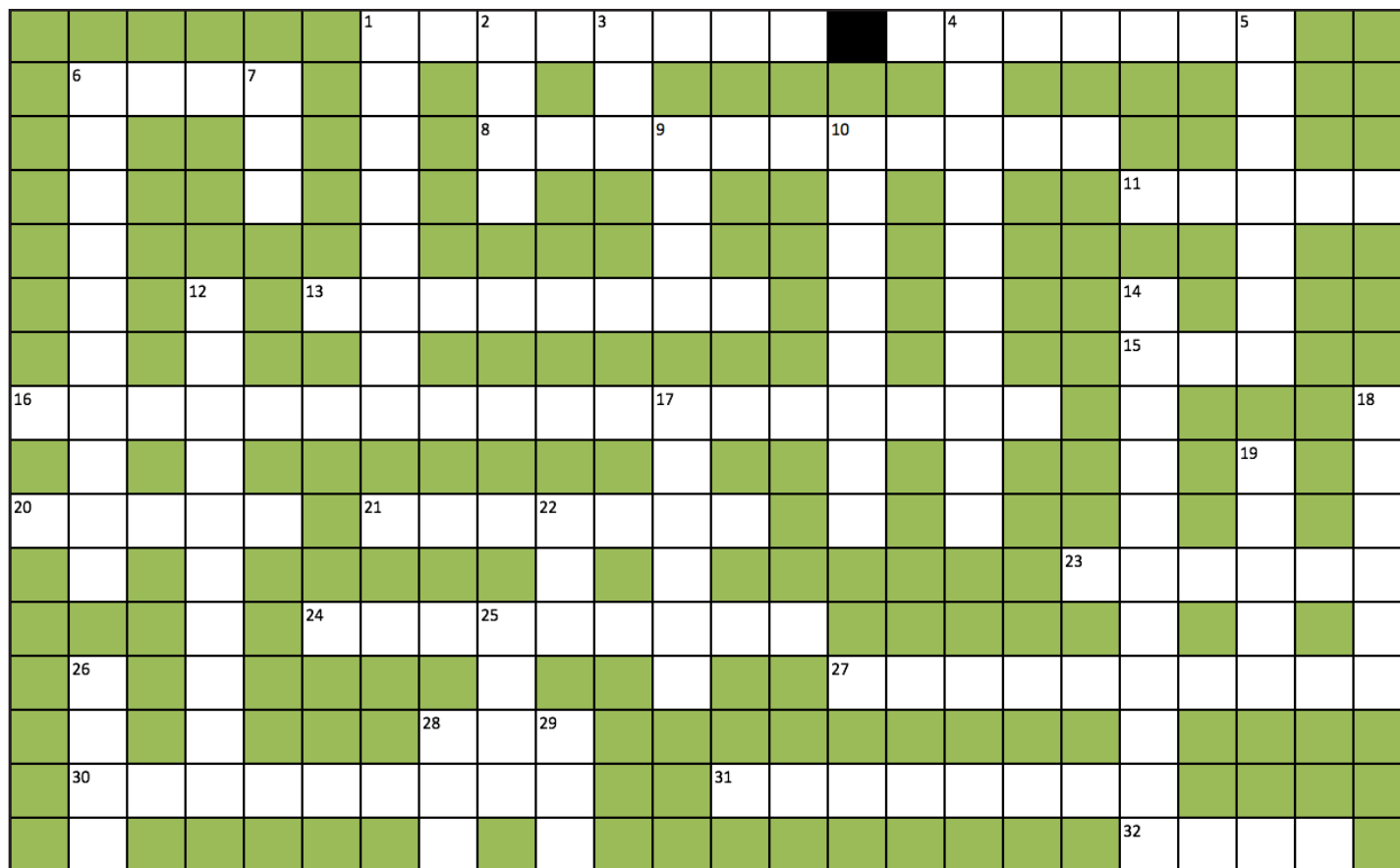
Crossword

By Ann Pendleton

Answers at pointlobos.org/crossword.



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Across

- 1 A unique tree in Point Lobos (2 words)
- 6 Good litter found in Point Lobos
- 8 Morning "cup of Joe"
- 11 How people should leave after visiting
- 13 Square stemmed plant
- 15 Coastal tree found in Point Lobos
- 16 Class 38's favorite drink or yellow primate
- 20 Scrub jays can seem _____ to those who watch
- 21 Plant that might be used on a hot dog
- 23 Pine cones release their seeds when "_____"
- 24 Plant that keeps people on the paths
- 27 Point Lobos' only named tree

- 28 A helpful tool when in a canoe or kayak
- 30 Shrub that means "Little Apple"
- 31 Natural food container squirrels use
- 32 What makes a lot of puddles in the trails?

Down

- 1 Fruit of the earth
- 2 What Point Lobos docents always are
- 3 Imaginary dweller of cypress tree hollows
- 4 San Francisco's first Spanish name
- 5 "Maritime" "light red"
- 6 Reptiles' appendage
- 7 What kids have when they come to Point Lobos for school walks

- 9 Plant with no flower or seeds
- 10 Commonality of whale and sea cave
- 12 CA's state algae and fungi mix
- 14 Scotland has the "real stuff"
- 17 Plant with feathery leaves
- 18 _____ hair fern
- 19 Just another daisy
- 22 Divers must be in a set of _____ at Point Lobos
- 25 What coyotes leave behind
- 26 Why docents work so hard at Point Lobos
- 28 Urushiol is the _____ in poison oak that causes itching
- 29 Dusky footed wood _____