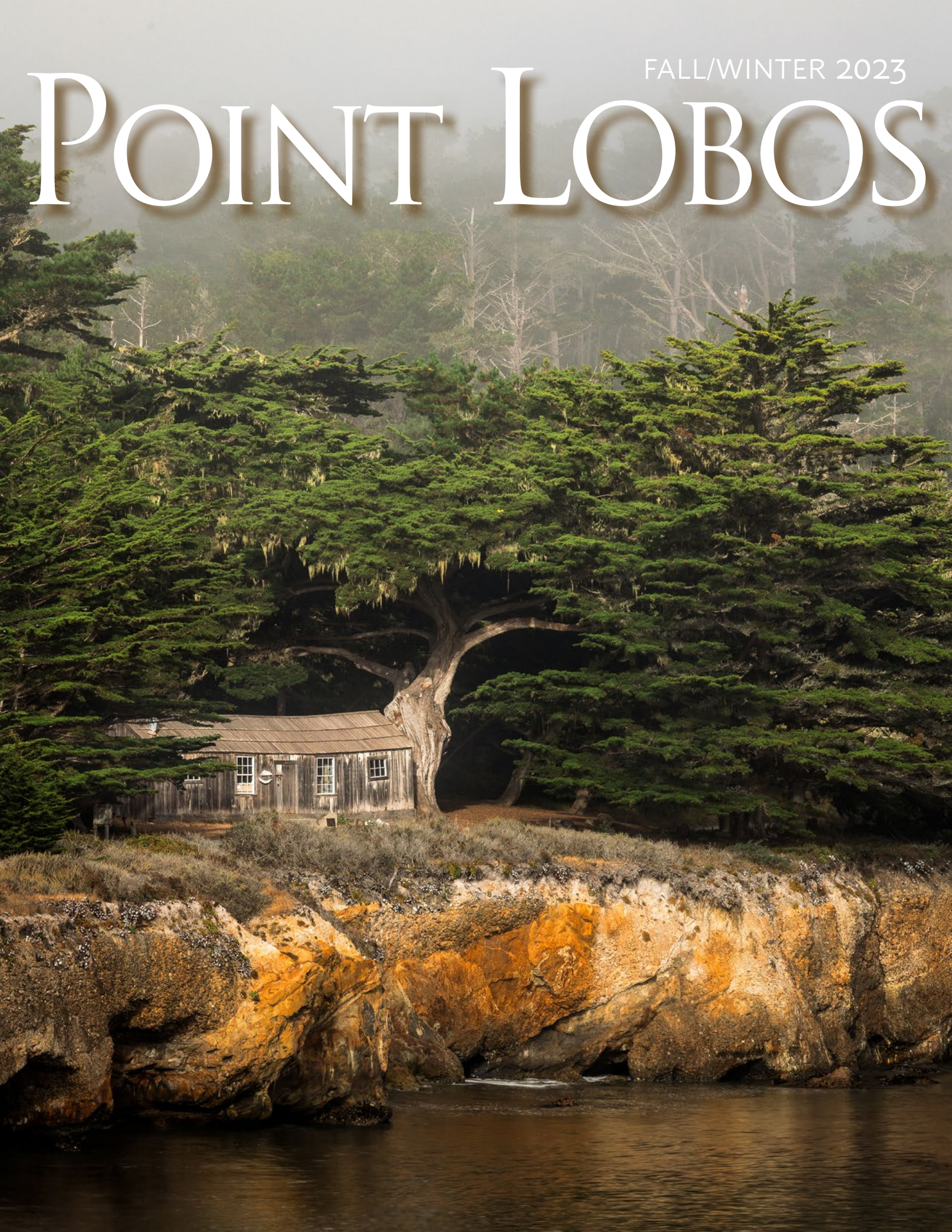


FALL/WINTER 2023

POINT LOBOS





Our mission is to protect and nurture Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to educate and inspire visitors to preserve its unique natural and cultural resources, and to strengthen the network of Carmel Area State Parks. pointlobos.org



Whalers Cove with divers in the fog. Photo by Dale Evans

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Honoring history in the present

Giants precede us and their legacy inspires us

by Kathleen Lee

As we celebrate 90 years of conservation at Point Lobos, we have the chance to examine its rich cultural and natural history. From the earliest time, communities recognized the bounty of the area, the sacred spaces found among the towering rocks and craggy cypress trees and the abundance of resources from the land and sea.

Whether as a village community for local tribes, as grazing lands, a place for abalone fishing, mining, movie making or educating visitors, the area around Whalers Cabin has served as a community center for human activity at the Reserve.

In learning about the important human history and stories shared within the Whalers Cabin Museum, we have an opportunity to reflect upon the impact individuals have made on Point Lobos. There are individuals who are woven into the stories of Point Lobos, from A.M. Allan to Gennosuke Kodani, to Kurt Loesch, who worked to develop the Whalers Cabin as a museum in 1986.

We now honor two giants within the docent community: Ed Clifton and Reid Woodward, who both passed in 2023. Ed and Reid had a profound impact on the community of Point Lobos and their legacy lives on in the rich stories they have taught us about the geology and natural world of Point Lobos.

I enjoy hearing the personal stories told during member gatherings like the Moonlight Walk, and watching our community gather to celebrate all that they love about Point Lobos. The Point Lobos

Foundation strives to foster and maintain a community of individuals who are inspired to protect this cherished land we call Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

I am tremendously grateful for the dedicated financial support from our members, local businesses and grant-making organizations. As we head into the season of gratitude and giving, I will simply express my deep gratitude for your support of our work to protect, conserve and inspire the next generation of conservation advocates at the Reserve.

I hope you will join me in donating to the PLF during the Monterey County Gives! campaign that runs from Nov. 9 through Dec. 31 and share the opportunity to support Point Lobos with your friends, family and neighbors.



Visitor cards at Information Station.
Photo by Don McDougall



Reg Henry, a Point Lobos Docent, is editor of the Point Lobos Magazine. In a newspaper career of more than 35 years, he worked at the Courier-Mail in Brisbane, Australia, The Times of London, the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, and The Herald in Monterey, where he was the editor from 1988 through 1993.

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Musings on a marvelous museum

by Reg Henry

The Whalers Cabin at Point Lobos is a bit like Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" – it is the one place in the Reserve that provides the opposite of what is expected. Alice, when not in Wonderland, could very well be a docent there.

Visitors encounter the unexpected the moment they walk into the cabin. They won't find the Red Queen or Tweedledum or Tweedledee – eccentricity is left to the visitors themselves – but other surprises await.

If they have not already read the plaque outside, the visitors will be told by someone in a green jacket that the cabin was not built by whalers – their presence was minimal if at all in its story – but was instead built by Chinese fishermen.

The stay of the Chinese overlapped somewhat with the Portuguese whalers but somehow the whalers got the credit. Those darn whalers – they put a harpoon into history and towed it in their direction.

The other thing that might surprise a thoughtful visitor is that the Whalers Cabin is really a museum concerning the human imprint on Point Lobos, which, in its present role as a State Natural Reserve, one might expect to be all about the plants and animals. Next door, the little Whaling Station Museum is an even stranger presence in a nature Reserve when you come to think about it.

But this, of course, is part of the history of this special place and that history actually teaches an inspiring thought – Point Lobos was once a Garden of Eden, then exploiters came and the balance of nature was disturbed, and now as the result of enlightened goodwill "we are back to the garden," as Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young might say if they came to visit.

As you may have already guessed, Whalers Cabin is the main focus of this edition of the magazine.

And why? Because of its importance as a historic site at Point Lobos and its role in the visitor experience.

The Whalers Cabin is one of the two stations that the docent corps is required to staff by California State Parks (the other is the Information Station near Sea Lion Point). While docents take on a wide variety of other tasks – walking trails, setting up telescopes, leading school walks, etc. – manning Whalers and Info are a core requirement.

Docents regularly tell the quirky stories that latter-day Alices can savor. There is Quock Mui, born in 1859 in the cabin, who is said to have spoken not only her native Cantonese but the various languages of the people who lived at Point Lobos at the time. Yet she became known, in an epic feat of cultural misunderstanding, as "Spanish Mary."

There is Ernst "Pop" Doelter, a German chef who is said to have introduced abalone to American taste buds, which is a little overstated to say the least. And why did a German restaurateur wear a fez, the national headdress of Morocco? It is a mystery like so much else in the cabin.

To explain what we do know about this intriguing building we have Docent Historian Kevin Shabram, a past contributor to this magazine. We also have Lisa Bradford from State Parks, who will explain the exciting plans to upgrade the cabin's exhibits. Another docent, David Laws, has done research on the making of Jack cheese, which is one of the exhibits in the cabin.

As always, Chuck Bancroft has a column with beautiful photos, this time of egrets, which are no strangers to Whalers Cove. As it happens, Chuck in his life as a ranger was the last person to live at Whalers Cabin.



Kevin Shabram is the Docent Historian at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. A lifelong resident of Carmel, he spent his career as an electronics design engineer.

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The cabin that Chinese fishermen built

Portuguese whalers got the credit but history is complicated

by *Kevin Shabram*

The building known as the Whalers Cabin, in Whalers Cove at Point Lobos, holds a unique place in California history. It represents one of the earliest settlements of immigrants from China. These were people who risked everything to bring their families to this country. The fact that this building still exists is nothing short of a miracle. The history of this building is still being discovered but here is what we know so far.

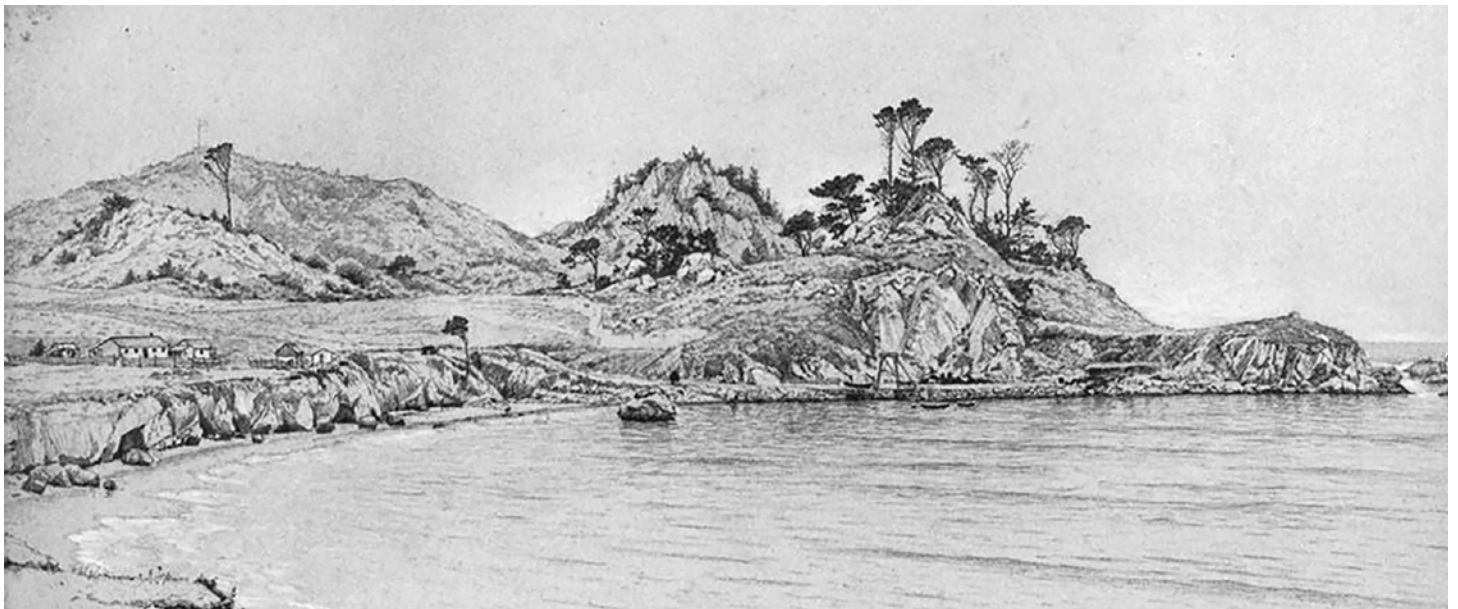
On May 9, 2007, the cabin was officially added to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination to the register was made by the Point Lobos Association, now known as the Point Lobos Foundation.

To have a site registered as a National Historic Place, the applicant must document the historic significance and integrity of the site. The driving force in this process was a docent named Kurt Loesch. He gathered

information from local historians Sandy Lydon, Kent Seavey and Tim Thomas. He also talked to California state archaeologists for information on the archaeological survey that was done in 1986. He did additional research of his own to fill in some of the gaps in the timeline.

The process brought to light some facts that had previously only been known through the oral histories of a few families. Much of the following history outlined here was gleaned from that submission document.

The 1986 archeological dig and survey was done, under and around the cabin. It was done because the building was to be stabilized with a new foundation. In that dig, evidence was found that pointed to the possible habitation by Chinese people.



Whalers Cove, 1879. The Chinese village and cabin can be seen at far left. Drawing by Raymond D. Yelland. California State Parks



Kurt Loesch, a driving force in turning Whalers Cabin into a museum. Photo by Pat Clark-Gray

Further research showed that, in fact, the cabin was built by Chinese people who traveled to the California Central Coast from Guangdong province in southern China in 1851. They established a small fishing village in Whalers Cove, then known as Carmel Cove. They lived there throughout the 1850s.

In the 1860s, Portuguese whalers established a whaling station at the cove. It appears that at times during the 1860s and 1870s, the whalers did occupy the cabin but at other times Chinese families were living there. This may be because the whaling station was seasonal and only manned during the winter months.

Although the Chinese presence lasted a good 25 years at Point Lobos, by 1876 they appear to have moved on to Pescadero Point in Pebble Beach and Point Alones in Pacific Grove.

Whaling continued into the 1880s but it is not clear if the whalers used the cabin or not. One 1884 map shows the group of buildings as “vacant houses.” However, Seizo Kodani, the son of Gennosuke Kodani, who arrived at the cove in 1897, says that his father always referred to the building as the “whalers cottage.”

Gennosuke Kodani became partners with Alexander Allan in the abalone business at Whalers Cove. Allan, who acquired the land in 1898, built a cannery there, and Kodani ran the abalone fishery, bringing divers from Chiba, Japan. In 1902, Kodani and his family lived in the cabin for a time while his house across the cove was being built.

Between 1908 and 1913, Ernst “Pop” Doelter, who was known as the Abalone King of Monterey, became friends with Allan and Kodani. He used the cabin to process fresh abalone for his restaurant on Monterey’s wharf. He later rented the cabin from Allan and lived there with his family from 1917 to 1919.

In 1933, Point Lobos was acquired by the state of California to be made into a State Reserve. There were discussions at the time as to what should happen to the cabin. All the other buildings at the cove were to be moved across the highway or torn down. It was recognized that the cabin might have some historical significance. It was assumed that it had been built and used by Portuguese whalers and was referred to by the state as “The Whalers Cabin.”

From 1934 to 1936, the cabin was occupied by George Vaughan and his young family. Vaughan worked for Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and was the landscape architect tasked with creating a plan for the new State Reserve. He worked in the cabin at a small drafting table defining the trails and roads that would be retained in the new Reserve.



The exterior and interior of Whalers Cabin in 1934. George Vaughan photos. Point Lobos Foundation

During World War II, the cabin was used by several different military units. It was first used as a “day room” for the Army Coastal Defense Squad. It was then used as officers quarters for a unit of the 4th Army Air Force. Later, it became a barracks and a storeroom for the 543rd regiment of the 3rd Amphibious Brigade.

After the war, the cabin was home to park rangers or staff until the 1980s. Ranger Chuck Bancroft was the last person to live in the cabin. He moved out in May 1983.

In 1986, State Parks decided to remake the cabin into a visitors center. Kurt Loesch and other docents pushed to create an interpretive museum instead. The museum opened in 1990 and remains a living history museum today, although it does serve as a visitor center too.

All the research on the cabin shows that the exterior form and setting has not changed since at least the 1860s. Some walls and the roof have been replaced. A floor has been added and the internal configuration has changed a few times. The Whalers Cabin, or should we say the “Chinese Cabin,” has been here 172 years. Let’s hope it will be here, helping us understand our local history, for many years to come.





Lisa Maldonado Bradford is an Interpreter III/District Interpretive Programs Manager with California State Parks Monterey District. Growing up in San Juan Capistrano, she formed an early interest in history and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Medieval History from U.C. Santa Barbara. She joined State Parks in 1998 and spent her first 16 years at Monterey State Historic Park. She transferred to Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds in 2013, returned briefly to Monterey in 2019, and was promoted to her current position in 2020. She serves as a resource and support person for numerous interpretive programs in the Monterey District, including Point Lobos.

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The future of Whalers Cabin

Change is coming to the 'crossroads of communities'

by Lisa Bradford

Standing on the edge of Whalers Cove, the lone building known as the Whalers Cabin serves as a museum and unofficial visitors center for many people who daily drive or walk into the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

The significance of the building as a place to interpret the many different communities that once lived at Point Lobos underscores the evident and pressing need to address the interpretive materials currently housed in the building. We need to ask ourselves: "What can we do better to enhance the visitor experience -- not only at the Whalers Cabin but for the entire Reserve?"

From an interpretive standpoint, we must recognize the importance of diversifying visitors' experiences, educating them about the varied climate, sea-level rise and natural

habitat issues facing the Point Lobos coastal ecosystems, as well as addressing better ways to tell the culturally relevant stories of our indigenous communities' experiences, plus the stories of other communities that followed the first people who considered Point Lobos to be home.

That need is being met. Plans are in the works — and funding has been secured — to change the exhibits at Whalers Cabin to better tell these various stories.

Last year, a survey designed to gauge docent knowledge, perceptions, and experiences of the Whalers Cabin as it relates to visitors, was distributed to active volunteers to gather preliminary input from those who have the most consistent interaction with visitors.

Later in the year, a preliminary meeting was held with a representative for The Acorn Group — the interpretive planning and exhibit design consultants — to get a baseline reading on a time frame and projected expenditures for a phased update project for "the Cabin." It would include planning, development and implementation of a more inclusionary and updated way to tell expanded community stories and to allow for deeper engagement with the wide variety of visitors who are drawn to Point Lobos.

The Acorn Group seemed a good fit for the initial foray into the project as it has worked extensively with California State Parks in similar project areas: San Clemente State Beach, on exhibit cases/interpretive panels; Carpinteria State Beach, on exhibit design and interpretive writing for a refurbished visitor center; the California Academy of Sciences, on various exhibits; Yosemite National Park, on a welcome center; and East Bay Regional Parks, on visitors centers. See more of their work at: <https://acorngroup.com>.



The diving exhibit. Photos by Sara Courtneidge



The main space in the cabin.

Fast forward to spring this year when a call for funding proposals was made to the statewide network of State Park District Interpretive Program Managers for a multi-million dollar Culturally Relevant grant program being overseen by Parks California, the statutory non-profit partner of State Parks (www.parksocalifornia.org). Round One requests were submitted in May for a committee review and selection of projects receiving award monies.

I ultimately submitted four project proposals for Monterey District Interpretive projects. The timing seemed right to shift gears with regards to the Whalers Cabin update based on the 2022 proposal from The Acorn Group. In early October 2023, "The Crossroads of Communities at Whalers Cabin" project agreement form was emailed to me allocating \$575,000 toward efforts to implement this exciting interpretive update!

I'm currently in the process of working with specific staff on fine-tuning cost estimates, meeting state mandates with regards to contractual vendors, assessing Americans with Disability Act needs, and determining via bid proposal who the final interpretive design project manager will be.

The goal is to select a design group which understands the historic nature of the Whalers Cabin and restrictions regarding refurbishment of interior spaces and exhibits. Closer inspection of the ADA needs of visitors will need to take place. Input from many community stakeholders will be sought to develop a scope of work that fulfills the budgetary and design objectives of the grant proposal requirements.

Stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come. Our valued docents will be included in the decision-making processes along the way. It will take hard work, dedicated time, valued input, and lots of inspiration to see the update to our beloved Whalers Cabin through to completion.

The beauty of this gift of a Culturally Relevant Grant from Parks California is that it will enable the vision of "The Crossroads of Communities at Whalers Cabin" to become a reality for visitors and community members at our "Crown Jewel of the California State Park System" – Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.



Chuck Bancroft spent 31 years of his 35-year career as a State Park Ranger at Point Lobos and, in retirement, has led programs and nature walks for the Point Lobos Foundation.

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Egrets of Point Lobos: Big and small

by Chuck Bancroft



A Snowy Egret catches dinner and two others pose artistically. Photos by Chuck Bancroft

I've spent many fantastic moments observing and photographing the antics and behaviors of both the Snowy and Great Egrets. Some shots have been taken on the spur of the moment while others have been made after patiently waiting for the right image.

With beautiful white plumage, small stature, black bill, black legs with a yellow stripe running the length of the legs, the Snowy Egret is easy to identify from among other shore birds and waders. Snowy Egrets are often found at Moss Landing and the Elkhorn Slough, tide pool areas in Pacific Grove, the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetlands Natural Preserve, and even along the Carmel River when the river is really low and only ankle-deep, and in ponds at golf courses where they sometimes hunt with migratory ducks and other birds.

Our Snowy Egrets frequent the low tides at Weston Beach. Wading through water

shaking their feet, they will disturb a meal hiding under the algae or behind a rock. They make a quick stab to capture a tasty morsel (a sculpin fits the bill). Then it's on to the next shallow spot and the behavior is repeated over and over.

The Carmel River Lagoon and Wetlands Natural Preserve is a must for birders. The birds come at different times of the year. The Snowy Plovers (in winter), Elegant and Caspian Terns, gulls, raptors, a variety of waders, black birds and others in the tule grass make it well worth spending time at the beach.

Snowy Egrets are usually very close to the parking lot and can be easily seen working the waters just outside the line of tule grass. One day I watched two egrets walking toward each other. I kept snapping pictures and then they stopped and posed for one of my all-time favorite images. On another day, the hunting must have been



A Great Egret with a skink (left) and Snowy Egrets.

really good because a group of “Snowys” were hanging out together.

I was really lucky one day when I ventured up to Moss Landing and Zmudowski State Beach. I had never seen the White-faced Ibis before and was able to photograph several while they worked their way through the tule grass. Something disturbed the birds and then I saw them: an Ibis flying overhead with two Snowy Egrets. Right spot at the right time! And then one day at Odello West, I saw a large flock of Ibis working the waters with both Snowy and Great Egrets.

Great Egrets can be seen in all the same places as the “Snowys.” These tall, elegant, statuesque birds with yellow bill and black legs can be found standing on the kelp at



Snowy Egrets are joined in flight by a White-faced Ibis.



Whalers Cove or China Cove. These hunters are the definition of patient. They watch and wait for just the right meal to swim by and then lunge and thrust with their long bills to capture a meal.

I’ve also seen Great Egrets many times in grasslands and even at golf courses looking for prey. I’ve seen them hunting gophers, lizards and rodents but obviously their favorite is fish. One day on the trail above the little cove adjacent to the Bird Island parking lot, I saw a Great Egret mostly hidden behind the coastal scrub brush with a nice Western skink dangling from its bill.

The image I never expected to capture was congregating egrets. I was on a closing patrol driving through Whalers Cove when I looked across the cove and saw 19 Great Egrets in the Cypress trees. The light was almost non-existent and I used a very slow shutter speed and high ISO to try and get the picture. On another occasion, I saw a group of “Greats” at Quail golf course decorating the tops of the trees like angels on a Christmas tree.

On my many expeditions, I’m always looking for the image that’s really hard to capture: birds in flight. Patience and a fast shutter speed can save the day. I wish you all good fortune when observing and enjoying our two majestic egrets.







David Laws, a Point Lobos Docent, was born and raised in London. His love of travel brought him to California, where he worked in the semi-conductor industry in Silicon Valley for nearly 50 years. He now lives in Pacific Grove, where he exercises the other side of his brain by photographing and writing about gardens, travel and his beloved Reserve. David's latest book, "Secret Monterey: The Weird, Wonderful and Obscure," features little known and underappreciated aspects of his beautiful adopted county.

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Who invented Monterey Jack?

Several origin stories surround a Whalers Cabin exhibit

by David Laws

Here's a story replete with intrigue, mystery, skullduggery and a cast of international characters, and in the end, you're still not sure whodunit! Sounds like a John le Carré spy novel. But it also describes the history of Monterey Jack, a cheese that has been called an "American original" but may not be American after all. Or is it?

The popular version of history goes like this: In the late 1700s, Franciscan padres at Mission San Carlos near Carmel created a semi-firm cow's milk cheese with a creamy, mild flavor and high moisture content that became a staple of the local farming community.

Scottish immigrant David Jacks arrived in Monterey during the early days of the Gold Rush. Through aggressive and questionable business practices, he amassed an empire of 60,000 acres, including dairies making cheese based on the padres' recipe. Known as "Jacks Monterey Cheese" at the time, it is familiar today as Monterey Jack and is featured in an exhibit at the Whalers Cabin at Point Lobos.

My research into its origins yielded a more convoluted history. It's still unclear if the "J" should be uppercase or lower.

Father Junipero Serra, leader of the Catholic missionaries who colonized the Spanish province of Alta California in the late 1700s, was born on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca. The recipe for the local cow's milk cheese is said to have been brought from Italy centuries earlier by invading Roman soldiers. It is known there today as Artesano Mahon.

When preparing for the journey to Monterey, Serra wrote in his diary: "I took along no more provisions for so long a journey than a loaf of bread and a piece of cheese." Milk also supplied an important source of nourishment at the missions that Serra established throughout California. A 1776 report notes that the "Mission Indian women make good cheese and very good butter." So, it is reasonable to assume that the native workers followed a recipe that Serra or one of his friars brought from their homeland.

Cheese-making continued after the United States seized the territory from Mexico in 1846. Monterey traders' records show cheese-related transactions, including shipments by sea, as early as the 1850s. And in 1875, the "Monterey Handbook" editors waxed enthusiastic over dairies located in Carmel Valley. Most were small family farms with as few as three cows that produced a cheese known simply as queso del pais (country cheese).

Two different versions of the source of the name Jack begin in Carmel Valley. Jose Manuel Boronda, owner of Rancho Los Laureles, was unable to work after a bullfighting accident. To help feed their 15 children, his wife began selling her queso del pais, following a recipe from her father-in-law's home in Aragon, Spain. After she sold some of her cheese to David Jacks, he stole the recipe, and the rest, as they say, is history.

An alternate version was offered by S.F.B. Morse, the founder of the Pebble Beach Company. He claimed that Swiss-Italian dairyman Domingo Pedrazzi produced

cheese for the Del Monte Hotel on his ranch near the former San Clemente Dam. Pedrazzi employed a device designed to support settling houses, called a house jack, to press the curds into wheels. Thus, jack cheese (with a lowercase “j”).

In 1995, the Monterey Cheese Company, then of San Francisco, offered a third, more colorful version. A spokesman speculated that it was derived from the jackass burros that carried the cheese to market in Greenfield in the Salinas Valley.

As success has many fathers (and, in this case, mothers), dozens more entrepreneurial cheese makers from Monterey County and beyond have laid claim to a slice of the Jack cheese legacy.

Portuguese whalers who operated out of Whalers Cove at Point Lobos supplemented their income with milk and cheese production. Manuel Jose Rodrigues and his wife Maria, who learned to make cheese from her mother in the Azores islands, raised cows in Big Sur’s Palo Colorado Canyon in the 1880s. Her daughter Anne claimed that David Jacks acted as her mother’s agent to sell it as Monterey Jack in San Francisco.

Kurt Loesch, former curator of the Whalers Cabin museum, recorded an oral history with Avelino and Walter Victorine in the 1990s about their family contribution to the story.

In this telling, the Vierra family owned a dairy near Gibson Creek. Mrs. Vierra made cheese from a recipe, also from the Azores. When they moved to Watsonville, Mrs. Vierra sold her recipe to a neighbor, Mrs. Victorine, for five dollars. Antonio Victorine hired Puerto Rican Spanish-American war veterans Juan and Pancho as cheese makers in their dairy near San Jose Creek. Around the turn of the century, Pancho went to work for one of David Jacks’ dairies near Marina. You know the rest of the story.

Another story takes us back to Italy. An Italian immigrant, Stefano Mori, arrived in San Francisco in 1888. He owned an inn that enjoyed a notorious reputation during the Prohibition era. His restaurant was noted for its cheese made according to a recipe from the homeland. The Pacifica Historical Society, which claims that a family friend stole Mori’s recipe and went to work for David Jacks, raised funds with the sale of “Pacifica Jack, California’s original jack cheese.”

At the beginning of the 20th century, hundreds of Monterey County dairies made Jack cheese. Today, 70 percent of the nation’s lettuce is grown in the Salinas Valley, but 99 percent of Jack is made in giant factories far away. Only one, the Schoch Family Farmstead of Salinas, produces cheese commercially.

Kent Torrey, president of The Cheese Shop in Carmel, delights in telling his preferred version of the origin (the hapless Doña Boronda) of Monterey Jack to visitors from around the world while introducing them to the artisan version. Like the origin story of the cheese, Schoch’s rich, buttery, medium-soft jack is far more complex and interesting than the familiar industrial product sold in supermarkets.



The cheese press exhibit at Whalers Cabin. Photo by David Laws The Boronda adobe, Carmel Valley, in 1928. Mao Hayes O’Donnell Library, Monterey.



This story was based on sources that included UC Davis Dairy Research and Information Center; Robert L. Santos, Southern California Quarterly 76; Mayo Hayes O’Donnell Library; Monterey Peninsula Herald; Elizabeth Barratt, Monterey County Herald; Bonnie Gartshore, Monterey County Herald; the oral history interview recorded by Kurt Loesch for the Carmel Preservation Foundation; Vanitha Sankaran, Pacifica Magazine.

The Moonlight Walk - an evening event

Under a beautiful September sky, the members of the Point Lobos Foundation enjoyed the annual Moonlight Walk member appreciation event at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Guided walks were led by Point Lobos docents Randy May, Carol Greenstreet, and Don McDougall. Members of the Point Lobos Docent Easy Access Adventures team were stationed along the Sea Lion Point Trail with scopes to view the marine life off of the coastal trails. Guests were able to enjoy all open trails throughout the evening during this special event. At the Piney Woods picnic area guitarist and vocalist Johan Sotelo created a serene backdrop with his smooth tenor voice, while the picnic tables were filled with the joyful conversation of old and new friends. The Point Lobos Foundation provided beverages and hosted a dessert bar with sweet treats to complement the picnic dinners brought by those in attendance. Storied Pint Homebrew, provided by Kevin Clark, had two special beers on tap. The sunset glowed in the distance during the Moonlight Walk Raffle announcement. Congratulations to Susan Lambert, Thomas Reddy, Donita Grace, and Amy Eitoku for your raffle wins! And thank you to all who participated in the raffle. Raffle proceeds provide funding for programs and projects at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Thank you to the businesses that donated to support the 2023 Moonlight Walk Raffle. The raffle supports the incredible Moonlight Walk member appreciation night, an annual event thanking the members of the Point Lobos Foundation for their support.

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for Point Lobos Foundation supporters.





Emily Hull-Parsons, originally from Illinois, arrived on the Monterey Peninsula over 40 years ago. During those years she ran an active consulting practice in the areas of management and philanthropy. Now retired, she has found time to enjoy serving as a Point Lobos Docent and has become an avid landscape artist, as well as a very enthusiastic grandparent.

Notes from the Docent Log

Compiled by Emily Hull-Parsons

Yesterday was a big day in the Cypress Grove. First, to prepare for a big influx of Stevenson students who were doing community service helping to weed, we flagged the small Cypress trees (so that they wouldn't be inadvertently weeded). Guess what? There was another big small thing: Turrets, belonging to none other than turret spiders. These spiders live in damp forests, building one-inch tall turrets leading to holes in the ground. They live up to 16 years and the females never leave the turret. I mean, talk about being a housewife! Yikes!

Katherine Spitz, 09/19/2023



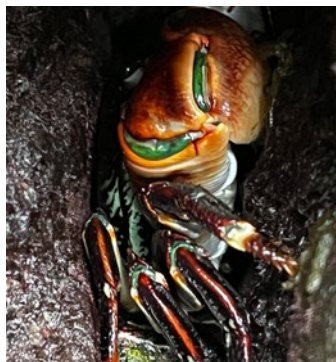
When visitors point, pay attention! Walking on the southmost section of South Shore, visitors were pointing at some nearby otters, one munching on a large crab.

Stan Dryden, 09/05/2023



Sam Winter, the California State Parks Natural Resources Volunteer Program Coordinator, led several enthusiastic docents and volunteers in the BioBlitz Challenge. Three teams scoured the trails of Point Lobos to “collect” images and sounds on the iNaturalist app; our goal was to identify and document the diverse flora and fauna in our many habitats. Other California State Parks are undertaking parallel efforts to tally their species as well.

Jeri Passalacqua, 09/06/2023



California aster and Lined shore crab

As I started my walk at Sea Lion Point, fellow Docent Jon Jennings was walking back from scoping and told me about the whales he had seen, telling me he thought they were humpbacks. There was a throng of visitors there who were agog at seeing whales just past the “island” (actually the kelp patch where otters hang out). The first thing I saw was a Risso’s dolphin, but the next was the back and flukes of a whale. Soon they were seen leaping out of the water further offshore, and Jon’s diagnosis was confirmed. The word spread among the visitors, and for some it was the first whale they had ever seen.

Stan Dryden, 08/17/2023

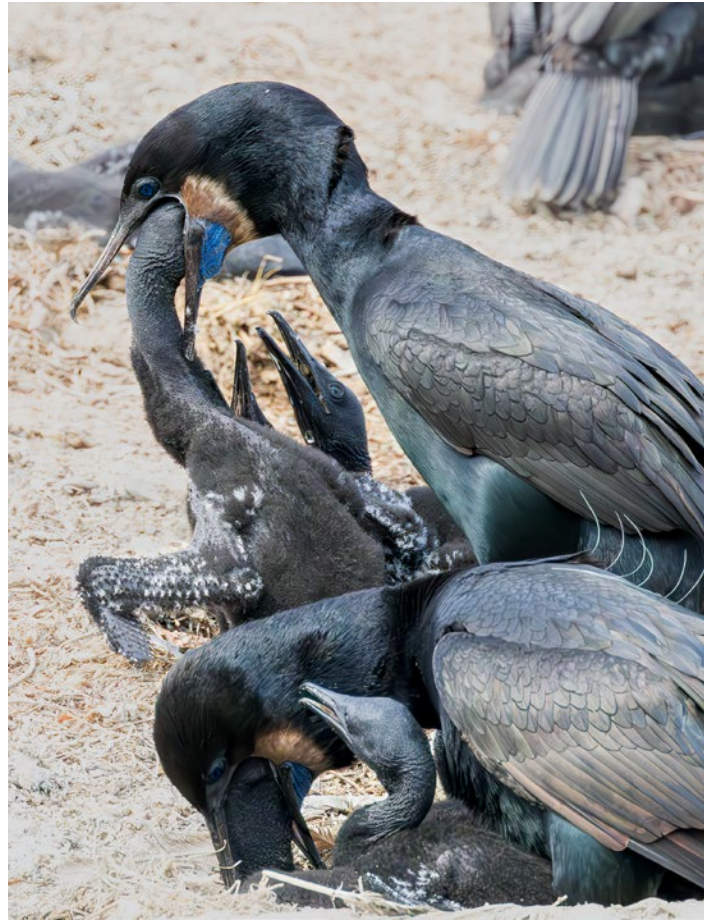


The Information Station welcomed many international visitors on Sunday morning. Mai from Holland took great care to draw this image on one of our comment cards.

David Laws, 08/26/2023

I spotted a lizard-size reptile that I had never seen before crossing the trail between the junction of the Cypress Grove and North Shore trails and the Information Station today at about 3:30 p.m. It had white stripes down its sides and a blunt blue tail. Searching iNaturalist after I got home, I discovered it was a Western skink. The site noted that one had been spotted at Point Lobos on Aug.15 at about the same time of day by “Morgan.” Sorry to not have a photo to share but it crossed the trail so quickly that I barely had enough time to note its unusual features.

Virginia Chomat, 08/22/2023



Docent Jacolyn Harmer and I spent the morning birding at Point Lobos today. Among the highlights were a White-tailed Kite at Mound Meadow, a pair of Pigeon Guillemots nesting near the viewing platform at Bird Island, several Black-crowned Night Herons (adults, yearlings and juveniles) and lots of Brandt’s cormorant chicks of various ages. My heart was in my mouth as I watched a Night Heron chick get really close to the edge of the rock. And, as the cormorant photo shows, much of the chick is in its parent’s mouth during feeding!

Sara Courtneidge, 06/27/2023



Yesterday, the district trail crew completed a set of wood stringer steps to span the missing section of concrete and rock steps that were destroyed over the winter at Gibson Beach. The beach can now be accessed by the public once again and the “area closed” sign has been removed.

Melissa Gobell, 07/06/2023

A “million-time” visitor with a huge camera came off of the North Shore Trail at the Information Station. She said she saw a quail up there but couldn’t get set up quickly enough to take a photo. So she googled quail sounds and played them on her phone. The quail came back out of the bushes and she got a perfect picture! I really learn something every day! About an hour later, a couple from Texas came to ask what the bird with the plume was and I showed them a picture of a quail. Yes, that was it and it was parading babies across the trail. They were beyond excited to have discovered it.

Shirley Chapman, 08/04/2023



Photo by Chuck Bancroft

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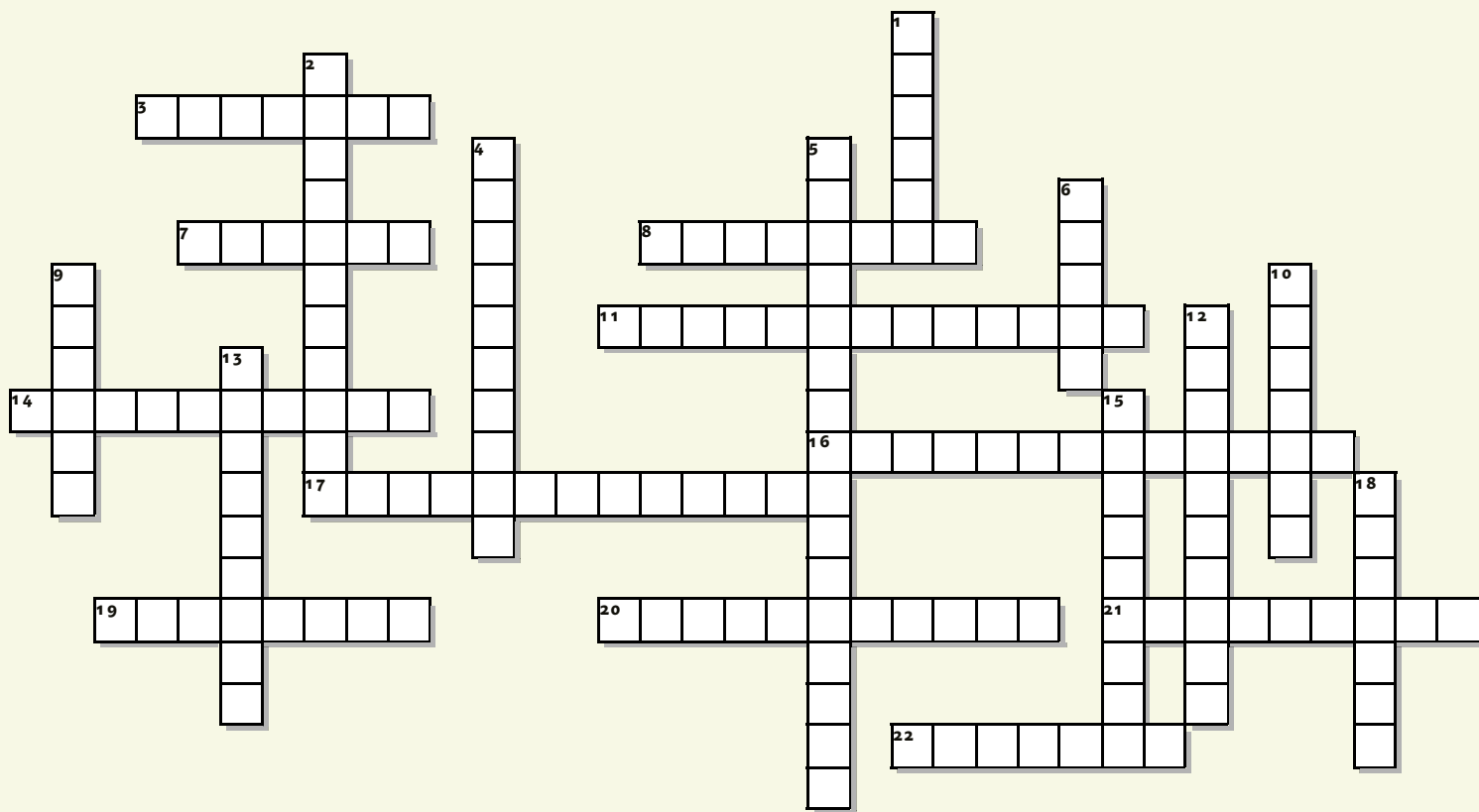
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Puzzle: It's All About Whalers Cabin

by Ann Pendleton



ACROSS

- 3 George _____ occupied the cabin while creating a plan for Point Lobos
- 7 _____ are a favorite mammal for Point Lobos visitors to watch
- 8 Point Lobos was used by the _____ during WWII
- 11 An _____ dig and survey was done under and around Whalers Cabin
- 14 Whalers Cove was formerly known as _____ (2wds)
- 16 Whalers Cabin is a _____ museum (2wds)
- 17 _____ brought abalone to the local market at his restaurant (2wds)
- 19 Whalers Cabin became a _____ and storeroom for the Amphibious Brigade
- 20 Point Lobos Foundation was formerly known as Point Lobos _____.
- 21 Whalers Cabin was built as a _____
- 22 Whalers Cabin was used to process fresh _____ for a local restaurant

DOWN

- 1 The whaling industry was done during the _____ months at Point Lobos
- 2 _____ is a place scuba divers can dive in Point Lobos (2wds)
- 4 The _____ were the primary whalers at Point Lobos
- 5 Whalers Cabin is on the _____ of Historic Places (2wds)
- 6 Divers came from _____ to dive for abalone
- 9 _____ and Allan were partners in the abalone business
- 10 Point Lobos is a State _____ which has a higher protection status than State Park.
- 12 The saving of Whalers Cabin was led by docent _____ (2wds)
- 13 _____ nest in one of the Monterey pines across from Whalers Cabin (2wds)
- 15 Whalers Cabin was built by Chinese _____.
- 18 The _____ presence lasted about 25 years at Point Lobos

Acknowledgments

Memorials, tributes and grants April 16 - October 15, 2023

IN HONOR OF

Docent Class 44 trainers and funders
*Elizabeth Lichy – Atmospheric Rivers,
Go with the Flow*

Lester T. Hibbard
David and Jane Hibbard

Granddaughters Katherine, Amara,
and Caroline
Diane Kirkpatrick

Deborah Jean Andrew
Thomas Riordan

Sister Anna
Henry Imwalle

Docent Class 44
Docent Class 44

Tyler and Amy Eberly
Ceree Tate Eberly

Andrew Gordon's Birthday
Cathy Gordon

Deborah Ju's Birthday
*Grace Ju
Helen Ju*

Reg Henry
Jay and Beth Lewis

GRANTS

Grant from the Fund for the Environment,
The Scott Fund, and Terry Layne Fund
for Beach Protection of the Community
Foundation for Monterey County.

Harden Foundation

Yellow Brick Road

Chapman Foundation

Pebble Beach Company Foundation

Monterey Peninsula Foundation

IN MEMORY OF

Dick Lehrberg
Catherine Lehrberg

Reid Woodward
*Madeleine Delman
Nick and Becky Craft*

Ethel P. Arnold
Jack Arnold

Mary Whalen
Frank Pajerski

Ken Whiting Nisewaner
Kristin Nisewaner

Ed Clifton
*Joe and Patricia Bova
Carol Marquart
Connie Dallmann
Jim and Anne Rurka*

Margaret Fitz Simmons,
our cherished friend, aunt and sister
Ellen Porzig

Claire Louise Reordan
Nancy Spear

Maureen Mason
*Christine and Michael Kasman
Tracy Gibbons*

Johnathan Vickroy
Pat Vickroy

Ruth T. Swan
Carolyn Swan Mack

Richard M. Jacobs
Linda Jacobs

Carol Mintz
Leigh Mintz

Ron Collins
*Margaret Renaut
Susan Dempsey*

My mom, Ms. Hilkat Aral,
who loved coming to the Reserve
Ahmet Baydur

Mike "Tubby" Turbow
on his 84th birthday
Jacquelyn Gottlieb

SISTER ANNA VOSS FUND

Donations made to the Sister Anna Voss
Memorial Fund, and the income
generated by it, are restricted to the
education and direct support of the Point
Lobos Docent Program and the school
education outreach programs.

Marcy Alan Craig

Maria Obiols Chavez

Virginia Chomat

Susan Dempsey

Connie Dallmann

Lois Davidson

Stephanie Flaniken and Mark Randolph

Tracy Gibbons

David Goldschmidt and Cherie Campbell

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IN MEMORIUM - REID WOODWARD

Point Lobos Docent Reid Woodward passed away on July 29. Reid had a huge heart and was involved extensively in the community in so many ways in addition to what he meant and contributed to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Reid's docent biography lists many "firsts." He was part of the first class of docents, the first Docent Administrator and he was the first recipient of the PLF's Jud Vandevere Lifetime Achievement award in 2014. He also served as a member and later president of the Point Lobos Natural History Association, now the Point Lobos Foundation. He was a teacher, photographer, writer and artist. Reid's docent calling came in the form of his involvement in the Adopt-a-School program, and his commitment to youth found expression through his local school presentations on birds, geology and Native American ways of life. He was a source of "institutional knowledge" and a great storyteller. He would tell the story of how the first Information Station began as a trailer and how he saw an otter born at China Cove.

We didn't realize what a gift it was to see Reid one last time at the Docent Appreciation event before he passed. Reid was a legend, and we will miss him.

This is an edited tribute that first appeared in the online docent newsletter and is reprinted here with the permission of the author – Melissa Gobell, Docent Coordinator/School Group Coordinator.





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