

POINT LOBOS

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Point Lobos Foundation

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*The mission of the Point Lobos Foundation is to support
interpretive and educational programs that enhance the visitor's
experience, and to assist California State Parks in preserving
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.*

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Cover: California hydrocorals and rose anenomes surrounded by barnacles. Granite Point, depth 50 feet.
Photo by Jim Thompson.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Skip Flohr

I am proud to report that as I write this message, our Point Lobos Foundation is about to complete another banner year. The limited space in this magazine does not allow me to mention everyone who contributed to our success this year, but I can assure you that every board officer and director listed on the inside cover of this magazine, along with our Docent Administrator, Fund Development Coordinator, Docent Coordinator, and Cooperating Association Liaison made significant contributions.

Among our major accomplishments was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to fund half the cost of a general plan up to a maximum of \$250,000. Work on the general plan is now underway and will include a series of public hearings. When the hearings are announced, we will make sure our members are notified. The entire process may take up to three years.

Your Foundation remains financially strong. As an example of our financial strength, at this time dues collected from members are projected to be a whopping 30% over our budgeted amount and member donations are projected to be double the amount budgeted. A new event this year for our larger donors and an enhanced Moonlight Walk experience contributed very positively to our increased revenues.

We have significantly improved our school outreach program by paying transportation costs to economically disadvantaged schools. This is enabling many children to see the ocean for the first time. In November alone, we hosted over twenty schools.

With the scheduled completion by California State Parks of the .8 mile Bird Island Trail early in 2012, we can all be proud that Point Lobos will have almost two miles of Americans with Disabilities Act compliant trails. Our Foundation played a part by financing the archeology study for the Bird Island Trail. These ADA compliant trails will certainly improve the visitor experience for many.

We made sure trails were safely maintained and invasive plants were controlled. We

have also made substantial progress in planning repairs for Whalers Cabin.

Our Publications Committee publishes 26 brochures, including our "Rules and Regulations" brochure in 12 languages.

Thanks to the generosity of the Voss family (Carl and Carol Voss, and Caroline and David Appling), the Point Lobos Foundation established its first memorial fund, "The Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund." You will recall that Sister Anna was instrumental in establishing our first docent training program. Please honor Sister Anna as you make your end of the year charitable donations. You can use the envelope enclosed in this magazine by checking the box "I would like to make a gift in memory of Sister Anna Voss."

I am also very pleased to report that the Point Lobos Foundation has completed a new Strategic Plan for 2012–2016. Most of our strategic objectives for the next five years are built around the primary goals of maintaining Point Lobos as a Reserve and enhancing the visitor experience.

We are confident this plan will keep us on track for the next five years.

THE SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

We are reprinting the following due to a printing error in the previous issue.-DK

The Point Lobos Foundation was formed to enhance the public's awareness and enjoyment of the unique qualities of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to support interpretive and educational programs, and to assist California State Parks in preserving the Reserve.

As we know, it is the Reserve's fabulous core of docents that have been doing a great job enhancing the public's awareness and enjoyment of the Reserve's natural history with wonderful and meaningful interpretation as well as assisting Ranger Bancroft with our educational programs.

Much of the success of the Reserve's docent program can be attributed to Sister Anna Voss, (cont'd on back page) who served as its first Director of Docent



MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS



August 15, 2011 through November 15, 2011

MEMORIAL GIFTS

- Virginia Bly in memory of Claire Reordan
- Thomas Hamilton and Estelle Langholz in memory of Claire Reordan
- Nancy Bock in memory of Claire Reordan her sister
- Jack Larsen in memory of Chorita

TRIBUTE GIFTS

- American Institute for Research on behalf of Connie Conroy in honor of her father, Arthur L. Conroy, Jr.
- Tom & Sheri Bohigian in honor of the marriage between Jim and Mary Anne
- Paula and Byron Runyon in honor of Armand Labbe, former Point Lobos Docent
- Kenneth and Yoko Nishi in honor of the marriage between Melia di Kodani and Thomas Reid

SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

- Carl and Carol Voss
- Dominic and Suzanne Cortse
- Daisy and Bertram Casalegno
- Antone and Carolyn Damas
- David and Caroline Appling
- Howard and Barbara Eyerly
- Anne Parr
- Robert and Tracy Miller
- Donald and Katharine Imwalle
- Evelyn Wollbrinck
- Sharon Russell
- Roger and Rochelle Dolan
- Henry and Anne Mollet
- Kenneth and Sally Sikes
- Ron and Mardo Collins
- Kurt Loesch
- Norma Davis
- Greg Margossian
- Gordan and Beverly Williams
- Jim and Lynne McCammon
- Henry and Anne Zamzow
- Thomas and Lillian Mckenzie
- John Appling
- Joseph and Georgia Stern
- Jayne Musladin
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- Mary Casalengo
- Charles Voss
- G. J. Voss
- Stella Rabault and Donald Williamson
- Susan Miller
- Art and Ann Muto
- Stefanie Kaku
- Eileen Fukunaga
- Fred Brown
- Carol Bloner
- Charles and Peggy Winston

Corporate and Business Support:

- Lester Company, LLC
- Saint Andrews School
- Alternative Visual Arts Group
- The Chapter Media

Foundations:

- California State Parks Foundation in support of new shakes for the Whalers Cabin Museum
- Monterey Peninsula Volunteer Services in support of Whalers Cabin
- North Face Foundation in support of Point Lobos Youth Programs
- The Ford Foundation

Sunset Walk:

- Ventana Winery and WellPict Berry Co.

Moonlight Walk Sponsors:

- PassionFish and Ventana Winery

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- | | |
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| • Patrice Vecchione | |
| • Ed Clifton | |
| • Old Fisherman's | |
| Grotto | |

A special thank you to staff, aides, and rangers for leading members on a guided walk of the soon-to-be-completed Bird Island trail, all of whom cannot be named here.

Ranger Chuck Takes Off His Hat



Amid the current budget woes, park closures, and staffing shortages, the impact the Point Lobos community will likely notice most is the retirement of Ranger Chuck Bancroft. For over 30 years “Ranger Chuck” has captivated Point Lobos supporters, school children, and visitors from around the world with his unique brand of humor, his love of the outdoors, and his extensive knowledge of literally

everything related to Point Lobos and the local area. At the end of this year Ranger Chuck will remove his famous Stetson and join the ranks of the happily retired. You can count on Chuck’s unlimited energy leading him into the life of the newly retired at a run as he plans to focus his knowledge and energy on myriad projects and opportunities in and around the local area.

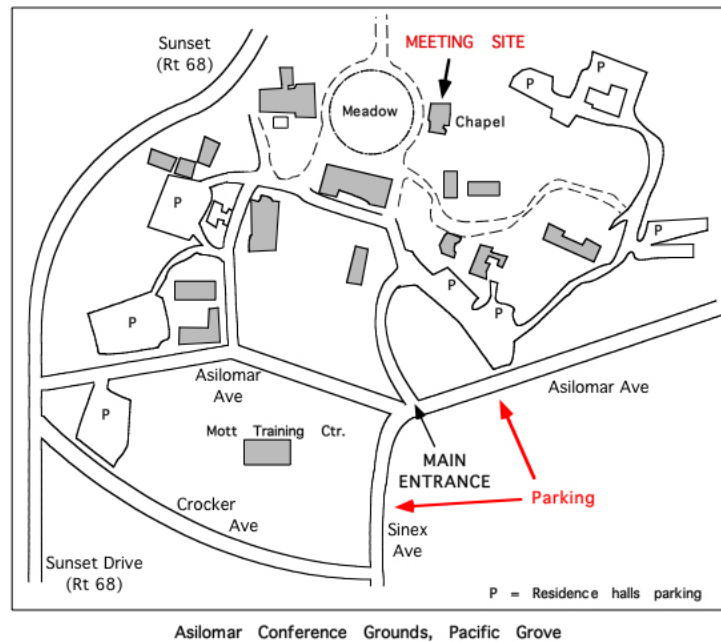
I for one will miss his smiling face, quick wit, and ability to inspire wonder in everyone

around him. The park and the Point Lobos community will never forget the legacy he leaves behind. We take off our hats in appreciation of his nearly 31 years of service to Point Lobos (35 years in State Parks) and realize the California State Park system has retired a true legend.

Plans are underway for a “uniquely Chuck” retirement party in the spring. If you are interested in participating in the planning effort, or just being there to share in the fun, drop me an email at danajones@parks.ca.gov

Annual Members' Meeting

January 21, 2012



Please join us for this annual event and help welcome our guest speaker, Mark Shelley of Sea Studios.

Time:

Social: 9:30 a.m.

Members' Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Noon

Where: Asilomar State Park Chapel

Mark Shelley, Executive Director, Sea Studios Foundation, is Executive Producer and Director of Photography for the film *Otter 501*, currently being produced at Sea Studios in Monterey.

Members will be voting on the following persons to be on the next board of directors:

Fred Brown

Semi-retired tax consultant and portfolio manager, and a volunteer at the Point Lobos Natural Reserve. Currently I am the website administrator for the docent website and active in leading public walks at the reserve.

John Drum

John has worked in the medical imaging field for over 40 years. He has been an avid birder most of his life and since retirement, has become passionate about digital photography.

John is currently a volunteer photographer for the SPCA of Monterey County, photographing dogs and cats for their web site.

Stella Rabaut, M.A., J.D.

Stella practiced law in corporate settings and in private practice in Texas, and in Washington state for over 25 years. Her particular interest is sustaining the human spirit and wellbeing while practicing law. She is currently serving as Consultant to Robert's Fund, offering programs for lawyers on Civility at the Seattle University School of Law.

Cindy Walter

Cindy Walter is the co-owner of the award winning Passionfish restaurant in Pacific Grove and an activist for sustainable oceans. Walter was instrumental in the launch of the sustainable seafood movement in Monterey County through legislative advocacy, public presentations, and educational forums for culinary students, restaurateurs, chefs and the public. Walter serves on the Advisory Council for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve themed items will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Under My Brim

by Ranger **Chuck Bancroft**



Back in 1980 Rod Parsons was a state park ranger assigned to Point Lobos. A group of volunteers was recruited and trained, becoming the first docent class graduating on February 7, 1981. And as they say... the rest is history.

If you look carefully there's Rod wearing his Stetson back row left. Glen McGowan, the supervising ranger at Point Lobos for over 22 years, is in the middle back row. Our 30+ years docents Joy Osborne, Norma Davis, Reid Woodward, and Wayne Kelly are prominent, along with Sister Anna Voss and Helen Lind, our first mentors. The Director of State Parks and the Regional Director both came to the graduation at the Hudson House. For us old timers... how many more docents can you name?

The winter of 1980 issue of the Point Lobos Natural History Association newsletter had an article called "News from the Field" written by Rod Parsons. The summer of 1981 issue had a three-paragraph article entitled "Under My Brim" with a little line drawing of Rod. Rod was promoted to supervising ranger at Allensworth State Historic Park in late 1982 and guess what? Glen McGowan became the new executive secretary for the PLNHA and the "Under My Brim" author. For the next 12 years Glen provided an often humorous look at the happenings at the Reserve. His final two columns in the summer and fall issues of 2002 actually brought tears to my eyes when I read them again today. I had the good fortune of working with Glen for 22 years.

Phil Jenkins became the sector superintendent of Monterey Sector and lived at the Hudson House after Glen retired. His first column appeared in the winter of 2002 issue and contained a wonderful

poem by Robert Frost. Phil was promoted to District Superintendent, and Dave Dixon, the other long time supervising ranger in Monterey, took over "Under My Brim" for the fall of 2003 issue. I do have to back track a little. Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel, began his "Observations" article with the fall of 2000 issue. I had the pleasure of doing the photography to accompany Sparky's writings. In 2004 I was continuing to write articles and submit photography for the magazine under my own name and different banners. Then in the spring of 2006 my first column of "Under My Brim" appeared. Pam Armas was sector superintendent at the time and asked me to become the new Cooperating Association Liaison (CAL). Thus I became the new author of "Under My Brim." The Foundation was expanding and growing by leaps and bounds. I couldn't answer the questions they were posing. Expertise was needed and in the winter of 2010 Dana Jones, our sector superintendent, took over as the CAL.

Now as we enter the winter season at Point Lobos I'm looking back to the columns Glen McGowan wrote during his last year. Now my time has come. I will retire on December 30. I will be 6 days short of 31 years as a ranger at Point Lobos and 34 years and 6 months as a state park ranger. I can't imagine having done anything else besides being a ranger. I was incredibly fortunate to spend almost my entire career here at the "Crown Jewel of the State Park System." My wife Sheryl and I have shared some momentous experiences, both good and, at times, heartbreaking. We've met some wonderful people we call dear friends. We've worked with so many docents that have a deep love for Point Lobos just like we do. I've worked for and with some of the most creative and talented people around. At the top of the list are Glen McGowan and Jerry Loomis.

So... do we ride off into the sunset, move to the ends of the Earth, or stay here in the area and stay involved with the Reserve? You bet! I can't think of any place I would rather be. We'll be here. Look for us... but I won't be in uniform. Probably out on the trail with a spotting scope and, of course, my camera.

It was probably during one of those queer cycles when the currents do amazing things.

John Steinbeck "The Log from the Sea of Cortez" (1941)

Barnacle Blizzard: Alien Invasion or Biological Success Story?

by James Thompson

This past August, while descending Bluefish Wall, a popular Point Lobos dive site, my friends and I encountered a novel sight: A reef literally white with millions of barnacles. From the tops of the pinnacles to at least 80 feet, small barnacles (*Balanus crenatus*) covered nearly 100% of the rocky substrate—and even some red algae. We found more of the same at nearby Granite Pt. on our second dive, where hydrocorals, solitary corals, and sea anemones were surrounded by barnacles growing just outside the sweep of their stinging hairs and tentacles.

Various described as "like a snowfall," or an "infestation," barnacles have been the talk of the diving community since the first reports emerged last year. Diver reports of a "barnacle invasion" date back to June 2010 in the shale beds near Monterey and from January 2011 at Point Lobos. At Cypress Pt., they have been seen as deep as 150 feet.

However, while *Balanus* is certainly having an exceptionally successful year in Carmel Bay, it IS native to the North Pacific Ocean, and is not an introduced species. This year's "snowfall" may seem unusual to most divers, yet it is not unprecedented here on the Central Coast. Researchers had already observed unusual numbers of barnacles in Monterey Bay's intertidal last year; 2001–2002 was also a banner season for *Balanus crenatus* on the Central Coast.

We normally pay little attention to such apparently unimportant little creatures; who would take up scuba diving just to watch barnacles?! It takes a dramatic event like this to get our attention. Still, we might ask: Why Point Lobos? Why this year? Why so many? Are they "taking over" the rocky reef?

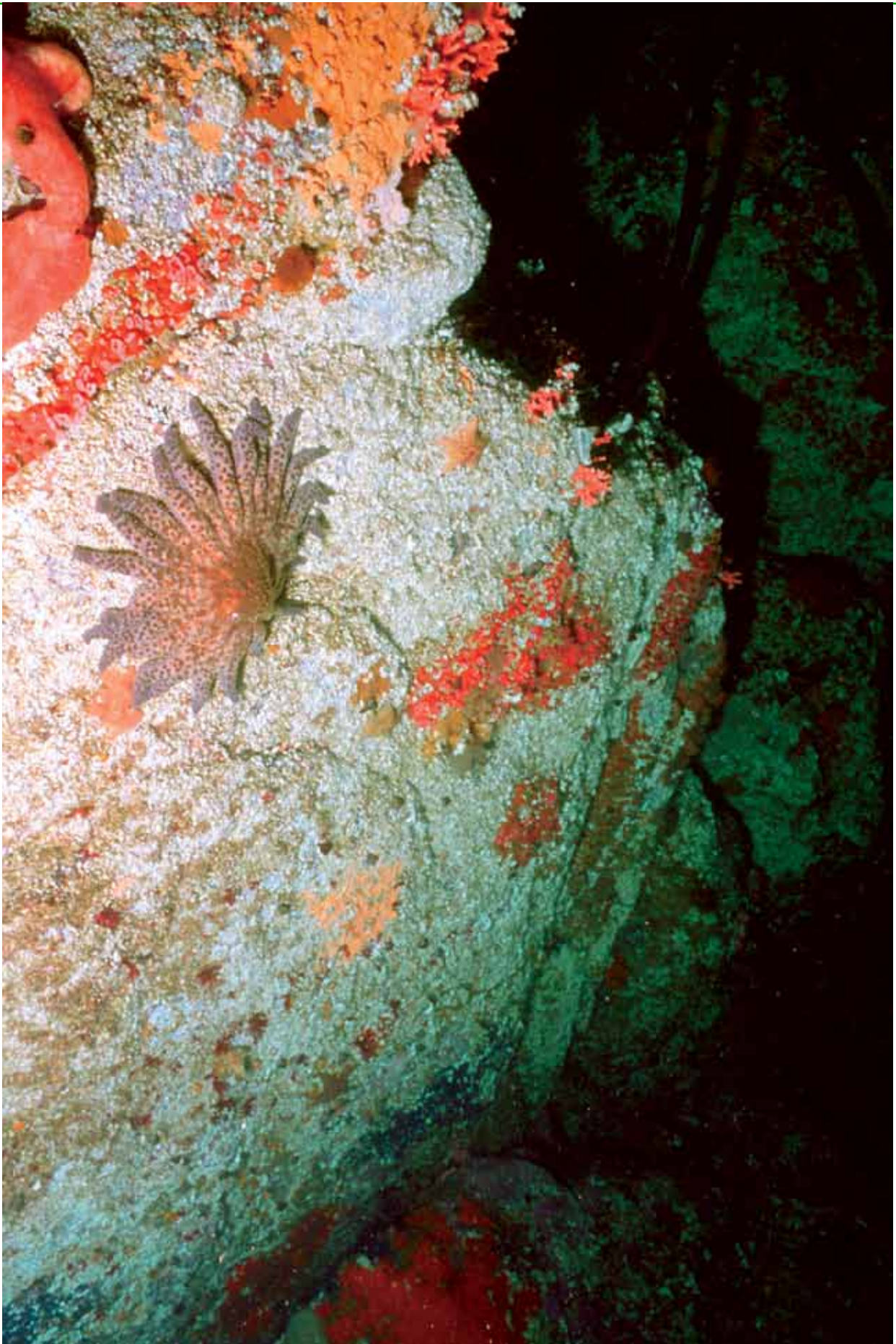
Marine biologists have been carefully observing barnacles for the past half century or more. Ecological roles of barnacles include providing food and competing for space in benthic communities. Barnacle populations vary over time, and their distribution changes in response to physical changes in the environment. Marine ecologists use terms like "settlement" and "recruitment" to describe their reproductive success, while admitting that for most human purposes, they are a fouling organism.

For any organism that releases large numbers of tiny, vulnerable young, a successful recruitment event is a bit like hitting the jackpot. Only when all the "cherries"—temperature, food, substrate availability—line up, does the slot machine pay out.

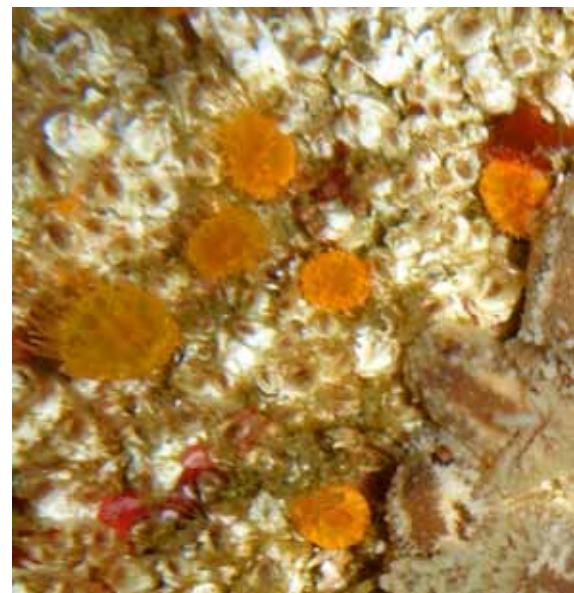
After the benthic (attached to the bottom) adults spawn, barnacle larvae must first drift in the plankton. If this plankton soup is of suitable temperature, with lots of single-celled organisms (such as diatoms) to eat, and the larvae escape being eaten themselves, and if they are carried by the current to a suitable reef (and not out to sea), and they have a chance to settle onto a suitable substrate (surface) they can metamorphose into adults. (Surprisingly, the presence of other barnacles has been shown to enhance larval settlement.)

Researchers have suggested that locally, these recent settlements have been associated with reduced upwelling of deep water along the Central Coast: This past year's unusually foggy summer had less wind than usual to push surface waters out to sea. Carmel Bay surface waters not only warmed up to 59 degrees in August and September, but also stayed in the bay longer than usual, taking on the emerald green color of a lush plankton "bloom."

While "upwelling relaxation" may not be the sole cause of this year's barnacle "snowfall,"



A sunflower star grazes over a barnacle covered wall.
Photo by Jim Thompson.



earlier events have followed similar patterns. Longer baselines of previous observations may help scientists to put such episodic (repeating, but not cyclical) events in perspective.

Like a rock into a pond, the ecosystem has been perturbed, and ecological ripples are radiating outward. The barnacles have become an important food source for sea stars and nudibranchs in turn: Carmel Bay divers have observed meter-square aggregations of hundreds of barnacle-eating nudibranchs (*Onchidoris bilamellata*) apparently reproducing in response to the increased food supply. (*Onchidoris* swarms

were first reported in January at Point Lobos, and also back in 2001.) The ochre star (*Pisaster ochraceus*) is reported to be dining extensively upon *Balanus crenatus* in Monterey Bay.

Even their own reproductive success works against *Balanus*: When crowded and competing with each other, they grow taller and form poorly-attached clumps that eventually break off when subjected to strong surge. Divers have observed areas where only white basal scars remain on the rocks.

Ecologists call a species whose abundance (and importance) changes quickly “ephemeral.” As displaced organisms recolonize these newly barren areas, the Point Lobos benthic community will regain its diversity, and settle into a state that we will once again think of as “normal”—at

least until the next disturbance comes along!

As of press time, there was some evidence that the Balanus settlement event seemed to have run its course. A dive by the author at Cannery Point on November 28th found very few live barnacles, but abundant fresh basal scars at depths of 40–60 feet. The Point Lobos reefs seem to be returning to their pre-“barnacle invasion” equilibrium condition. —J.T.

Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank Point Lobos divers Bill Gomez, Gary Banta, and members



of the Bay Area Underwater Explorers for their observations, and marine biologists Dr. James Watanabe and Dr. Robert van Syoc for sharing their expertise.

James Thompson, M.Sc. currently teaches Biology and Environmental Sciences at Monterey area community colleges. He first dived Point Lobos in 1971.



QUOTES FROM THE DOCENT LOG

Surprising Sightings, Delighted Youngsters, and a Symphony on the South Shore

June 16 : Derek Terrones

As the day was coming to an end, and I was finishing describing some of the high points of the Reserve to some visitors, I noticed a dog out of the corner of my eye. I asked the visitors to wait, and ran down the road toward Whalers Cove to catch up to it. With about 30 feet between us I realized my mistake: this was not a dog. I looked at the long swooping tail, and my eyes made their way up to the head of the animal: it was a mountain lion. I quickly raised my hands above my head and retreated back to the kiosk. The fact that the mountain lion did not look back at me made me feel better. It was a small one, about forty pounds. I was hoping momma wasn't around. Yikes.

August 15: Celie Placzek

Just when we think the fog will never ever burn off; today we were fooled. Not even lingering wisps hung over the ocean. The sun had burst forth like a rocket, greeting a handful of docents from our Point Lobos photography group who had gathered at Piney Woods. After grabbing our cameras, we walked down onto the conglomerate rocks and toward the water's edge. There we found purple sea urchins bunched together in shallow pools of water, safe from hungry otters. We explored one tiny tide pool after another, some carpeted in pink algae where shells moved about carried on the backs of hermit crabs. At times, we too crawled on our hands and knees

to see more clearly into this tiny magical world. Further up from the ocean, pools of water had evapo-



rated, leaving behind salt crystals that encrusted uneven rocks—the result looked like miniature castles. We had indeed found a magical place to return to again with our cameras, probably.

August 19: Rick Pettit

A scrim of fog filters the rising sun behind Coal Chute Point, and softens the silhouetted pines. A harbor seal lazes in the near-shore waters, then rolls and slaps the surface with his flipper, sharply breaking the silence. Up the hill behind the cabin, on the edge of the trail, grows a patch of rein orchid, *Piperia elegans*, with spikes of exquisite, tightly packed flowers. From somewhere amidst the tangle of sage, coyote brush, and poison oak, come the clear notes of a wrentit.

August 20: Celie Placzek

All my anxieties over leading a public walk evaporated today when I explored Cypress Point Trail with a young Russian family. The father translated much of what I had to say to the rest of the family, but there are times when



you need no words, such as when their nine-year-old daughter bubbled with excitement looking through my spotting scope. "Beautiful" she said in halting English, "It is beautiful."

September 17: Lynne McCammon

The great egrets were out in full force this otter-count morning. Every which way you looked you could see a few. We used them to help our fellow docents locate where we were seeing otters. The kelp is extremely heavy with many rafts of "kelp otters," so we need all the help we can get. (Ed. note: at a distance, bull kelp bears some resemblance to sea otters—thus docents' joking reference to "kelp otters.") This month's count for otters was 38 adults and 10 pups. There was a nice size range of the pups, from very small newborns to large ones about ready to be on their own.

September 17: Eileen Fukunaga

Today is a prize. The predicted stormy weather is gone and sunshine abounds. A great egret has spent the morning on the big rock across the way, sunning and preening itself. A dozen seals are taking their daily naps.

September 17: Hope Hale

Spied a bobcat kit-

ten wandering along Cannery Point—no mother in sight.

September 18: Carol Bloner

Today is a truly beautiful Sunday afternoon, with a warm, gentle breeze, and a relatively flat sea. A young California sea lion was playing in the near-shore breakers on the south side of Sea Lion Point, entertaining the many visitors on the beach. Further south I was mesmerized by the ocean sounds in the small cove that has the blowhole. I felt as if I were in a concert hall. The water lapping onto the rocks at the outer edge of the cove sounded like an audience

settling in, and the low rumbles from the blowhole mimicked low register instruments tuning up. Point Lobos always offers something new.

September 21: Connie Dallmann

I had a lovely walk on the Cypress Grove Trail that included two young boys. I was a little disappointed that we had seen so little wildlife, when what should come bounding across the path in front of them but a bobcat. Great timing!



September 22: Celie Placzek

This afternoon I walked along South Shore Trail under a gray blanket of fog. Although it was not cold, it felt like winter. Waves bombarded the rock jetty protecting Weston Beach, crashing and booming so loud I could feel it inside my chest. I stopped. I watched. I stood in awe as summer, torn into small bits and pieces, was tossed high in the air. Beneath it all, sea palms anchored securely, nodding their heads in calm assurance that yes, tomorrow we will fold into fall.

**September 30: Stefanie Kaku**

Beautiful late September day, late afternoon sun warming the rocky landscape. A determined gull is stalking a dining sea otter—hoping for a handout? The otter keeps it at bay with frequent flicks of its flippers. Finally, the gull gets too close, and the otter kicks it and dives. Others work far too hard to be intimidated into sharing! Still: you can't blame a scavenger for trying. A short time later the otter surfaces with something quite large—and now there are three gulls to fend off. Finally the largest gull leaps onto the otter's belly, snatches a big piece of food, and retreats. Success! Well, for the gull anyway.

October 6: Ruthann Donohue

My first really rainy day at Point Lobos—who knew that sea otters flock to Whalers Cove on such a day? At least a dozen are floating peacefully.

October 10: Nancy Kraus

Dolphins! In Whalers Cove! Three groups of visitors reported the sightings around noon.

October 13: Rick Pettit

I went to the South Shore this morning to check out the Mound Meadows prescribed burn site. One spot was still smoldering, and the rest was blackened and crispy. Reportedly, the burn's basic goals—reducing brush, incinerating non-native seeds—were mostly accomplished. Meanwhile, across the road at Weston Beach, black turnstones, joined by a soli-

tary dunlin, picked through the storm-tossed piles of kelp on the shoreline. Far overhead, a red tail hawk circled. I watched it intently through binoculars until it got so close to the sun that the trailing edges of its wings and tail became incandescent.

October 13: Kathy Petty

I spent a long time explaining things in the cabin to a very curious young boy. Every time his parents urged him to go outside he would say, "but old stuff is cooler than new stuff."

October 20: Paul Reps

Scoping on a cool, gray, marine-layered day at Sea Lion Point. I had the scope on the large raft of otters out in the kelp forest, but then something nearer by caught my eye. On the large rock below us, where the harbor seals always hang out, a gull was doing something... but what? When I aimed the scope in that direction, I was surprised to see a sea otter gorg-





ing on mussels—and the gull was pestering the otter for scraps!

October 28: Rick Pettit

A brilliant and peaceful morning at Whalers Cove, the sun, low in the east, reflects blindingly off the smooth water. A great egret stands stock-still on the kelp at the cove's head. Below Canary Point a cormorant's feet thwap-thwap on the water as he laboriously rises into flight. In the scrub, a warbler-like fellow (maybe a yellow rump?) surfaces too briefly, and an unseen spotted towhee calls. Up in the pines, nuthatches and bushtits work away busily. Two crows quietly row the blue air, and one takes up a high post on a snag. A black phoebe sorties out from a cypress branch. A red-shouldered hawk cries in the distance. Back on the cove, eared grebes ride high, submerge, and pop back up. Herrmann's gulls preen and doze on the riprap. One, its bright bill buried in the feathers along its back, seems to illustrate the black-and-white photographer's gamut of tones. Pure black tail, soft gray body, pure white edgings of tail and wing feathers.

November 1: Marty Renault

Plenty of action today in Whal-

ers Cove from dozens of birds —pelicans, cormorants, gulls, grebes, and several seals were all feasting on fish. The pelicans especially are a joy to watch. They cruise lazily around in the sky as if they're just killing time, then suddenly fold their wings and crash head first into the water, swallowing a fish as they surface.

November 1: Carol Bloner

Opening shift at the Cabin this morning and I did not want it to end. Cool breeze, but a warming sun and few visitors offered the opportunity to sit on the step and watch the abundant bird activity in the cove. I was treated to pelagic and double-crested cormorants in greater abundance than I have ever seen in the cove, brown pelicans circulating and occasionally plunging, Herrmann's and western gulls on separate rocks and in the water, and a group of eared grebes gliding between underwater forays. A big male otter and two harbor seals completed the idyllic scene.

November 6: Margaret Renault

Swarms of flying ants kept erupting from the ground near the water fountain at the Information Station. A knowledgeable visitor said the ants were on their nuptial flight—these are princesses and drones, and they mate during flight. After the mating the drones die, but each princess goes on to start a colony anew as a queen. A princess may mate with several drones, and produce enough eggs to last her lifetime: some queens can live as long as twenty years.



Point Lobos Foundation



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Training. She established the high standards that are still being met by our current docents and developed many of the training materials that remain in use today. There are still several of our docents, as well as guides, at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where she also served as a teacher and mentor, who cherish the memory of the inspiration she brought to interpretation and conservation of the wonders of our central coast.

In honor of Sister Voss, the Voss family, in cooperation with the Point Lobos Foundation, has established the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund. The use of donations and investment income generated by this fund will be restricted to the following purposes: (a) Point Lobos Docent Group education and direct support and (b) school education outreach programs relating to the natural sciences at the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

If your experience at the Reserve has ever been enhanced by a docent, if your children or grandchildren benefited, or will benefit by our school outreach program, or if you believe, as Sister Voss did, that Point Lobos is a special place with wonderful docents and inspiring educational programs in the natural sciences, you can help perpetuate these programs with a

donation to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund.

For your convenience in making a donation to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund you will find a self-addressed envelope inserted in this magazine.



Errata: In tribute to our 30-year docents, Joy Osborne, Wayne Kelley, Norma Davis, Reid Woodward, and Mary Beach, a correct version of Ms. Tellep's poem is being reprinted here:

SHEEN

With weathered patina

Our five veteran cypresses

Praise the sea.

TERESA TELLEP