

Volume 37 * Number 2

Summer* 2013

POINT LOBOS



SHELL AND ROCK ARRANGEMENT, 1931
PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD WESTON

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The Mission Statement of the Point Lobos Foundation is to advance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to protect its natural environment for future generations, and to strengthen the Monterey County network of coastal California State Parks.

Point Lobos Magazine is printed on recycled paper and published four times per year by the Point Lobos Foundation.
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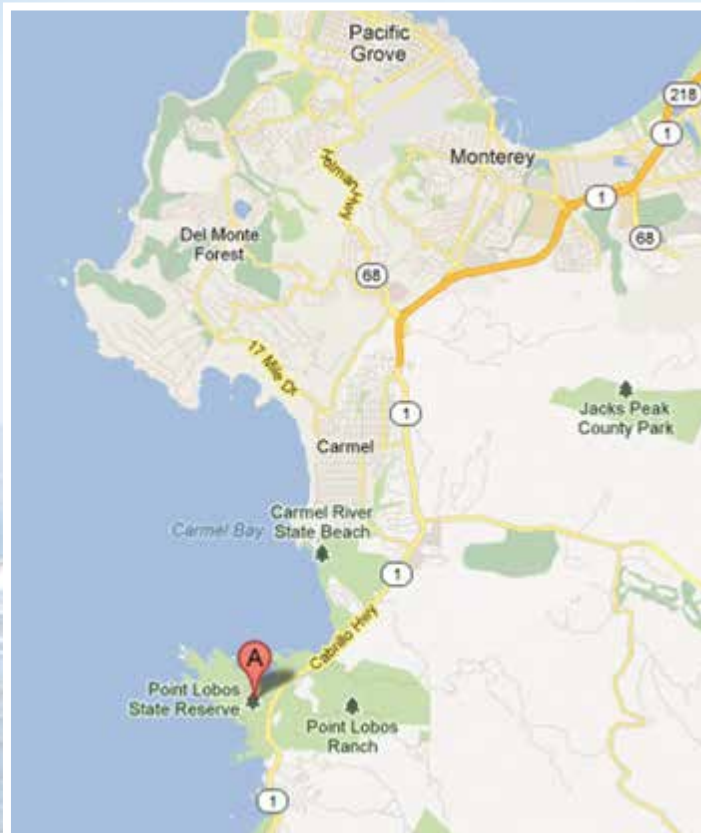


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sandy Hale

On March 11, long-time docent Kurt Loesch—the “Father of Whalers Cabin”—passed away.

Prior to the mid-80s, the cabin was used for ranger housing. Its final occupant was recently retired Ranger Chuck Bancroft. When State Parks began renovating the cabin after Chuck’s departure, Kurt was one of several docents sifting for Chinese and Portuguese artifacts under the wood-plank flooring. While kneeling on the ground sifting, he decided the cabin should become a museum of the cultural history of Point Lobos. Former Point Lobos head ranger Glen McGowan said “Kurt never turned to me and said we should make this a museum. He simply started collecting artifacts and the place became a museum.” He was single-minded in convincing State Parks, the other docents, and the community to create the museum. He was more than persistent. As one docent said, “Kurt was the horsefly and Glen was the horse.”



Kurt was instrumental in convincing the Monterey Bay Aquarium, other museums, and families with prior connections to Point Lobos to donate or loan the artifacts that make the museum a magnet for visitors. He prided himself on honoring the Native American, Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, and other actors that contributed to the mosaic that is Point Lobos.

Kurt was curator of the museum for 23 years.

He was instrumental in the inclusion of the cabin in the National and California Registers of Historic Places in 2006. State Parks twice gave him the Golden Poppy Award, its highest award to a volunteer; and he received many other awards. Most of all, his legacy lives on in Whalers Cabin, in places such as Ixchenta Point and Kodani Village that he promoted, and in the close relationships with literally hundreds of descendants of widely varying ethnicities that persist to this day.

The Foundation, docents, and Kurt’s family plan an event at Whalers Cabin on September 14 to remember and honor Kurt. As the time draws nearer, we will provide more information in the PLF e-newsletter.

Stan Dryden will step down as Docent Administrator on June 1, having served his three-year term and then some. Stan has been a terrific Docent Administrator. He was instrumental in developing a new strategic plan that reflects docent priorities, putting in place a more effective management and policy-making structure, and opening up program leadership opportunities for many docents. He encouraged and supported small teams of docents that have transformed education for new trainees and long-time docents alike, greatly expanded and improved outreach to under served schools, and started an “easy access” program to provide interpretive services to those with disabilities, among others. Stan’s humor at monthly docent meetings is legendary; he could have been—is—a stand-up comedian. Stan will be replaced by Judd Perry, whom we will introduce in the next issue. Both Stan and Judd are past presidents of the Foundation.

Stan Dryden in regalia for his bird talk to local schools.



Observations

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

It's that time of year. Beginning in late April the Brandt's cormorants started arriving at the Bird Islands at the southern end of the Reserve. What a spectacular display! Unlike the pelagic cormorant that lives at the Reserve year round, the Brandt's is only here during the nesting season between April and September.

The word "cormorant" is derived from the Latin words *Corvus marinus*, meaning marine crow or raven. Their habit of seeking out high perches after a meal and their dark color, both reminiscent of the crow, may account for this name. Their scientific genus name, *Phalacrocorax*, comes from the Greek words meaning "bald crow." A group of cormorants has many collective nouns, including a "flight," "gulp," "rookery," "sunning," and "swim" of cormorants.

The Brandt's cormorant typically occupies inshore coastal waters, often in areas with kelp beds

or rocky shores.

They can also be found in oceanic waters, large bays, and occasionally estuaries or coastal lagoons, and are almost

always found on salt or brackish water. Nesting colonies are usually located on gentle slopes on the windward sides of islands, but can also be

found on steep cliffs, ledges, and man-made jetties. Our Bird Islands are the perfect location for these colonial birds.

Brandt's cormorants feed either singly or in flocks, and are adaptable in both prey choice and ocean habitat. It feeds on small fish from the surface to sea floor, obtaining them, like all cormorants, by pursuit diving using its feet for propulsion. Prey is often what is most common: in central California, it is rockfish. Hundreds of Brandt's cormorants are often seen flying in long lines, very near the water's surface, on the way to their feeding ground.

The breeding season lasts from March to September. The male chooses the nest site and then attracts the female to the nest by displaying. During the breeding season, adults have a blue throat patch. He throws back his head, flutters his wings, and displays his blue throat. He will also throw his neck forward. Once she is interested, he will offer her some





nesting material. If she accepts, they will continue their ritual. Once they are paired up, the male gathers nest material from the water while the female builds the nest. The nest is usually made of seaweed, other algae, and eelgrass held together by scat. Couples may reuse the nest, adding more material to it each year. The female usually lays one to three bluish-white eggs, but can lay as many as six. Male and female both incubate the eggs, and incubation averages about 30 days. Both adults will bring prey back to the nest and regurgitate into the mouth of the young. The nestling period averages about 40 days, with the young birds fledged from late June on.

The pelagic cormorant has similar behaviors but nests in isolated outcroppings on cliff faces. The 90-foot-wall at Sea Lion Point is the best place to observe the pelagic cormorant.

While out on the trail the docents with spotting scopes will help you with your observations and questions. Be sure to also look for the pigeon guillemots at Bird Island, Sea Lion Point, and Guillemot Island on the North Shore. The Bird Islands are also a great place to watch for black-crowned night herons.



Tao of Surfing Comes to Point Lobos

The ebb and flow of the sea's
seasons at Point
Lobos provide a backdrop
for a new movie that conveys
the way of Tao.



Director of Photography Phil Pfeiffer

Shortly after the *Tao of Surfing: Finding Depth at Low Tide* was published, I knew that the story had the potential of turning into a full length feature film. I did not want anyone else writing the screenplay, and so I got together with my brother-in-law Alex Carig (who had a film degree), and we began working on the script. After some years passed, I thought that if the movie was going to get made that we should also produce the film ourselves—and so we did. We started location scouting to match the scenes that we had written and spent many days scouting Monterey Bay. The scouting included Point Lobos for some of the most dramatic scenes. This location drew me for many reasons: it's inherent beauty, and the very Taoist landscape that is reminiscent of Sung Dynasty landscape paintings.

It was Ranger Chuck Bancroft that assisted in all of the initial scouting for us. We brought on

board the renowned cinematographer Chuck Davis in order to capture the beautiful water photography, and then brought him on board to also assist as second camera to Director of Photography Phil Pfeiffer (*Dances with Wolves*). We got the script to Lou Diamond Phillips initially to play an acting role, but then later also offered him the role of director, upon which Lou accepted both offers. We filmed a part of the movie last February and will continue filming various parts throughout the year with an expected screening by early 2014. Much of the movie is filmed outdoors so we must follow Tao, listen to what the film tells us, and capture the essence of particular seasons and times when it is right.

—Michael Allen

When Michael and I decided that most of our locations would be filmed in northern California,

we wanted to showcase Point Lobos because Michael had originally put Rick's (ed. note—the book's subject) ashes into the waters of China Cove. The beauty here is second to none. We planned to visually capture the natural beauty of Point Lobos and other sites in this area to reflect the emotional states of our three lead characters, Dayne, Lance, and Amber. We wanted to utilize the earth's natural



Michael Allen, Chuck Davis, and ex



behind the camera. Courtesy M. Allen.

elements such as water, wind, and fire to tell our story. The ocean alone represents nature at its most unforgiving. It is the emotional connection of our characters to these natural wonders that make our story unique.

The opening scene reflects Dayne, our lead character, and his confused, emotional state. A Ghost Tree that stands next to Dayne before he surfs a monster wave symbolizes the cycle of life that permeates this unique location. The crystal clear blue water at China Cove where Dayne swims underwater is one of the most memorable scenes from the story. Many of the locations we have or are planning to film have an innate connection



-Ranger Chuck Bancroft.



Phil Pfeiffer, Director Lou Diamond Phillips, and Author Michael Allen.



Marine Coordinator Phil Sammet, and Underwater Cinematographer Chuck Davis.

to the *Tao of Surfing*. We also felt it was important to tell a story that was not only about surfing. Certainly, surfing is integral to the story, but we wanted to focus on our central theme of the human condition under stressful conditions.

Michael's book places the physical beauty of nature directly into the mind of the reader. We wanted to replicate that feeling visually through many of the locations at Point Lobos. The fact that we are filming this area over the span of several months allows us to film the many

moods of this area. The stormy waves, the clouds racing above us, the surf crashing against the sharp rocks, all convey the many moods that will tell this story.

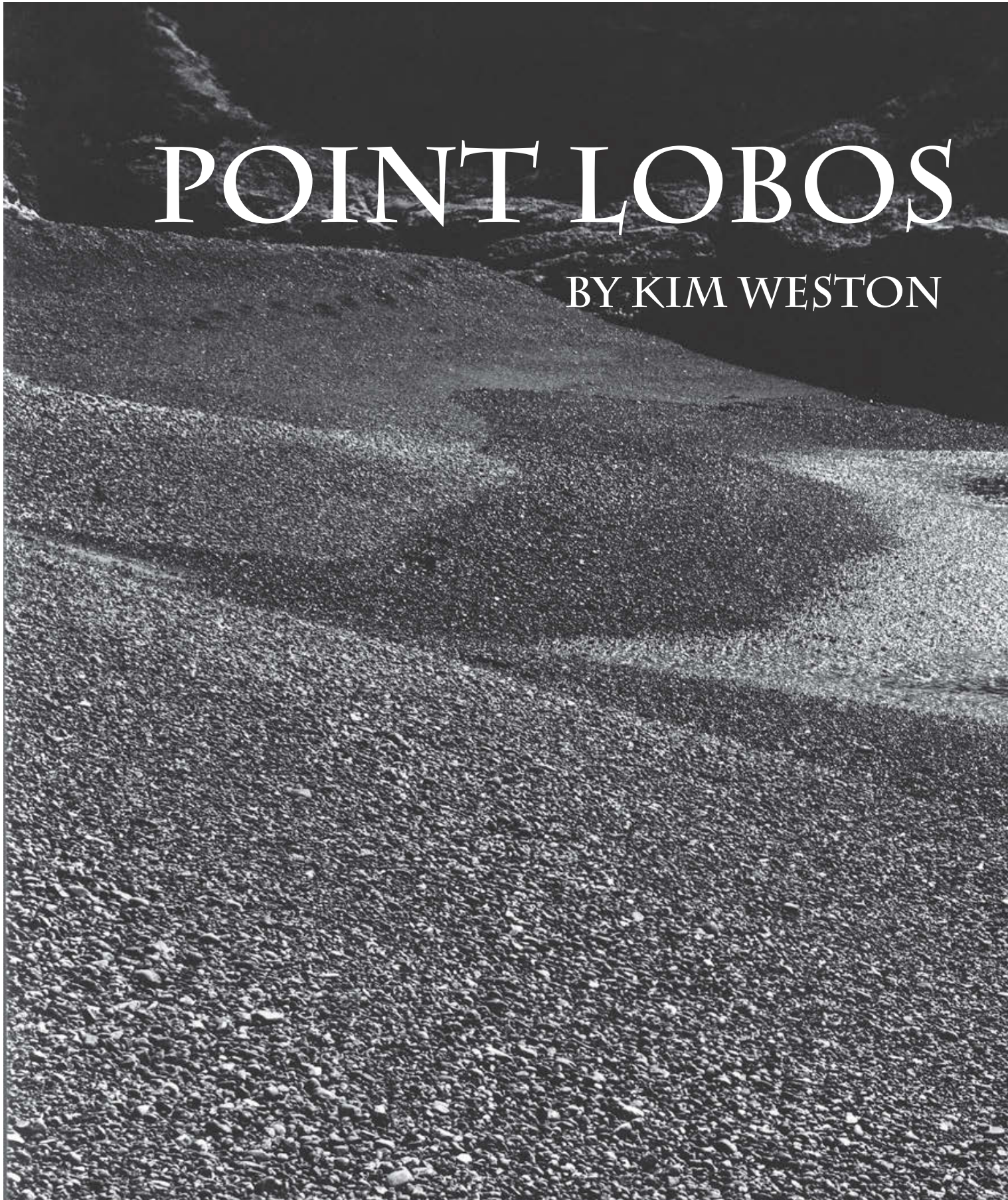
Tao of Surfing teaches us about the circle of life in our personal lives and how nature is one of the constants in our universe that we will always connect with.

—Alex Carig

All photos, other than top middle, by Julie Allen. Logo design (seen here in its embroidered form) by Michael Allen.

POINT LOBOS

BY KIM WESTON





Ever since I was a small child, Point Lobos was a meeting place for our family and friends; it was only a short distance from our home in Garrapata. Back then, it seemed like there was so much to do before visiting the park; pack up all the camera gear, which seemed to take forever, and then prepare the lunch. The planning—the talk of the weather and the tides—was always a consideration. Where should we start? Pebbly Beach (now known as Weston Beach) or the rugged north shore where the cypress trees are king? It was like going on a mini-vacation. And for a small child of 6 this preparation was seen as a grand photographic adventure.

One might think that my grandfather Edward Weston was the first to trod and photograph Point Lobos State Park (sic). But it was actually Edward's son, my uncle Brett Weston, who introduced the park to Edward. Brett would tell me the story of how a friend took him to the park first while Edward was in San Francisco visiting Ansel Adams. Brett was so fascinated with what he saw at Point Lobos that he spent three days photographing and then printing his work. Back then Edward Weston had a small gallery in Carmel where he conducted commissioned portraiture work and displayed his work. Brett was so excited about what he had captured at Point Lobos that he took down all of his father's photographs and replaced them with all his new

work from Point Lobos. When Edward returned he was not angry with his son but said to Brett, "Son, this work is fantastic, you must take me to that place soon!" And Brett did.

E.W. would return to Point Lobos time and time again. It was so close to his home at Wildcat Creek in Carmel Highlands, where I live with my wife Gina and son Zach. At age 22, Zach is finishing up his business degree at California State University of Monterey Bay. He has shown a keen interest in photography in the past 2 years. He tends to do more figure work like I do. The apple doesn't fall too far from the tree, they say. I am looking forward to spending a day with my son at Point Lobos and our cameras. Now there are four generations of Weston photographers, taking photographs where our ancestors have trod. As familiar as a place can be, Point Lobos never tires the creative spirit.



One might think that my grandfather Edward Weston was the first to trod and photograph Point Lobos State Park. But it was actually Edward's son, my uncle Brett Weston, who introduced the park to Edward.



A Travel Cost Study of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

by Nereyda Montaña
Monterey Institute of
International Studies

It is not easy to assign a monetary value to a place with as much splendor as Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. One would like to say that a unique place such as this one is priceless. However, assigning a monetary value to Point Lobos can help shed some light on how much it is truly cherished by thousands of people. The aim of this study is to calculate the value of Point Lobos based on the estimated 350,000 trips that admirers make to the Reserve annually.

The travel cost method of economic valuation is used to estimate economic use values associated with sites that are used for recreation such as Point Lobos. The amount of money that people spend on time and travel costs to visit Point Lobos represents the “price” of access to the Reserve. Therefore the amount of money that people are willing to pay to visit Point Lobos can be estimated based on the number of trips that they make at different travel costs.

Currently, Point Lobos does not charge an entrance fee per person. There is an entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle but the number of parking spaces in the Reserve is limited. Therefore, many visitors park their vehicles on the side of Highway 1 and walk into the Reserve free of charge.

There are several ways to conduct a travel cost study. For this study, the zonal travel cost



Figure 1.

method was used to estimate the value for the recreational services that Point Lobos offers as a whole. The zonal travel cost method is applied by collecting information on the number of visits to the site from different distances. The travel and time costs will increase with distance, which allows us to calculate the number of visits “purchased” at different “costs.” This information is then used to construct a demand

function and estimate the consumer surplus (an economic measure of consumer satisfaction) for the site.

Four different zones surrounding Point Lobos were created using concentric circles. Zone 0 encompasses anywhere within a 15 mile radius of Point Lobos. It includes the cities of Carmel, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Sand City, and Seaside. These cities, as well as the cities of Marina and Salinas, comprise zone 1. Zone 2 includes the city of Santa Cruz, and zone 3 extends north to include part of Santa Clara County. Figure 1 shows how the area was divided into these zones.

A short, anonymous survey was administered to random visitors asking for their zip code, the number of times they have visited Point Lobos within the last 12 months, their income range, and whether their trip was a single-destination trip or a multiple-destination trip. Of the 216 surveys collected, 189 of them were used. This is because 27 of these individuals either lived beyond the designated third zone or were on a multiple-destination trip. According to the results, the majority of trips to Point Lobos are by local residents living within 15 miles of the Reserve, as seen in Figure 2.

This study estimates that the total consumer surplus for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is \$9,959,660. Figure 3 shows this consumer surplus, which is the area below the demand curve. This suggests that people would be willing to pay about \$28 per visit to Point Lobos.

As you read the results of this study, it is important to keep in mind that travel cost studies do not incorporate the values of environmental features of a site that visitors do not necessarily find valuable. Travel cost studies also fail to include nonuse values. Therefore, travel cost studies tend to undervalue sites. Based on this study, the estimated consumer surplus of Point Lobos is a whopping \$9.9 million dollars. However, one may

Zone	Estimated Trips/Year	Zone Population	Trips/1000
0	189,500	107,466	1,763
1	76,500	250,175	306
2	56,000	287,778	165
3	28,000	341,000	82

Figure 2.

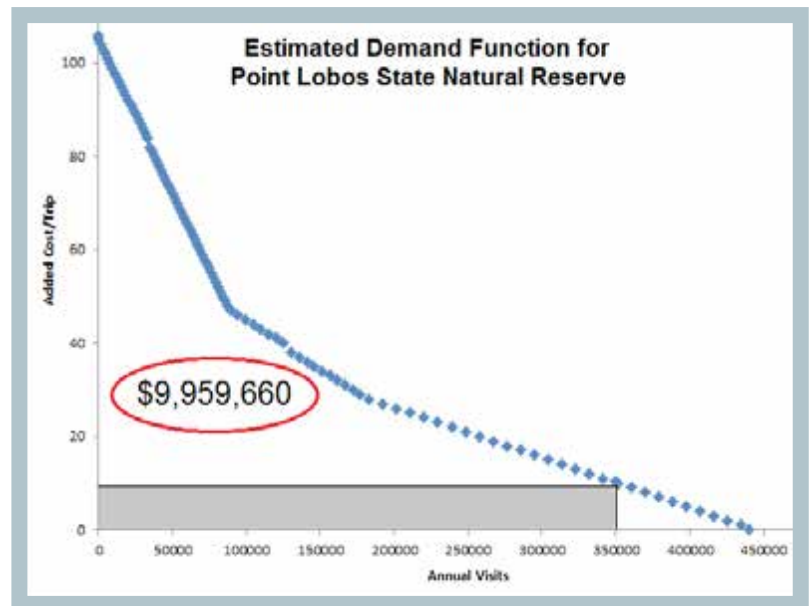


Figure 3.

hypothesize that once all environmental features and nonuse values are incorporated in a rigorous study, our beloved Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will be valued at an even higher amount.

Congratulations to the Newest Docents: Class 35!

As docent and PLF board member Fred Brown writes on the docent-only website, "Docent volunteers serve as a visible representative of California State Parks at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve promoting the California State Parks mission. These four simple words—preserve, protect, educate, and interpret—sum up the docent experience."

Our dedicated docents play an invaluable part in creating a meaningful visitor experience, one that goes deep into understanding the historical and natural landscape of the Reserve. Their training is rigorous and ongoing. Congratulations Class #35!



Sue Addleman



Robert Andonian



Kit Armstrong



Nelson Balcar



Laura DeVault



Fernando Elizondo



Jackie Henning



Chaparala Kishore



Diana Nichols



Castel Ortiz



Ken Pepper



Tracey Pepper



Kathy Richman



Suzanne Schmidt



Todd Schmidt



Diana Slasor



Randy Warren



Rodney Warren

Become a part of Point Lobos

Members of the Point Lobos Foundation receive special benefits like invitations to exclusive events at the Reserve (including the annual after-hours Moonlight Walk), a subscription to the beautiful and informative Point Lobos magazine, and a 20% discount on merchandise sold within the Reserve and at www.pointlobos.org. Memberships start at just \$25 and are 100% tax-deductible.

Fees provide educational and interpretive activities at Point Lobos including supporting 175 volunteer docents (who provided the equivalent of 13 full-time staff in 2012), publishing and distributing free, multilingual educational materials, conducting school, public and ADA-accessible nature walk programs, and maintaining interpretive centers like the Information Station and the Whalers Cabin Museum. **Return the enclosed envelope to join us today.**



Photo by Fred Brown, volunteer docent and board member

Preservation and Education



Notes from the Docent Log

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

Wonder of Whaling
Larry Rychener
Carol Richener
1/29/2013

With scope in hand, I arrived at Sea Lion Point overlook last week. It was like any other day at Point Lobos as we surveyed the exhilarating beauty of the place. We were disappointed—briefly—that there was no evidence of gray whales on their southern migration. That disappointment was short-lived! Soon the heart-shaped spouts began appearing to the north and with visitors, I watched as pod after pod passed before us. Then the most breathtakingly amazing thing happened! Just beyond Sea Lion Point a whale leading a pod of several others began to breach—not once, not twice—actually in the excitement we lost count. Eight, ten, maybe even twelve breaches? We continued to be amazed by the sight and were grateful to have been there to share it with visitors. An Austrian couple had just lamented that since theirs is a landlocked country—they had never seen a whale. What a memorable experience for them! How we wish we knew what motivated those breaches, and how we wish we had brought a camera with us to this amazing event.

Tales from the Kiosk
Paul Reps
2/11/2013

Saturday afternoon a Vietnam vet and his wife came into the Reserve for a visit. They were on a beautiful Harley with a wonderful paint job of a bald eagle and an American flag. After he presented me with his POW and Purple Heart credentials, I shared with them where to hike and spend some time enjoying our special place.

As they were leaving, the wife was smiling ear-to-ear and promised they would be back. Her husband thanked me many times and wanted to share a

story with me. He pointed out that his license plate was 00012 DV. He said that he had asked his three grandsons if they knew the plate's meaning, and the boys thought about it for a minute and admitted they didn't know. He explained that he was the 12th disabled veteran to get the plate upon returning home to the US from service overseas. They replied, "Wow! Only 11 people passed the test before you!" We all shared something special that day.

It's A Bird's Life!
Kathy Petty
2/14/2013

Six little eared grebes bobbing in Whalers Cove waters. Now up, now down—like synchronized swimmers practicing their routine.



The Point Lobos Classroom (1)
Fred Brown
3/20/2013

Just another day in paradise at Point Lobos as I started a nature walk for fourth grade students from Kammann Elementary School in Salinas. Thanks to the Youth Programs Outreach and funding by the Point Lobos Foundation, this program busses kids with teachers and chaperones to the Reserve for two-hour adventures. Each of seven



adults. Later I saw another pup on a rock in Whalers Cover. I don't recall seeing the very young pups on rocks before, and now two in one day!

At Bluefish Cove, I heard visitors approaching on the trail and decided to stay awhile and alert them to the seal pups and encourage them to be quiet. The couple was delighted to share the first sightings of the year, although seal pupping was not new for them. The women shared that this was her birthday and they come every year on this date to see the newcomers. Sweet!

The Point Lobos Classroom (2)
Fred Brown
4/17/2013

docents took eight children through the many trails where they discovered harbor seals, deer, squirrels, lizards, and monarch butterflies. Several groups excitedly spotted a pod of six gray whales spouting off Sea Lion Point while they were waiting to look through the spotting scope at the sea otter and harbor seals in the cove below. We finished up with a short tide pool exploration where the crabs were only partly hidden in the crevices. "Yes, they will pinch you! Better just look!" we warned. Smiles all around when one student exclaimed, "I can't wait to tell my mom about this place and what I saw! This is the best day of my life." Why we do it—kids need nature and nature needs kids.

Ed note: In 2012, 160 schools visited Point Lobos and 45% of these schools enjoyed docent-led walks. More than 40 docents participate in this program.

A Birthday Party
Stan Dryden
4/4/2013

Since I had heard no reports about the birth of many harbor seals this year, I decided to check for myself. There were no seals at all in the normal maternity ward in Whalers Cove. However, my walk to Bluefish Cove was rewarded with the sight of two very young seals with moms on the beach, clearly recently born. Then came the characteristic sound of a bellowing baby seal from slightly offshore, and sure enough, there was a youngster on a nearby rock with its mom and two other

Today I joined a group of 13-year-old students from the Kit Carson School in Hanford. We lucked into a most glorious day for their first trip to Point Lobos, and even I encountered a



something I had never seen before. While climbing the rocks at Sea Lion Point, we looked down into Headland Cove and saw two otters lying about. One was pounding a sea urchin on the rather large rock on its chest. After discarding that meal, both otters were particularly still and the sunlight was penetrating the crystal clear water to the bottom of the cove. We could see the rock formations on the ocean bottom and the long strands of kelp stipes curving down to their holdfast.

We watched the two otters dive to the bottom, scavenge around for a morsel, which they found rather quickly, and then swim to the surface again to point their reluctant lunch into submission. We could clearly hear the “whack, whack, whack!” all the way up to the rocks. I had never seen the water so clear that their full journey from surface to bottom was like high definition TV. The kids all said almost at once, “This is better than the Aquarium! Better than any outing we’ve ever had!” So, why do I do school walks?

Season of Renewal

Dick Klein

4/25/2013

Amazing that with all the hours that docents spend at the Reserve, sometimes a visitor is in the right place at the right time for an extraordinary experience. On April 16 a visitor reported she was just leaving the Whalers Cove parking area when she saw an otter behaving oddly near the launch ramp. The animal was rubbing its head with both paws and somersaulting repeatedly. Suddenly it slowed down and a small grey mass floated to the water’s surface. The otter picked up the object and started licking it as the visitor realized that this was a newborn pup. The cleaning process took almost an hour, but finally the smooth slick mass began to show fur and the baby otter was recognizable. “The cutest thing I ever saw,” gushed our excited visitor.

Racing the Past into the Future

June Banks

4/30/2013

Today a Whalers Cabin visitor was spending time in the side room where the Chinese artifacts are displayed. Out he came with a huge smile, saying, “I’m Chinese...from China! I am here



because I ran the (Big Sur) Marathon, and now I find out about Chinese history here in this park! You cannot imagine how personal this is to me. The race was a race, but this is so personal!” We are enriched today by the events of yesterday!

Expanding Horizons

Alex Mills

5/2/2013

Great May Day yesterday! Our efforts to expand the Easy Access Adventure Days to groups with different abilities were richly rewarded by the visit of 30 students from the Paradigm centers in Salinas and Carmel Valley. Docents learned as much as the Paradigm students and staff as we were challenged to adapt our usual trail interpretation to meet the special needs of these guests. We learned that the students were interested in everything—heron nests, whale bones, otter pelts, shells—and just being out and about on our trails accessible to people with disabilities. Their happiness and appreciation for Point Lobos was openly expressed and the docents were rewarded with the satisfaction and joy of successfully working with these extraordinary people. Success breeds more success! The staff of this center for adult students with developmental challenges now plans to visit Point Lobos on a monthly basis!

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES, AND GRANTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2013 to MAY 15, 2013

MEMORIALS

The Point Lobos Foundation is honored to have accepted gifts in memory of the following people.

LeBaron "Lee" Beard

Louise Beard

Doris Gerace

Jean Rastetter Rasch

Allan MacMillan Hudson

Susan Hovermale

Margaret Hudson

Kurt Loesch

Tony P. Ayers

Carol Bloner

Joe and Patricia Bova

James Clinton

William and Connie Dallmann

Brian Davidson

Davis Factor

Dorothy Kay

George W. Pasha IV, The Pasha Group

Betty Jean Stallings

Tostevin Accounting Group

Reid and Karen Woodward

Lynne Miles

William and Connie Dallmann

Fred and Carolyn Brown

Andrea Kim

Laura Beth Foster

Sharon and Jerry Hoffman

Lynne Miles (continued)

Millicent and Thomas Campbell

Leila Linen

Karen Pickering

Ruth Rachel

Susan and Jim Greene

Stella Rabaut and Donald Williamson

Ruth S. Gleisner

Gifts made in remembrance of Lynne Miles have exceeded \$21,000.

Leon Jack Pingle

Joyce and Paul Muckenfuss

Mary Whisler

Steve and Laura Barger

Ruth Zirker

Daniel Zirker

TRIBUTES

Phyllis Hilton

in honor of Lois Horsford

Carol McGurk

in honor of Mary and Tim Conway

SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

The Sister Anna Voss Fund was created by Carl and Carol Voss, and Caroline and David Appling to honor Sister Anna Voss, the first Director of Docent Training at Point Lobos. Sister Anna developed many of the materials that are still in use today at Point Lobos. Use of donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, is restricted to the education and direct support of the Point Lobos Docent Program and the school education outreach programs relating to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Mary Ann Matthews

Joseph and Georgia Stern

GRANTS

The Erma Bombeck Memorial Fund, held by the Arizona Community Foundation

The Robert R. and Gayle T. Meyer Family Fund, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation

Paul and Rudi Schulte for the Junior Lifeguards Program

Point Lobos Foundation



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Meet Todd Lewis, New Acting Monterey District Superintendent

I started with California State Parks in 1997, and have had the opportunity to work all over the state in various roles including Wilderness Park Aid, Ranger, Supervising Ranger, and Sector Superintendent. It has been a dream of mine since my first assignment as a Ranger to work in the Monterey District, and I am incredibly honored to be here as the Acting District Superintendent. In my first weeks I've found myself awed by the parks, the visitors, and the partnerships we enjoy—this is truly a special place to live and work. I look forward to spending lots of time in Point Lobos (and other parks) this summer with my wife and kids, and I'm hopeful that our time here will convince my daughter to become a marine biologist (she's just 6 but she already has tremendous knowledge and interest). I look forward to seeing each of you out in the park!

—Todd Lewis

