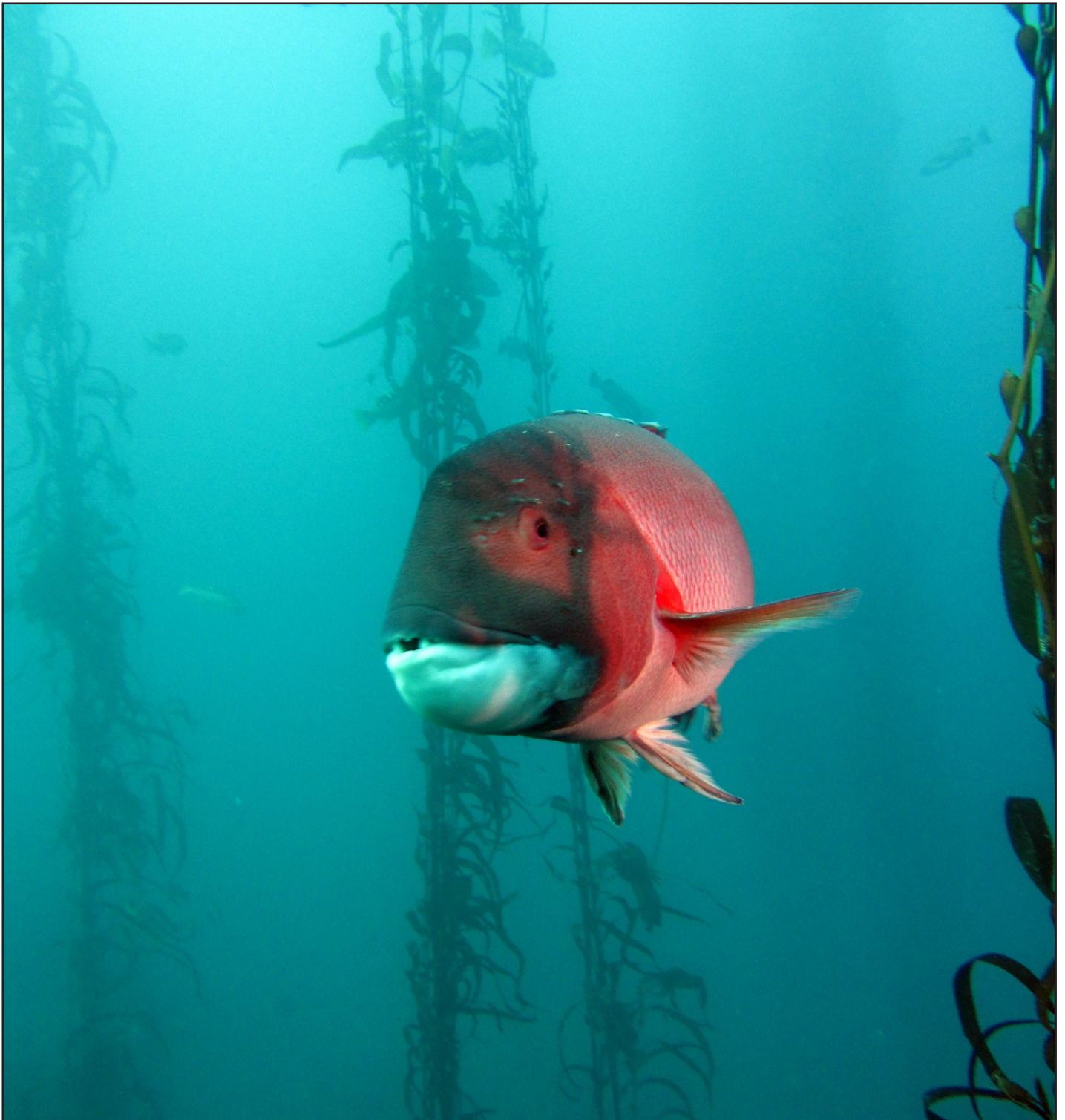
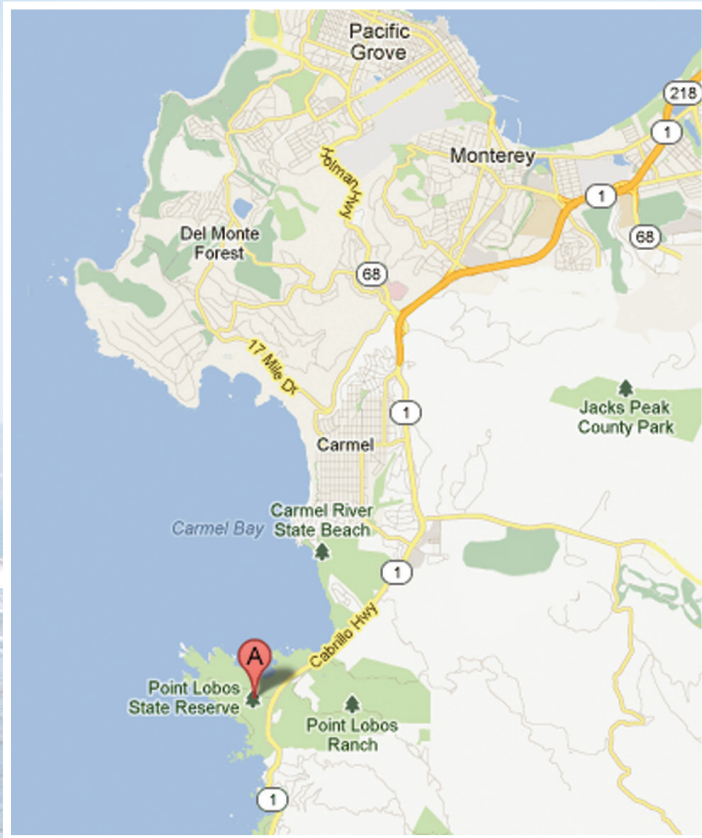


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POINT LOBOS





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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.

Cover: *Male Sheephead* by Kelly Hou.



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Message from the President

Augie Louis



Greetings to all of our readers. Point Lobos seems to have a new resident population of sea lions. The Sea Lion Point lower trail is temporarily closed. A rather large pod of sea lions have taken over the rocks and beach, and State Parks has wisely determined that we human visitors should allow the sea lions to have their space. Isn't it appropriate that the sea lions have chosen to inhabit our Sea Lion Point Trail? I love the humor of the situation.

We completed 2014 having reached many new milestones. We completed our fundraising efforts for the new Lace Lichen Trail. This project is currently under construction and temporarily closed while work is being undertaken. I was inside the Reserve today and watched a steady stream of visitors walking down the road sharing the roadway with the cars. It will be so much safer once this trail is complete. The new trail will allow the visitors to very quickly get away from the cars and begin enjoying a walk through the pine forest.

The month of December brought some big storms to Point Lobos. The rains were welcome but the winds caused some problems with trees blown down. State Parks closed the Reserve for almost a week while clean-up crews worked and the Reserve was allowed to rest a little bit.

Point Lobos again hosted Underwater Parks Day in January. We joined with a number of organizations, including The Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Marine Mammal Center, Sea Otter Research and Conservation, Reef Check California, and Bay Area Underwater Explorers. It was a fascinating day looking at the critters the divers brought into the touch tanks. It didn't hurt that a pod of dolphins swam into Whalers Cove for a look around or that an osprey watched most of

the event from a perch across the cove. I highly recommend you watch for this event next year.

I traveled to Sacramento for the meeting of the Parks Forward Commission. They have now issued their final report. The meeting was a pleasant and uplifting experience for me. The report includes some critical sections directed at State Parks. The reason for my hopefulness is how the current acting director of State Parks, Lisa Mangat, has adopted many of the findings. Lisa has created a "transformation team" to lead State Parks toward a new future. The role of non-profit organizations like Point Lobos Foundation should be encouraged and enlarged. The accounting systems will be modernized, the backlog of infrastructure repairs will get more attention, and parks users from under-represented communities will be able to find new connections with our State Parks. This transformation period will encompass at least two years. I hope to highlight some changes as they occur.

I recently wrote a letter to the editor of our local newspaper, the Monterey Herald. I described how organizations like our community of docents are making very big strides. In 2014 our community of 180+ docents contributed over 30,000 hours of service to Point Lobos. This is equivalent to more than 14 full time employees. This work is wonderful. Let's remain hopeful during this transformation period. We have many new features and improvements coming for Point Lobos and for our entire State Parks system. Thank you for your support.

Observations

by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

Spring is just around the corner and some of the most wonderful events in natural history will be occurring at the Reserve. From my many perches scattered throughout Point Lobos, I'll be watching for the courtship and mating behavior of various birds, especially the great blue herons at Coal Chute Point, the black-crowned night herons, and hundreds of Brandt's cormorants at the Bird Islands. And I'll be watching the pine forest for the cavity-nesting pygmy nuthatches.

Don't forget the sandy beaches at China Cove, Blue Fish Cove, Whalers Cove, and Moss Cove for harbor seal pupping beginning in early April. Grey whales and calves will be heading north back to the Arctic and Bering Seas for a long summer feeding.

Monarch butterflies will have left this area heading back to the north, but the emergence of one of nature's spectacular endangered species will occur in some very protected habitats.

Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes eoptes smithi*) was first studied and recorded by Rudi Mattoni and his friend Claude I. Smith, undergraduates at UC Berkeley, in 1948. After Smith's death in an accident at Half Moon Bay, Mattoni published his treatise on the butterfly they discovered as his Ph.D. dissertation. In tribute to his friend, Mattoni gave Smith's name to the butterfly they had described together.

From Wikipedia: *Euphilotes eoptes smithi* is a small butterfly with a wingspan no greater than 2.5 centimeters. Males manifest dorsal wing color of a bright lustrous blue, while females exhibit

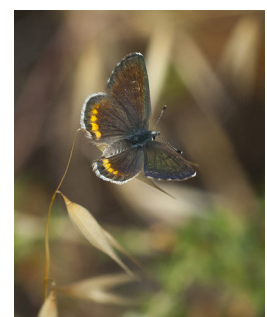
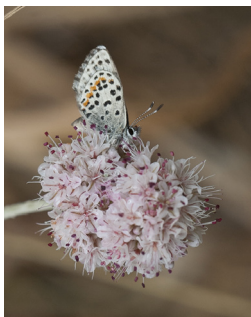
brown dorsal coloration. Both sexes have orange-red band markings on the hind dorsal wings. Ventral wing coloration for both males and females is a whitish gray, punctuated with black speckling.

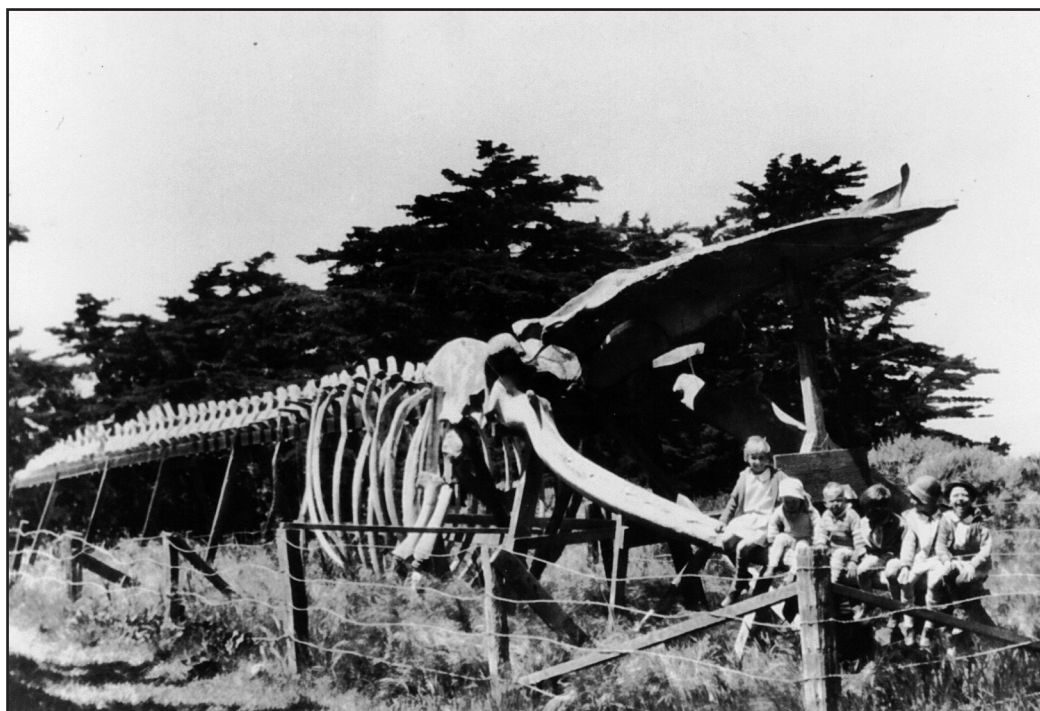
Historically, they are found only along the Big Sur Coast and at Fort Ord in Monterey. They spend their entire lives in association with two buckwheat plants in the genus *Eriogonum*. The adults mate and lay eggs on the flowers of these host plants. The eggs hatch shortly thereafter, and the larvae begin to feed on the flowers of the plant. Following several weeks of feeding and development, the larvae molt to a pupal stage, beginning a ten month period of transformation. The following year, as the *Eriogonum* again flower, the new adults emerge.

From the Essig Museum of Entomology website: Important habitat for the Smith's Blue is threatened by development and the invasion of non-native plants. Increasing automobile and foot traffic along the coast is causing degradation of the coastal scrub and coastal dune ecosystems. Several sites along Monterey Bay are now being managed for preservation of Smith's Blue and its hostplants including a preserve established by the U.S. Army at Fort Ord, the nation's first insect-based preserve.

<http://essig.berkeley.edu/endins/euphilsm.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smith's_blue_butterfly





ENJOYING THE WHALE SKELETON

by Dick Gamble

After a recent visit to Point Lobos I was reminded of an old photo that had been taken there in 1927, when I was 6 years old. I showed it to docent Joyce Newell who said it would be of general interest to your readers—so here it is.

We lived in Pacific Grove. Over the years, Point Lobos was a favorite picnicking spot for our family. We often came out with friends on weekends, loaded with enough food for all day, starting with breakfast. The men and boys would fish off the rocks, and the ladies would enjoy shell hunting. We used driftwood for our fires. Of course all that is illegal now but it wasn't then. Point Lobos was sort of a nature preserve, but there were no restrictions like there are now. We would play baseball on the beach—for our bat we used an old oar that had washed up—and our mothers would cook. We rarely saw anyone else. What we enjoyed as beach

then has eroded away to sandstone now.

When guests from out of town would visit, we would take them to Point Lobos. My grandfather, who was visiting from Indiana, took this photo. From left to right are Betty Kinsman, my brother Tom Gamble, Bob Kinsman, Jim Kinsman, Peggy Kinsman, and me. The Kinsmans were cousins from Stockton. Of the folks in the photo, my brother (who lives in Seattle) and I are the only ones still alive.

I now am 92 but still have fond memories of happy times spent at Point Lobos before it became the busy place it is now.

Here are excerpts from Docent Emerita Carol Bloner's June 2010 "The Walls Speak" article on the whale skeleton, with additions in brackets from State Parks historian Matt Bischoff: "A fin whale washed up in Moss Cove in 1902. A.M. Allan engaged the Japanese

fishermen to bury it at what now is known as Monastery Beach. A year later, cleaned up and no longer smelly, the skeleton was unearthed and set up as a tourist attraction, first at Sea Lion Point and later in Cypress Grove...A postcard showing the skeleton was the most popular postcard on the Monterey Peninsula in the early 1900s, and Carmel Mission was #2. [Sometime after State Parks took over Point Lobos], the whale skeleton was reestablished at Whalers Cove parking lot. Many current visitors remember seeing it there. [It was so popular that people were climbing on it, and the decision was made to take it down in 1957. Because of decay, the bones were removed to Rat Hill in 1958. Many contemporary newspaper articles lamented its loss.] ...Look in the "bone yard" outside Whalers Cabin Museum...the jawbone is from the original fin whale."



by Patrick Webster

"Are you even cold right now?"

I freeze. My dive buddies—both recently certified divers—are smiling and giggling and talking with enthusiasm about the next dive.

"Not at all, are you?" "Nope!"

I look out over the warm Pacific in disbelief. As a proud wetsuit diver of the Monterey Peninsula, it's always been a matter of conceit to dive in a fridge. But after an hour spent in

sweltering 63° water, the hardcore façade of my aquatic life is starting to peel.

"Let's go right out again for another dive!" "Yeah! I might not even wear gloves this time!"

I look down mournfully at my own gloves, beads of sweaty seawater falling from my brow. They won't be making the next dive either. My gloves stare back in a knowing silence. Quietly and without a shiver, I weep.

Such was my first encounter with “The Blob,” a strange oceanographic phenomenon that has been bathing the North Pacific in unusually warm water. From the Bering Sea to the Sea of Cortez, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists have reported sea surface temperatures as much as 3 °C—or about 5.4 °F for us proud imperial Americans—above average since January of 2014. And as far back as records go, the North Pacific has never been this warm for this long before such blobby business.

The origins of “The Blob” are murky, like any good crypto-environmental mystery creature. There’s some suspicion that a warming Pacific Decadal Oscillation—a seesaw of average ocean temperatures that waxes and wanes over time—could have summoned this tepid terror. Whatever the cause of the blobby beast, things have been getting weird out there.

In August of last year, a spearfisher spotted a manta ray in the kelp forest off San Clemente. September saw a whale shark swim by Catalina Island and a green sea turtle off San Francisco. By October, I was filming a young great white shark lost in the pilings of Monterey’s Fisherman’s Wharf. Normally found in the soothing seas of Southern California and Mexico, these plus-sized pisces (and turtle) apparently followed the advice of *Finding Nemo*’s Dory: just kept swimming. Without the usual thermal roadblocks in place, many organisms are having a hard time sticking to their textbook range and heading north. Which is great for the local diver on a budget, because your next Channel Islands experience is right outside.

You can’t kick a fin around the Monterey Bay now without dislodging a California sea hare, the massive jackrabbit of a southern seaslug. Juvenile California sheephead have been spotted recruiting to Monterey and Carmel reefs—perhaps on their way to visit long-lost relatives in the local sheephead encampment of Whalers Cove’s Middle Reef. The list of novel sightings goes on: juvenile ocean whitefish, juvenile blacksmiths, teeny kelp bass, hordes of half-moons, young spiny lobsters, surfing leopard sharks, wise-cracking sarcastic fringeheads, assorted species of nudibranch slugs all with a southern twang...

Come what may of these settlers, we must all promise to remember that we were surprised by their arrival. Because if “The Blob” can teach us anything, it’s that we really have no idea what “normal” looks like in the ocean.

The ocean and its biological communities are intertwined in a complex and dynamic system—and our species has long meddled with its balance. The subtle dance of oceanic climactic cycles, like the Pacific Decadal Oscillation or the famous El Niño, now tangoes alongside our species’ love affair with finite resource extraction. Research shows that sixty years of oceanic weather patterns and global climate change, from 1930 to 1990, shifted the baseline of Hopkins Marine Station’s coastal community composition toward the poles. But if you



The California sea hare (Aplysia californica): the terror of the red algae community. Photo by Patrick Webster.

consider that the sea otter—our local and musty keystone predator—had been eradicated from local waters in the previous century by the fur trade, the 1930s hardly have a say in defining the ecological standard. And if the Ohlone also experienced a different, then-natural coastline, perhaps the only true baseline belongs to the forces that coalesced this water planet into being in the first place. Though, as wise scientists have stated to spare us such nihilism: in a complex, dynamic system, the truth must be also dynamic and adaptable, or else it is irrelevant.

And the truth is that ongoing scientific monitoring of oceanic conditions—as little as such efforts are funded—is the only way to give bizarre circumstances like “The Blob” the comfort of historical context. People like us live and remember such a short span of time compared to the pace of the planet, that we too easily change the standard of normalcy to what we’re currently comfortable with. And while the underwater world continues to change with each passing generation, one thing is certain: I can’t wait until diving in the Monterey Bay makes me cool again.

Patrick Webster is a local wordsmith, filmmaker, and scientific diver. He wishes to thank the dive buddies, editors, and local researchers that informed this article. You can send your displeasure with his work to @underwaterpat.



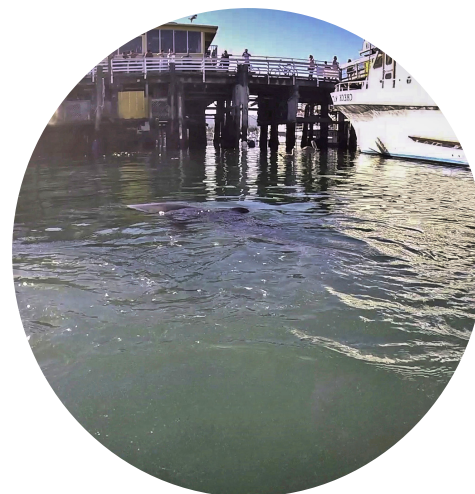
*Juvenile California sheephead (Semicossyphus pulcher)
Screen grab from video by Anneliese Kupfrian, @whats_kraken*



This juvenile great white shark (Carcharodon carcharias) swam by Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey, and was my first video to go viral. Screen grab from video by Patrick Webster.



This Hopkins rose nudibranch (Okenia rosacea) is part of a recent invasion of southern slugs. Photo by Dida Kutz.



Juvenile white shark at Fisherman’s Wharf. Photo by Patrick Webster.

Suggested reading:

The arrival of the “blob” <http://goo.gl/cTjDv9>

Bloom of southern sea slugs <http://goo.gl/NB7Gkr>

Climate-related change to the local marine community

<http://goo.gl/gDc5Pn>

A Tribute to Louise Stuart

by Melissa Gobel

February marked the retirement for one of our amazing volunteers. Louise Stuart has decided to go Emerita at age 98, having been a docent at Point Lobos for 28 years. I was able to interview Louise and for those of you who don't know her, the following is a peek into her past.

Louise first came to Point Lobos back in 1943 while visiting her husband's parents, who lived in Carmel, while her husband was overseas with the Army. She and her husband later moved to Carmel in the 1950s, but work was scarce and they ended up relocating to Pennsylvania. After he passed away in 1968, Louise decided to go back to school, and in 1969 entered Library School at the University of Pittsburgh. She became a librarian and worked in a public library for 13 years. In 1984 Louise decided to move back to Carmel. Louise always loved Point Lobos, and on one of her visits she spoke with a docent who encouraged her to apply to the program. She became a docent in 1987.

Louise served on the Docent Council as the librarian for about four years, working closely with Jinny Robertson. Louise maintained the clippings file, and although it has not been kept up to date, we still have those historic files. As a docent she also enjoyed leading both school walks and public walks.

Louise has many fond memories of Point Lobos, like the time she saw a mama skunk, with three little ones in tow, pass right before her at the entrance station in midday. She remembers leading a school group from the Central Valley on a hike on a very rainy day. They ended up in the cabin, and one little girl proclaimed that she wanted to become a docent someday! She remembers a group of Russian visitors, the women dressed in flowered printed short sleeve dresses, not uncomfortable at all in our foggy, cold summer weather.

When asked what changes she has seen over



the years, she says, "The number of visitors and in particular the number of foreign visitors has greatly increased. Rangers are no longer around like they used to be." As an example, she remembers taking a walk with her granddaughter and spotting an unusual mushroom. She sent her granddaughter back and before she knew it Ranger Chuck appeared, camera in hand, snapping photographs. When asked what she likes best about Point Lobos she answers that she loves it all! Point Lobos never fails to raise her spirits and always provides a moving experience.



NOTES FROM THE DOCENT LOG

compiled by Ruthann Donahue

Neither Rain, nor Wind, nor Ride...

Eileen Fukunaga

2/6/15

The threat of rain was nothing compared to the gale force winds 10 docents faced today as we took 56 students on a school walk. The winds made for some terrific waves as high tide approached. Salt spray was everywhere, and sand was being blown into the mouth while we tried to interpret above the sounds of the wind and waves. And right on cue the rain started at noon, with most groups going back to Piney Woods before the first drops began to fall. Interpretation: a multi-sensory challenge.

Manus Donahue

2/6/15

Today's school walk was with 60 4th graders from Tiburcio Vasquez primary school in Salinas. It was a cold and VERY, VERY WINDY day. I always start the kids off tide pooling at Weston Beach because they love the crabs, sea anemones, and hermit crabs. However, this day it was too windy to go near the water. The waves were crashing so high and the water blowing so far onto the beach that one kid remarked, "I can taste the salt water on my face and lips." This became a teachable moment. I asked what else tastes like salt? The answers came quickly and correctly: sweat, tears, and French fries.

A Calming Respite

Mary Conway

1/5/15

What a wonderful low tide late afternoon excursion! Although the king tides of January continue to pound the tide pools along the South Shore Trail, this afternoon The Slot tide pools were calm and welcoming. Ed Clifton led a group of docents on the exploration of the tide pools. The rocky cliffs



west of Little Mound Meadow are the home of a 400 sq. ft. tide pool covered with purple sea urchins. A large pale purple *Pisaster ochre* sea star hovered over the purple sea urchins. Goose-necked barnacles appeared with mussels on the horizontal surfaces exposed to the pounding waves. *Laminaria* kelp waved in the dimming light of the sunset. Typically, Ed shared his enthusiasm for everything. The colorful sunset filled our souls with wonder.

Docent Class 1984?

Fred Brown

1/9/15

Meet our newest park ranger! In place of hiring more rangers, the challenge of monitoring state parks has been resolved by embracing a fleet of patrol drones. No more illegal picnics at Point Lobos, no more wandering "off trail" or littering. A drone



will be watching. The newest drone version is super quiet and very small, so as to be unobtrusive to all but the most observant visitor. A single employee can monitor several drones at once and at several locations. Difficult to reach areas are no problem for a drone equipped with a camera, and it can approach dangerous situations without endangering enforcement personnel. So, time to embrace the new technology and move into the future of law enforcement. In the next few years will a version that is trained in interpretation be available to replace the docent corps? [Ed. Note: This is satire.]

Whalers Cove Food Fest
Ed Clifton
1/14/15

Early yesterday morning Whalers Cove was beautiful—cool, but not cold, a hint of a breeze, everything bathed in the golden light of the winter sun. As I left my car, a loud splash close to shore near the end of the parking lot drew my attention, followed by another and still a third. Pelicans were diving for their breakfast! A flock wheeled above the water while harbor seals cruised back and forth near the shoreline. An awesome sight!

The pelicans remained in the cove most of the morning, circling and sporadically going into a feeding frenzy. Watching them fold their wings and plunge into the water was breathtaking! And it looked like porpoises or dolphins may have joined the show also. Perhaps they were harbor seals, but I have never seen seals porpoising through the water that way.

[Ed. Note: Other sightings confirm the presence of dolphins, harbor seals, and sea lions!]

Feeding Fest Continues
Dave Evans
1/24/15

In the feeding frenzy that has been Point Lobos the past few weeks, Whalers Cove has frequently provided a ringside seat. The variety has been incredible: “Ozzy the Osprey” [docent nickname], black-crowned night herons, great blue herons, snowy and great egrets, Heermann’s and western gulls, double-crested and Brandt’s and pelagic cormorants, and of course, dive bombing brown pelicans, many in breeding plumage (almost black brown nape), to name just a few. It’s serious business, chasing their food stock (anchovies?) around the various coves. But not without some humorous



moments, from the pelican that mistook a cormorant for dinner (though it did “release” the unfortunate cormorant after realizing it wasn’t really on the menu), to the great blue heron staring longingly at its Window Rock perch being monopolized by the pelicans. What’s for dinner?

Free Food for All!
Mark Levine
1/24/15

Among the bird frenzy, there were a few egrets and a bewildered sea otter enjoying the Whalers Cove smorgasbord. Yesterday, divers reported, to no great surprise, that anchovies had entered the cove. Unlike yesterday, the feeding frenzy quickly subsided and relative calm returned. Everybody had a wonderful time with the probable exception of the anchovies. Wonder what drove them into the cove on two successive days?

More Thoughts on the Frenzy
Fred Brown
1/24/15

If I were a cormorant in a pelican’s bill
I would ruffle my feathers, then lie very still
and hope that he’d notice, before I was kill.
But if I were swallowed, with one great big gulp
I would come out all right—although I’d be pulp.



More Sea Lions
Larry Rychener
2/1/15

I'm unconvinced that we understand what initially attracted the sea lions to the cove. The Sea Lion Rocks are plenty high to allow the animals to climb above the waves, even during king tides, and surely a confluence of storm waves and high tides has occurred more than once in the past decade. Yet I have never seen more than the occasional sea lion in the Cove in years past—has anyone? Perhaps the influx of anchovies (?) to near-coastal locations resulting

High Tides Force
Sea Lions to...
Sea Lion Cove
Fred Brown
1/24/15

With space on their eponymous rocks at a premium due to very large waves coupled with a high tide, the big guys forced the younger and smaller sea lions to find a new haul-out area. With lower Sea Lion Point Trail closed, they invaded



their namesake, Sea Lion Cove. Around 60–75 sea lions took advantage of no humans on the lower trail to find refuge from the churning seas. State Parks has decided to keep the trail closed for now. The sea lions moved in and pushed the harbor seals out, so now we know why it's called Sea Lion Cove and not Harbor Seal Cove.

in the feeding frenzies observed in Whalers Cove and elsewhere in recent weeks has something to do with it. Has anyone observed such events occurring in Sea Lion Cove or in Hedland Cove recently?

Even More Sea Lion
Frank Schiavone
Class 37 Docent Trainee
2/5/15

The current goings on may be caused by a combination of factors—ocean conditions, prey availability, growing numbers, and naïve animals who don't know we humans think that the cove belongs to harbor seals. I suspect one or two pioneers came ashore and many just followed. It seems that our new colonizers still have a healthy fear of us, but fortunately the sight of us in the distance may not be quite so unsettling. That the trail has been closed is a good thing. We do not want the Point Lobos sea lions to become habituated to humans like their compatriots on the wharf.

Strange Man at Weston Beach
Ed Clifton
12/20/14

I have encountered some strange people in the Reserve over the years, but I saw one of the strangest this afternoon at Weston Beach (see photo below). He pretty much ignored me, which was just as well. I didn't like the looks of him! Maybe we should post this to show what can happen to those who ignore the big waves. Fred Brown adds, "I was there just before you got there. I told that guy to stay back from the big waves. Oh, well... Manus Donahue worries, "I just hope he doesn't procreate and establish a colony."



Memorials, Tributes, and Grants | 10.16.14–1.15.15

MEMORIALS

In memory of Fernando Canelon
Rosa Elena Montoya

In memory of Britt George
G. David and Rosemary Adamson

In memory of Mary Jane Hollis
Amber Eby

In memory of David B. Keister
Ruth Ann Keister

In memory of Nancy Kocher
Edward Kocher

In memory of Sheila Lillian Krieger
Robyn Krieger

In memory of Lynne Pennington Miles
Jon and Leila Linen
Susan Miles Miller

In memory of Barry Miller
Susan Miller

In memory of Margot Ruff
Barbara Grace

In memory of Chen Wei and Sungshen Mo
FJ and GF McHugh

In memory of Bud and Mary Whisler
Carolyn Whisler

In memory of Doug Winans
Steve and Cindy Johnson
Catherine Winans

In memory of Winston and Sally
Joan Elstob

TRIBUTES

In honor of Janet Beaty and Jack Long
Joshua Long

In honor of Mary and Tim Conway
Carol McGurk

In honor of James C. Cummings
Valerie Cummings

In honor of Mary Gale
Mary Forbord

In honor of Rolf Hansen, Denmark
Howard Allen Hadley

In honor of Gerald Holmes
Bruce Holmes

In honor of Dr. Cynthia Teichner
William and Connie Dallmann

In honor of Susan Trinity
Fernando Elizondo

In honor of Diana Slasor
Ken Slasor

In honor of Chris and Karen Wagner
Yunghi Choi

In honor of Ruth and Richard Zirker
Daniel Zirker



"Rare Bird Alert" by Celie Placzek. celieplaczek.com

SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

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.

David and Caroline Appling, in honor of Carl and Carol Voss

Lorraine Barr and Neil Glick, in memory of Ruth Barr

Alison Cariveau, in memory of June Banks

Grace Glatze

Virginia Kovolski, in memory of June Banks

Barbara Nowinski

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Rand Sparling and Adrienne Meisel

Carl and Carol Voss

GRANTS

California State Parks Foundation

"Discover Point Lobos" iPad application

The Stephen and Madeleine Conran Fund, the Cynthia Snorf Fund, and the Marcia F. DeVoe Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County

Lace Lichen Trail Expansion Project

Monterey Peninsula Foundation

Lace Lichen Trail Expansion Project

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MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

SUPPORTING BIG IDEAS FROM LOCAL NONPROFITS

Thank you to the following people who gave through the MC Gives Campaign at the end of 2014. Funds raised through this campaign will be used to develop the "Discover Point Lobos" iPad app for children.

Sue Addleman

Patricia H. Addleman

Kit Armstrong

Kathleen Baer

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Bill Eckert

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NO. 35
CARMEL
CALIFORNIA



UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

Birding and Brunch

Saturday, April 18 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Carmel

Experience the spring migration at this special event. Closed to the public, this special area offers an undisturbed habitat for local birds. Join top guides for an exploration, followed by a plein-air brunch. Open to members at the Cypress Grove Steward level and above, by invitation only.



Member Walk: Spotlight on Harbor Seal Pupping

May, date TBD

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Open to all Foundation members, by reservation only. An e-mail notice will be sent when the date is confirmed, and the event will be listed online.

Wildflowers, Wildlife, Wine, and Lunch

Saturday, May 30 | 10:00 am–1:00 pm

San Jose Creek Canyon, Carmel

Closed to the public, this is one of the most idyllic landscapes in Carmel. Guests enjoy a guided hike with wildflower experts, a picnic in the meadow and wine. Open to members at the Gray Whale level and above, by invitation only.

Member Walk: Spotlight on Nesting Birds

Saturday, June 6

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Open to all Foundation members, by reservation only. An e-mail notice will be sent when the time is confirmed, and the event will be listed online.

Northern pintail and cinnamon teal, image by Chuck Bancroft.