

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

POINT LOBOS





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



The first pup (rear) of the 2022 harbor seal pupping season swims with its mother in Bluefish Cove. The pup was born Saturday, March 26. Photo by Chris Wagner.

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Front Cover:
Bush lupine. This native plant
is a signature sight in Monterey
County's spring and early
summer. Photo by
Chuck Bancroft

Center Spread, pages 11-12:
A field of California poppies
near Moss Cove and Hudson
Meadow. The native poppy
is sometimes forced out by
invasive mustard plants.
Photo by Paul Reps.



Kathleen Lee is the
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Mission possible

Growing donations allow PLF to help picturesque areas next door

by Kathleen Lee

Spring is a season of growth and we are thankful for our Point Lobos Foundation members and other foundations who support our mission and make it possible to grow important programs and projects at the Reserve.

We enjoyed a record-setting year with the Monterey County Gives! Campaign, a special project of Monterey County Weekly in partnership with the Community Foundation for Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. The campaign is a year-end fundraising effort comprised of over 100 local non-profits and provides a pro-rata match to the funds raised.

With the successful passage of the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan last May, the PLF's role has grown to help support the three Carmel Area State Parks in addition to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Part-time Carmel residents Mike

and Ellen Turbow approached the PLF with an idea to create funds for Carmel River State Beach Park Unit, which also encompasses Middle (Ribera) Beach and Monastery Beach.

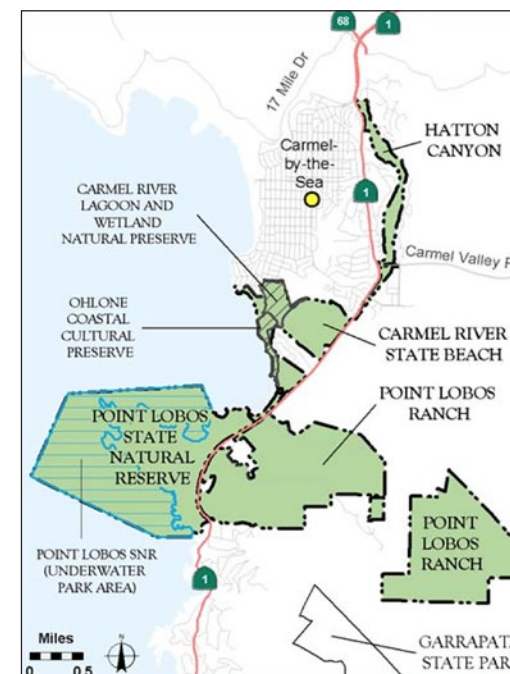
Working with our State Parks and community partners, the PLF Board of Directors approved the creation of a new restricted fund for the Carmel River State Beach and a standing committee to prioritize habitat restoration and infrastructure projects at CRSB. The fund will also support a volunteer coordinator position to support the work efforts at these three beach units.

Mike Turbow passed away in early February and significant donations to the new fund have been made in Mike's memory. Like so many of our donors, docents and volunteers, Mike and Ellen Turbow shared a love of Carmel River State Beach and enjoyed working to preserve and protect a place that brought them inspiration and solace. In this springtime moment, I am inspired that Mike's passion and love for Carmel River State Beach has resulted in funds to ensure the ongoing protection and enjoyment of this special place for future generations.

For the PLF, this is a growth opportunity to match our efforts with our mission statement and the State Parks General Plan and to celebrate the beauty of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve from a different perspective.

We are looking for community members to participate on the committee, so please email me if you are interested in serving. Donations can be made to the Carmel River State Beach Fund to support these efforts.

I hope to see you soon in the Reserve – or on Carmel River State Beach.





Reg Henry, a docent, is editor of the Point Lobos Magazine.

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Out-of-this-world work on plant restoration

by Reg Henry

To those of you who are sci-fi movie buffs, the headline on the main story in this edition of the Point Lobos magazine will seem familiar: "Invasion of the Reserve snatchers."

It is meant as a takeoff on "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," a movie first made in 1956 and remade in 1978 starring Donald Sutherland, Leonard Nimoy and Jeff Goldblum, among others. It was popular at the box office and no wonder. The plot is irresistible to anyone with a sense of the risible.

As Wikipedia amusingly summarizes the action: "A race of gelatinous creatures abandons their dying planet and travels to Earth, landing in San Francisco. They take the form of small pods with pink flowers."

Ah, yes, flowers. We have them at Point Lobos in a great variety of colors and types, especially in the spring and early summer. And while we are thankfully short on gelatinous creatures, with the exception perhaps of myself after a big lunch, alien invasive plants have landed at our Reserve 130 miles south of San Francisco. They are not from outer space but they have brought bad consequences nonetheless.

Katherine Spitz, the author of our lead article and a passionate foot soldier in the battle to protect native plants, calls the threat posed by these non-native weeds a hostile takeover. She chronicles the damage these interlopers do at the expense of the original plants and the unique habitats of Point Lobos they help sustain.

In a sidebar, Samuel Winter, State Parks Volunteer Coordinator for the Monterey District, describes where and how the battle of restoration is being waged. But as it would be wrong to give the invasive

plants all the attention, Karin Stratton, Point Lobos Foundation's immediate past president, tells us in lyrical detail about the beautiful native plants that you can find in the Reserve.

As always, former Ranger Chuck Bancroft relates his stories with wise words and telling pictures and the volunteers share their everyday adventures and discoveries in the Docent Log.

But I hope our focus on the topic of invasive plants in this edition doesn't strike you as too depressing. In reality, these are good days at Point Lobos, with COVID in retreat (we hope) and the Reserve in a revival (we know).

A new docent training class has spent the past few months learning how to be volunteers and are scheduled to graduate in May. In April, the monthly docent meeting was held in person – not on Zoom – for the first time in two years. In the same month, the harbor seals packed the beaches to give birth to a new generation of pups.

And all the while, the Point Lobos Foundation has been funding the programs such as the docent corps that make the Reserve tick. That native plant restoration work we have featured in these pages? The PLF purchased the supplies to help volunteers do the work. It also funded the graduate student ecologist who identified where the invasive plants were located.

If all this were a movie, the audience would be not be too scared.



Katherine Spitz, a Point Lobos docent, is a licensed landscape architect and architect. Most of her career was spent in Los Angeles, where she founded her firm, Katherine Spitz Associates. Katherine holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

She currently is a board member on the Del Monte Forest Property Owners Board of Directors, serves on the Del Monte Forest Architectural Review Board and is a naturalist on the Pebble Beach Open Space Advisory Committee. She was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the Landscape Committee for the California Architects Board, where she served for three years. She is also a natural resource volunteer for the State Parks Monterey District.

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Invasion of the Reserve snatchers

A small army of workers gathers to oppose a hostile takeover

by Katherine Spitz

There is so much to worry about these days; from the pandemic to world affairs, it's really overwhelming. It's a wonder that anyone can sleep. Actually ... I don't sleep. Not only don't I sleep, I lie awake panicking. About weeds. Yes. Weeds, you know, plants. Please don't laugh. As the world falls apart, weeds fuel my insomnia.

I live in a state of cognitive dissonance. I consider myself a naturalist, and yet there

are acacia shrubs planted in front of my house. Acacias are weeds. Worse yet, acacias are not just your garden variety weeds, they are noxious invasive plants of the most despicable sort! They are on all the "do-not-plant" lists. And there they are – right in front of my house. Me, who thinks of herself as an ecologically sensitive person! I make amends by removing invasive plants at Point Lobos.



Crystalline ice plant. Photo by Chuck Bancroft.

Invasive weeds are plants that came from somewhere else but are so comfortable and happy here that they move in and start to take over, bit by bit, until it's a hostile takeover. Those plants are like rust. They never sleep. In a perfect world, the minute you spied one of them, you would stop whatever you were doing and forcefully rip it out by the roots to prevent it from colonizing native habitats. Alas, they are here to stay.

In the absence of natural predators, these botanical thugs thrive, destroying habitats by smothering, starving or poisoning the beneficial plants. There is no end to their inconsiderate behavior — reaching down to disrupt fungal networks and soil composition, reaching up to outcompete the beneficial plants for sunlight.

These plants do not attract insects that native birds consume. No insects, no pollinators, no birds. No agriculture. And what about their effects on wildfires, drainage or the aquatic environment? Don't even ask — it's a nightmare. The problem is so massive in California, causing such economic and environmental harm, that the California Invasive Plant Council was formed to provide planning, advocacy and research for entities seeking to restore landscapes. That's because you simply cannot rehabilitate an environment without first addressing the invasive threat.

The environmental scientists at the Monterey District of California State Parks have been working hard to get a handle on this problem, as a first step in restoring habitats. In 2016, a graduate student, Julia Fields, an aspiring restoration ecologist funded by the Point Lobos Foundation, wrote a thesis titled "Point Lobos State Natural Reserve 2016 Exotic Species Survey" working with State Parks' Steve Bachman, Jeff Frey, and Amy Palkovic.

Her thesis included site maps that show specific locations of virtually every exotic weed at Point Lobos and recommended means of eradication. Julia moved away in 2018, but her plans are still used as she intended: to guide restoring the many habitats that constitute the Reserve.

Indeed, they guided the first project many of us were involved with, the South Shore Restoration, based on a grant which State Parks received to reduce polluted roadway runoff from reaching the marine environment. Picture the plants that you see at the ocean bluff parking near Piney Woods and by Little Mound Meadow – colorful yellow lizard tail, fragrant gray sagebrush and delicate buckwheat. It's just glorious! Now picture those areas as barren parking lots — this is what they once were.

The transformation from compacted soil to healthy landscape was so exciting that today we have a robust volunteer program for weed abatement and restoration. In addition to several resource volunteers who work independently in the Reserve, three mornings a month



Bermuda buttercups, pretty but objectionable.
Photo by Susan Lambert.

a cadre of volunteers, docents, students and community members gather mostly to eradicate invasive weeds, but occasionally to collect seed or to plant, under the guidance of State Parks' ecologists Sam Wtinter and Rosie Eisner. The sociability of the groups belies its mission: to battle the marauders threatening the habitats.

Let's start with Allan Memorial Grove when we talk about invasive weeds and habitats at the Reserve. The restoration issues here are über-complicated; the problem is that there are no new Monterey cypress seedlings. Could the lush panic veldt grass (*Ehrharta erecta*) under the trees be preventing seeds from germinating? That's the current thinking.

The grass? Duh. It's an invasive weed from South Africa, brought here for cattle forage. It arrived in Point Lobos via a botanical study (no kidding). According to Cal-IPC, it was cultivated in Berkeley and Davis in the mid-1900s as an experimental grass. And there you have it, or rather, we have it. Seeds arrived in the grove via birds or wind during the 1970s, and it wasn't until a few years ago that anyone tried to do anything about it.



Poison hemlock. The blotches on its stem are known as "the blood of Socrates." Photo by John Drum.



Black mustard. Photo by Susan Lambert.



Cypress Grove and its unwelcome carpet of veldt grass. Photo by Chuck Bancroft.

Starting in 2017, Julia Fields experimented with removing the grass by hand. Volunteers have continued those efforts, and the results appear promising. The combination of weeding along with drought seems to be effective in minimizing its extent. Where the grass has been removed the native drifts of iris, daisy and wood mint have expanded.

State Parks now is working on strategies for how to eliminate the deep duff caused by 40 years of veldt grass in order to encourage cypress germination. It's a long haul, but optimism abounds.

I think Granite Point is a success story. It is a magnificent outcropping of native plants – asters, daisies and even an unusual yellow buckwheat. If you go now, you will observe drifts of bee plant. Three years ago there was very little bee plant, but there was a lot of mustard (*Brassica* species). Lots of yellow flowers.

You guessed it, mustard is invasive. It has a curious past. Brought to California by the missionaries, by 1770 it was out of control, invading mission pastures. In 1825 a naturalist observed: "This plant has become a terrible scourge ... it threatens to spread over the entire country." He was right. It has. Merely fly over California during the spring; the waves of yellow flowers are like a tsunami. No poppy can compete with that mustard. It's enough to keep one awake at night.

And while we are talking about yellow flowers, how about the pretty Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*)? It's coming up all over the Reserve, more every year it seems. It is indeed a pest and nigh impossible to eradicate!

There is so much to say about invasive plants in the Reserve – how the crystalline iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) at Sea Lion Point poisons the soil, or how to distinguish a native from a non-native thistle, or how Hudson Meadow is virtually a museum of invasive plants, there are so many.

I must mention poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*); it killed Socrates and can kill you too; and genista (*Genista monspessulana*), the plant we all love to hate; and cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), it might smother you! Ever heard of melilot (*Melilotus indicus*)? It's a clover-like plant (with the anti-coagulant properties used in rodenticide).

The list seems endless. The task seems Sisyphean. It may well be. But on nights when I do sleep, I dream of a Point Lobos without noxious weeds ... a Point Lobos which demonstrates the beauty, fragility and complexity of our wondrous California ecologies. It's a sweet dream.

Credit (on the spread of mustard): "California's Fading Wildflowers," Richard Minnich, University of California Press, 2008, Page 109.



Sam Winter is the Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator for the Monterey District of California State Parks. He runs the district's monthly volunteer events and coordinates long-term volunteer projects including the Garrapata Gatekeepers, the Snowy Plover Guardian Program, and Point Lobos' very own Native Plant Patrol. Before working as the volunteer coordinator, Sam joined State Parks as a Forestry Aide as part of the Monterey District's natural resources crew. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Master of Science in Hydrologic Sciences from the University of California, Davis.

As a student, he worked at the Bodega Marine Lab in Bodega Bay where he studied estuaries and coastal oceanography. Sam enjoys hiking, biking and contra dancing on the Monterey Peninsula and beyond. His email address is Samuel.Winter@parks.ca.gov.

How the work of restoration is done

Docents and other volunteers make the weeds go away

by Sam Winter

I usually try to arrive at Rat Hill in the interior of the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve around 8 a.m. Volunteers can be a punctual bunch, and I don't want to keep anyone waiting or risk someone getting lost at Bird Island. The Point Lobos work yard, a disjointed space shared by several divisions of the State Parks staff – Maintenance, Natural Resources, Trails – is quiet today.

I squeeze my work truck into the space next to the volunteer docent shed and immediately begin to fill my 300-gallon tank with water from the hose. While I wait, I load up with supplies for the day's project: trowels, watering cans, hand picks and weed bags. In less than an hour, we'll be planting Pacific gum plant (*Grindelia stricta*)

and other native plants in restoration areas along the South Shore Trail near Weston Beach. As the tank slowly fills, I watch the clock. Maybe I shouldn't have stopped for coffee today...

Since January, I've worked as the State Parks Volunteer Coordinator for the Monterey District's Natural Resources Volunteer Program. Officially, my job is to plan and run our five monthly volunteer events and manage our long-term volunteer program.

Personally, I see my role as 1) facilitating opportunities for people to connect with and care for the land and each other and 2) augmenting State Parks' land management

work by targeting volunteer efforts toward environmentally meaningful projects and opportunities. Working in our State Parks has brought me much peace and fulfillment, and I've seen firsthand the positive, transformative effect that spending time in nature can have on people and the land.

Transitioning into this new role has allowed me to facilitate those kinds of opportunities in new and exciting ways. We are bringing people out into the parks, teaching them about natural history and harnessing that passion and interest to bring about positive changes in service of restoration work.

Our volunteers pick up trash, fix fences and plant and water native plants. But mostly they pull invasive weeds. Controlling invasive species is difficult work. Some plants, like the intractable French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) have seeds that can remain viable in the soil for 30 years. That means it takes a dedicated crew revisiting a patch for 30 years to be sure it won't return. That takes persistence. That takes determined, reliable and forward-thinking volunteers.

Cassidy Goodbar is one such volunteer. As a marine science major at California State University, Monterey Bay, she's participating in the university's Service Learning Program: a university initiative designed to "cultivate reciprocal service and learning partnerships among CSUMB students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding tri-county community."

Cassidy got in touch with State Parks at the beginning of the semester and has been volunteering her Wednesdays at Point Lobos ever since. Her first visit, we spent removing the invasive crystalline ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) from a restoration plot at Sea Lion Point. "I was nervous and wasn't too sure what to expect or if I was qualified enough," said Cassidy. "Shortly after meeting everyone, my nerves quickly went away because of how friendly, knowledgeable and welcoming everyone was. I learned a lot about the native plants in the area and how to identify them."

This year, the Natural Resources Volunteer Program is working with 10 students, each of whom has committed to volunteering 25 hours of time to natural resource work with State Parks.

To accommodate their busy schedules, we opened up the twice-monthly "Point Lobos Native Plant Patrol" events – historically only attended by Point Lobos volunteer docents – to the student service learners. The results have been magical to watch. The docents have welcomed the students to their ranks, sharing their knowledge, passion, humor and love for the Reserve with the student volunteers.

In return, the students have brought their strong backs, sharp minds, and endless curiosity about Point Lobos and future careers in natural resources management. Together, docents and students have pulled panic veldt grass from the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove, worked to eradicate sweet clover from bluff-top restoration sites and planted a suite of native plants along the South Shore Trail.

Today, we're back at the South Shore Trail, planting and watering our native gum plant. Just a few years ago these restoration patches were either covered by another invasive ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) or compacted beyond recognition by years of foot and car traffic. Now, I watch as our intrepid crew of docents and students work the tough soil, chatting and laughing in the cool morning fog. Through volunteer efforts, these small slices of coastal bluff habitat are returning to the diverse habitat they once supported. I'm just proud to be a part of it.



Volunteers tackle the Cypress Grove weeds. From left, Roy Johnson, Susan Wright, Jeri Passalacqua, Patrick Lovejoy and Katherine Spitz. Photos by Susan Lambert.

Volunteering is fun!

Interested in volunteering with the Natural Resources Volunteer Program? You can join State Parks at one of the monthly volunteer days. All opportunities are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Volunteer events run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please RSVP to Volunteer.Monterey@parks.ca.gov before the event.

- 2nd Saturday: Carmel River State Beach
- 2nd Wednesday: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (Open to docents only).
- 3rd Wednesday: Point Lobos SNR
- 3rd Saturday: Fort Ord Dunes State Park
- 4th Tuesday: Garrapata State Park
- 4th Wednesday: Point Lobos SNR (Open to docents only)
- Every Friday: Asilomar State Beach

Visit www.parks.ca.gov or email Volunteer.Monterey@parks.ca.gov for the latest information.





Karin Stratton is a native plant advocate/enthusiast/hobbyist and the immediate past president of the Point Lobos Foundation.

The author would like to thank the California Native Plant Society for its user-friendly website: Calscape.org, a fabulous resource for anyone interested in California native plants.

The author also extends special thanks to Art Muto for sharing his botanical interests and inspiration through his book, "Wildflowers of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve," which can be purchased at the Information Station inside the Reserve or online: shop.pointlobos.org

This article was adapted from a Point Lobos Member Event presented by the author on Jan. 18 this year. A recording of this presentation, "12 Months of California Native Color," can be viewed through the Point Lobos Foundation YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/HnJxYXhVwc8>

The Earth laughs in flowers

Native plants in their brilliance make a season of smiles

by Karin Stratton

The Earth laughs in flowers. If you align with Ralph Waldo Emerson's creative words, this is the time of year when the Reserve is giggling from the tidal pools to the majestic cypress groves and beyond. A visit to the Reserve in late spring or early summer can present a riotous cacophony of brilliant blooms that excite the senses.

About the time this edition of the Point Lobos magazine finds you, a palette of purple can be seen through these precocious perennials, blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) and the Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*). However, do not delay, friends of the Reserve, as these beauties usually bid adieu by June.



Hickman's popcorn flower.

Before the holiday festivities of July take place, be sure to look for the effervescent footsteps of spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*), one of the loveliest weddings of chartreuse and yellow in all of nature. They may be small in stature, but they are certainly mighty in design and color.

While following footsteps of spring, you may also delight in finding the jolly Hickman's popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *hickmanii*), bursting with a buttery yellow center surrounded by tiny white petals. Much easier to spot this time of year, the majestic tree lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*) is joyfully adorned with purple, and sometimes yellow, flowers; these lovely



Seaside daisy and bee. Photos by Chuck Bancroft.

blooms eventually fade and become pods of seeds, next year's bellows of laughter.

If a hearty laugh is what you desire, then look no further than the California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). These spirited blooms with their silvery green leaves can be found throughout the Reserve spring through fall.

Look closely, and you may notice one poppy is more of a visual cackle and the other, a softer chuckle. This difference can be seen through the taller, bushier, guffaw of the solid orange inland valley California poppy vs. the smaller, shorter, softer chuckle of the bicolored coastal California poppy (orange center with yellow edges). Both are native to California, but the coastal version is perfectly suited for the howling winds, roaring surf and spirited weather of the Central California coast. Remember though, this colorful comedian goes to sleep with the sun.

If flowers could smile, then the daisy would have the most ebullient grin. Part of the sunflower family *Asteraceae*, a single daisy may have an endearing and cheerful smile, while a field of daisies could offer a symphony of sheer merriment!

Fortunately, the Reserve is home to many types of daisies, also called asters, derived from their family name above. The California beach aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, syn. *Lessingia filaginifolia* var. *californica*) kicks off the floral festivities in April and then passes this purply pink show to the branching beach aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, syn. *Lessingia filaginifolia* var. *filaginifolia*).

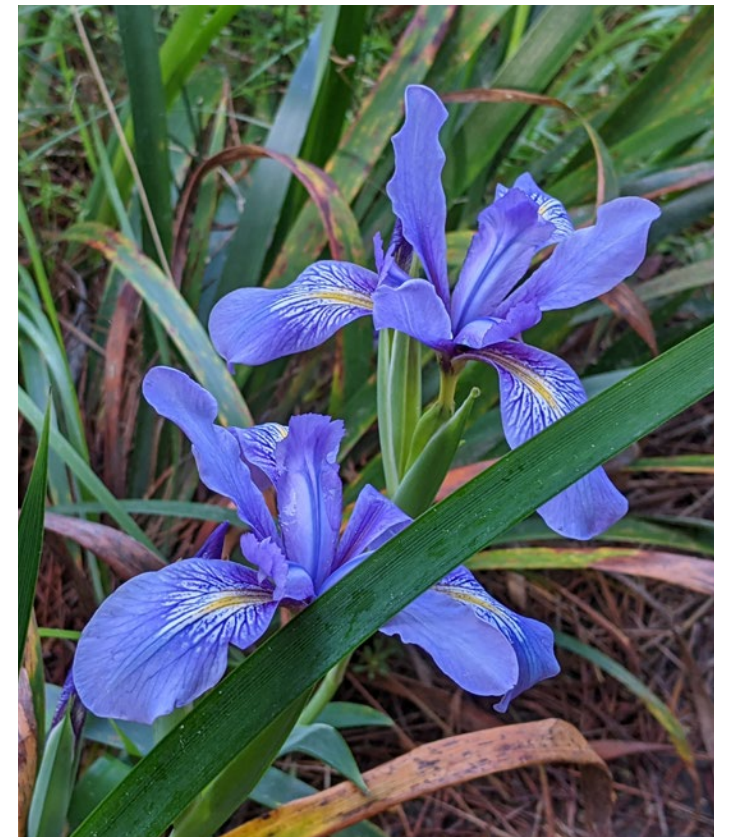
Meanwhile, the seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*), wins the grinning competition from April all the way through October. The funniest and sunniest of them all, the coastal gum plant (*Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla*), beams with radiant yellow disc flowers. The hilarity of this brilliant California native can be experienced June through September in the Reserve.

By now, I hope your senses are fully excited by the anticipated show of California native blossoms; remember to leave only footprints on the trail, and please don't mind the bees. These fastidious flying jesters are far too engaged by the abundant food sources available in this rich, intact habitat.

With over 750 native plants endemic to the Reserve, may you experience a shared orchestra of bedazzled amusement in the form of California's spectacular native flowers!



Footsteps of spring, a harbinger of the season. Photo by Chuck Bancroft.



Douglas iris in its purple glory. Photo by Rick Pettit.





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

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Walks reveal reoccurring patterns in nature

by Chuck Bancroft

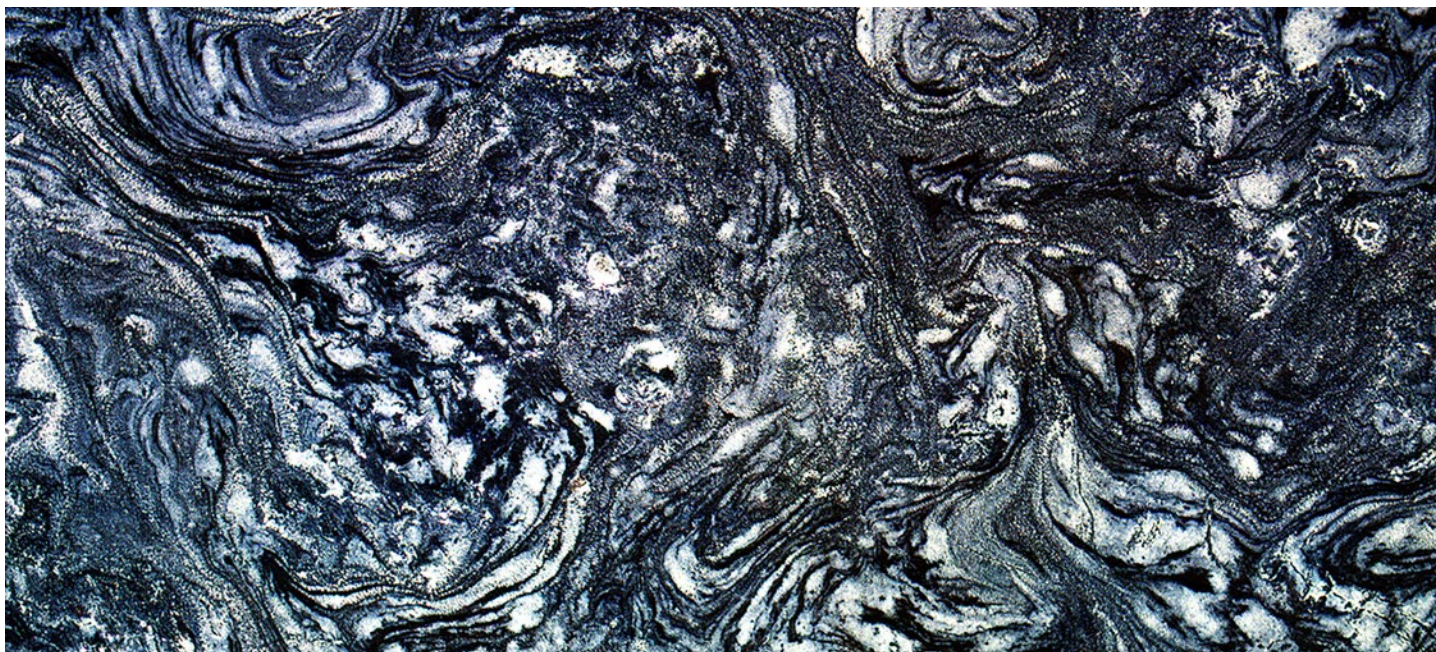
I have tried to document the tremendous variety of the natural environment at Point Lobos during my years as a Ranger and an honorary docent. Every day the flora and fauna and landscape offer something new to experience and photograph. Point Lobos and the surrounding area offers a myriad of flowers, trees, animals, rock forms, and even visitors.

Take a closer look at these seemingly ubiquitous occurrences to see the colors, shapes and patterns they offer to the camera's eye. I offer you just a few stories that accompany some of my images.

Rainy days at Point Lobos offered me the chance to dress up like a banana slug in my finest yellow raingear to explore the Reserve when fewer people were on the trails. Avoiding the mud puddles is not something I always did. Sometimes it was fun to go barefoot and feel the mud squishing between my toes – at the same time trying to keep my camera dry.



During my walks in February you couldn't help but notice the green pine pollen drifting like fog through the trees and settling in the standing pools of water. Imagine standing over the puddle with the wind blowing across its surface: Moving swirls abound with the green pollen creating lovely abstract patterns.



Giant kelp.

Many days at Carmel River State Beach would offer the sight of roiling waves approaching and crashing in bursting columns against the shoreline. The sandy bottom would reflect light up through the pristine water and the curling waves would appear in brilliant teal colors with the rooster tails and spray in contrasting whites. On the darkest of stormy days, the waves would remind me of the paintings by plein air artist Julian Rix.

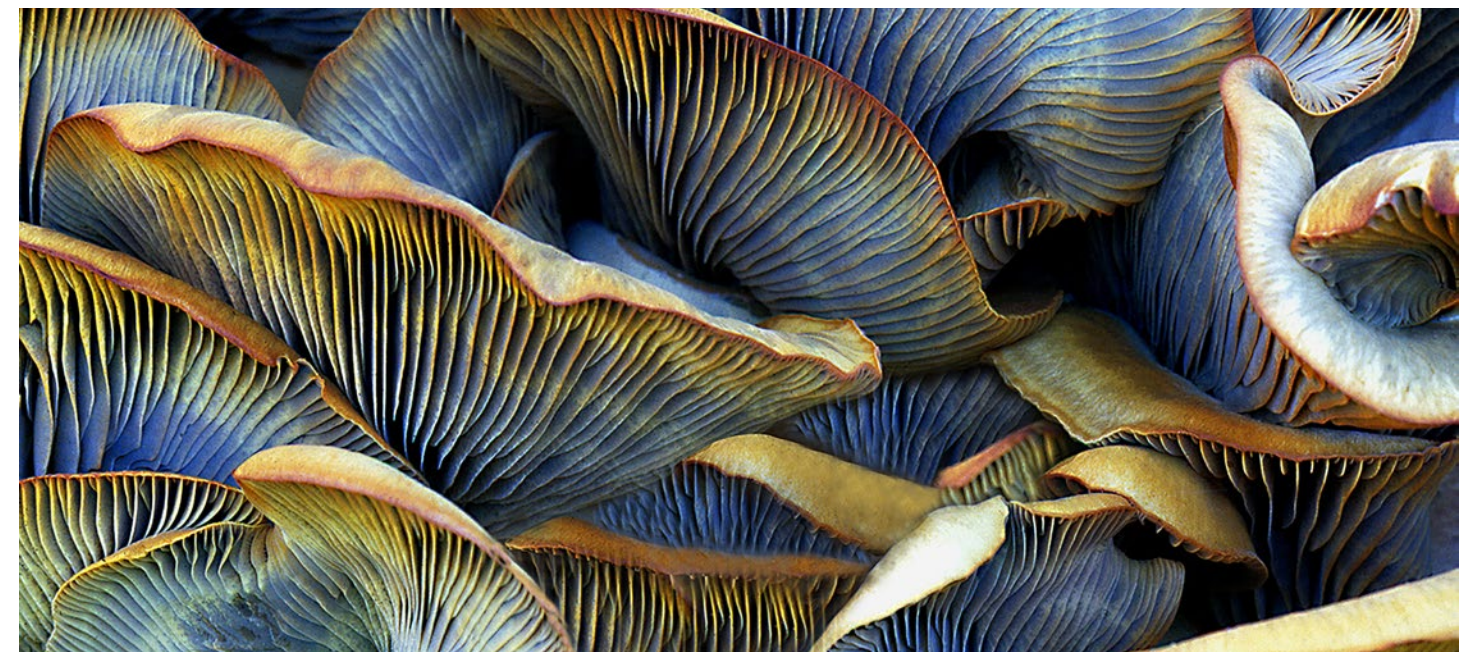
The Allan Memorial Grove offers the windswept and contorted Monterey cypresses standing like sentinels on the granite cliffs and like calmer works of art in the heart



Sea lions, one with an old ID marking (tags are used nowadays).

of the grove. On the trees and rocks in the full face of the winds that shape the trees, we find *Trentepohlia aurea*, a species of filamentous terrestrial green alga. The orange coloration results from carotene pigments in the algal cells. Many times I stood in awe before the twisting branches covered in the velvety-like alga growth as I tried to capture just the right image.

During the summer months, large kelp beds of *Macrocystis* cover the waters off the South Shore and inundate Whalers Cove and The Pit. More kelp beds in large areas of Carmel Bay offer homes to many types of



Jack-o'-lanterns in a swirl.

At right, above: The surf at Carmel River State Beach. Bottom: Pine pollen puddle. All photos by Chuck Bancroft.

fish in the vertical layers. The holdfasts clinging to the rocky bottoms offer shelter to so many species of invertebrates such as crabs, sea stars, urchins, limpets, abalone and other creatures which the retired Ranger and current Docent Jerry Loomis has photographed during his years scuba diving in the Reserve. Things most land-loving people have never seen, Jerry knows intimately. For me, standing on land and looking down on the kelp beds, I marvel at the complexity of life that lives and thrives in this marine forest.

Friends of ours lived by the Carmel Highlands gas station. The gentleman (who shall remain nameless) used to complain about his neighbors' dogs who were constantly barking, even at night. The thing was the neighbors didn't own dogs. Of course he was hearing the raucous barking of the namesake of *Punta de los Lobos Marinos*, the California sea lion.

Sea lions abound on the islands offshore during the winter months. A telescope will bring them in closer so you can see the sizes and shapes and these tawny-to-dark-brown colorations of these marine mammals. One year, there were reports of a lack of food sources for the sea lions in the waters off Southern California. Many of these sea lions in search of shelter and food found their

way to Point Lobos. The Sea Lion Rocks offshore were covered with animals. Even more sea lions came and covered areas of the lower plateau at Sea Lion Point. Sea lions have the habit of lying about on the shorelines together in big overlapping piles of bodies. The varied colors of fur, contrasting dark flippers and overwhelming piles of bodies created a flow of curves that any photographer would love.

Would any article penned by me be complete without something about mushrooms? I love to walk quietly through the different habitats that are home to fungus in a zen-like mindset. I look for unique colors or shapes hidden in the duff or inhabiting a tree. Usually found at the base of an oak tree is *Omphalotus olivascens*, the jack-o'-lantern mushroom. The fungus has many overlapping caps with the most beautiful orange-colored cap. According to mykoweb.com and other literature, *Omphalotus olivascens* is interesting in that the fruiting bodies are luminescent, at least when fresh, though to appreciate this quality requires sitting for many minutes in a completely dark room before the greenish glow becomes visible.

So ends another journey into the mind of Chuck Bancroft.



Trentepohlia, a green alga that appears reddish.



Native and invasive plants crowd a field near the Bird Island Trail. Photo by Jerry Loomis.

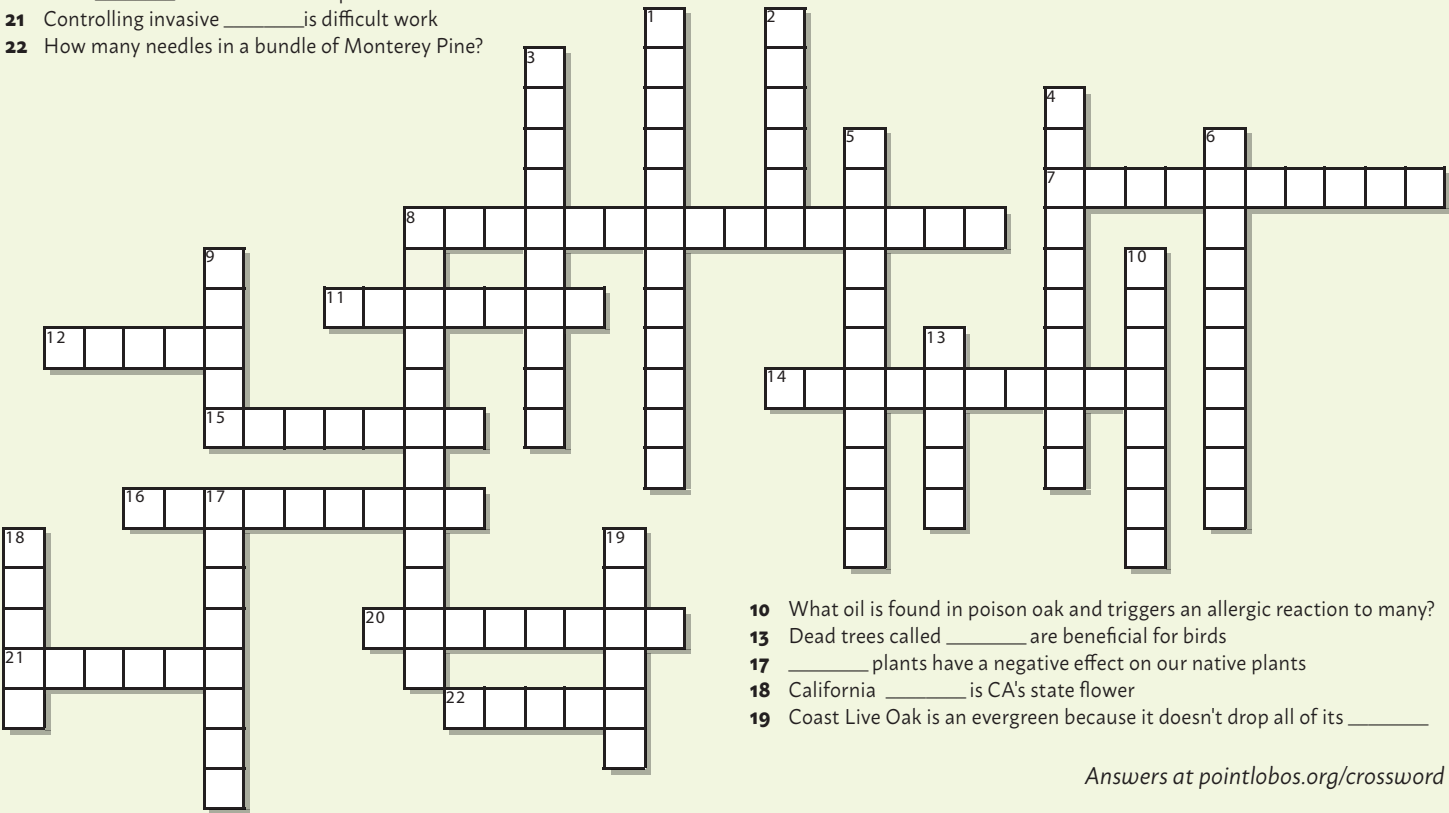
Puzzle: Invasive Plants by Ann Pendleton

ACROSS

- 7 What is California's state lichen? (2 wds)
8 Which tree is only found naturally in Point Lobos and Pebble Beach? (2wds)
11 Wildflowers find it hard competing with _____
12 What is the seed of a Coast Live Oak?
14 _____ work to eradicate invasive weeds at Point Lobos
15 Monterey pines have a very _____ root system
16 What plant in the sumac family is found in Point Lobos? (2wds)
20 Allan _____ Grove is an iconic part of Point Lobos
21 Controlling invasive _____ is difficult work
22 How many needles in a bundle of Monterey Pine?

DOWN

- 1 _____ plants have a negative effect on our native plants
2 Genista's seed can remain viable for _____ years
3 _____ is the grass being removed from Cypress Point (2 wds)
4 What is the wettest forest in Point Lobos? (2wds)
5 If there are no insects, pollinators or birds we have no _____
6 What is the only tree in Point Lobos with a name?
8 Mustard is an invasive plant, planted by the _____
9 Trees make one of these two times a year, one in spring and one in summer



- 10 What oil is found in poison oak and triggers an allergic reaction to many?
13 Dead trees called _____ are beneficial for birds
17 _____ plants have a negative effect on our native plants
18 California _____ is CA's state flower
19 Coast Live Oak is an evergreen because it doesn't drop all of its _____

Answers at pointlobos.org/crossword



Notes from the Docent Log

Compiled by Emily Hull-Parsons

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

Several docents were at the Information Station this afternoon when we noticed a man walking across the parking lot with a huge bundle of greens. Jana Schilling and Peter Fletcher were on it. They explained to the man that there was no collecting in the Reserve, not even a small stone. The man apologized and said he was taking it home to make some soup. The greens and flowers were Douglas nightshade! That would have been a very toxic soup!

Jane Veneman, 01/23/2022

Two Peregrine Falcons in the pine snag today, calling attention to themselves. But my photo of the singleton was in better light. After I got these, a small army of better-armed photographers was heading in that direction.

Stan Dryden, 02/07/2022

I was picking up litter around the Whalers Cove parking lot before my cabin shift when I saw a woman sitting by herself at a table. As I approached, I asked her if she was enjoying the afternoon. She said she had to come today to be near the ocean, having driven three and a half hours from Sacramento. She was from Ukraine and all her family were in Kyiv. She hadn't slept for five nights because she was so worried. She said her "heart is broken because her country is disappearing" and she felt helpless. I barely knew what to say other than to express my sorrow for all the suffering. It was a reminder of how the Reserve is a refuge for humans as well as wildlife.

Anne Mollet, 03/01/2022

The forecast said rain was likely, but it gave me and visitors plenty of time to enjoy Point Lobos today. The offshore fog was beautiful but made whale watching chancy. The Douglas iris was abundant and seemed to be coexisting very well with the persistent zygadine and other wildflowers.

Stan Dryden, 03/03/2022



Photo by Stan Dryden

It was a wonderful, albeit rainy, shift at Whalers Cabin today (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.). I met three ladies bearing gifts – two boxes of the book, "The Portuguese Shore Whalers of California 1854-1904." Even more exciting was meeting Mary Alsheikh Rodrigues and her sister, Elsa Rodrigues Ramirez, granddaughters of whaler Camilo Jerome Avelar. Hopefully, they will return to share their stories as they all live locally.

Sandy Wagner, 03/19/2022



Photo by Paul Reps

An older bobcat was hunting and making a kill in Mound Meadow last week. The cat had a lot of hair missing and a long wound over his right flank that looked recent. He walked with a limp but still had enough spring to get airborne. One wonders what hurt him, a car, a mountain lion? He made two kills then fell asleep in the tall grass of Mound Meadow. I have been looking but I've not seen him since.

Patrick Feehan, 03/22/2022

I'd brought my 12-year-old granddaughter to tide-pool late this morning. We soon were joined by a family from Denver with four children. Everyone was full of questions. We finally got to the inevitable discussion of urchin barrens and warmer waters affecting the growth of kelp. I was surprised when the 9-year-old from Denver asked: "What can we do to help?"

So, I talked about creating less carbon to be released into the environment and, in addition to walking more, driving less, I suggested composting all food waste at home so that the compost would then "sequester" the carbon in the ground instead of it being released into the atmosphere. That seemed a satisfying answer as the children then discussed a friend down the street who composted. What an opportunity while just out for a little tide-pooling!

Maureen Mason, 3/24/2022

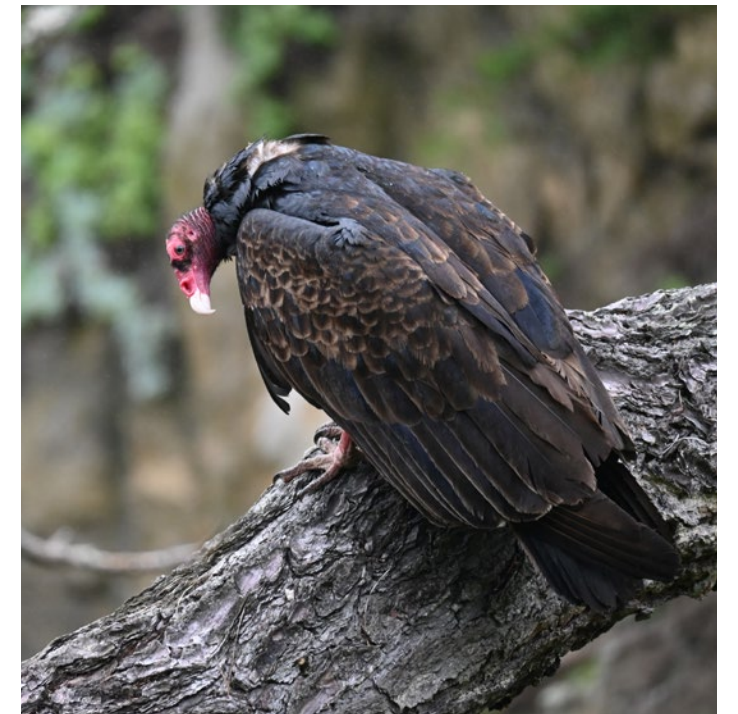


Photo by Kim Forseberg

I hiked to Bluefish Cove on Tuesday, March 29, because word was out that the first harbor seal had given birth there a few days before. There had been several other pregnant females there as well. With the position of the trail and many trees around there, I was only able to catch a glimpse of the momma seal and her pup. But I could tell there was potentially more birthing activity going on as the Turkey Vultures, nature's clean-up crew for after-birth, were waiting patiently looking down on the beach. I have no doubt this vulture had a better view than I did of this perfect birthing beach and was ready for the clean-up as soon as it was required.

Kim Forseberg, 03/30/2022

Monterey County Gives! is an annual year-end campaign inspiring giving and philanthropy. The Point Lobos Foundation was honored to participate for the 5th year. With the match of \$8,618, we are proud to have raised

\$83,439. Each nonprofit is challenged to identify a "big idea" for their fundraising efforts and the Point Lobos Foundation chose trail maintenance and restoration. 216 donors supported the campaign from throughout California, nine states, and Japan. This campaign is made possible by the Monterey County Weekly, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Community Foundation for Monterey County. Thank you to all of you who supported the Point Lobos Foundation through the 2021 MC Gives! campaign!

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Carmel River State Beach Fund

Supports habitat restoration and infrastructure projects at Carmel River State Beach and a volunteer coordinator position to support the work efforts at these three beach units.

In memory of Mike Turbow

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Monterey County Gives! is a philanthropy-inspiring partnership between the Monterey County Weekly, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. The Point Lobos Foundation thanks them for their dedication to non-profit organizations on the Monterey Peninsula.

Carmel River Beach. Photo by Monica Vigna.

Acknowledgments

Memorials, tributes and grants October 16, 2021-April 15th, 2022

CELEBRATION	IN HONOR	IN MEMORIAM	GRANTS	SISTER ANNA VOSS FUND
In celebration of the wedding of Emily Long and Brent Smith <i>Dennis Long</i>	In honor of Jaxon Kaplan <i>Coleen Nakayama</i>	In memory of Danny Ramjit <i>Amanda and Cameron Zinsli</i>	Rand Sparling <i>Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Entrance Improvements</i>	Donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, are restricted to the education and direct support of the Point Lobos Docent Program and the school education outreach programs.
In celebration of the birthday of Celie Placzek <i>Roger and Jeane Samuelsen</i>	In honor of George Hague <i>Maria Riemer</i>	In memory of David B. Keister <i>Ruth Keister</i>	Alice Glasser and Jesse Thompson <i>Habitat and Trail Restoration</i>	<i>Cheryl Armon</i> <i>Jack Arnold</i> In memory of Ethel P. Arnold
In celebration of the birth of Leo James Kaestner, son of Erik Kaestner and Emily Fletcher Kaestner <i>Peter and Patricia Fletcher</i>	In honor of our Nanny and Pop (Betty and Lou Silvestri) <i>The Silvestri Family</i>	In memory of Brad Carr <i>Caitlin and Ryan McMillen</i>	Mike and Ellen Turbow <i>Carmel River State Beach Fund</i>	<i>Linda Bell</i> <i>Maryann Capriola</i> In memory of Sister Anna Voss
	In honor of Pat Griffin <i>Richard and Patricia Robertson</i>	In memory of Dick Lehrberg <i>Cathie Lehrberg</i>	Parks California <i>Experience Point Lobos</i>	<i>Dominic and Suzanne Cortese</i> <i>John Drum</i> In Memory of Stephanie Drum
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	In honor of Katie Jahns <i>Matthew Nellans</i>	In memory of 3 dear friends: Nancy, Margaret, & Bob <i>Frances Aguirre</i>		<i>Dean and Annmarie Hendryx</i> In memory of Carl F. Voss and Sister Anna Voss
	In honor of Ann Pendleton <i>Mary Gagliardi</i>	In memory of Anna J. Lang, Ph.D. <i>Laura Adams</i>		<i>Henry Imwalle</i> In memory of Martha Imwalle
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	In honor of Vicky Duke <i>Janet Rodgers</i>	In memory of Dean O. Burroughs MD <i>Jane Burroughs</i>		In memory of Diane Dawson <i>Chris Miller</i>
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		In memory of Robert and Evelyn Smith along with Lois and Wayne Frarie <i>Barry Smith</i>		
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POINT LOBOS | Fundraiser

A Large Format Photo Exhibition & Reception at Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse
Benefiting The Point Lobos Foundation | Photography by Manny Espinoza

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse

5:00 - 8:00pm

Tickets \$55

PLF Members \$40

All ticket sales benefit the
Point Lobos Foundation

Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse will host Point Lobos | Fundraiser, a large format photo exhibition and reception featuring local photographer Manny Espinoza and benefiting the Point Lobos Foundation. The exhibition will interpret the magic of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve as seen through the lens of Espinoza. Stroll through the energetic, and sophisticated steakhouse with a glass of complimentary Folktale wine and small bites in-hand while taking in the dramatic images. Large-format prints will be available for purchase along with smaller-scale prints. A percentage of proceeds benefit the Point Lobos Foundation and the iconic Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.



Purchase tickets by emailing
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scanning the QR code.